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CONCISE OXFORD THESAURUS

# Concise Oxford Thesaurus

Second Edition

Edited by  
J. Coulson  
and  
J. Coulson

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



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# Concise Oxford Thesaurus

THIRD EDITION

*Edited by*

Sara Hawker

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# Introduction

A thesaurus contains lists of words that have the same or a similar meaning to another word. It can help you to express yourself more precisely and add richness and variety to your writing by providing an array of alternative words that can be used in place of the one you already have in mind. It can lead you to a word that is on the tip of your tongue but remains stubbornly elusive, and it can expand your vocabulary by introducing you to words or phrases that you may not have previously encountered. A good thesaurus is also an invaluable tool for solving crosswords and for many other word games.

The third edition of the *Concise Oxford Thesaurus* has been revised, updated, and completely redesigned. It draws on our systematic research and analysis of the hundreds of millions of words of English contained in the Oxford English Corpus, taken from books, newspapers, magazines, and many other sources besides. This analysis enables us to determine how words are really used by native speakers and so provide better-matching and more useful sets of synonyms than ever before. The synonym sets are divided into numbered senses which relate to the various different meanings of the word in question and most synonym sets are preceded by an example sentence to make it easy to identify the sense you are seeking. The synonyms themselves are arranged in order of their closeness in meaning to the target word, with the closest one given first and printed in bold type. Antonyms, words with opposite meanings, are also provided for most of the entries in this thesaurus.

Apart from synonym lists, the *Concise Oxford Thesaurus* contains hundreds of special Word Link features, which are designed both to provide extra help with word games and to further enrich your vocabulary. Work Links contain a selection of words that, while not being synonyms, are closely associated with the entry word in some other way. At the main entry **cave**, for example, you will find the terms for the study or exploration of caves (*speleology*), for the deposits of calcium salts found in caves (*stalagmite* and *stalactite*), and for a person who lives in a cave (*troglydite*).

The newly designed Wordfinder section in the centre of the thesaurus contains hundreds of lists of words covering a wide range of topics, from the names of species of mammals, birds, and fish to types of pasta or the different parts of a ship. The lists are organized into thematic groups to make them especially browsable, while the handy index provided at the beginning of the section enables you to go straight to the information you need.

# Guide to the thesaurus

The *Concise Oxford Thesaurus* is designed to be as straightforward and easy to use as possible. Here is an explanation of the main types of information you will find:

main entry word	<b>bag</b> noun <b>1</b> <i>I dug around in my bag for my lipstick: handbag, shoulder bag, clutch bag, evening bag, pochette; N. Amer. pocketbook, purse; historical reticule, scrip.</i> <b>2</b> <i>she began to unpack her bags: suitcase; case, valise, portmanteau, holdall, grip, overnighter; backpack, rucksack, knapsack, haversack, kitbag, duffel bag; satchel; (bags) luggage, baggage.</i>	part of speech of the entry word
core synonym, in bold type – the synonym closest in meaning to the entry word	• <b>verb 1:</b> <i>locals bagged the most fish: catch, land, capture, trap, snare, ensnare; kill, shoot.</i> <b>2</b> <i>he bagged seven medals: get, secure, obtain, acquire, pick up; win, achieve, attain; commandeer, grab, appropriate, take; informal get one's hands on, land, net.</i>	label showing the region of the world in which the following synonym(s) are used
example of use to help distinguish different senses		form of the entry word for which the following synonym(s) can be substituted
numbered senses of the entry word	<b>slowly</b> adverb <b>1</b> <i>Rose walked off slowly: at a slow pace, without hurrying, unhurriedly, steadily, at a leisurely pace, at a snail's pace; Music: adagio, lento, largo.</i> <b>2</b> <i>her health is improving slowly: gradually, bit by bit, little by little, slowly but surely, step by step.</i>	word(s) meaning the opposite of the entry word: most have entries of their own where a wider choice can be found
label showing the specialist field in which the following synonym(s) are used	– <b>OPPOSITES</b> quickly.	
phrase for which the following synonyms can be substituted	<b>cave</b> noun <b>cavern, grotto, pothole, underground chamber.</b> ■ <b>cave in</b> <b>1</b> <i>the roof caved in: collapse, fall; in/down; give (way), crumble, subside.</i> <b>2</b> <i>the manager caved in to their demands: yield, surrender, capitulate, give in, back down, make concessions, throw in the towel/ sponge.</i>	combined synonym group standing for both <i>fall in</i> and <i>fall down</i>
words that are associated with the entry word (but not synonyms of it)	<b>WORD LINKS</b> <b>speleology</b> (Brit. <b>pot-holing</b> ; N. Amer. <b>spelunking</b> ) the study or exploration of caves <b>stalactite</b> a deposit of calcium salts hanging from the roof of a cave <b>stalagmite</b> a deposit of calcium salts rising from the floor of a cave <b>troglodyte</b> a person who lives in a cave	

label showing the level of English for which the following synonym(s) are appropriate	<p><b>constantly</b> <b>adverb</b> always, all the time, continually, continuously, persistently; round-the-clock, night and day; (morning, noon, and night); endlessly, non-stop, incessantly, unceasingly, perpetually, eternally, forever; interminably, unremittingly, relentlessly; Scottish <i>aye</i>; informal 24-7.</p> <p>– <b>OPPOSITES</b> occasionally.</p>	curly brackets showing that the phrase they contain is one complete synonym
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## LABELS

Most of the synonyms in the *Concise Oxford Thesaurus* are part of standard English, but some are suitable only in certain contexts or tend to be found only in certain types of writing. These synonyms are grouped at the end of their respective senses, preceded by a label (or a combination of labels).

### Register labels

Register labels refer to a particular level of use in the language. They indicate whether a term is informal, formal, historical, etc., and therefore in which contexts it would be appropriate to use such a term.

<b>informal</b>	e.g. <i>gawp</i> as a synonym for <i>stare</i> , or <i>lingo</i> for <i>language</i> : normally used only in speech or informal writing or email
<b>formal</b>	e.g. <i>dwelling</i> as a synonym for <i>home</i> or <i>house</i> : normally used only in writing, especially in official documents
<b>dated</b>	e.g. <i>tommyrot</i> as a synonym for <i>nonsense</i> : no longer used by most English-speakers, but still used by older people or to give a humorous or other effect
<b>literary</b>	e.g. <i>foe</i> as a synonym for <i>enemy</i> : found only or mainly in works of literature
<b>technical</b>	e.g. <i>occlude</i> as a synonym for <i>obstruct</i> : normally used only in technical language, though not restricted to a particular specialist field
<b>old use</b>	e.g. <i>comely</i> as a synonym for <i>attractive</i> : not in ordinary use today, though sometimes used to give an old-fashioned effect and also found in the literature of the past
<b>historical</b>	e.g. <i>serf</i> : only used today to refer to things that are no longer part of modern life
<b>euphemistic</b>	e.g. <i>tired and emotional</i> as a synonym for <i>drunk</i> : used in instead of a more direct or rude term
<b>humorous</b>	e.g. <i>transmogrify</i> as a synonym for <i>transform</i> : used with the intention of sounding amusing or playful
<b>derogatory</b>	e.g. <i>brat</i> as a synonym for <i>child</i> : meant to convey a low opinion or to insult someone
<b>rare</b>	e.g. <i>oppugnant</i> as a synonym of <i>antagonistic</i> : not in normal use today or in previous times



## Geographical labels

English is spoken throughout the world, and while most of the words used in standard British English will be the same as those used in other varieties, there are some words which are only found in one type of English. For example the normal word in American English for sweets and confectionery is *candy*. If a word has the geographical label *Brit.* in this thesaurus, this means that it is used in standard British English but not in American English, although it may be found in other varieties such as Australian English. The labels *US* and *N. Amer.*, on the other hand, mean that the word is typically American and is not standard in British English, though it may be found elsewhere.

## Subject labels

These are used to show that a word or sense is connected with a particular subject or specialist activity such as *Medicine*, *Law*, or *Computing*.

## Trademarks

This thesaurus includes some words which have, or are asserted to have, proprietary status as trademarks or otherwise. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a non-proprietary or general significance, nor any other judgement concerning their legal status. In cases where the editorial staff have some evidence that a word has proprietary status this is indicated in the entry for that word by the label *trademark*, but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

# Aa

## aback adverb

■ **take someone aback** surprise, shock, stun, stagger, astound, astonish, startle, take by surprise; dumbfound, nonplus, stop someone in their tracks; shake (up), jolt, throw, unnerve, disconcert, unsettle, bewilder; informal flabbergast, knock sideways, floor; Brit. informal knock for six.

## abandon verb 1 *the party abandoned policies*

*which made it unelectable:* **renounce**, relinquish, dispense with, disclaim, disown, disavow, discard, wash one's hands of; give up, drop, jettison, do away with, axe; informal ditch, scrap, scrub, junk; formal forswear.

**2** *by that stage, she had abandoned painting:* **give up**, stop, cease, drop, forgo, desist from, have done with, abstain from, discontinue, break off, refrain from, set aside; informal cut out, kick, pack in, quit; Brit. informal jack in; formal abjure. **3** *he abandoned his wife and children:* **desert**, leave, leave high and dry, turn one's back on, cast aside, break (up) with; jilt, strand, leave stranded, leave in the lurch, throw over; informal walk out on, run out on, dump, ditch; literary forsake.

**4** *the skipper gave the order to abandon ship:* **vacate**, leave, depart from, withdraw from, quit, evacuate. **5** *a vast expanse of territory was abandoned to the invaders:* **relinquish**, surrender, give up, cede, yield, leave.

**6** *she abandoned herself to the sensuousness of the music:* **indulge in**, give way to, give oneself up to, yield to, lose oneself to/in.

— OPPOSITES keep, retain, continue.

• **noun reckless abandon:** **uninhibitedness**, recklessness, lack of restraint, lack of inhibition, wildness, impulsiveness, impetuosity, immoderation, wantonness.

— OPPOSITES self-control.

## abandoned adjective 1 *an abandoned child:*

**deserted**, forsaken, cast aside/off; jilted, stranded, rejected; informal dumped, ditched.

**2** *an abandoned tin mine:* **unused**, disused, neglected, idle; deserted, unoccupied, uninhabited, empty. **3** *a wild, abandoned dance:* **uninhibited**, reckless, unrestrained, wild, unbridled, impulsive, impetuous; immoderate, wanton.

**abase verb** **humble**, humiliate, belittle, demean, lower, degrade, debase, cheapen, discredit, bring low; (**abase oneself**) grovel, kowtow, bow and scrape, toady, fawn;

informal crawl, suck up to someone, lick someone's boots.

**abasement noun** **humiliation**, belittlement, lowering, degradation, debasement.

**abashed adjective** **embarrassed**, ashamed, shamefaced, remorseful, conscience-stricken, mortified, humiliated, humbled, chagrined, crestfallen, sheepish, red-faced, blushing, discountenanced, with one's tail between one's legs.

**abate verb 1** *the storm had abated:* **subside**, die down/away/out, lessen, ease (off), let up, decrease, diminish, moderate, decline, fade, dwindle, recede, tail off, peter out, taper off, wane, ebb, weaken, come to an end; old use remit. **2** *nothing abated his crusading zeal:* **decrease**, lessen, diminish, reduce, moderate, ease, soothe, dampen, calm, tone down, allay, temper.

— OPPOSITES intensify, increase.

**abatement noun 1** *the storm still rages with no sign of abatement:* **subsiding**, dying down/away/out, lessening, easing (off), let-up, decrease, moderation, decline, ebb. **2** *noise abatement:* **decrease**, reduction, lowering.

**abattoir noun** **slaughterhouse**; Brit. butchery; old use shambles.

**abbey noun** **monastery, convent**, priory, cloister, friary, nunnery; historical charterhouse; rare coenobium.

**abbreviate verb** **shorten**, reduce, cut, contract, condense, compress, abridge, truncate, pare down, prune, shrink, telescope; summarize, abstract, precis, synopsis, digest, edit.

— OPPOSITES lengthen, expand.

**abbreviated adjective** **shortened**, reduced, cut, condensed, abridged, concise, compact, succinct; summary, thumbnail, synoptic; formal compendious.

— OPPOSITES long.

**abbreviation noun** **short form**, contraction, acronym, initialism, symbol, diminutive; elision.

**abdicate verb 1** *the king abdicated in 1936:* **resign**, retire, stand down, step down, bow out, renounce the throne; old use demit.

**2** *Ferdinand abdicated the throne:* **resign from**, relinquish, renounce, give up, surrender, vacate, cede; law disclaim; formal abjure. **3** *the state abdicated all responsibility*

for their welfare: **disown**, reject, renounce, give up, refuse, relinquish, repudiate, abandon, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of; formal abjure; literary forsake.

**abdication** noun 1 *Edward VIII's abdication:* **resignation**, retirement; relinquishment, renunciation, surrender; formal abjuration; old use demission. 2 *an abdication of responsibility:* **disowning**, renunciation, rejection, refusal, relinquishment, repudiation, abandonment.

**abdomen** noun **stomach**, belly, gut, middle, intestines; informal tummy, tum, insides, guts, pot, paunch, maw, breadbasket; Austral. informal bingy; dated corporation.

#### WORD LINKS

**abdominal**, **ventral**, **coeliac** relating to the abdomen

**laparotomy** a surgical incision of the abdomen

**peritoneum** a membrane lining the cavity of the abdomen

**abdominal** adjective **gastric**, intestinal, stomach, stomachic, enteric, duodenal, visceral, coeliac, ventral.

**abduct** verb **kidnap**, carry off, seize, capture, run away/off with, make off with, spirit away, hold hostage, hold to ransom; informal snatch.

**aberrant** adjective **deviant**, deviating, divergent, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, irregular, rogue; strange, odd, peculiar, uncommon, freakish; twisted, warped, perverted.

— OPPOSITES normal, typical.

**aberration** noun *a statistical aberration:*

**anomaly**, deviation, departure from the norm, divergence, abnormality, irregularity, variation, freak, rarity, oddity, peculiarity, curiosity; mistake.

**abet** verb **assist**, aid, help, lend a hand, support, back, encourage; cooperate with, collaborate with, work with, collude with, be in collusion with, be hand in glove with, side with; second, endorse, sanction; promote, champion, further, expedite, connive at.

— OPPOSITES hinder.

**abeyance** noun **suspension**, a state of suspension, a state of uncertainty, remission; (in **abeyance**) pending, suspended, deferred, postponed, put off, put to one side, unresolved, up in the air; informal in cold storage, on ice, on the back burner, hanging fire.

**abhor** verb **detest**, hate, loathe, despise, execrate, regard with disgust, shrink from, recoil from, shudder at; formal abominate.

— OPPOSITES love, admire.

**abhorrence** noun **hatred**, loathing, detestation, execration, revulsion, abomination, disgust, repugnance, horror, odium, aversion.

**abhorrent** adjective **detestable**, hateful, loathsome, despicable, abominable, execrable, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, horrible,

horrid, horrifying, awful, heinous, reprehensible, obnoxious, odious, nauseating, offensive, contemptible.

— OPPOSITES admirable.

**abide** verb 1 *he expected everybody to abide by the rules:* **comply with**, obey, observe, follow, keep to, hold to, conform to, adhere to, stick to, stand by, act in accordance with, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, acknowledge, respect, defer to. 2 (informal) *I can't abide the smell of cigarettes:* **tolerate**, bear, stand, put up with, endure, take, countenance; informal stomach; Brit. informal stick; formal brook; old use suffer. 3 *at least one memory will abide:* **continue**, remain, survive, last, persist, linger, stay, live on.

— OPPOSITES flout, disobey.

**abiding** adjective **enduring**, lasting, persisting, long-lasting, lifelong, continuing, remaining, surviving, standing, durable, everlasting, perpetual, eternal, unending, constant, permanent, unchanging, steadfast, immutable.

— OPPOSITES short-lived, ephemeral.

**ability** noun 1 *the ability to read and write:* **capacity**, capability, potential, potentiality, power, faculty, aptness, facility; wherewithal, means. 2 *the president's leadership ability:* **talent**, skill, expertise, adeptness, aptitude, skilfulness, savoir faire, prowess, mastery, accomplishment; competence, proficiency; dexterity, adroitness, deftness, cleverness, flair, finesse, gift, knack, genius; qualification, resources; informal know-how.

**object** adjective 1 *object poverty:* **wretched**, miserable, hopeless, pathetic, pitiful, pitiable, piteous, sorry, woeful, lamentable, degrading, appalling, atrocious, awful. 2 *an object sinner:* **contemptible**, base, low, vile, worthless, debased, degraded, despicable, ignominious, mean, unworthy, ignoble.

3 *an object apology:* **obsequious**, grovelling, fawning, toadyish, servile, cringing, sycophantic, submissive, craven.

**abjure** verb (formal) **renounce**, relinquish, reject, forgo, disavow, abandon, deny, repudiate, give up, wash one's hands of; eschew, abstain from, refrain from; informal kick, pack in; Brit. informal jack in; Law disaffirm; literary forsake; formal forswear, abnegate.

**ablaze** adjective 1 *several vehicles were*

**ablaze:** **on fire**, alight, aflame, in flames, flaming, burning, blazing; literary afire.

2 *every window was ablaze with light:*

**lit up**, alight, gleaming, glowing, aglow, illuminated, bright, shining, radiant, shimmering, sparkling, flashing, dazzling, luminous, incandescent. 3 *his eyes were ablaze with fury:* **passionate**, impassioned, aroused, excited, stimulated, eager, animated, intense, ardent, fervent, frenzied.

**able** adjective 1 *he will soon be able to resume his duties:* **capable of**, competent to, equal to, up to, fit to, prepared to, qualified to; allowed to, free to, in a position to. 2 *an able student:* **intelligent**, clever, talented, skilful,



skilled, accomplished, gifted; proficient, apt, good, adroit, adept; capable, competent, efficient, effective.

– OPPOSITES incompetent, incapable.

**able-bodied** adjective **healthy, fit**, in good health, robust, strong, sound, sturdy, vigorous, hardy, hale and hearty, athletic, muscular, strapping, burly, brawny, lusty; in good shape, in trim, in fine fettle, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle, as fit as a flea; informal husky; dated stalwart.

– OPPOSITES infirm, frail, disabled.

**ablutions** plural noun (formal) **washing**, cleansing, bathing, showering, scrubbing; wash, bath, shower, toilet, soak, dip, douche; rare lavage, lavation.

**abnegation** noun (formal) **1** *a serious abnegation of their responsibilities:*

**renunciation**, rejection, refusal, abandonment, abdication, surrender, relinquishment, repudiation, denial; formal abjuration. **2** *people capable of abnegation and unselfishness:* **self-denial**, self-sacrifice, abstinence, temperance, continence, asceticism, abstemiousness, austerity.

– OPPOSITES acceptance, self-indulgence.

**abnormal** adjective **unusual**, uncommon, atypical, untypical, non-typical, unrepresentative, rare, isolated, irregular, anomalous, deviant, divergent, aberrant, freak, freakish; **strange**, odd, peculiar, curious, bizarre, weird, queer; eccentric, idiosyncratic, quirky; unexpected, unfamiliar, unconventional, surprising, unorthodox, singular, exceptional, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, out of the way; unnatural, perverse, perverted, twisted, warped, unhealthy, distorted; Brit. out of the common; informal funny, freaky, kinky.

– OPPOSITES normal, typical, common.

**abnormality** noun **1** *babies born with physical or mental abnormalities:* **malformation**, deformity, irregularity, flaw, defect. **2** *the abnormality of such behaviour:* **unusualness**, uncommonness, atypicality, irregularity, anomalousness, deviation, divergence, aberrance, aberration, freakishness; strangeness, oddness, peculiarity, unexpectedness, singularity.

**abode** noun (formal) **home**, house, place of residence, accommodation, seat; quarters, lodgings, rooms; address; informal pad, digs; formal dwelling, dwelling place, residence, habitation.

**abolish** verb **put an end to**, get rid of, scrap, end, stop, terminate, axe, eradicate, eliminate, exterminate, destroy, annihilate, stamp out, obliterate, wipe out, extinguish, quash, expunge, extirpate; annul, cancel, invalidate, nullify, void, dissolve; rescind, repeal, revoke, overturn; discontinue, remove, excise, drop, jettison; informal do away with, ditch, junk, scrub, dump, chop, give something the chop, knock something on the head; formal abrogate.

– OPPOSITES retain, create.

**abolition** noun **scrapping**, ending,

termination, eradication, elimination, extermination, destruction, annihilation, obliteration, extirpation; annulment, cancellation, invalidation, nullification, dissolution; revocation, repeal, rescindment, discontinuation, removal; formal abrogation.

**abominable** adjective **loathsome**, detestable, hateful, odious, obnoxious, despicable, contemptible, damnable, diabolical; disgusting, revolting, repellent, repulsive, offensive, repugnant, abhorrent, reprehensible, atrocious, horrifying, execrable, foul, vile, wretched, base, horrible, awful, dreadful, appalling, nauseating; horrid, nasty, disagreeable, unpleasant, distasteful; informal terrible, shocking, God-awful; Brit. informal beastly; dated cursed, accursed.

– OPPOSITES good, admirable.

**abominate** verb (formal) **detest**, loathe, hate, abhor, despise, execrate, shudder at, recoil from, shrink from, be repelled by.

– OPPOSITES like, love.

**abomination** noun **1** *in both wars, internment was an abomination:* **atrocities**, disgrace, horror, obscenity, outrage, evil, crime, monstrosity, anathema, bane. **2** *he had a Calvinist abomination of indulgence:* **detestation**, loathing, hatred, aversion, antipathy, revulsion, repugnance, abhorrence, odium, execration, disgust, horror, hostility.

– OPPOSITES liking, love.

**aboriginal** adjective *the area's aboriginal inhabitants:* **indigenous**, native; original, earliest, first; ancient, primitive, primeval, primordial; rare autochthonous, autochthonic.

• noun *the social structure of the aboriginals:* **native**, aborigine, original inhabitant; rare autochthon, indigene.

**abort** verb **1** *I decided not to abort the pregnancy:* **terminate**, end. **2** *the organism can cause pregnant ewes to abort:* **miscarry**, have a miscarriage. **3** *the crew aborted the take-off:* **halt**, stop, end, axe, call off, cut short, discontinue, terminate, arrest; informal pull the plug on. **4** *the mission aborted:* **come to a halt**, end, terminate, fail, miscarry, go wrong, fall through, collapse, founder, come to grief.

**abortion** noun **termination**, miscarriage; rare feticide.

**abortive** adjective **unsuccessful**, failed, vain, thwarted, futile, useless, worthless, ineffective, ineffectual, to no effect, inefficacious, fruitless, unproductive, unavailing, to no avail, sterile, nugatory; old use bootless.

– OPPOSITES successful, fruitful.

**abound** verb **1** *cafes and bars abound in the narrow streets:* **be plentiful**, be abundant, be numerous, proliferate, superabound, be thick on the ground; informal grow on trees, be two/ten a penny. **2** *a stream which abounded with trout and eels:* **be full of**, overflow with, teem with, be packed with, be crowded with, be thronged with; be alive



with, be crawling with, be overrun by/with, swarm with, bristle with, be infested with, be thick with; informal be lousy with, be stuffed with, be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full of.

**abounding** adjective **abundant**, plentiful, superabundant, considerable, copious, ample, lavish, luxuriant, profuse, boundless, prolific, inexhaustible, generous; galore; literary plenteous.

– OPPOSITES meagre, scanty.

**about** preposition **1** *a book about ancient Greece*: **regarding**, concerning, with reference to, referring to, with regard to, with respect to, respecting, relating to, on, touching on, dealing with, relevant to, connected with, in connection with, on the subject of, in the matter of, apropos, re. **2** *two hundred people were milling about the room*: **around**, round, throughout, over, through.

• **adverb** **1** *there were babies crawling about in the grass*: **around**, here and there, to and fro, back and forth, from place to place, hither and thither, in all directions. **2** *I knew he was about somewhere*: **near**, nearby, around, whereabouts, not far off/away, close by, in the vicinity, in the neighbourhood. **3** *the explosion caused about £15,000 worth of damage*: **approximately**, roughly, around, round about, in the region of, circa, of the order of, something like; or so, or thereabouts, there or thereabouts, more or less, give or take a few, not far off; Brit. getting on for; informal as near as dammit; N. Amer. informal in the ballpark of.

■ **about** to (just) going to, ready to, all set to, preparing to, intending to, soon to; on the point of, on the verge of, on the brink of, within an ace of.

**about-turn** (Brit.) noun **1** *he saluted and did an about-turn*: **about-face**, volte-face, turnaround, turnabout, U-turn; informal U-ey, one-eighty. **2** *the government was forced to make an about-turn*: **volte-face**, U-turn, reversal, retraction, backtracking, swing, swerve; change of heart, change of mind, sea change.

**above** preposition **1** *a tiny window above the door*: **over**, higher (up) than; on top of, atop, on, upon. **2** *those above the rank of Colonel*: **superior to**, senior to, over, higher (up) than; in charge of, commanding. **3** *you must be above suspicion*: **beyond**, not liable to, not open to, not vulnerable to, out of reach of; immune to, exempt from. **4** *the Chinese valued pearls above gold*: **more than**, over, before, rather than, in preference to, instead of. **5** *an increase above the rate of inflation*: **greater than**, more than, higher than, exceeding, in excess of, over, over and above, beyond, surpassing, upwards of.

– OPPOSITES below, under, beneath.

• **adverb** **1** *in the darkness above, something moved*: **overhead**, on/at the top, high up, on high, up above, high above one's head, aloft. **2** *the two cases described above*: **earlier**, previously, before, formerly.

• **adjective** *the above example*: **preceding**, previous, earlier, former, foregoing, prior, above-stated, aforementioned, aforesaid.

■ **above** all most importantly, before everything, beyond everything, first of all, most of all, chiefly, primarily, in the first place, first and foremost, mainly, principally, predominantly, especially, essentially, basically, in essence, at bottom; informal at the end of the day, when all is said and done.

■ **above oneself** conceited, proud, arrogant, swollen-headed, self-important, cocky, haughty, disdainful, snobbish, snobby, supercilious; informal stuck-up, high and mighty, snooty, uppity, big-headed, too big for one's boots.

**above board** adjective *the proceedings were completely above board*: **legitimate**, lawful, legal, licit, honest, fair, open, frank, straight, overt, candid, forthright, unconcealed, trustworthy, unequivocal; informal legit, kosher, pukka, by the book, fair and square, square, on the level, on the up and up, upfront.

– OPPOSITES dishonest, shady.

**abrade** verb **wear away**, wear down, erode, scrape away, corrode, eat away at, gnaw away at.

**abrasion** noun **1** *he had abrasions to his forehead*: **graze**, cut, scrape, scratch, gash, laceration, injury, contusion; sore, ulcer; Medicine trauma. **2** *the metal is resistant to abrasion*: **erosion**, wearing away/down, corrosion.

**abrasive** adjective **1** *abrasive kitchen cleaners*: **corrosive**, corroding, erosive; caustic, harsh, coarse. **2** *her abrasive manner*: **caustic**, cutting, biting, acerbic; rough, harsh, hard, tough, sharp, curt, brusque, stern, severe; wounding, nasty, cruel, callous, insensitive, unfeeling, unsympathetic, inconsiderate; N. Amer. acerb.

– OPPOSITES kind, gentle.

**abreast** adverb **1** *they walked three abreast*: **in a row**, side by side, alongside, level, beside each other, shoulder to shoulder. **2** *try to keep abreast of current affairs*: **up to date with**, up with, in touch with, informed about, acquainted with, knowledgeable about, conversant with, familiar with, au courant with, au fait with.

**abridge** verb **shorten**, cut, cut short/ down, curtail, truncate, trim, crop, clip, pare down, prune; abbreviate, condense, contract, compress, reduce, decrease, shrink; summarize, sum up, abstract, precis, synopsis, put in a nutshell, edit; rare epitomize.

– OPPOSITES lengthen.

**abridged** adjective **shortened**, cut, cut down, concise, condensed, abbreviated; summary, outline, thumbnail; bowdlerized, censored, expurgated; informal potted.

**abridgement** noun **summary**, abstract, synopsis, precis, outline, résumé, sketch, digest.

**abroad** adverb **1** *he regularly travels abroad*: **overseas**, out of the country,

to/in foreign parts. **2** *rumours were abroad: in circulation*, circulating, current, everywhere, in the air, about, around; at large.

**abrogate** verb (formal) **repeal**, revoke, rescind, repudiate, overturn, annul, cancel, invalidate, nullify, void, negate, dissolve, countermand, declare null and void, discontinue; reverse, retract, remove, withdraw, abolish, put an end to, do away with, get rid of, end, stop, quash, scrap; Law disaffirm.

– OPPOSITES institute, introduce.

**abrogation** noun (formal) **repeal**, revocation, repudiation, rescindment, overturning, annulment, cancellation, invalidation, nullification, negation, dissolution, discontinuation; reversal, retraction, removal, withdrawal, abolition; formal rescission; Law disaffirmation.

**abrupt** adjective **1** *an abrupt halt* | *an abrupt change of subject*: **sudden**, unexpected, without warning, unanticipated, unforeseen, precipitate, surprising, startling; quick, swift, rapid, hurried, hasty, immediate, instantaneous. **2** *an abrupt manner*: **curt**, brusque, blunt, short, sharp, terse, brisk, crisp, gruff, rude, discourteous, uncivil, snappish, unceremonious, offhand, rough, harsh; bluff, no-nonsense, to the point; informal snappy. **3** *abrupt, epigrammatic paragraphs*: **disjointed**, jerky, uneven, disconnected, inelegant. **4** *an abrupt slope*: **steep**, sheer, precipitous, bluff, sharp, sudden; perpendicular, vertical, dizzy, vertiginous.

– OPPOSITES gradual, gentle.

**abscess** noun **ulcer**, ulceration, cyst, boil, blister, sore, pustule, carbuncle, pimple, wen, whitlow, canker; inflammation, infection, eruption.

**abscond** verb **run away**, escape, bolt, flee, make off, take flight, take off, decamp; make a break for it, take to one's heels, make a quick getaway, beat a hasty retreat, run for it, make a run for it; disappear, vanish, slip away, steal away, sneak away; informal do a moonlight flit, clear out, cut and run, show a clean pair of heels, skedaddle, skip, head for the hills, do a disappearing act, fly the coop, take French leave, scarper, vamoose; Brit. informal do a bunk, do a runner; N. Amer. informal take a powder.

**absence** noun **1** *his absence from the office*: **non-attendance**, non-appearance, absenteeism; **truancy**, playing truant; leave, holiday, vacation, sabbatical. **2** *the absence of any other suitable candidate*: **lack**, want, non-existence, unavailability, deficiency, dearth; need.

– OPPOSITES presence.

**absent** adjective **1** *she was absent from work*: **away**, off, out, non-attending, truant; off duty, on holiday, on leave; gone, missing, lacking, unavailable, non-existent; informal AWOL. **2** *an absent look*: **distracted**, preoccupied, inattentive, vague, absorbed, abstracted, unheeding, oblivious, distraught,

absent-minded, dreamy, far away, in a world of one's own, lost in thought, in a brown study; blank, empty, vacant; informal miles away.

– OPPOSITES present, attentive, alert.

• verb *Rose absented herself from the occasion*: **stay away**, be absent, withdraw, retire, take one's leave, remove oneself.

**absent-minded** adjective **forgetful**, distracted, preoccupied, inattentive, vague, scatterbrained, abstracted, unheeding, oblivious, distraught, in a brown study, wool-gathering; lost in thought, pensive, thoughtful, brooding; informal miles away, having a mind/memory like a sieve.

**absolute** adjective **1** *absolute silence* | *an absolute disgrace*: **complete**, total, utter, out-and-out, outright, entire, perfect, pure, decided; thorough, thoroughgoing, undivided, unqualified, unadulterated, unalloyed, unmodified, unreserved, downright, undiluted, consummate, unmitigated, sheer, arrant, rank, dyed-in-the-wool. **2** *the absolute truth*: **definite**, certain, positive, unconditional, categorical, unquestionable, incontrovertible, undoubted, unequivocal, decisive, conclusive, confirmed, infallible.

**3** *absolute power*: **unlimited**, unrestricted, unrestrained, unbounded, boundless, infinite, ultimate, total, supreme, unconditional. **4** *an absolute monarch*: **autocratic**, despotic, dictatorial, tyrannical, tyrannous, authoritarian, arbitrary, autonomous, sovereign, autarchic, omnipotent. **5** *absolute moral standards*: **universal**, fixed, independent, non-relative, non-variable, absolutist.

– OPPOSITES partial, qualified, limited, conditional.

**absolutely** adverb *you're absolutely right*: **completely**, totally, utterly, perfectly, entirely, wholly, fully, quite, thoroughly, unreservedly; definitely, certainly, positively, unconditionally, categorically, unquestionably, undoubtedly, without (a) doubt, without question, surely, unequivocally; exactly, precisely, decisively, conclusively, manifestly, in every way/ respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt; informal dead.

• exclamation (informal) *'Have I made myself clear?' 'Absolutely!'*: **yes**, indeed, of course, definitely, certainly, quite, without (a) doubt, without question, unquestionably; affirmative, by all means.

**absolution** noun **forgiveness**, pardon, exoneration, remission, dispensation, indulgence, clemency, mercy; discharge, acquittal; freedom, deliverance, release; vindication; informal let-off; formal exculpation; old use shrift.

**absolve** verb **1** *this fact does not absolve you from responsibility*: **exonerate**, discharge, acquit, vindicate; release, relieve, liberate, free, deliver, clear, exempt, let off; formal exculpate. **2** (Christianity) *I absolve you from your sins*: **forgive**, pardon.

– OPPOSITES blame, condemn.

**absorb** verb **1** *a sponge-like material which absorbs water:* **soak up**, suck up, draw up/in, take up/in, blot up, mop up, sop up. **2** *she absorbed the information in silence:* **assimilate**, digest, take in. **3** *the company was absorbed into the new concern:* **incorporate**, assimilate, integrate, take in, subsume, include, co-opt, swallow up. **4** *these roles absorb most of his time and energy:* **use (up)**, consume, take up, occupy. **5** *she was totally absorbed in her book:* **engross**, captivate, occupy, preoccupy, engage, rivet, grip, hold, interest, intrigue, immerse, involve, enthral, spellbind, fascinate.

**absorbent** adjective **porous**, spongy, sponge-like, permeable, pervious, absorptive; technical spongiform; rare sorbefacient.

**absorbing** adjective **fascinating**, interesting, captivating, gripping, engrossing, compelling, compulsive, enthralling, riveting, spellbinding, intriguing, thrilling, exciting; informal unputdownable.

– OPPOSITES boring, uninteresting.

**absorption** noun **1** *the absorption of water:* **soaking up**, sucking up; technical osmosis. **2** *the company's absorption into a larger concern:* **incorporation**, assimilation, integration, inclusion. **3** *her total absorption in the music:* **involvement**, immersion, raptness, engrossment, occupation, preoccupation, engagement, captivation, fascination, enthrallment.

**abstain** verb **1** *Benjamin abstained from wine:* **refrain**, desist, hold back, forbear; give up, renounce, avoid, shun, eschew, forgo, go without, do without; refuse, decline; informal cut out; formal abjure. **2** *most pregnant women abstain, or drink very little:* **be teetotal**, take the pledge; informal be on the wagon. **3** *262 voted against, 38 abstained:* **not vote**, decline to vote.

**abstemious** adjective **self-denying**, temperate, abstinent, moderate, self-disciplined, restrained, self-restrained, sober, austere, ascetic, puritanical, spartan, self-abnegating, hair-shirt.

– OPPOSITES self-indulgent.

**abstinence** noun **self-denial**, self-restraint; teetotalism, temperance, sobriety, abstemiousness, abstinence.

**abstract** adjective **1** *abstract concepts:* **theoretical**, conceptual, notional, intellectual, metaphysical, philosophical, academic; rare ideational. **2** *abstract art:* **non-representational**, non-pictorial.

– OPPOSITES actual, concrete.

• **verb 1** *staff abstract material for an online database:* **summarize**, **precis**, **abridge**, **condense**, **compress**, **shorten**, **cut down**, **abbreviate**, **synopsise**; rare **epitomize**.

**2** *a scheme to abstract more water from the river:* **extract**, **pump**, **draw (off)**, **withdraw**, **remove**, **take out/away**; **separate**, **isolate**.

• **noun** *an abstract of her speech:* **summary**, **synopsis**, **precis**, **résumé**, **outline**,

**abridgement**, **digest**, **summation**; N. Amer. **wrap-up**; old use **argument**.

**abstracted** adjective **preoccupied**, **distracted**, **absent-minded**, in a world of one's own, with one's head in the clouds, **daydreaming**, **dreamy**, **inattentive**, **thoughtful**, **pensive**, **lost in thought**, **deep in thought**, **immersed in thought**, **wool-gathering**, in a brown study, **musings**, **brooding**, **absent**, **distract**; informal **miles away**.

– OPPOSITES **attentive**.

**abstraction** noun **1** *philosophical abstractions:* **concept**, **idea**, **notion**, **thought**, **theory**, **hypothesis**. **2** *she sensed his momentary abstraction:* **preoccupation**, **distraction**, **absent-mindedness**, **dreaminess**, **inattentiveness**, **inattention**, **wool-gathering**; **thoughtfulness**, **pensiveness**.

**abstruse** adjective **obscure**, **arcane**, **esoteric**, **little known**, **recherché**, **rarefied**, **recondite**, **difficult**, **hard**, **puzzling**, **perplexing**, **cryptic**, **Delphic**, **complex**, **complicated**, **involved**, **over/above one's head**, **incomprehensible**, **unfathomable**, **impenetrable**, **mysterious**.

**absurd** adjective **preposterous**, **ridiculous**, **ludicrous**, **farfical**, **laughable**, **risible**, **idiotic**, **stupid**, **foolish**, **silly**, **inane**, **imbecilic**, **insane**, **hare-brained**; **unreasonable**, **irrational**, **illogical**, **nonsensical**, **pointless**, **senseless**; informal **crazy**; Brit. informal **barmy**, **daft**.

– OPPOSITES **reasonable**, **sensible**.

**absurdity** noun **preposterousness**, **ridiculousness**, **ludicrousness**, **risibility**, **idiocy**, **stupidity**, **foolishness**, **folly**, **silliness**, **inanity**, **insanity**; **unreasonableness**, **irrationality**, **illogicality**, **pointlessness**, **senselessness**; informal **craziness**.

**abundance** noun **profusion**, **plentifulness**, **profuseness**, **copiousness**, **amplitude**, **lavishness**, **bountifulness**; **host**, **cornucopia**, **riot**; **plenty**, **quantities**, **scores**, **multitude**; informal **millions**, **sea**, **ocean(s)**, **wealth**, **lot(s)**, **heap(s)**, **mass(es)**, **stack(s)**, **pile(s)**, **load(s)**, **bags**, **bucketload(s)**, **mountain(s)**, **ton(s)**, **slows**, **scads**, **oodles**; Brit. informal **shedload**; N. Amer. informal **gobs**; formal **plenitude**.

– OPPOSITES **lack**, **scarcity**.

**abundant** adjective *an abundant supply of food:* **plentiful**, **copious**, **ample**, **profuse**, **rich**, **lavish**, **liberal**, **generous**, **bountiful**, **large**, **huge**, **great**, **bumper**, **overflowing**, **prolific**, **teeming**; in plenty, in abundance; informal **a gogo**, **galore**; literary **plenteous**, **bounteous**.

– OPPOSITES **scarce**, **sparse**.

■ **be abundant** **abound**, **be plentiful**, **be numerous**, **be in abundance**, **proliferate**, **be thick on the ground**; informal **grow on trees**, **be two/ten a penny**.

**abuse** verb **1** *the judge abused his power:* **misuse**, **misapply**, **misemploy**; **exploit**, **take advantage of**. **2** *he was accused of abusing children:* **mistreat**, **maltreat**, **ill-treat**, **treat badly**; **molest**, **interfere with**, **indecently assault**, **sexually abuse**, **sexually assault**; **injure**, **hurt**, **harm**, **damage**. **3** *the referee was abused by players from both teams:* **insult**, **be**



rude to, swear at, curse, call someone names, taunt, shout at, revile, inveigh against, vilify, slander, cast aspersions on; Brit. informal slag off.

• **noun** **1** *the abuse of power:* misuse, misapplication, misemployment; exploitation. **2** *the abuse of children:* mistreatment, maltreatment, ill-treatment; molestation, interference, indecent assault, sexual abuse, sexual assault; injury, hurt, harm, damage. **3** *the scheme is open to administrative abuse:* corruption, injustice, wrongdoing, wrong, misconduct, misdeed(s), offence(s), crime(s), sin(s). **4** *torrents of abuse:* insults, curses, jibes, expletives, swear words; swearing, cursing, name-calling; invective, vilification, vituperation, slander; Brit. informal verbal(s), industrial language; N. Amer. informal trash talk; old use contemptuous.

**abusive** adjective insulting, rude, vulgar, offensive, disparaging, belittling, derogatory, disrespectful, denigratory, uncomplimentary, pejorative, vituperative; defamatory, slanderous, libellous, scurrilous, blasphemous; informal bitchy; old use contemptuous.

**abut** verb **adjoin**, be adjacent to, border, neighbour, join, touch, meet, reach, be contiguous with.

**abysmal** adjective *some of the teaching was abysmal:* very bad, dreadful, awful, terrible, appalling, frightful, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, hopeless, lamentable, laughable; informal rotten, crummy, pathetic, pitiful, woeful, useless, lousy, dire, poxy, the pits; Brit. informal chronic, shocking, pants.

**abyss** noun **chasm**, gorge, ravine, canyon, fissure, rift, crevasse, hole, gulf, pit, cavity, void, bottomless pit.

**academic** adjective **1** *an academic institution:* educational, scholastic, instructional, pedagogical. **2** *his academic turn of mind:* scholarly, studious, literary, well read, intellectual, clever, erudite, learned, educated, cultured, bookish, highbrow, pedantic, donnish, cerebral; informal brainy; dated lettered. **3** *the debate has been largely academic:* theoretical, conceptual, notional, philosophical, hypothetical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional, putative; impractical, unrealistic, ivory-tower.

• **noun** *a group of Russian academics:* scholar, lecturer, don, teacher, tutor, professor, fellow, man/woman of letters, thinker, bluestocking; informal egghead, bookworm; formal pedagogue.

#### WORD LINKS

**colloquium, symposium** an academic conference

**dissertation** a long essay written for a university degree or diploma

**mortar board** a hat worn as part of formal academic dress

**subfusc** formal dress worn for exams

**viva** an oral exam for an academic qualification

**academy** noun college, school, university, institute, seminary, conservatory, conservatoire.

**accede** verb (formal) **1** *he acceded to the government's demands:* agree to, consent to, accept, assent to, acquiesce in, comply with, go along with, concur with, surrender to, yield to, give in to, give way to, defer to. **2** *Elizabeth I acceded to the throne in 1558:* succeed to, come to, assume, inherit, take. **3** *Albania acceded to the IMF in 1990:* join, become a member of, sign up to.

**accelerate** verb **1** *the car accelerated down the hill:* speed up, go faster, gain momentum, increase speed, pick up speed, gather speed, put on a spurt. **2** *inflation started to accelerate:* increase, rise, go up, leap up, surge, escalate, spiral. **3** *the university accelerated the planning process:* hasten, expedite, precipitate, speed up, quicken, make faster, step up, advance, further, forward, promote, stimulate, spur on; informal crank up.

– OPPOSITES decelerate, delay.

**acceleration** noun **1** *the car's acceleration is sensational:* increase in speed, increasing speed. **2** *the acceleration of the industrial process:* hastening, precipitation, speeding up, quickening, stepping up, advancement, furtherance, boost, stimulation, spur. **3** *an acceleration in the divorce rate:* increase, rise, leap, surge, escalation.

**accent** noun **1** *a Scottish accent:* pronunciation, intonation, enunciation, articulation, inflection, tone, modulation, cadence, timbre, manner of speaking, delivery; brogue, burr, drawl, twang. **2** *the accent is on the first syllable:* stress, emphasis, accentuation, force, prominence; beat; technical ictus. **3** *the accent is on comfort:* emphasis, stress, priority; importance, prominence. **4** *an acute accent:* mark, diacritic, diacritical mark.

• **verb** *fabrics which accent the background colours in the room:* draw attention to, point up, underline, underscore, accentuate, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, play up, bring to the fore, heighten, stress, emphasize.

**accentuate** verb draw attention to, point up, underline, underscore, accent, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, play up, bring to the fore, heighten, stress, emphasize.

**accept** verb **1** *he accepted a pen as a present:* receive, take, get, gain, obtain, acquire. **2** *he accepted the job immediately:* take on, undertake, assume, take responsibility for. **3** *she accepted an invitation to lunch:* say yes to, reply in the affirmative, agree to. **4** *she was accepted as one of the family:* welcome, receive, embrace, adopt. **5** *he accepted Ellen's explanation:* believe, regard as true, give credence to, credit, trust; informal buy, swallow. **6** *we have agreed to accept his decision:* go along with, agree to, consent to, acquiesce in, concur with, assent to, comply with, abide by, follow, adhere to,



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act in accordance with, defer to, yield to, surrender to, bow to, give in to, submit to, respect; formal accede to. **7** *she will just have to accept the consequences: tolerate, endure, put up with, bear, take, submit to, stomach, swallow; reconcile oneself to, resign oneself to, get used to, adjust to, learn to live with, make the best of; face up to.*

– OPPOSITES refuse, reject.

**acceptable** adjective **1** *an acceptable standard of living: satisfactory, adequate, reasonable, quite good, fair, decent, good enough, sufficient, sufficiently good, fine, not bad, all right, average, tolerable, passable, middling, moderate; informal OK, so-so, fair-to-middling.* **2** *a most acceptable present: welcome, appreciated; pleasing, agreeable, delightful, desirable, satisfying, gratifying, to one's liking.* **3** *the risk had seemed acceptable at the time: bearable, tolerable, allowable, admissible, sustainable, justifiable, defensible.*

**acceptance** noun **1** *the acceptance of an award: receipt, receiving, taking, obtaining.* **2** *the acceptance of responsibility: undertaking, assumption.* **3** *acceptances to an invitation: yes, affirmative reply, confirmation.* **4** *her acceptance as one of the family: welcome, favourable reception, adoption.* **5** *his acceptance of Matilda's explanation: belief, credence, trust, faith.* **6** *their acceptance of the decision: compliance, acquiescence, agreement, consent, concurrence, assent, adherence, deference, surrender, submission, respect.* **7** *the acceptance of pain: toleration, endurance, forbearance.*

**accepted** adjective recognized, acknowledged, established, traditional, orthodox; usual, customary, common, normal, general, prevailing, accustomed, familiar, popular, expected, routine, standard, stock; literary wanted.

**access** noun **1** *the building has a side access: entrance, entry, way in, means of entry; approach, means of approach.* **2** *they were denied access to the stadium: admission, admittance, entry, entrée, ingress, right of entry.* **3** *students have access to a photocopier: (the) use of, permission to use.* **4** *an access of rage: fit, attack, outburst, outpouring, eruption, explosion, burst, outbreak, flare-up, blow-up, blaze, paroxysm, bout, rush; outflow, outflowing, welling up.* •verb *the program used to access the data: retrieve, gain access to, obtain; read.*

**accessible** adjective **1** *the village is only accessible on foot | an easily accessible reference tool: reachable, attainable, approachable; obtainable, available; informal get-at-able.* **2** *his accessible style of writing: understandable, comprehensible, easy to understand, intelligible.* **3** *Professor Cooper is very accessible: approachable, friendly, agreeable, obliging, congenial, affable, cordial, welcoming, easy-going, pleasant.*

**accession** noun **1** *the Queen's accession to the throne: succession, assumption,*

*inheritance.* **2** *accession to the Treaty of Rome was effected in 1971: assent, consent, agreement; acceptance, acquiescence, compliance, concurrence.* **3** *recent accessions to the museum: addition, acquisition, new item, gift, purchase.*

**accessorize** verb complement, enhance, set off, show off; go with, accompany; decorate, adorn, ornament, trim.

**accessory** noun **1** *camera accessories such as tripods and flashguns: attachment, extra, addition, add-on, adjunct, appendage, appurtenance, fitment, supplement.*

**2** *fashion accessories: adornment, embellishment, ornament, ornamentation, decoration; frills, trimmings.* **3** *she was charged as an accessory to murder: accomplice, partner in crime, associate, collaborator, fellow conspirator; henchman.* •adjective *an accessory gearbox: additional, extra, supplementary, supplemental, auxiliary, ancillary, secondary, subsidiary, reserve, add-on.*

**accident** noun **1** *an accident at work: mishap, misadventure, unfortunate incident, mischance, misfortune, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe, calamity; technical casualty.* **2** *an accident on the motorway: crash, collision, smash, bump, car crash, road traffic accident, RTA; derailment; N. Amer. wreck; informal smash-up, pile-up; Brit. informal prang, shunt.* **3** *it is no accident that there is a similarity between them: chance, mere chance, coincidence, twist of fate, freak, hazard; fluke, serendipity; fate, fortuity, fortune, providence, happenstance.*

**accidental** adjective **1** *an accidental meeting: chance, fortuitous, adventitious, fluky, coincidental, casual, serendipitous, random; unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, unlooked-for, unintentional, unintended, inadvertent, unplanned, unpremeditated, unthinking, unwitting.* **2** *the location is accidental and contributes nothing to the poem: incidental, unimportant, by the way, by the by, supplementary, subsidiary, subordinate, secondary, accessory, peripheral, tangential, extraneous, extrinsic, irrelevant, non-essential, inessential.*

– OPPOSITES intentional, deliberate.

**accidentally** adverb by accident, by chance, by a twist of fate, as luck would have it, fortuitously, by a fluke, by happenstance, coincidentally, adventitiously; unexpectedly, unintentionally, inadvertently, unwittingly.

**acclaim** verb *the booklet has been widely acclaimed by teachers: praise, applaud, cheer, commend, approve, welcome, pay tribute to, speak highly of, eulogize, compliment, celebrate, sing the praises of, rave about, heap praise on, wax lyrical about, lionize, exalt, admire, hail, extol, honour, hymn; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo; formal laud.*

– OPPOSITES criticize.

•noun *she has won acclaim for her commitment to democracy: praise, applause, cheers, ovation, tribute, accolade,*

acclamation, salutes, plaudits, bouquets; approval, approbation, admiration, congratulations, commendation, welcome, homage; compliment, a pat on the back.

– OPPOSITES criticism.

**acclaimed** adjective **celebrated**, admired, highly rated, lionized, honoured, esteemed, exalted, well thought of, well received, acknowledged; eminent, great, renowned, distinguished, prestigious, illustrious, pre-eminent.

**acclamation** noun **praise**, applause, cheers, ovation, tribute, accolade, acclaim, salutes, plaudits, bouquets; approval, admiration, approbation, congratulations, commendation, homage; compliment, a pat on the back.

– OPPOSITES criticism.

**acclimatization** noun **adjustment**, adaptation, accommodation, habituation, acculturation, familiarization, inurement; naturalization; N. Amer. acclimation.

**acclimatize** verb **adjust**, adapt, accustom, accommodate, habituate, acculturate; get used, become inured, reconcile oneself, resign oneself; familiarize oneself; find one's feet, get one's bearings, become seasoned, become naturalized; N. Amer. acclimate.

**accolade** noun **1** *he received the accolade of knighthood*: **honour**, privilege, award, gift, title; prize, laurels, bays, palm. **2** *the hotel won a top accolade from the inspectors*: **tribute**, commendation, praise, testimonial, compliment, pat on the back; salutes, plaudits, congratulations, bouquets; informal rave.

**accommodate** verb **1** *refugees were accommodated in army camps*: **lodge**, house, put up, billet, quarter, board, take in, shelter, give someone a roof over their head; harbour. **2** *the cottages accommodate up to six people*: **hold**, take, have room for. **3** *our staff will make every effort to accommodate you*: **help**, assist, aid, oblige; meet the needs/wants of, cater for, fit in with, satisfy. **4** *she tried to accommodate herself to her new situation*: **adjust**, adapt, accustom, habituate, acclimatize, acculturate, get accustomed, get used, come to terms with; N. Amer. acclimate. **5** *the bank would be glad to accommodate you with a loan*: **provide**, supply, furnish, grant.

**accommodating** adjective **obliging**, cooperative, helpful, eager to help, adaptable, amenable, considerate, unselfish, generous, willing, kindly, hospitable, neighbourly, kind, friendly, pleasant, agreeable; Brit. informal decent.

**accommodation** noun **1** *temporary accommodation*: **housing**, lodging(s), living quarters, quarters, rooms; home, billet; shelter, a roof over one's head; informal digs, pad; formal abode, residence, place of residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation. **2** *lifeboat accommodation for 1,178 people*: **space**, room, seating; places. **3** *an accommodation between the two*

*parties was reached*: **arrangement**, understanding, settlement, accord, deal, bargain, compromise. **4** *their accommodation to changing economic circumstances*: **adjustment**, adaptation, habituation, acclimatization, acculturation; inurement; N. Amer. acclimation.

**accompaniment** noun **1** *a musical accompaniment*: **backing**, support, background, soundtrack. **2** *the wine makes a superb accompaniment to cheese*: **complement**, supplement, addition, adjunct, appendage, companion, accessory.

**accompany** verb **1** *the driver accompanied her to the door*: **go with**, travel with, keep someone company, tag along with, partner, escort, chaperone, attend, show, see, usher, conduct. **2** *the illness is often accompanied by nausea*: **occur with**, co-occur with, coexist with, go with, go together with, go hand in hand with, appear with, attend by. **3** *he accompanied the choir on the piano*: **back**, play with, play for, support.

**accomplice** noun **partner in crime**, associate, accessory, confederate, collaborator, fellow conspirator; henchman; informal sidekick.

**accomplish** verb **fulfil**, achieve, succeed in, realize, attain, manage, bring about/off, carry out/through, execute, effect, perform, do, discharge, complete, finish, consummate, conclude; formal effectuate.

**accomplished** adjective **skilled**, skilful, expert, masterly, virtuoso, master, consummate, complete, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent, capable, efficient, experienced, seasoned, trained, practised, professional, polished, ready, apt; informal great, mean, nifty, crack, ace, wizard; Brit. informal a dab hand at; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

**accomplishment** noun **1** *the reduction of inflation was a remarkable accomplishment*: **achievement**, act, deed, exploit, performance, attainment, effort, feat, move, coup. **2** *typing was another of her accomplishments*: **talent**, skill, gift, ability, attainment, achievement, forte, knack. **3** *a poet of considerable accomplishment*: **expertise**, skill, skilfulness, talent, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, ability, prowess, mastery, competence, capability, proficiency, aptitude, artistry, art; informal know-how.

**accord** verb **1** *the national assembly accorded him more power*: **give**, grant, present, award, vouchsafe; confer on, bestow on, vest in, invest with. **2** *his views accorded with mine*: **correspond**, agree, tally, match, concur, be consistent, harmonize, be in harmony, be compatible, be in tune, correlate; conform to; informal square.

– OPPOSITES withhold, disagree, differ.

• noun **1** *a peace accord*: **pact**, treaty, agreement, settlement, deal, entente, concordat, protocol, contract, convention. **2** *the two sides failed to reach accord*:

a

**agreement**, consensus, unanimity, harmony, unison, unity; formal concord.

■ **of one's own accord** voluntarily, of one's own free will, of one's own volition, by choice; willingly, freely, readily.

■ **with one accord** unanimously, in complete agreement, with one mind, without exception, as one, of one voice, to a man.

**accordance** noun *a ballot held in accordance with trade union rules: in agreement with*, in conformity with, in line with, true to, in the spirit of, observing, following, heeding.

**according** adjective **1** *she had a narrow escape, according to the doctors: as stated by*, as claimed by, on the authority of, in the opinion of. **2** *cook the rice according to the instructions: as specified by*, as per, in accordance with, in compliance with, in agreement with. **3** *salary will be fixed according to experience: in proportion to*, proportional to, commensurate with, in relation to, relative to, in line with, corresponding to.

**accordingly** adverb **1** *they appreciated the danger and acted accordingly: appropriately*, correspondingly, suitably. **2** *accordingly, he returned home to Yorkshire: therefore*, for that reason, consequently, so, as a result, as a consequence, in consequence, hence, thus, that being the case, ergo.

**accost** verb *speak to*, call to, shout to, hail, address; approach, confront, detain, stop; informal buttonhole, collar; Brit. informal nabble.

**account** noun **1** *his account of the incident: description*, report, version, story, narration, narrative, statement, explanation, exposition, delineation, portrayal, tale; chronicle, history, record, log, weblog, blog; view, impression. **2** *the firm's quarterly accounts: financial record*, ledger, balance sheet, financial statement; (accounts) books. **3** *I pay the account off in full each month: bill*, invoice, tally; debt, charges; N. Amer. check; informal tab. **4** *his background is of no account: importance*, import, significance, consequence, substance, note; formal moment.

● **verb** *her visit could not be accounted a success: consider*, regard as, reckon, hold to be, think, look on as, view as, see as, judge, adjudge, count, deem, rate.

■ **account for 1** *they must account for the delay*: explain, answer for, give reasons for, rationalize, justify. **2** *excise duties account for over half the price of Scotch*: constitute, make up, comprise, form, compose, represent.

■ **on account of** because of, owing to, due to, as a consequence of, thanks to, by/in virtue of, in view of.

■ **on no account** never, under no circumstances, not for any reason.

**accountability** noun responsibility, liability, answerability.

**accountable** adjective **1** *the government*

*was held accountable for the food shortage:*

**responsible**, liable, answerable; to blame. **2** *the game's popularity is barely accountable: explicable*, explainable; understandable, comprehensible.

**accoutrements** plural noun equipment, paraphernalia, stuff, things, apparatus, tackle, kit, implements, material(s), rig, outfit, regalia, appurtenances, impedimenta, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, trappings, accessories.

**accredit** verb **1** *he was accredited with being one of the world's fastest sprinters: recognize* as, credit with. **2** *the discovery of distillation is usually accredited to the Arabs: ascribe*, attribute. **3** *professional bodies accredit these research degrees: recognize*, authorize, approve, certify, license.

**accredited** adjective **official**, appointed, recognized, authorized, approved, certified, licensed.

**accretion** noun **1** *the accretion of sediments: accumulation*, formation, collecting, cumulation, accrual; growth, increase.

**2** *architectural accretions: addition*, extension, appendage, add-on, supplement.

**accrue** verb **1** *financial benefits will accrue from restructuring: result*, arise, follow, ensue; be caused by. **2** *interest is added to the account as it accrues: accumulate*, collect, build up, mount up, grow, increase.

**accumulate** verb *gather*, collect, amass, stockpile, pile up, heap up, store (up), hoard, cumulate, lay in/up; increase, multiply, accrue; run up.

**accumulation** noun mass, build-up, pile, heap, stack, collection, stock, store, stockpile, reserve, hoard; amassing, gathering, cumulation, accrual, accretion.

**accuracy** noun correctness, precision, exactness; factuality, literalness, fidelity, faithfulness, truth, truthfulness, veracity, authenticity, realism, verisimilitude.

**accurate** adjective **1** *accurate information | an accurate representation of the situation: correct*, precise, exact, right, error-free, perfect; **factual**, fact-based, literal, faithful, true, truthful, true to life, authentic, realistic; informal on the mark, on the nail; Brit. informal spot on, bang on; N. Amer. informal on the money, on the button; formal veracious. **2** *an accurate shot: well aimed*, on target, unerring, deadly, lethal, sure, true, on the mark.

**accursed** adjective **1** (dated) *that accursed woman: hateful*, detestable, loathsome, foul, abominable, damnable, odious, obnoxious, despicable, horrible, horrid, ghastly, awful, dreadful, terrible; annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating; informal damned, damn, blasted, pesky, pestilential, infernal; Brit. informal beastly. **2** (literary) *he and his line are accursed: cursed*, damned, doomed, condemned, ill-fated, ill-omened, jinxed.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, blessed.

**accusation** noun allegation, charge,



claim, assertion, imputation; indictment, arraignment; suit, lawsuit; Law, Brit. plaint; N. Amer. impeachment.

**accuse verb** **1** *four people were accused of assault: charge with*, indict for, arraign for; summons, cite, prefer charges against; N. Amer. impeach for. **2** *the companies were accused of causing job losses: blame for*, lay the blame on, hold responsible for, hold accountable for; condemn for, criticize for, denounce for; lay at the door of; informal point the finger at, stick on, pin on.  
– OPPOSITES absolve, exonerate.

**accustom verb** **adapt**, adjust, acclimatize, habituate, accommodate, acculturate; reconcile oneself, become reconciled, get used to, come to terms with, learn to live with, become inured; N. Amer. acclimate.

**accustomed adjective** **customary**, usual, normal, habitual, regular, routine, ordinary, typical, traditional, established, common, general; literary wonted.

**ace** (informal) **noun** *a rowing ace: expert*, master, genius, virtuoso, maestro, adept, past master, doyen, champion, star; informal demon, hotshot, wizard, whizz; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack.  
– OPPOSITES amateur.

• **adjective** *an ace tennis player: excellent*, first-rate, first-class, top-tier, marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, outstanding, superlative, formidable, virtuoso, masterly, expert, champion, consummate, skilful, adept; informal great, terrific, tremendous, superb, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, fab, crack, hotshot, A1, mean, demon, awesome, magic, tip-top, top-notch; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill.  
– OPPOSITES mediocre.

**acerbic adjective** **sharp**, sarcastic, sardonic, mordant, trenchant, cutting, razor-edged, biting, stinging, searing, scathing, caustic, astringent, abrasive; N. Amer. acerb; Brit. informal sarky; N. Amer. informal snarky.

**ache noun** **1** *a stomach ache: pain*, cramp, twinge, pang; gnawing, stabbing, stinging, smarting, soreness, tenderness, irritation, discomfort. **2** *the ache in her heart: sorrow*, sadness, misery, grief, anguish, suffering, pain, agony, torture, hurt.  
• **verb** *1 my legs were aching: hurt*, be sore, be painful, be in pain, throb, pound, twinge; smart, burn, sting; informal give someone gyp; Brit. informal play up. **2** *her heart ached for poor Philippa: grieve*, sorrow, be in distress, be miserable, be in anguish, bleed. **3** *Marie ached for his affection: long*, yearn, hunger, thirst, hanker, pine, itch; crave, desire.

**achieve verb** **attain**, reach, arrive at; realize, bring off/about, pull off, accomplish, carry out/through, fulfil, execute, perform, engineer, conclude, complete, finish, consummate; earn, win, gain, acquire, obtain, come by, get, secure, clinch, net; informal wrap up, wangle, swing; formal effectuate.

**achievement noun** **1** *the achievement of a high rate of economic growth:*

**attainment**, realization, accomplishment, fulfilment, implementation, execution, performance; conclusion, completion, close, consummation. **2** *they felt justifiably proud of their achievement: accomplishment*, attainment, feat, performance, undertaking, act, action, deed, effort, exploit; work, handiwork.

**Achilles' heel noun** **weak spot**, weak point, weakness, soft underbelly, shortcoming, failing, imperfection, flaw, defect, chink in one's armour.  
– OPPOSITES strength.

**aching adjective** **1** *his aching back: painful*, achy, sore, stiff, hurt, tender, uncomfortable; hurting, in pain, throbbing, pounding, smarting, burning, stinging. **2** *her aching heart: sorrowful*, sad, miserable, grieving, upset, distressed, anguished, grief-stricken, heavy.

**acid adjective** **1** *a slightly acid flavour: acidic*, sour, tart, bitter, sharp, acrid, pungent, acerbic, vinegary, acetic, acetous. **2** *acid remarks: acerbic*, sarcastic, sharp, sardonic, scathing, cutting, razor-edged, biting, stinging, caustic, trenchant, mordant, bitter, acrimonious, astringent, harsh, abrasive, wounding, hurtful, unkind, vitriolic, venomous, waspish, spiteful, malicious; N. Amer. acerb; informal bitchy, catty; Brit. informal sarky; N. Amer. informal snarky.  
– OPPOSITES sweet, pleasant.

**acknowledge verb** **1** *the government acknowledged the need to begin talks: admit*, accept, grant, allow, concede, confess, own, recognize. **2** *he did not acknowledge Colin, but hurried past: greet*, salute, address; nod to, wave to, raise one's hat to, say hello to. **3** *Douglas was glad to acknowledge her help: express gratitude for*, show appreciation for, thank someone for. **4** *few people acknowledged my letters: answer*, reply to, respond to.  
– OPPOSITES reject, deny, ignore.

**acknowledged adjective** **recognized**, accepted, approved, accredited, confirmed, declared, confessed, avowed.

**acknowledgement noun**

**1** *acknowledgement of the need to take new initiatives: acceptance*, admission, concession, confession, recognition. **2** *a smile of acknowledgement: greeting*, welcome, salutation. **3** *she left without a word of acknowledgement: thanks*, gratitude, appreciation, recognition. **4** *I sent off the form, but there was no acknowledgement: answer*, reply, response.

**acme noun** **peak**, pinnacle, zenith, height, high point, crown, crest, summit, top, apex, apogee; climax, culmination.  
– OPPOSITES nadir.

**acolyte noun** **assistant**, helper, attendant, minion, underling, lackey, henchman; follower, disciple, supporter, votary; informal sidekick, groupie, hanger-on.

**acquaint verb** *he will need to acquaint himself with the regulations: familiarize*, make familiar, make aware of, inform of,



a

advise of, apprise of, let know, get up to date; brief, prime; informal fill in on, gen up on, clue in on.

**acquaintance** noun **1** *a business acquaintance*: **contact**, associate, colleague. **2** *my acquaintance with George*: **association**, relationship, contact. **3** *the pupils had little acquaintance with the language*: **familiarity with**, knowledge of, experience of, awareness of, understanding of, comprehension of, grasp of.

**acquainted** adjective **1** *she was well acquainted with Gothic literature*: **familiar**, conversant, at home, up to date, abreast, au fait, au courant, well versed, knowledgeable, well informed; informed, apprised; informal genned-up, clued-in; formal cognizant. **2** *I am not personally acquainted with him*: **friendly**, on friendly terms.

**acquiesce** verb *he acquiesced in the cover-up*: **accept**, consent to, agree to, allow, concede, assent to, concur with, give the nod to; comply with, go along with, cooperate with, give in to, bow to, yield to, submit to.

**acquiescence** noun **consent**, agreement, acceptance, concurrence, assent, leave; compliance, concession, cooperation; submission.

**acquiescent** adjective **compliant**, cooperative, willing, obliging, agreeable, amenable, tractable, persuadable, pliant, unprotesting; submissive, self-effacing, unassertive, yielding, biddable, docile.

**acquire** verb **obtain**, come by, get, receive, gain, earn, win, come into, be given; buy, purchase, procure, possess oneself of, secure, pick up; informal get one's hands on, get hold of, land, bag, score.

– OPPOSITES lose.

**acquirement** noun **1** *her many acquirements*: **attainment**, achievement, accomplishment, skill, talent. **2** *the acquirement of money*: **acquisition**, obtaining, gaining, earning, winning, procurement.

**acquisition** noun **1** *a new acquisition*: **purchase**, gain, accession, addition, investment, possession; informal buy. **2** *the acquisition of funds*: **obtaining**, acquirement, gaining, earning, winning, procurement, collection.

**acquisitive** adjective **greedy**, covetous, avaricious, possessive, grasping, grabbing, predatory, avid, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic; informal money-grubbing.

**acquisitiveness** noun **greed**, greediness, covetousness, cupidity, possessiveness, avarice, avidity, rapaciousness, rapacity, materialism.

**acquit** verb **1** *the jury acquitted her*: **clear**, exonerate, find innocent, absolve; discharge, release, free, set free; informal let off (the hook); formal exculpate. **2** *the boys acquitted themselves well*: **behave**, conduct oneself, perform, act; formal comport oneself. **3** (old use) *they acquitted themselves of their duty*: **carry**

**out**, perform, discharge, execute.

– OPPOSITES convict.

**acquittal** noun **1** *the acquittal of the defendants*: **clearing**, exoneration; discharge, release, freeing; informal let-off; formal exculpation. **2** (old use) *the acquittal of these duties*: **discharge**, carrying out, execution, performance.

– OPPOSITES conviction.

**acrid** adjective **pungent**, bitter, sharp, sour, tart, harsh, acid, acidic, vinegary, acetic, acetous; stinging, burning.

**acrimonious** adjective **bitter**, angry, rancorous, caustic, acerbic, scathing, sarcastic, acid, harsh, sharp, cutting; virulent, spiteful, vicious, vitriolic, hostile, venomous, nasty, bad-tempered, ill-natured, mean, malign, malicious, malignant, waspish; informal bitchy, catty.

**acrimony** noun **bitterness**, anger, rancour, resentment, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood, animosity, hostility, enmity, antagonism, waspishness, spleen, malice, spitefulness, venom.

– OPPOSITES goodwill.

**acrobat** noun **tumbler**, gymnast, tightrope walker, wire walker, trapeze artist; rare funambulist.

**acrobatics** plural noun **1** *staggering feats of acrobatics*: **gymnastics**, tumbling; agility; rare funambulism. **2** *the acrobatics required to negotiate an international contract*: **mental agility**, skill, quick thinking, alertness, inventiveness.

**act** verb **1** *the Government must act to remedy the situation*: **take action**, take steps, take measures, move, react. **2** *he was acting on the orders of the party leader*: **follow**, act in accordance with, obey, heed, comply with; fulfil, meet, discharge. **3** *an estate agent acting for a prospective buyer*: **represent**, act on behalf of; stand in for, fill in for, deputize for, take the place of. **4** *Alison began to act oddly*: **behave**, conduct oneself, react; formal comport oneself. **5** *the scents act as a powerful aphrodisiac*: **operate**, work, function, serve. **6** *the drug acted directly on the blood vessels*: **affect**, have an effect on, work on; have an impact on, impact on, influence. **7** *he acted in a highly successful film*: **perform**, play a part, take part, appear; informal tread the boards. **8** *we laughed, but most of us were just acting*: **pretend**, play-act, put it on, fake it, feign it, dissemble, dissimulate.

• noun **1** *acts of kindness* | *a criminal act*: **deed**, action, feat, exploit, move, gesture, performance, undertaking, stunt, operation; achievement, accomplishment. **2** *the act raised the tax on tobacco*: **law**, decree, statute, bill, Act of Parliament, enactment, resolution, edict, dictum, ruling, measure; N. Amer. formal ordinance. **3** *the first act of the play*: **section**, division, subsection, part, segment. **4** *a music hall act*: **performance**, turn, routine, number, sketch, skit. **5** *it was all just an act*: **pretence**, show, front, facade, masquerade, charade,

posture, pose, affectation, sham, fake; informal a put-on.

■ **act up** (informal) **1** *all children act up from time to time*: misbehave, behave badly, get up to mischief; Brit. informal play up.

**2** *the engine was acting up*: malfunction, go wrong, be defective, be faulty; informal be on the blink; Brit. informal play up.

**acting** noun *the theory and practice of acting*: **drama**, the theatre, the stage, the performing arts, thespianism, dramatics, dramaturgy, stagecraft, theatricals; informal treading the boards.

• **adjective** *the bank's acting governor*: **temporary**, interim, caretaker, pro tem, provisional, stopgap; deputy, stand-in, fill-in; N. Amer. informal pinch-hitting.

– **OPPOSITES** permanent.

**action** noun **1** *there can be no excuse for their actions*: **deed**, act, move, undertaking, exploit, manoeuvre, endeavour, effort, exertion; behaviour, conduct, activity.

**2** *the need for local community action*: **measures**, steps, activity, movement, work, operation. **3** *a man of action*: **energy**, vitality, vigour, forcefulness, drive, initiative, spirit, liveliness, vim, pep; activity; informal get-up-and-go. **4** *the action of hormones on the pancreas*: **effect**, influence, working; power. **5** *he missed all the action while he was away*: **excitement**, activity, happenings, events, incidents; informal goings-on. **6** *twenty-nine men died in the action*: **fighting**, hostilities, battle, conflict, combat, warfare; engagement, clash, encounter, skirmish. **7** *a civil action for damages*: **lawsuit**, legal action, suit (at law), case, prosecution, litigation, proceedings.

**activate** verb **operate**, switch on, turn on, start (up), set going, trigger (off), set in motion, actuate, energize; trip.

**active** adjective **1** *despite her illness she remained active*: **energetic**, lively, sprightly, spry, mobile, vigorous, vital, dynamic, sporty; busy, occupied; informal on the go, full of beans. **2** *an active member of the union*: **hard-working**, busy, industrious, diligent, tireless, contributing, effective, enterprising, involved, enthusiastic, keen, committed, devoted, zealous.

**3** *the watermill was active until 1960*: **operative**, working, functioning, functional, operating, operational, in action, in operation; live; informal up and running.

– **OPPOSITES** listless, passive.

**activity** noun **1** *there was a lot of activity in the area*: **bustle**, hustle and bustle, busyness, action, liveliness, movement, life, stir, flurry; happenings, occurrences, proceedings, events, incidents; informal toing and froing, comings and goings. **2** *a wide range of activities*: **pursuit**, occupation, interest, hobby, pastime, recreation, diversion; venture, undertaking, enterprise, project, scheme, business, entertainment; act, action, deed, exploit.

**actor, actress** noun **performer**, player,

trouper, thespian; film star, matinee idol, star, starlet; informal ham; Brit. informal luvvie; N. Amer. informal hambone.

#### WORD LINKS

**thespian**, **histrionic** relating to actors  
**audition** a try-out to see if an actor is suitable for a role  
**greasepaint** make-up used by actors  
**understudy** an actor who learns another's role in case of an emergency

**actual** adjective **real**, true, genuine, authentic, verified, attested, confirmed, definite, hard, plain, veritable; existing, existent, manifest, substantial, factual, de facto, bona fide; informal real live.

– **OPPOSITES** notional.

**actuality** noun *the journalistic debate about actuality and fiction*: **reality**, fact, truth, real life.

■ **in actuality** **really**, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, actually, as a matter of fact, in reality, in truth, if truth be told, to tell the truth; old use in sooth.

**actually** adverb **1** *I looked upset but actually I was terribly excited*: **really**, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in reality, in actuality, in truth, if truth be told, to tell the truth; old use in sooth.

**actuate** verb **1** *the sprinkler system was actuated by the fire*: **activate**, operate, switch on, turn on, start (up), set going, trigger (off), trip, set in motion, energize. **2** *the defendant was actuated by malice*: **motivate**, prompt, stimulate, move, drive, influence, incite, spur on, impel.

**acumen** noun **astuteness**, shrewdness, acuity, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, cleverness, smartness, brains; judgement, understanding, awareness, sense, common sense, caniness, discernment, wisdom, wit, sagacity, perspicacity, insight, perception, penetration; informal nous, savvy, know-how, horse sense; N. Amer. informal smarts; formal perspicuity.

**acute** adjective **1** *the acute food shortages*: **severe**, critical, drastic, dire, dreadful, terrible, awful, grave, bad, serious, desperate, parlous, dangerous. **2** *acute stomach pains*: **sharp**, severe, stabbing, excruciating, agonizing, racking, searing. **3** *his acute mind*: **astute**, shrewd, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, rapier-like, quick, quick-witted, agile, nimble, clever, intelligent, brilliant, smart, canny, discerning, perceptive, perspicacious, penetrating, insightful, incisive, piercing, discriminating, sagacious, wise, judicious; informal on the ball, quick off the mark, quick on the uptake, streetwise, savvy; N. Amer. informal heads-up. **4** *an acute sense of smell*: **keen**, sharp, good, penetrating, discerning, sensitive.

– **OPPOSITES** mild, dull.

**acutely** adverb **extremely**, exceedingly, very, markedly, severely, intensely, deeply, profoundly, keenly, painfully, desperately, tremendously, enormously, thoroughly,

a

heartily; informal awfully, terribly.  
– OPPOSITES slightly.

**adage** noun *saying, maxim, axiom, proverb, aphorism, apophthegm, saw, dictum, precept, motto, truism, platitude, cliché, commonplace.*

**adamant** adjective *unshakeable, immovable, inflexible, unwavering, unswerving, uncompromising, resolute, resolved, determined, firm, steadfast; stubborn, unrelenting, unyielding, unbending, rigid, obdurate, inexorable, intransigent, dead set.*

**adapt** verb *1 we've adapted the hotels to suit their needs: modify, alter, change, adjust, convert, redesign, restyle, refashion, remodel, reshape, revamp, rework, rejig, redo, reconstruct, reorganize; customize, tailor; improve, amend, refine; informal tweak. 2 he has adapted well to his new home: adjust, acclimatize oneself, accommodate oneself, habituate oneself, become habituated, get used, orient oneself, reconcile oneself, come to terms, get one's bearings, find one's feet, acculturate, assimilate, blend in, fit in; N. Amer. acclimate.*

**adaptable** adjective *1 competent and adaptable staff: flexible, versatile, cooperative, accommodating, amenable. 2 an adaptable piece of furniture: versatile, modifiable, convertible, alterable, adjustable, changeable; multi-purpose, all-purpose.*

**adaptation** noun *1 the adaptation of old buildings: conversion, alteration, modification, redesign, remodelling, revamping, reconstruction. 2 the adaptation of an ethnic community to British society: adjustment, acclimatization, accommodation, habituation, acculturation, assimilation, integration; N. Amer. acclimation.*

**add** verb *1 the front porch was added in 1751: attach, build on, join, append, affix, connect, annex; include, incorporate. 2 they added all the figures up: total, count (up), compute, reckon up, tally; Brit. tot up. 3 the subsidies added up to £1700: amount to, come to, run to, make, total, equal, number. 4 the recent riots add up to a deepening crisis: amount to, constitute; signify, signal, mean, indicate, denote, point to, be evidence of, be symptomatic of; informal spell. 5 her decision just added to his woe: increase, magnify, amplify, augment, intensify, heighten, deepen; exacerbate, aggravate, compound, reinforce; add fuel to the fire, fan the flames, rub salt in the wound. 6 she added that she had every confidence in Laura: go on to say, state further, continue, carry on.*  
– OPPOSITES subtract.

■ **add up** (informal) *the situation just didn't add up: make sense, stand to reason, hold up, hold water, ring true, be convincing.*

**addendum** noun *appendix, codicil, postscript, afterword, tailpiece, rider, coda, supplement; adjunct, appendage, addition, add-on, attachment.*

**addict** noun *1 a heroin addict: abuser, user; informal junkie, druggy, -freak, -head, pill-popper; N. Amer. informal hophead. 2 (informal) skiing addicts: enthusiast, fan, lover, devotee, aficionado; informal freak, nut, fiend, fanatic, maniac.*

**addicted** adjective *1 he was addicted to tranquilizers: dependent on; informal hooked on. 2 she became addicted to the theatre: devoted to, obsessed with, fixated on; fanatical about, passionate about, a slave to; informal hooked on, mad on, crazy about.*

**addiction** noun *1 his heroin addiction: dependency, dependence, habit; informal monkey. 2 a slavish addiction to fashion: devotion to, dedication to, obsession with, infatuation with, passion for, love of, mania for, enslavement to.*

**addictive** adjective *habit-forming; compulsive; Brit. informal moreish.*

**addition** noun *1 the soil is improved by the addition of compost: adding, incorporation, inclusion, introduction. 2 an addition to the existing regulations: supplement, adjunct, addendum, appendage, add-on, extra; rider. ■ in addition 1 conditions were harsh and in addition some soldiers fell victim to snipers: also, as well, what's more, additionally, furthermore, moreover, into the bargain, to boot. 2 eight presidential candidates in addition to the General: besides, as well as, on top of, plus, over and above.*

**additional** adjective *extra, added, supplementary, supplemental, further, auxiliary, ancillary; more, other, another, new, fresh.*

**additionally** adverb *also, in addition, as well, too, besides, on top (of that), moreover, further, furthermore, what's more, over and above that, into the bargain, to boot; old use withal.*

**additive** noun *added ingredient, addition; preservative, colouring; Brit. informal E-number.*

**addled** adjective *muddled, confused, muzzy, fuddled, befuddled, dazed, disoriented, disorientated, fuzzy; informal woozy.*

**address** noun *1 the address on the envelope: inscription, superscription; directions. 2 our officers called at the address: house, flat, apartment, home; formal residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation, abode, domicile. 3 his address to the European Parliament: speech, lecture, talk, monologue, dissertation, discourse, oration, peroration; sermon, homily, lesson. • verb 1 I addressed the envelope by hand: inscribe, superscribe. 2 the preacher addressed a crowded congregation: talk to, give a talk to, speak to, make a speech to, give a lecture to, lecture, hold forth to; preach to. 3 the question of how to address one's parents-in-law: call, name, designate; speak to, write to; formal denominate. 4 correspondence should be addressed to the Banking Ombudsman: direct, send, communicate, convey, remit. 5 the minister failed to address the issue of subsidies:*



**attend to**, apply oneself to, tackle, see to, deal with, confront, get to grips with, get down to, turn one's hand to, take in hand, undertake, concentrate on, focus on, devote oneself to.

**adduce** verb cite, quote, name, mention, instance, point out, refer to; put forward, present, offer, advance, propose, proffer.

**adept** adjective *an adept negotiator*: expert, proficient, accomplished, skilful, talented, masterly, consummate, virtuoso; adroit, dexterous, deft, artful; brilliant, splendid, marvellous, formidable, outstanding, first-rate, first-class, excellent, fine; informal great, top-notch, tip-top, A1, ace, mean, hotshot, crack, nifty, deadly; Brit. informal a dab hand at; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

— OPPOSITES inept.

• **noun** *kung fu adepts*: expert, past master, master, genius, maestro, doyen; informal wizard, demon, ace, hotshot, whizz; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack.

— OPPOSITES amateur.

**adequacy** noun **1** *the adequacy of the existing services*: satisfactoriness, acceptability, acceptableness; sufficiency. **2** *he had deep misgivings about his own adequacy*: capability, competence, ability, aptitude, suitability; effectiveness, fitness; formal efficacy.

**adequate** adjective **1** *he lacked adequate financial resources*: sufficient, enough, requisite. **2** *the company provides an adequate service*: acceptable, passable, reasonable, satisfactory, tolerable, fair, decent, quite good, pretty good, goodish, moderate, unexceptional, unremarkable, undistinguished, ordinary, average, not bad, all right, middling; informal OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, nothing to write home about. **3** *the workstations were small but seemed adequate to the task*: equal to, up to, capable of, suitable for, able to do, fit for, sufficient for.

**adhere** verb **1** *a dollop of cream adhered to her nose*: stick (fast), cohere, cling, bond, attach; be stuck, be fixed, be glued. **2** *they adhere scrupulously to Judaic law*: abide by, stick to, hold to, comply with, act in accordance with, conform to, submit to; follow, obey, heed, observe, respect, uphold, fulfil.

— OPPOSITES flout, ignore.

**adherent** noun follower, supporter, upholder, defender, advocate, disciple, votary, devotee, partisan, member, friend, stalwart, sectary; believer, worshipper.

— OPPOSITES opponent.

**adhesion** noun **1** *the adhesion of the gum strip to the paper fibres*: sticking, adherence. **2** *the front tyres were struggling for adhesion*: traction, grip, purchase.

**adhesive** noun *a spray adhesive*: glue, fixative, gum, paste, cement; N. Amer. mucilage; N. Amer. informal stickum.

• **adjective** *adhesive mortar*: sticky, tacky, gluey, gummed; viscous, viscid; technical adherent; informal icky.

**adieu** noun & exclamation goodbye, farewell, until we meet again; informal bye-bye, ta-ta, bye, cheerio, cheers, ciao, so long; informal, dated toodle-oo, toodle-pip.

**ad infinitum** adverb forever, for ever and ever, evermore, always, for all time, until the end of time, in perpetuity, until hell freezes over; perpetually, eternally, endlessly, interminably, unceasingly, unendingly; Brit. for evermore; informal until the cows come home, until the twelfth of never, until doomsday, until kingdom come; old use for aye.

**adjacent** adjective adjoining, neighbouring, next-door, abutting, contiguous, proximate; (**adjacent to**) close to, near, next to, by, by the side of, bordering on, beside, alongside, attached to, touching, cheek by jowl with.

**adjoin** verb be next to, be adjacent to, border (on), abut, be contiguous with, communicate with, extend to; join, conjoin, connect with, touch, meet.

**adjoining** adjective connecting, connected, interconnecting, adjacent, neighbouring, bordering, next-door; contiguous, proximate; attached, touching.

**adjourn** verb **1** *the hearing was adjourned*: suspend, break off, discontinue, interrupt, prorogue, stay, recess. **2** *sentencing was adjourned until June 9*: postpone, put off/back, defer, delay, hold over, shelve. **3** *they adjourned to the sitting room for liqueurs*: withdraw, retire, retreat, take oneself; formal repair, remove; literary betake oneself.

**adjournment** noun suspension, discontinuation, interruption, postponement, deferment, deferral, stay, prorogation; break, pause, recess.

**adjudge** verb judge, deem, find, pronounce, proclaim, rule, hold, determine; consider, think, rate, reckon, perceive, regard as, view as, see as, believe to be.

**adjudicate** verb judge, try, hear, examine, arbitrate; pronounce on, give a ruling on, pass judgement on, decide, determine, settle, resolve.

**adjudication** noun judgement, decision, pronouncement, ruling, settlement, resolution, arbitration, finding, verdict, sentence; Law determination.

**adjudicator** noun judge, arbitrator, arbiter; referee, umpire.

**adjunct** noun supplement, addition, extra, add-on, accessory, accompaniment, complement, appurtenance; attachment, appendage, addendum.

**adjust** verb **1** *Kate had adjusted to her new life*: adapt, become accustomed, get used, accommodate, acclimatize, orient oneself, reconcile oneself, habituate oneself, assimilate; come to terms with, blend in with, fit in with, find one's feet in; N. Amer. acclimate. **2** *he adjusted the brakes*: modify, alter, regulate, tune, fine-tune, calibrate, balance; adapt, rearrange, change, rejig, rework, revamp, remodel, reshape, convert,



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tailor, improve, enhance, customize; repair, fix, correct, rectify, overhaul, put right; informal tweak.

**adjustable** adjective alterable, adaptable, modifiable, convertible, variable, multiway, versatile.

**adjustment** noun **1** a period of adjustment: adaptation, accommodation, acclimatization, habituation, acculturation, naturalization, assimilation; N. Amer. acclimation. **2** the car will run on unleaded petrol with no adjustment: modification, alteration, regulation, adaptation, rearrangement, change, reconstruction, customization, refinement; repair, correction, amendment, overhaul, improvement.

**ad-lib** verb she ad-libbed half the speech: improvise, extemporize, speak impromptu, play it by ear, make it up as one goes along; informal busk it, wing it.

• adverb she spoke ad lib: impromptu, extempore, without preparation, without rehearsal, extemporaneously; informal off the cuff, off the top of one's head.

• adjective a live, ad-lib commentary: impromptu, extempore, extemporaneous, extemporary, improvised, unprepared, unrehearsed, unscripted; informal off-the-cuff, spur-of-the-moment.

**administer** verb **1** the union is administered by a central executive: manage, direct, control, operate, regulate, conduct, handle, run, organize, supervise, superintend, oversee, preside over, govern, rule, lead, head, steer; be in control of, be in charge of, be responsible for, be at the helm of, helm; informal head up. **2** the lifeboat crew administered first aid: dispense, issue, give, provide, apply, allot, distribute, hand out, dole out, disburse. **3** a gym shoe was used to administer punishment: inflict, mete out, deal out, deliver.

**administration** noun **1** the day-to-day administration of the company: management, direction, control, command, charge, conduct, operation, running, leadership, government, governing, superintendence, supervision, regulation, overseeing. **2** the previous Labour administration: government, cabinet, ministry, regime, executive, authority, directorate, council, leadership, management; parliament, congress, senate; rule, term of office, incumbency. **3** the administration of anti-inflammatory drugs: provision, issuing, issuance, application, dispensing, dispensation, distribution, disbursement.

**administrative** adjective managerial, management, directorial, executive, organizational, supervisory, regulatory.

**administrator** noun manager, director, executive, controller, head, chief, leader, governor, superintendent, supervisor; informal boss.

**admirable** adjective commendable, praiseworthy, laudable, estimable,

meritorious, creditable, exemplary, honourable, worthy, deserving, respectable, worthwhile, good, sterling, fine, masterly, great.

– OPPOSITES deplorable.

**admiration** noun respect, approval, approbation, appreciation, regard, (high) regard, esteem; commendation, acclaim, applause, praise, compliments, tributes, accolades, plaudits; formal laudation.

– OPPOSITES scorn.

**admire** verb **1** I admire your courage: respect, approve of, esteem, think highly of, rate highly, hold in high regard, applaud, praise, commend, acclaim. **2** Simon had admired her for a long time: adore, love, worship, dote on, be enamoured of, be infatuated with; be taken with, be attracted to, find attractive; informal carry a torch for, have a thing about.

– OPPOSITES despise.

**admirer** noun **1** a great admirer of Henry James: fan, devotee, enthusiast, aficionado; supporter, adherent, follower, disciple. **2** a handsome admirer of hers: suitor, wooer, sweetheart, lover, boyfriend, young man; literary swain; dated beau.

**admissible** adjective valid, allowable, allowed, permissible, permitted, acceptable, satisfactory, justifiable, defensible, supportable, well founded, tenable, sound; legitimate, lawful, legal, licit; informal OK, legit, kosher, pukka.

**admission** noun **1** membership entitles you to free admission: admittance, entry, entrance, right of entry, access, right of access, ingress; entrée. **2** admission is fifty pence: entrance fee, entry charge, ticket. **3** a written admission of liability: confession, acknowledgement, acceptance, concession, disclosure, divulgence.

**admit** verb **1** he unlocked the door to admit her: let in, allow entry, permit entry, take in, usher in, show in, receive, welcome. **2** he was admitted as a scholar to Winchester College: accept, take on, receive, enrol, enlist, register, sign up. **3** Paul admitted that he was angry: confess, acknowledge, own, concede, grant, accept, allow; reveal, disclose, divulge. **4** he admitted three offences of reckless driving: confess (to), plead guilty to, own up to, make a clean breast of.

– OPPOSITES exclude, deny.

**admittance** noun entry, right of entry, admission, entrance, access, right of access, ingress; entrée.

– OPPOSITES exclusion.

**admonish** verb **1** he was severely admonished by his father: reprimand, rebuke, scold, reprove, reproach, upbraid, chastise, chide, berate, criticize, take to task, pull up, read the Riot Act to, haul over the coals; informal tell off, dress down, bawl out, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell; Brit. informal tick off, give someone a rocket, have a go at, carpet, tear someone

off a strip; N. Amer. informal chew out; formal castigate; rare reprehend. **2** *she admonished him to drink less*: **advise**, recommend, counsel, urge, exhort, bid, enjoin, warn; formal adjure.

**admonition** noun **1** *a breach of the rules which led to an admonition*: **reprimand**, rebuke, reproof, remonstrance, reproach, reproof, stricture, criticism, recrimination, scolding, censure; informal telling-off, dressing-down, talking-to, tongue-lashing, rap over the knuckles, slap on the wrist, flea in one's ear, earful; Brit. informal rocket, rollicking, wiggling, ticking-off; formal castigation. **2** *an admonition to proceed carefully*: **exhortation**, warning, piece of advice, recommendation, counsel.

**adulthood** noun **teenage** years, teens, youth; pubescence, puberty.

**adolescent** noun *an awkward adolescent*: **teenager**, youngster, young person, youth, boy, girl; juvenile, minor; informal teen, tweenie, teeny-bopper.

• **adjective 1** *an adolescent boy*: **teenage**, pubescent, young; juvenile; informal teen.

**2** *adolescent silliness*: **immature**, childish, juvenile, infantile, puerile, jejune.

– OPPOSITES adult, mature.

**adopt** verb **1** *they adopted local customs*: **embrace**, take on/up, espouse, assume; appropriate, arrogate. **2** *the people adopted him as their patron saint*: **choose**, select, pick, vote for, elect, settle on, decide on, opt for; name, nominate, appoint.

– OPPOSITES abandon.

**adorable** adjective **lovable**, appealing, charming, cute, sweet, enchanting, bewitching, captivating, engaging, endearing, dear, darling, delightful, lovely, beautiful, attractive, gorgeous, winsome, winning, fetching; Scottish & N. English bonny.

– OPPOSITES hateful.

**adoration** noun **1** *the girl gazed at him with adoration*: **love**, devotion, care, fondness; admiration, high regard, awe, idolization, worship, hero-worship, adulation. **2** *our day of prayer and adoration*: **worship**, glory, glorification, praise, thanksgiving, homage, exaltation, extolment, veneration, reverence; old use magnification.

**adore** verb **1** *he adored his mother*: **love**, be devoted to, dote on, hold dear, cherish, treasure, prize, think the world of; admire, hold in high regard, look up to, idolize, worship; informal put on a pedestal. **2** *the people had come to pray and adore God*: **worship**, glorify, praise, revere, reverence, exalt, extol, venerate, pay homage to; formal laud; old use magnify. **3** (informal) *I adore oysters*: **like**, love, be very fond of, be very keen on, be partial to, have a weakness for; delight in, revel in, relish, savour; informal be crazy about, be wild about, have a thing about, be hooked on, go a bundle on; Brit. informal be potty about.

– OPPOSITES hate.

**adorn** verb **decorate**, embellish, ornament, enhance; beautify, prettify, grace, bedeck,

deck (out), dress (up), trim, swathe, wreath, festoon, garland, array, emblazon; literary bedizen, caparison.

**adornment** noun **decoration**, embellishment, ornamentation, ornament, enhancement; beautification, prettification; frills, accessories, trimmings, finishing touches.

**adrift** adjective **1** *their empty boat was spotted adrift*: **drifting**, unmoored, unanchored.

**2** (Brit. informal) *the pipe of my breathing apparatus came adrift*: **loose**, free; detached, unsecured, unfastened, untied, unknotted, undone. **3** *he was adrift in a strange country*: **lost**, off course; disoriented, disoriented, confused, (all) at sea; drifting, rootless, unsettled, directionless, aimless, purposeless, without purpose. **4** (Brit. informal) *his instincts were not entirely adrift*. See **WRONG** adjective sense 1.

**adroit** adjective **skilful**, adept, dexterous, deft, nimble, able, capable, skilled, expert, masterly, masterful, master, practised, polished, slick, proficient, accomplished, gifted, talented; quick-witted, quick-thinking, clever, smart, sharp, cunning, wily, resourceful, astute, shrewd, canny; informal nifty, crack, mean, wizard, demon, ace, A1, on the ball, savvy; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

– OPPOSITES inept, clumsy.

**adroitness** noun **skill**, skilfulness, prowess, expertise, adeptness, dexterity, deftness, nimbleness, ability, capability, mastery, proficiency, accomplishment, artistry, art, facility, aptitude, flair, finesse, talent; quick-wittedness, cleverness, sharpness, cunning, astuteness, shrewdness, resourcefulness, savoir faire; informal know-how, savvy.

**adulation** noun **hero-worship**, worship, idolization, adoration, admiration, veneration, awe, devotion, glorification, praise, flattery, blandishments.

**adulatory** adjective **flattering**, complimentary, highly favourable, enthusiastic, glowing, reverential, rhapsodic, eulogistic, laudatory; fulsome, honeyed.

– OPPOSITES disparaging.

**adult** adjective **1** *an adult woman*: **mature**, grown-up, fully grown, full-grown, fully developed, of age. **2** *an adult movie*:

**pornographic**, obscene, smutty, dirty, rude, erotic, sexy, suggestive, titillating; informal porn, porno, naughty, blue, X-rated, skin.

**adulterate** verb **make impure**, degrade, debase, spoil, taint, contaminate; doctor, tamper with, dilute, water down, weaken; bastardize, corrupt; informal cut, spike, dope.

– OPPOSITES purify.

**adulterer** noun **philanderer**, deceiver, womanizer, ladies' man, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario; informal cheat, two-timer, love rat; formal fornicator.

**adulterous** adjective **unfaithful**, faithless, disloyal, untrue, inconstant, false, false-hearted, deceiving, deceitful, treacherous; extramarital; informal cheating, two-timing.

– OPPOSITES faithful.

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**adultery** noun infidelity, unfaithfulness, falseness, disloyalty, cuckoldry, extramarital sex; affair, liaison, amour; informal carryings-on, hanky-panky, a bit on the side, playing around; formal fornication.

– OPPOSITES fidelity.

**advance** verb **1** *the battalion advanced rapidly*: move forward, proceed, press on, push on, push forward, make progress, make headway, gain ground, approach, come closer, draw nearer, near; old use draw nigh. **2** *the court may advance the date of the hearing*: bring forward, put forward, move forward. **3** *the move advanced his career*: promote, further, forward, help, aid, assist, boost, strengthen, improve, benefit, foster. **4** *our technology has advanced in the last few years*: progress, make progress, make headway, develop, evolve, make strides, move forward (in leaps and bounds), move ahead; improve, thrive, flourish, prosper. **5** *the hypothesis I wish to advance in this article*: put forward, present, submit, suggest, propose, introduce, offer, adduce, moot. **6** *a relative advanced him some money*: lend, loan, put up, come up with; Brit. informal sub.

– OPPOSITES retreat, hinder, postpone, retract, borrow.

• noun **1** *the advance of the aggressors*: progress, forward movement; approach. **2** *a significant medical advance*: breakthrough, development, step forward, step in the right direction, (quantum) leap; find, finding, discovery, invention. **3** *share prices showed significant advances*: increase, rise, upturn, upsurge, upswing, growth; informal hike. **4** *the writer is going to be given a huge advance*: down payment, retainer, prepayment, deposit, front money, money up front. **5** *unwelcome sexual advances*: pass, proposition.

• adjective **1** *an advance party of settlers*: preliminary, sent (on) ahead, first, exploratory; pilot, test, trial. **2** *advance warning*: early, prior, beforehand. ■ **in advance** beforehand, before, ahead of time, earlier, previously; in readiness.

**advanced** adjective **1** *advanced manufacturing techniques*: state-of-the-art, new, modern, up to date, up to the minute, the newest, the latest; progressive, avant-garde, ahead of the times, pioneering, innovative, sophisticated. **2** *advanced further-education courses*: higher-level, higher, tertiary.

– OPPOSITES primitive.

**advancement** noun **1** *the advancement of computer technology*: development, progress, evolution, growth, improvement, advance, furtherance; headway. **2** *employees must be offered opportunities for advancement*: promotion, preferment, career development, upgrading, a step up the ladder, progress, improvement, betterment, growth.

**advantage** noun **1** *the advantages of belonging to a union*: benefit, value, good point, strong point, asset, plus, bonus,

boon, blessing, virtue; attraction, beauty, usefulness, helpfulness, convenience, advantageousness, profit. **2** *they appeared to be gaining the advantage over their opponents*: upper hand, edge, lead, whip hand, trump card; superiority, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, power, mastery. **3** *there is no advantage to be gained from delaying the process*: benefit, profit, gain, good; informal mileage, percentage.

– OPPOSITES disadvantage, drawback, detriment.

**advantageous** adjective **1** *an advantageous position*: superior, dominant, powerful; good, fortunate, lucky, favourable. **2** *the arrangement is advantageous to both sides*: beneficial, of benefit, helpful, of assistance, useful, of use, of value, of service, profitable, fruitful; convenient, expedient, in everyone's interests.

– OPPOSITES disadvantageous, detrimental.

**advent** noun arrival, appearance, emergence, materialization, occurrence, dawn, birth, rise, development; approach, coming.

– OPPOSITES disappearance.

**adventitious** adjective **1** *he felt that the conversation was not entirely adventitious*: unplanned, unpremeditated, accidental, chance, fortuitous, serendipitous, coincidental, casual, random. **2** *the adventitious population*: foreign, alien, non-native.

– OPPOSITES premeditated.

**adventure** noun **1** *her recent adventures in Italy*: exploit, escapade, deed, feat, experience; stunt. **2** *they set off in search of adventure*: excitement, thrill, stimulation; risk, danger, hazard, peril, uncertainty, precariousness.

**adventurer** noun daredevil, hero, heroine; swashbuckler, knight errant.

**adventurous** adjective **1** *an adventurous traveller*: daring, daredevil, intrepid, venturesome, bold, fearless, brave, unafraid, unshrinking, dauntless; informal gutsy, spunky. **2** *adventurous activities*: risky, dangerous, perilous, hazardous, precarious, uncertain; exciting, thrilling.

– OPPOSITES cautious.

**adversary** noun opponent, rival, enemy, antagonist, combatant, challenger, contender, competitor, opposer; opposition, competition; literary foe.

– OPPOSITES ally, supporter.

**adverse** adjective **1** *adverse weather conditions*: unfavourable, disadvantageous, inauspicious, unpropitious, unfortunate, unlucky, untimely, untoward. **2** *the drug's adverse side effects*: harmful, dangerous, injurious, detrimental, hurtful, deleterious.

**3** *an adverse response from the public*: hostile, unfavourable, antagonistic, unfriendly, ill-disposed, negative.

– OPPOSITES favourable, auspicious, beneficial.

**adversity** noun misfortune, ill luck, bad luck, trouble, difficulty, hardship,



distress, disaster, suffering, affliction, sorrow, misery, tribulation, woe, pain, trauma; mishap, misadventure, accident, upset, reverse, setback, crisis, catastrophe, tragedy, calamity, trial, cross, burden, blow, vicissitude; hard times, trials and tribulations.

**advertise** verb publicize, make public, make known, announce, broadcast, proclaim, trumpet, call attention to, bill; promote, market, beat/bang the drum for, trail, huckster; informal push, plug, hype, boost; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo, flack.

**advertisement** noun notice, announcement, bulletin; commercial, promotion, blurb, write-up; poster, leaflet, pamphlet, flyer, bill, handbill, handout, circular, brochure, sign, placard; informal ad, push, plug, puff, bumf; Brit. informal advert.

**advice** noun guidance, counselling, counsel, help, direction; information, recommendations, guidelines, suggestions, hints, tips, pointers, ideas, opinions, views.

**advisability** noun wisdom, desirability, preferability, prudence, sense, appropriateness, aptness, fitness, suitability, judiciousness; expediency, advantageousness, advantage, benefit, profit, profitability.

**advisable** adjective wise, desirable, preferable, well, best, sensible, prudent, proper, appropriate, apt, suitable, fitting, judicious, recommended, suggested; expedient, politic, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, in one's (best) interests.

**advise** verb **1** *her grandmother advised her about marriage:* counsel, give guidance, guide, offer suggestions, give hints/tips/pointers. **2** *he advised caution:* advocate, recommend, suggest, urge, encourage, enjoin. **3** *you will be advised of the requirements:* inform, notify, give notice, apprise, warn, forewarn; acquaint with, make familiar with, make known to, update about; informal fill in on.

**adviser** noun counsellor, mentor, guide, consultant, confidant, confidante; coach, teacher, tutor, guru.

**advisory** adjective consultative, consultatory, advising; recommendatory.  
– OPPOSITES executive.

**advocacy** noun support, backing, promotion, championing; recommendation, prescription; N. Amer. boosterism.

**advocate** noun *an advocate of children's rights:* champion, upholder, supporter, backer, promoter, proponent, exponent, spokesman, spokeswoman, spokesperson, campaigner, fighter, crusader; propagandist, apostle, apologist; N. Amer. booster.

– OPPOSITES critic.

• verb *heart specialists advocate a diet low in cholesterol:* recommend, prescribe, advise, urge; support, back, favour, uphold, subscribe to, champion, speak for, argue for, lobby for, promote.

**aegis** noun protection, backing, support,

patronage, sponsorship, charge, care, guidance, guardianship, trusteeship, agency, safeguarding, shelter, umbrella, aid, assistance; auspices.

**aeon** noun ages, an age, an eternity, a long time, a lifetime; years; informal donkey's years; Brit. informal yonks.

**aesthetic** adjective artistic, tasteful, in good taste; graceful, elegant, exquisite, beautiful, attractive, pleasing, lovely.

**affability** noun friendliness, amiability, geniality, congeniality, cordiality, warmth, pleasantness, likeability, good humour, good nature, kindness, kindness, courtesy, courteousness, civility, approachability, amenability, sociability, gregariousness, neighbourliness.

**affable** adjective friendly, amiable, genial, congenial, cordial, warm, pleasant, nice, likeable, personable, charming, agreeable, sympathetic, good-humoured, good-natured, kindly, kind, courteous, civil, gracious, approachable, accessible, amenable, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, clubbable, neighbourly, welcoming, hospitable, obliging; Scottish counthy.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly.

**affair** noun **1** *what you do is your affair:* business, concern, matter, responsibility, province, preserve; problem, worry; Brit. informal lookout. **2** (*affairs*) *his financial affairs:* transactions, concerns, matters, activities, dealings, undertakings, ventures, business. **3** *the board admitted responsibility for the affair:* event, incident, happening, occurrence, eventuality, episode; case, matter, business. **4** *his affair with Anthea was over:* relationship, love affair, affaire (de cœur), romance, fling, flirtation, dalliance, liaison, involvement, intrigue, amour; informal hanky-panky; Brit. informal carry-on.

**affect**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *this development may have affected the judge's decision:* influence, have an effect on, act on, work on, have an impact on; change, alter, modify, transform, form, shape, sway, bias. **2** *he was visibly affected by the experience:* move, touch, make an impression on, hit (hard), tug at someone's heartstrings; upset, trouble, distress, disturb, agitate, shake (up). **3** *the disease affected his lungs:* attack, infect; hit, strike.

**affect**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *he deliberately affected a republican stance:* assume, take on, adopt, embrace, espouse. **2** *Paul affected an air of injured innocence:* pretend, feign, fake, simulate, make a show of, make a pretence of, sham; informal put on; N. Amer. informal make like.

**affectionation** noun **1** *George had always abhorred affectionation:* pretension, pretentiousness, affectedness, artificiality, posturing, posing; airs (and graces); informal la-di-da; Brit. informal side. **2** *an affectionation of calm:* facade, front, show, appearance, pretence, simulation, posture, pose.

**affected** adjective pretentious, artificial,



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contrived, unnatural, stagy, studied, mannered, ostentatious; insincere, unconvincing, feigned, false, fake, sham, simulated; informal la-di-da, phoney, pretend, put on.

– OPPOSITES natural, unpretentious, genuine.

**affecting** adjective touching, moving, emotive, emotional; stirring, soul-stirring, heart-warming; poignant, pathetic, pitiful, piteous, tear-jerking, heart-rending, heartbreaking, disturbing, distressing, upsetting, sad, haunting.

**affection** noun fondness, love, liking, tenderness, warmth, devotion, endearment, care, caring, attachment, friendship; warm feelings.

**affectionate** adjective loving, fond, adoring, devoted, caring, doting, tender, warm, warm-hearted, soft-hearted, friendly; demonstrative, cuddly; informal touchy-feely, lovey-dovey.

– OPPOSITES cold.

**affianced** adjective (literary). See **ENGAGED** sense 2.

**affiliate** verb associate with, unite with, combine with, join (up) with, join forces with, link up with, ally with, align with, federate with, amalgamate with, merge with; attach to, annex to, incorporate into, integrate into.

**affiliated** adjective associated, allied, related, federated, confederated, amalgamated, unified, connected, linked; in league, in partnership.

**affiliation** noun association, connection, alliance, alignment, link, attachment, tie, relationship, fellowship, partnership, coalition, union; amalgamation, incorporation, integration, federation, confederation.

**affinity** noun **1** *her affinity with animals and birds*: empathy, rapport, sympathy, accord, harmony, relationship, bond, fellow feeling, like-mindedness, closeness, understanding; liking, fondness; informal chemistry. **2** *the semantic affinity between the two words*: similarity, resemblance, likeness, kinship, relationship, association, link, analogy, similitude, correspondence.

– OPPOSITES aversion, dislike, dissimilarity.

**affirm** verb **1** *he affirmed that they would lend military assistance*: declare, state, assert, proclaim, pronounce, attest, swear, avow, guarantee, pledge, give an undertaking; formal aver; rare asseverate. **2** *the referendum affirmed the republic's right to secede*: uphold, support, confirm, ratify, endorse.

– OPPOSITES deny.

**affirmation** noun **1** *an affirmation of faith*: declaration, statement, assertion, proclamation, pronouncement, attestation; oath, avowal, guarantee, pledge; deposition; formal averment; rare asseveration. **2** *the poem ends with an affirmation of pastoral values*: confirmation, ratification, endorsement. – OPPOSITES denial.

**affirmative** adjective *an affirmative*

*answer*: positive, assenting, consenting, corroborative, favourable.

– OPPOSITES negative.

• noun *she took his grunt as an affirmative*:

agreement, acceptance, assent, acquiescence, concurrence; OK, yes.

– OPPOSITES disagreement.

**affix** verb **1** *he affixed a stamp to the envelope*:

stick, glue, paste, gum; attach, fasten, fix; clip, tack, pin; tape. **2** (formal) *affix your signature to the document*: append, add, attach.

– OPPOSITES detach.

**afflict** verb trouble, burden, distress, cause suffering to, beset, harass, worry, oppress; torment, plague, blight, bedevil, rack, smite, curse; old use ail.

**affliction** noun **1** *a herb reputed to cure a variety of afflictions*: disorder, disease, malady, complaint, ailment, illness, indisposition, handicap; scourge, plague, trouble. **2** *he bore his affliction with great dignity*: suffering, distress, pain, trouble, misery, wretchedness, hardship, misfortune, adversity, sorrow, torment, tribulation, woe.

**affluence** noun wealth, prosperity, fortune; riches, money, resources, assets, possessions, property, substance, means.

– OPPOSITES poverty.

**affluent** adjective wealthy, rich, prosperous, well off, moneyed, well-to-do; propertied, substantial, of means, of substance, plutocratic; informal well heeled, rolling in it, made of money, filthy rich, stinking rich, loaded, on easy street, worth a packet.

– OPPOSITES poor, impoverished.

**afford** verb **1** *can you afford a new car?* pay for, have the money for; run to, stretch to, manage. **2** *it took more time than he could afford*: spare, allow (oneself). **3** *the rooftop terrace affords beautiful views*: provide, supply, furnish, offer, give, make available, yield.

**affray** noun (Law, dated) fight, brawl, confrontation, clash, skirmish, scuffle, tussle; fracas, altercation, disturbance, breach of the peace; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindig, free-for-all.

**affront** noun *an affront to public morality*:

insult, offence, indignity, slight, snub, put-down, provocation, injury; outrage, atrocity, scandal; informal slap in the face, kick in the teeth.

• verb *she was affronted by his familiarity*:

insult, offend, mortify, provoke, pique, wound, hurt; put out, irk, displease, bother, rankle, vex, gall; outrage, scandalize, disgust; informal put someone's back up, needle.

**aficionado** noun connoisseur, expert, authority, specialist, pundit; enthusiast, devotee; informal buff, freak, nut, fiend, maniac, fanatic, addict.

**aflame** adjective burning, ablaze, alight, on fire, in flames, blazing; literary afire.

**afloat** adverb & adjective **buoyant**, floating, buoyed up, on/above the surface, (keeping one's head) above water.

**afloat** adjective & adverb **happening**, going on, around, about, abroad, stirring, circulating, in circulation, at large, in the air/wind; brewing, looming, in the offing, on the horizon.

**aforsaid** adjective **previously mentioned**, aforementioned, aforesaid; foregoing, preceding, earlier, previous; above.

**afraid** adjective **1** *they ran away because they were afraid: frightened*, scared, terrified, fearful, petrified, scared witless, scared to death, terror-stricken, terror-struck, frightened/scared out of one's wits, shaking in one's shoes, shaking like a leaf; intimidated, alarmed, panicky; faint-hearted, cowardly; informal scared stiff, in a (blue) funk, in a cold sweat; N. Amer. informal spooked; old use afeared, affrighted.

**2** *don't be afraid to ask awkward questions: reluctant*, hesitant, unwilling, disinclined, loath, slow, chary, shy. **3** *I'm afraid that your daughter is ill: sorry*, sad, distressed, regretful, apologetic.

– OPPOSITES brave, confident.

**afresh** adverb **anew**, again, over/once again, once more, another time.

**after** preposition **1** *he made a speech after the performance: following*, subsequent to, at the close/end of, in the wake of; formal posterior to. **2** *after the way he treated my sister I never want to speak to him again: because of*, as a result/consequence of, in view of, owing to, on account of. **3** *is he still going to marry her, after all that's happened? despite*, in spite of, regardless of, notwithstanding. **4** *the policeman ran after him: in pursuit of*, in someone's direction, following. **5** *they asked after Dad: about*, concerning, regarding, with regard/respect/reference to. **6** *I'm after information, and I'm willing to pay for it: in search of*, in quest/pursuit of, trying to find, looking for. **7** *the village was named after a Roman officer: in honour of*, as a tribute to. **8** *animal studies after Bandinelli: in the style of*, in the manner of, in imitation of; similar to, like, characteristic of.

– OPPOSITES before, preceding.

• **adverb 1** *the week after, we went to Madrid: later*, afterwards, after this/that, subsequently. **2** *porters were following on after with their bags: behind*, in the rear, at the back, in someone's wake.

– OPPOSITES previously, before, ahead.

**after-effect** noun **repercussion**, aftermath, consequence; Medicine sequela.

**afterlife** noun **life after death**, the next world, the hereafter, the afterworld; immortality.

**aftermath** noun **repercussions**, after-effects, consequences, effects, results, fruits.

**afterwards** adverb **later**, later on, subsequently, then, next, after this/that; at a later time/date, in due course.

**again** adverb **1** *her spirits lifted again: once more*, another time, afresh, anew. **2** *this can add half as much again to the price: extra*, in addition, additionally, on top. **3** *again, evidence was not always consistent: also*, furthermore; moreover, besides.

■ **again and again** repeatedly, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a time; often, frequently, continually, constantly.

**against** preposition **1** *a number of delegates were against the motion: opposed to*, in opposition to, hostile to, averse to, antagonistic towards, inimical to, unsympathetic to, resistant to, at odds with, in disagreement with; informal anti, agin. **2** *he was swimming against the tide: in opposition to*, counter to, contrary to, in the opposite direction to. **3** *his age is against him: disadvantageous to*, unfavourable to, damaging to, detrimental to, prejudicial to, deleterious to, harmful to, injurious to, a drawback for. **4** *she leaned against the wall: touching*, in contact with, up against, on.

– OPPOSITES in favour of, pro.

**age** noun **1** *people of the same age: number of years*, length of life; generation, age group.

**2** *her hearing had deteriorated with age: elderliness*, old age, oldness, senescence, seniority, maturity; one's advancing/declining years; literary eld; old use caducity.

**3** *the Elizabethan age: era*, epoch, period, time. **4** (informal) *you haven't been in touch with me for ages: a long time*, days/months/years on end, an eternity; informal ages and ages, donkey's years, a month of Sundays; Brit. informal yonks.

• **verb** *Cabernet Sauvignon ages well | the experience has aged her: mature*, mellow, ripen; grow/become/make old, (cause to) decline.

**aged** adjective **elderly**, old, mature, older, senior, ancient, senescent, advanced in years, in one's dotage, long in the tooth, as old as the hills, past one's prime, not as young as one used to be; informal getting on, over the hill, no spring chicken.

– OPPOSITES young.

**agency** noun **1** *an advertising agency: business*, organization, company, firm, office, bureau. **2** *the infection is caused by the agency of insects: action*, activity, means, effect, influence, force, power, vehicle, medium. **3** *regional policy was introduced through the agency of the Board of Trade: intervention*, intercession, involvement, good offices; auspices, aegis.

**agenda** noun **list of items**, schedule, programme, timetable, line-up, list, plan.

**agent** noun **1** *the sale was arranged through an agent: representative*, emissary, envoy, go-between, proxy, negotiator, broker, spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman; informal rep. **2** *a travel agent: agency*, business, organization, company, firm, bureau. **3** *a CIA agent: spy*, secret agent, undercover agent, operative, fifth columnist, mole, Mata Hari; N. Amer. informal spook,

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G-man; old use intelligencer. **4** *the agents of destruction*: **performer**, author, executor, perpetrator, producer, instrument, catalyst. **5** *a cleansing agent*: **medium**, means, instrument, vehicle.

**agglomeration** *noun* collection, mass, cluster, lump, clump, pile, heap; accumulation, build-up; miscellany, jumble, hotchpotch, mixed bag.

**aggravate** *verb* **1** *the new law could aggravate the situation*: **worsen**, make worse, exacerbate, inflame, compound; add fuel to the fire/flames, add insult to injury, rub salt in the wound. **2** (informal) *you don't have to aggravate people to get what you want*: **annoy**, irritate, exasperate, put out, nettles, provoke, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle (someone's feathers), try someone's patience; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal peeve, needle, bug, miff, hack off, get someone's goat, get under someone's skin, get up someone's nose; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get at, get across, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tick off. – **OPPOSITES** alleviate, improve.

**aggravation** *noun* **1** *the recession led to the aggravation of unemployment problems*: **worsening**, exacerbation, compounding. **2** (informal) *no amount of money is worth the aggravation*: **nuisance**, annoyance, irritation, hassle, trouble, difficulty, inconvenience, bother; informal aggro.

**aggregate** *noun* **1** *the specimen is an aggregate of rock and mineral fragments*: **collection**, mass, agglomeration, assemblage; mixture, mix, combination, blend; compound, alloy, amalgam. **2** *he won with an aggregate of 325*: **total**, sum total, sum, grand total. • **adjective** *an aggregate score*: **total**, combined, gross, overall, composite.

**aggression** *noun* **1** *an act of aggression*: **hostility**, aggressiveness, belligerence, bellicosity, force, violence; pugnacity, pugnaciousness, militancy, warmongering. **2** *he played the game with unceasing aggression*: **confidence**, self-confidence, boldness, determination, forcefulness, vigour, energy, dynamism, zeal.

**aggressive** *adjective* **1** *aggressive and disruptive behaviour*: **violent**, confrontational, antagonistic, truculent, pugnacious, macho; quarrelsome, argumentative. **2** *aggressive foreign policy*: **warmongering**, warlike, warring, belligerent, bellicose, hawkish, militaristic; offensive, expansionist; informal gung-ho. **3** *an aggressive promotional drive*: **assertive**, pushy, forceful, vigorous, energetic, dynamic; bold, audacious; informal in-your-face, feisty. – **OPPOSITES** peaceable, peaceful.

**aggressor** *noun* **attacker**, assaulter, assailant; invader.

**aggrieved** *adjective* **1** *the manager looked aggrieved at the suggestion*: **resentful**, affronted, indignant, disgruntled, discontented, upset, offended, piqued, riled,

nettled, vexed, irked, irritated, annoyed, put out, chagrined; informal peeved, miffed, in a huff; Brit. informal cheesed off; N. Amer. informal sore, steamed. **2** *the aggrieved party*: **wronged**, injured, harmed. – **OPPOSITES** pleased.

**aghost** *adjective* **horrified**, appalled, dismayed, thunderstruck, stunned, shocked, staggered; informal flabbergasted; Brit. informal gobsmacked.

**agile** *adjective* **1** *she was as agile as a monkey*: **nimble**, lithe, supple, limber, acrobatic, fleet-footed, light-footed, light on one's feet; informal nippy, twinkle-toed; literary fleet, lightsome. **2** *an agile mind*: **alert**, sharp, acute, shrewd, astute, perceptive, quick-witted.

– **OPPOSITES** clumsy, stiff.

**agitate** *verb* **1** *any mention of Clare agitates my grandmother*: **upset**, perturb, fluster, ruffle, disconcert, unnerve, disquiet, disturb, worry, distress, unsettle; informal rattle, faze; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** *she agitated for the appointment of more women*: **campaign**, strive, battle, fight, struggle, push, press. **3** *agitate the water to disperse the oil*: **stir**, whisk, beat.

**agitated** *adjective* **upset**, perturbed, flustered, ruffled, disconcerted, unnerved, disquieted, disturbed, anxious, worried, distressed, unsettled; nervous, on edge, tense, keyed up; informal rattled, fazed, in a dither, in a flap, in a state, in a lather, jittery, jumpy, in a tizz/tizzy; Brit. informal having kittens, in a (flat) spin; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

– **OPPOSITES** calm, relaxed.

**agitation** *noun* **1** *Freddie gritted his teeth in agitation*: **anxiety**, perturbation, disquiet, distress, concern, alarm, worry; rare disconcertment. **2** *an upsurge in nationalist agitation*: **campaigning**, striving, battling, fighting, struggling. **3** *the vigorous agitation of the components*: **stirring**, whisking, beating.

**agitator** *noun* **troublemaker**, rabble-rouser, agent provocateur, demagogue, incendiary; revolutionary, firebrand, rebel, insurgent, subversive; informal stirrer.

**agnostic** *noun* **sceptic**, doubter, doubting Thomas; unbeliever, disbeliever, non-believer; rationalist; rare nullifidian. – **OPPOSITES** believer, theist.

**ago** *adverb* **in the past**, before, earlier, back, since, previously; formal heretofore.

**agog** *adverb* **eager**, excited, impatient, keen, anxious, avid, in suspense, on tenterhooks, on the edge of one's seat, on pins and needles, waiting with bated breath.

**agonize** *verb* **worry**, fret, fuss, brood, upset oneself, rack one's brains, wrestle with oneself, be worried/anxious, feel uneasy, exercise oneself; informal stew; old use pore on.

**agonizing** *adjective* **excruciating**, harrowing, racking, searing, extremely painful, acute, severe, torturous, tormenting, piercing; informal hellish, killing;



formal grievous.

**agony** noun pain, hurt, suffering, torture, torment, anguish, affliction, trauma; pangs, throes; rare excruciation.

**agrarian** adjective **agricultural**, rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside, farming; literary georgic, sylvan, Arcadian, agrestic.

**agree** verb **1** *I agree with you:* **concur**, be of the same mind/opinion, see eye to eye, be in sympathy, be united, be as one man. **2** *they had agreed to a ceasefire:* **consent**, assent, acquiesce, accept, approve, say yes, give one's approval, give the nod; formal accede. **3** *the plan and the drawing do not agree with each other:* **match (up)**, accord, correspond, conform, coincide, fit, tally, be in harmony/agreement, be consistent/equivalent; informal square. **4** *they agreed on a price:* **settle**, decide, arrive at, negotiate, reach an agreement, come to terms, strike a bargain, make a deal, shake hands.

– OPPOSITES differ, contradict, reject.

**agreeable** adjective **1** *an agreeable atmosphere of rural tranquillity:* **pleasant**, pleasing, enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, to one's liking, appealing, charming, delightful. **2** *an agreeable fellow:* **likeable**, charming, amiable, affable, pleasant, nice, friendly, good-natured, sociable, genial, congenial. **3** *we should get together for a talk, if you're agreeable:* **willing**, amenable, in accord/agreement.

– OPPOSITES unpleasant.

**agreement** noun **1** *all heads nodded in agreement:* **accord**, concurrence, consensus; assent, acceptance, consent, acquiescence, endorsement. **2** *an agreement on military cooperation:* **contract**, compact, treaty, covenant, pact, accord, concordat, protocol. **3** *there is some agreement between my view and that of the author:* **correspondence**, consistency, compatibility, accord; similarity, resemblance, likeness, similitude.

– OPPOSITES discord.

**agricultural** adjective **1** *an agricultural labourer:* **farm**, farming, agrarian; rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside; literary georgic, sylvan, Arcadian, agrestic. **2** *agricultural land:* **farmed**, farm, agrarian, cultivated, tilled.

– OPPOSITES urban.

**agriculture** noun **farming**, cultivation, husbandry, tillage, agribusiness, agronomy.

#### WORD LINKS

**agrarian** relating to agriculture  
**arable** referring to land used for growing crops  
**fallow** referring to land which is not currently planted with crops  
**harvest** the gathering in of crops  
**pasture** land used for grazing cattle or sheep

**aground** adverb & adjective **grounded**, ashore, beached, stuck, shipwrecked, high and dry, on the rocks, on the ground/bottom.

**ahead** adverb **1** *he peered ahead, but could see nothing:* **forward(s)**, towards the front,

frontwards. **2** *he had ridden on ahead:* in front, at the head, in the lead, at the fore, in the vanguard, in advance. **3** *she was preparing herself for what lay ahead:* in the future, in time, in time to come, in the fullness of time, at a later date, after this, henceforth, later on, in due course, next.

**4** *they are ahead by six points:* **leading**, winning, in the lead, (out) in front, first, coming first.

– OPPOSITES behind.

■ **ahead of 1** *Blanche went ahead of the others:* in front of, before. **2** *we have a demanding trip ahead of us:* in store for, waiting for. **3** *two months ahead of schedule:* in advance of, before, earlier than. **4** *in terms of these amenities, Britain is ahead of other European countries:* more advanced than, further on than, superior to, surpassing, exceeding, better than.

**aid** noun **1** *with the aid of his colleagues he prepared a manifesto:* **assistance**, support, help, backing, cooperation, succour; a helping hand. **2** *humanitarian aid:* relief, charity, financial assistance, donations, contributions, subsidies, handouts, subvention; debt remission; historical alms. **3** *a hospital aid:* **helper**, assistant, girl/man Friday.

– OPPOSITES hindrance.

• **verb 1** *he provided an army to aid the King of England:* **help**, assist, abet, come to someone's aid, give assistance, lend a hand, be of service; avail, succour, sustain. **2** *essences can aid restful sleep:* **facilitate**, promote, encourage, help, further, boost; speed up, hasten, accelerate, expedite.

– OPPOSITES hinder.

**aide** noun assistant, helper, adviser, right-hand man, man/girl Friday, adjutant, deputy, second (in command); subordinate, junior, underling, acolyte; N. Amer. cohort.

**ail** verb (old use) **trouble**, afflict, pain, distress, bother, worry, be the matter with.

**ailing** adjective **1** *his ailing mother:* ill, unwell, sick, sickly, poorly, weak, indisposed, in poor/bad health, infirm, debilitated, delicate, valetudinarian, below par; Brit. off colour; informal laid up, under the weather. **2** *the country's ailing economy:* **failing**, in poor condition, weak, poor, deficient.

– OPPOSITES healthy.

**ailment** noun **illness**, disease, disorder, affliction, malady, complaint, infirmity; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy.

**aim** verb **1** *he aimed the rifle:* **point**, direct, train, sight, line up. **2** *she aimed at the target:* **take aim**, fix on, zero in on, draw a bead on. **3** *undergraduates aiming for a first degree:* **work towards**, be after, set one's sights on, try for, strive for, aspire to; formal essay. **4** *this system is aimed at the home entertainment market:* **target**, intend, destine, direct, design, tailor, market, pitch. **5** *we aim to give you the best possible service:* **intend**, mean, have in mind/view; plan, resolve, propose, design.

• **noun** *our aim is to develop gymnasts to the*



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*top level:* **objective**, object, goal, end, target, design, desire, desired result, intention, intent, plan, purpose, object of the exercise; ambition, aspiration, wish, dream, hope, raison d'être.

**aimless** adjective **1** *Flavia set out on an aimless walk:* **purposeless**, objectless, goalless, without purpose, without goal. **2** *aimless men standing outside the bars:* **unoccupied**, idle, at a loose end; purposeless, undirected.

– OPPOSITES purposeful.

**air** noun **1** *hundreds of birds hovered in the air:* **sky**, atmosphere, airspace, ether; literary heavens. **2** *open the windows to get some air into the room:* **breeze**, draught, wind; breath/blast of air, gust/puff of wind. **3** *an air of defiance:* **expression**, appearance, look, impression, aspect, aura, mien, countenance, manner, bearing, tone. **4** *women putting on airs:* **affectations**, pretension, pretentiousness, affectedness, posing, posturing, airs and graces; Brit. informal side. **5** *a traditional Scottish air:* **tune**, melody, song; literary lay.

• **verb 1** *a chance to air your views:* **express**, voice, make public, ventilate, articulate, state, declare, give expression/voice to; have one's say. **2** *the windows were opened to air the room:* **ventilate**, freshen, refresh, cool. **3** *the film was aired nationwide:* **broadcast**, transmit, screen, show, televise, telecast.

#### WORD LINKS

**aerial** relating to the air  
**aerate, ventilate** introduce air into something  
**aerodynamics** the science concerned with the movement of objects through the air  
**aeronautics** the study of travel through the air  
**alfresco** in the open air  
**rarefied** referring to air of lower pressure than usual  
**vacuum** a space from which air has been removed

**airborne** adjective **flying**, in flight, in the air, on the wing.

**airily** adverb **lightly**, breezily, flippantly, casually, nonchalantly, heedlessly, without consideration.

– OPPOSITES seriously.

**airing** noun **1** *the airing of different views:* **expression**, voicing, venting, ventilation, articulation, stating, declaration, communication. **2** *I hope the BBC gives the play another airing:* **broadcast**, transmission, screening, showing, televising, telecast.

**airless** adjective **stuffy**, close, stifling, suffocating, oppressive; unventilated, badly/poorly ventilated.

– OPPOSITES airy, ventilated.

**airport** noun **airfield**, airstrip; Brit. aerodrome; N. Amer. airdrome; informal drome.

**airtight** adjective **1** *an airtight container:* **sealed**, hermetically sealed, closed/shut

**tight.** **2** *an airtight alibi:* **indisputable**, unquestionable, incontrovertible, undeniable, incontestable, irrefutable, watertight, beyond dispute/question/doubt.

**airy** adjective **1** *the conservatory is light and airy:* **well ventilated**, fresh; spacious, uncluttered; light, bright. **2** *an airy gesture:* **nonchalant**, casual, breezy, flippant, insouciant, heedless. **3** *airy clouds:* **delicate**, soft, fine, feathery, insubstantial.

– OPPOSITES stuffy.

**airy-fairy** adjective (informal) **impractical**, unrealistic, idealistic, fanciful.

– OPPOSITES practical.

**aisle** noun **passage**, passageway, gangway, walkway.

**ajar** adjective & adverb **slightly open**, half open, agape.

– OPPOSITES closed, wide open.

**akin** adjective **similar**, related, close, near, corresponding, comparable, equivalent; connected, alike, analogous.

– OPPOSITES unlike.

**alacrity** noun **eagerness**, willingness, readiness; enthusiasm, ardour, fervour, keenness; promptness, haste, swiftness, dispatch, speed.

**alarm** noun **1** *the girl spun round in alarm:* **fear**, anxiety, apprehension, trepidation, nervousness, unease, distress, agitation, consternation, disquiet, perturbation, fright, panic. **2** *a smoke alarm:* **siren**, warning sound, danger/distress signal; warning device, alarm bell; old use tocsin.

– OPPOSITES calmness, composure.

• **verb** *the news had alarmed her:* **frighten**, scare, panic, unnerve, distress, agitate, upset, disconcert, shock, dismay, disturb; informal rattle, spook, scare the living daylights out of; Brit. informal put the wind up.

**alarming** adjective **frightening**, unnerving, shocking; distressing, upsetting, disconcerting, perturbing, dismaying, disquieting, disturbing; informal scary.

– OPPOSITES reassuring.

**alarmist** noun **scaremonger**, gloom-monger, doom-monger, doomster, doomsayer, Cassandra.

– OPPOSITES optimist.

**alchemy** noun **chemistry**; magic, sorcery, witchcraft.

**alcohol** noun **liquor**, intoxicating liquor, strong/alcoholic drink, drink, spirits; informal booze, hooch, the hard stuff, firewater, rotgut, moonshine, grog, tippie, the demon drink, the bottle; Brit. informal gut-rot; N. Amer. informal juice; technical ethyl alcohol, ethanol.

#### WORD LINKS

**alcoholism, dipsomania** addiction to alcohol  
**temperance, teetotalism** the practice of never drinking alcohol  
**bibulous** too fond of drinking alcohol  
**crapulent** relating to the drinking of alcohol or to drunkenness

**cirrhosis** a liver disease that can be caused by alcoholism

**Dutch courage** confidence gained by drinking alcohol

**hair of the dog** an alcoholic drink taken to cure a hangover

**alcoholic** adjective *alcoholic drinks*:

intoxicating, inebriating, containing alcohol; strong, hard, stiff; formal spirituous.

• **noun** *he is an alcoholic*: **dipsomaniac**, drunk, drunkard, heavy/hard/serious drinker, problem drinker, alcohol-abuser; tippler, sot, inebriate; informal boozier, lush, alky, dipso, soak, tosspot, wino, sponge, barfly; Austral./NZ informal hophead; old use toper.

**alcove** noun *recess, niche, nook, inglenook, bay.*

**alert** adjective **1** *police have asked neighbours to keep alert*: **vigilant**, watchful, attentive, observant, wide awake, circumspect; on the lookout, on one's guard/toes, on the qui vive; informal keeping one's eyes open/peeled. **2** *mentally alert*: **quick-witted**, sharp, bright, quick, keen, perceptive, wide awake, on one's toes; informal on the ball, quick on the uptake, all there, with it.

– OPPOSITES inattentive.

• **noun** **1** *a state of alert*: **vigilance**, watchfulness, attentiveness, alertness, circumspection. **2** *a flood alert*: **warning**, notification, notice; siren, alarm, signal, danger/distress signal.

• **verb** *police were alerted by a phone call*: **warn**, notify, apprise, forewarn, put on one's guard; informal tip off, clue in.

**alias** noun *he is known under several aliases*: **assumed name**, false name, pseudonym, sobriquet, incognito; pen/stage name, nom de plume/guerre.

• **adverb** *Cassius Clay, alias Muhammad Ali*: **also known as**, aka, also called, otherwise known as.

**alibi** noun *we've both got a good alibi for last night*: **defence**, justification, explanation, reason; informal story, line.

**alien** adjective **1** *alien cultures*: **foreign**, overseas, non-native. **2** *an alien landscape*: **unfamiliar**, unknown, strange, peculiar; exotic, foreign. **3** *a vicious role alien to his nature*: **incompatible**, opposed, conflicting, contrary, in conflict, at variance; rare oppugnant. **4** *alien beings*: **extraterrestrial**, unearthly; Martian.

– OPPOSITES native, familiar, earthly.

• **noun** **1** *an illegal alien*: **foreigner**, non-native, immigrant, emigrant, émigré, incomer. **2** *the alien's spaceship crashed*: **extraterrestrial**, ET; Martian; informal little green man.

**alienate** verb **1** *his homosexuality alienated him from his conservative father*: **estrangle**, divide, distance, put at a distance, isolate, cut off; set against, turn away, drive apart, disunite, set at variance/odds, drive a wedge between. **2** (Law) *they tried to prevent the land from being alienated*: **transfer**, pass on, hand over; Law convey, devolve.

**alienation** verb **1** *a sense of alienation*

*from society*: **isolation**, detachment, estrangement, distance, separation, division; cutting off, turning away. **2** (Law) *most leases contain restrictions against alienation*: **transfer**, passing on, handing over; Law conveyance, devolution.

**alight**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *he alighted from the train*: **get off**, step off, disembark, pile out; detrain, deplane. **2** *a swallow alighted on a branch*: **land**, come to rest, settle, perch; old use light. – OPPOSITES get on, board.

**alight**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *the bales of hay were alight*: **burning**, ablaze, aflame, on fire, in flames, blazing; literary afire. **2** *her face was alight with laughter*: **lit up**, gleaming, glowing, aglow, ablaze, bright, shining, radiant.

**align** verb **1** *the desks are aligned in straight rows*: **line up**, put in order, put in rows/columns, place, position, situate, set, range. **2** *he aligned himself with the workers*: **ally**, affiliate, associate, join, side, unite, combine, join forces, form an alliance, team up, band together, throw in one's lot, make common cause.

**alike** adjective *all the doors looked alike*: **similar**, (much) the same, indistinguishable, identical, uniform, interchangeable, cut from the same cloth, like (two) peas in a pod, (like) Tweedledum and Tweedledee; informal much of a muchness.

– OPPOSITES different.

• **adverb** *great minds think alike*: **similarly**, (just) the same, in the same way, identically.

**alimony** noun *financial support, maintenance, support; child support.*

**alive** adjective **1** *he was last seen alive on Boxing Day*: **living**, live, breathing, animate, sentient; informal alive and kicking; old use quick. **2** *the synagogue has kept the Jewish faith alive*: **active**, existing, in existence, existent, functioning, in operation; on the map. **3** *the thrills that kept him really alive*: **animated**, lively, full of life, alert, active, energetic, vigorous, spry, sprightly, vital, vivacious, buoyant, exuberant, ebullient, zestful, spirited; informal full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper, peppery, full of vim and vigour. **4** *teachers need to be alive to their pupils' backgrounds*: **alert**, awake, aware, conscious, mindful, heedful, sensitive, familiar; informal wise; formal cognizant. **5** *the place was alive with mice*: **teeming**, swarming, overrun, crawling, bristling, infested; crowded, packed; informal lousy.

– OPPOSITES dead, inanimate, inactive, lethargic.

**all** determiner **1** *all the children went | all creatures need sleep*: **each** of, each/every one of, every single one of; every (single), each and every. **2** *the sun shone all week*: **the whole of the**, the complete, the entire. **3** *in all honesty | with all speed*: **complete**, entire, total, full; greatest (possible), maximum.

– OPPOSITES no, none of.

• **pronoun** **1** *all are welcome*: everyone,

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everybody, each/every person. **2** *all of the cups were broken: each one*, the sum, the total, the whole lot. **3** *they took all of it: everything*, every part, the whole/total amount, the (whole) lot, the entirety.

– OPPOSITES none, nobody, nothing.

• **adverb** *he was dressed all in black:*

**completely**, fully, entirely, totally, wholly, absolutely, utterly; in every respect, in all respects, without reservation/exception.

– OPPOSITES partly.

**allay** **verb** **reduce**, diminish, decrease, lessen, assuage, alleviate, ease, relieve, soothe, soften, calm, take the edge off.

– OPPOSITES increase, intensify.

**allegation** **noun** **claim**, assertion, charge, accusation, declaration, statement, contention, argument, affirmation, attestation; formal averment.

**allege** **verb** **claim**, assert, charge, accuse, declare, state, contend, argue, affirm, attest, testify, swear; formal aver.

**alleged** **adjective** **supposed**, so-called, claimed, professed, purported, ostensible, putative, unproven.

**allegedly** **adverb** **reportedly**, supposedly, reputedly, purportedly, ostensibly, apparently, putatively, by all accounts, so the story goes.

**allegiance** **noun** **loyalty**, faithfulness, fidelity, obedience, adherence, homage, devotion; historical fealty; formal troth.

– OPPOSITES disloyalty, treachery.

**allegorical** **adjective** **symbolic**, metaphorical, figurative, representative, emblematic.

**allegory** **noun** **parable**, analogy, metaphor, symbol, emblem.

**allergic** **adjective** **1** *she was allergic to nuts: hypersensitive*, sensitive, sensitized.

**2** (informal) *boys are allergic to washing:*

**averse**, opposed, hostile, inimical, antagonistic, antipathetic, resistant, (dead) set against.

**allergy** **noun** **1** *an allergy to feathers: hypersensitivity*, sensitivity, allergic reaction. **2** (informal) *their allergy to free enterprise: aversion*, antipathy, opposition, hostility, antagonism, dislike, distaste.

**alleviate** **verb** **reduce**, ease, relieve, take the edge off, deaden, dull, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, attenuate, allay, assuage, palliate, damp, soothe, help, soften, temper.

– OPPOSITES aggravate.

**alley** **noun** **passage**, passageway, alleyway, back alley, backstreet, lane, path, pathway, walk, allée.

**alliance** **noun** **1** *a defensive alliance: association*, union, league, confederation, federation, confederacy, coalition, consortium, affiliation, partnership.

**2** *an alliance between medicine and morality: relationship*, affinity, association, connection.

**allied** **adjective** **1** *a group of allied nations: federated*, confederated, associated, in alliance, in league, in partnership;

unified, united, amalgamated, integrated.

**2** *agricultural and allied industries:*

**associated**, related, connected, interconnected, linked; similar, like, comparable, equivalent.

– OPPOSITES independent, unrelated.

**all-important** **adjective** **vital**, essential, indispensable, crucial, key, vitally important, of the utmost importance; critical, life-and-death, paramount, pre-eminent, high-priority; urgent, pressing, burning.

– OPPOSITES inessential.

**allocate** **verb** **allot**, assign, distribute, apportion, share out, portion out, deal out, dole out, give out, dish out, parcel out, ration out, divide out/up; informal divvy up.

**allocation** **noun** **1** *the efficient allocation of resources: allotment*, assignment, distribution, apportionment, sharing out, handing out, dealing out, doling out, giving out, dishing out, parcelling out, rationing out, dividing out/up; informal divvying up.

**2** *our annual allocation of funds: allowance*, allotment, quota, share, ration, grant, slice; informal cut; Brit. informal whack.

**allot** **verb** **allocate**, assign, apportion, distribute, issue, grant; earmark for, designate for, set aside for; hand out, deal out, dish out, dole out, give out; informal divvy up.

**allotment** **noun** **1** *the allotment of shares by a company: allocation*, assignment, distribution, apportionment, issuing, sharing out, handing out, dealing out, doling out, giving out, dishing out, parcelling out, rationing out, dividing out/up; informal divvying up. **2** *each member received an allotment of new shares: quota*, share, ration, grant, allocation, allowance, slice; informal cut; Brit. informal whack.

**all out** **adverb** *I'm working all out to finish my novel: strenuously*, energetically, vigorously, hard, with all one's might (and main), eagerly, enthusiastically, industriously, diligently, assiduously, sedulously, indefatigably, with application/perseverance; informal like mad, like crazy; Brit. informal like billy-o.

– OPPOSITES lackadaisically.

• **adjective** *an all-out attack: strenuous*, energetic, vigorous, forceful, forcible; spirited, mettlesome, plucky, determined, resolute, aggressive, eager, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, ardent, fervent.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**allow** **verb** **1** *the police allowed him to go home: permit*, let, authorize, give permission/authorization/leave, sanction, grant someone the right, license, enable, entitle; consent, assent, give one's consent/assent/blessing, give the nod, acquiesce, agree, approve; informal give the go-ahead, give the thumbs up, OK, give the OK, give the green light; formal accede. **2** *allow an hour or so for driving: set aside*, allocate, allot, earmark, designate, assign. **3** *the house was demolished to allow for road widening: provide*, get ready, cater, take



into consideration, take into account, make provision, make preparations, prepare, plan, make plans. **4** *she allowed that all people had their funny little ways:* **admit**, acknowledge, recognize, agree, accept, concede, grant.

– OPPOSITES prevent, forbid.

**allowable** adjective *the maximum allowable number of users:* **permissible**, permitted, allowed, admissible, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, licit, authorized, sanctioned, approved, in order; informal OK, legit.

– OPPOSITES forbidden.

**allowance** noun **1** *your baggage allowance:* quota, allocation, allotment, share, ration, grant, limit, portion, slice. **2** *her father gave her an allowance:* **payment**, pocket money, sum of money, contribution, grant, subsidy, maintenance, financial support. **3** *a tax allowance:* **concession**, reduction, decrease, discount.

■ **make allowance(s) for 1** *you must make allowances for delays:* take into consideration, take into account, bear in mind, have regard to, provide for, plan for, make plans for, get ready for, cater for, allow for, make provision for, make preparations for, prepare for. **2** *she made allowances for his faults:* excuse, make excuses for, forgive, pardon, overlook.

**alloy** noun *mixture*, mix, amalgam, fusion, meld, blend, compound, combination, composite, union; technical admixture.

**all-powerful** adjective **omnipotent**, almighty, supreme, pre-eminent; dictatorial, despotic, totalitarian, autocratic.

– OPPOSITES powerless.

**all right** adjective **1** *the tea was all right:* **satisfactory**, acceptable, adequate, fairly good, passable, reasonable; informal so-so, OK. **2** *are you all right?* **unhurt**, uninjured, unharmed, unscathed, in one piece, safe (and sound); well, fine, alive and well; informal OK. **3** *it's all right for you to go now:* **permissible**, permitted, allowed, allowable, admissible, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, licit, authorized, sanctioned, approved, in order; informal OK, legit.

– OPPOSITES unsatisfactory, hurt, forbidden.

• **adverb 1** *the system works all right:* **satisfactorily**, adequately, fairly well, passably, acceptably, reasonably; informal OK. **2** *it's him all right:* **definitely**, certainly, unquestionably, undoubtedly, indubitably, undeniably, assuredly, without (a) doubt, beyond the shadow of a doubt; old use in sooth, verily.

• **exclamation** *all right, I'll go:* **very well** (then), right (then), fine, good, yes, agreed, wilco; informal OK, okey-dokey, roger; Brit. informal righto.

**allude** verb *refer*, touch on, suggest, hint, imply, mention (in passing), make an allusion to; formal advert.

**allure** noun *the allure of Paris:* **attraction**, lure, draw, pull, appeal, allurements, enticement, temptation, charm, seduction, fascination.

• **verb** *will sponsors be allured by such opportunities?* **attract**, lure, entice, tempt, appeal to, captivate, draw, win over, charm, seduce, fascinate, whet the appetite of, make someone's mouth water.

– OPPOSITES repel.

**alluring** adjective *enticing*, tempting, attractive, appealing, inviting, captivating, fetching, seductive; enchanting, charming, fascinating; informal come-hither.

**allusion** noun *reference*, mention, suggestion, hint, comment, remark.

**ally** noun *close political allies:* **associate**, colleague, friend, confederate, partner, supporter.

– OPPOSITES enemy, opponent.

• **verb 1** *he allied his racing experience with business acumen:* **combine**, marry, couple, merge, amalgamate, join, fuse. **2** *the Catholic powers allied with Philip II:* **unite**, combine, join (up), join forces, band together, team up, collaborate, side, align oneself, form an alliance, throw in one's lot, make common cause.

– OPPOSITES split.

**almanac** noun *yearbook*, calendar, register, annual; manual, handbook.

**almighty** adjective **1** *I swear by almighty God:*

**all-powerful**, omnipotent, supreme, pre-eminent. **2** (informal) *an almighty explosion:* **very great**, huge, enormous, immense, colossal, massive, prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, monumental, mammoth, vast, gigantic, giant, mighty, Herculean, epic; very loud, deafening, ear-splitting, ear-piercing, booming, thundering, thunderous; informal whopping, thumping, astronomical, mega, monster, humongous, jumbo; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES powerless, insignificant.

**almost** adverb **nearly**, (just) about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, close to, near, well-nigh, nigh on, not quite, not far from/off, to all intents and purposes; approaching, bordering on, verging on; informal pretty nearly/much/well.

**alms** plural noun (historical) **gift(s)**, donation(s), handout(s), offering(s), charity, baksheesh, largesse; rare donative.

**aloft** adjective & adverb **1** *he hoisted the Cup aloft:* **upwards**, up, high, into the air/sky, skyward, heavenward. **2** *the airships stayed aloft for many hours:* **in the air**, in the sky, high up, up (above), on high, overhead.

– OPPOSITES down.

**alone** adjective & adverb **1** *she was alone in the house:* **by oneself**, on one's own, all alone, solitary, single, singly, solo, solus; unescorted, partnerless, companionless; Brit. informal on one's tod, on one's lonesome, on one's Jack Jones; Austral./NZ informal on one's Pat Malone. **2** *he managed alone:* **unaided**, unassisted, without help/assistance, single-handedly, solo, on one's own. **3** *she felt terribly alone:* **lonely**, isolated, solitary, deserted, abandoned, forlorn, friendless. **4** *a house standing alone:* **apart**, by itself/oneself, separate, detached, isolated. **5** *you*

a

*alone can inspire me: only, solely, just; and no one else, and nothing else, no one but, nothing but.*

– OPPOSITES in company, with help, among others.

**along** preposition **1** *she walked along the corridor: down, from one end of — to the other.* **2** *trees grew along the river bank: beside, by the side of, on the edge of, alongside.*

■ **along** with together with, accompanying, accompanied by; at the same time as; as well as, in addition to, plus, besides.

**aloof** adjective **distant**, detached, unfriendly, unsociable, remote, unapproachable, formal, stiff, austere, withdrawn, reserved, unforthcoming, uncommunicative; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES familiar, friendly.

**aloud** adverb **audibly**, out loud, for all to hear.

– OPPOSITES silently.

**alphabet** noun **ABC**, letters, writing system, syllabary.

**already** adverb **1** *Anna had suffered a great deal already: by this/that time, by now/then, thus/so far, before now/then, until now/then, up to now/then.* **2** *is it 3 o'clock already? as early as this/that*, as soon as this/that, so soon.

**also** adverb **too**, as well, besides, in addition, additionally, furthermore, further, moreover, into the bargain, on top (of that), what's more, to boot, equally; informal and all; old use withal, forbye.

**alter** verb **1** *Eliot was persuaded to alter the passage: change, make changes to, make different, make alterations to, adjust, make adjustments to, adapt, amend, modify, revise, revamp, rework, redo, refine, vary, transform; informal tweak; technical permute.* **2** *the state of affairs has altered: change, become different, undergo a (sea) change, adjust, adapt, transform, evolve.*

– OPPOSITES preserve, stay the same.

**alteration** noun **change**, adjustment, adaptation, modification, variation, revision, amendment; rearrangement, reordering, restyling, rejigging, reworking, revamping; sea change, transformation; humorous transmogrification.

**altercation** noun **argument**, quarrel, squabble, fight, shouting match, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, disputation, wrangle, war of words; informal tiff, run-in, slang match, spat, scrap; Brit. informal row, barney, ding-dong, bust-up, bit of argy-bargy; N. Amer. informal rhubarb; old use broil, miff.

**alternate** verb **1** *rows of trees alternate with dense shrub: be interspersed, rotate, follow one another; take turns, take it in turns, work/act in sequence.* **2** *we could alternate the groups so that no one felt they had been left out: give turns to, take in turn, rotate, take in rotation; swap, exchange, interchange.*

• adjective **1** *she attended on alternate days:*

*every other, every second.* **2** *place the leeks and noodles in alternate layers: alternating, interchanging, following in sequence, sequential.* **3** (N. Amer.) *an alternate plan.* See **ALTERNATIVE** adjective sense 1.

**alternative** adjective **1** *an alternative route: different, other, another, second, possible, substitute, replacement; standby, emergency, reserve, back-up, auxiliary, fallback; N. Amer. alternate.* **2** *an alternative lifestyle: unorthodox, unconventional, non-standard, unusual, uncommon, out of the ordinary, radical, revolutionary, nonconformist, avant-garde; informal off the wall, oddball, offbeat, way-out.* • noun *we have no alternative: option, choice, other possibility; substitute, replacement.*

**alternatively** adverb **on the other hand**, as an alternative, or; otherwise, instead, if not, then again; N. Amer. alternately.

**although** conjunction **in spite of the fact that**, despite the fact that, notwithstanding (the fact) that, even though/if, for all that, while, whilst.

**altitude** noun **height**, elevation, distance above the sea/ground.

**altogether** adverb **1** *he wasn't altogether happy: completely, totally, entirely, absolutely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, utterly, perfectly, one hundred per cent, in all respects.* **2** *we have five offices altogether: in all, all told, in toto.*

**3** *altogether it was a great evening: on the whole, overall, all in all, all things considered, on balance, on average, for the most part, in the main, in general, generally, by and large.*

**altruism** noun **unselfishness**, selflessness, compassion, kindness, public-spiritedness; charity, benevolence, beneficence, philanthropy, humanitarianism; literary bounty, bounteousness.

– OPPOSITES selfishness.

**always** adverb **1** *he's always late: every time, each time, at all times, all the time, without fail, consistently, invariably, regularly, habitually, unfailingly.* **2** *she's always complaining: continually, continuously, constantly, forever, perpetually, incessantly, ceaselessly, unceasingly, endlessly, the entire time; informal 24-7.* **3** *the place will always be dear to me: forever, for always, for good (and all), for evermore, for ever and ever, until the end of time, eternally, for eternity, until hell freezes over; informal for keeps, until the cows come home; old use for aye.* **4** *you can always take it back to the shop: as a last resort, no matter what, in any event/case, come what may.*

– OPPOSITES never, seldom, sometimes.

**amalgamate** verb **combine**, merge, unite, fuse, blend, meld; join (together), join forces, band (together), link (up), team up, go into partnership; literary commingle.

– OPPOSITES separate.

**amalgamation** noun **combination**, union, blend, mixture, fusion, coalescence,

synthesis, composite, amalgam.

**amass** verb gather, collect, assemble; accumulate, stockpile, store (up), cumulate, accrue, lay in/up, garner; informal stash (away).

– OPPOSITES dissipate.

**amateur** noun **1** *the crew were all amateurs:* non-professional, non-specialist, layman, layperson; dilettante. **2** *what a bunch of amateurs:* bungler, incompetent, bumbler; Brit. informal bodger.

– OPPOSITES professional, expert.

• **adjective** **1** *an amateur sportsman:* non-professional, non-specialist, lay; dilettante. **2** *their amateur efforts:* incompetent, inept, unskilful, inexperienced, amateurish, clumsy, maladroit, bumbling; Brit. informal bodged.

**amateurish** adjective. See **AMATEUR** adjective sense 2.

**amatory** adjective sexual, erotic, amorous, romantic, sensual, passionate, sexy; informal randy, steamy, naughty.

**amaze** verb astonish, astound, surprise, stun, stagger, nonplus, shock, startle, stupefy, stop someone in their tracks, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast, take someone's breath away, dumbfound; informal bowl over, flabbergast; Brit. informal knock for six; (**amazed**) thunderstruck, at a loss for words, speechless; Brit. informal gobsmacked.

**amazement** noun astonishment, surprise, shock, stupefaction, incredulity, disbelief, speechlessness, awe, wonder, wonderment.

**amazing** adjective astonishing, astounding, surprising, stunning, staggering, shocking, startling, stupefying, breathtaking; awesome, awe-inspiring, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, phenomenal, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable; informal mind-blowing, flabbergasting; literary wondrous.

**ambassador** noun **1** *the American ambassador:* envoy, plenipotentiary, emissary, (papal) nuncio, representative, diplomat; old use legate. **2** *a great ambassador for the sport:* campaigner, representative, promoter, champion, supporter, backer; N. Amer. booster.

#### WORD LINKS

attaché a person on an ambassador's staff  
chargé d'affaires an ambassador's deputy  
embassy an ambassador's official home or offices

**ambience** noun atmosphere, air, aura, climate, mood, feel, feeling, vibrations, character, quality, impression, flavour, look, tone; informal vibes.

**ambiguity** noun ambivalence, equivocation; obscurity, vagueness, abstruseness, doubtfulness, uncertainty; formal dubiety.

**ambiguous** adjective equivocal, ambivalent, open to debate/argument, arguable, debatable; obscure, unclear, vague, abstruse, doubtful, dubious, uncertain.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**ambit** noun scope, extent, range, breadth, width, reach, sweep; terms of reference, field of reference, jurisdiction, remit; area, sphere, field, realm, compass.

**ambition** noun **1** *young people with ambition:* drive, determination, enterprise, initiative, eagerness, motivation, enthusiasm, zeal, commitment, a sense of purpose; informal get-up-and-go. **2** *her ambition was to become a model:* aspiration, intention, goal, aim, objective, object, purpose, intent, plan, desire, wish, design, target, dream.

**ambitious** adjective **1** *an energetic and ambitious politician:* aspiring, determined, forceful, pushy, enterprising, motivated, enthusiastic, energetic, zealous, committed, purposeful, power-hungry; informal go-ahead, go-getting. **2** *he was ambitious to make it to the top:* eager, determined, intent on, enthusiastic, anxious, hungry, impatient, striving. **3** *an ambitious task:* difficult, exacting, demanding, formidable, challenging, hard, arduous, onerous, tough; old use toilsome.

– OPPOSITES laid-back.

**ambivalent** adjective equivocal, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, inconclusive, irresolute, in two minds, undecided, torn, in a dilemma, on the horns of a dilemma, in a quandary, on the fence, hesitating, wavering, vacillating, equivocating, blowing hot and cold; informal iffy.

– OPPOSITES unequivocal, certain.

**amble** verb stroll, saunter, wander, ramble, promenade, walk, go for a walk, take a walk; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle, mooch; formal perambulate.

**ambush** noun *the soldiers were killed in an ambush:* surprise attack, trap; old use ambuscade.

• verb *twenty youths ambushed their patrol car:* attack, surprise, pounce on, lay a trap for, lie in wait for, waylay; N. Amer. bushwhack; old use ambuscade.

**ameliorate** verb improve, make better, better, make improvements to, enhance, help, benefit, boost, amend; relieve, ease, mitigate; informal tweak, patch up.

– OPPOSITES worsen.

**amenable** adjective **1** *an amenable child:* compliant, acquiescent, biddable, manageable, controllable, governable, persuadable, tractable, responsive, pliant, malleable, compliant, easily handled; rare persuasible. **2** *many cancers are amenable to treatment:* susceptible, receptive, responsive; old use susceptible.

– OPPOSITES uncooperative.

**amend** verb revise, alter, change, modify, qualify, adapt, adjust; edit, copy-edit, rewrite, redraft, rephrase, reword, rework, revamp.

**amends** plural noun *I wanted to make amends:* compensation, recompense, reparation, restitution, redress, atonement, expiation.  
■ make amends compensate, recompense,



a

indemnify, make it up to; atone for, make up for, make good, expiate.

**amenity** noun *basic amenities*: facility, service, convenience, resource, appliance, aid, comfort, benefit, advantage.

**America** noun see UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**amiable** adjective friendly, affable, amicable, cordial; warm, warm-hearted, good-natured, nice, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, genial, good-humoured, charming, easy to get on with, companionable, sociable, personable; informal chummy; Brit. informal matey; N. Amer. informal regular.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly, disagreeable.

**amicable** adjective friendly, good-natured, cordial, easy, easy-going, neighbourly, harmonious, cooperative, civilized.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly.

**amid** preposition **1** *the jeep was concealed amid pine trees*: in the middle of, surrounded by, among, amongst; literary amidst, in the midst of. **2** *the truce collapsed amid fears of a revolt*: at a time of, in an atmosphere of, against a background of; as a result of.

**amiss** adjective *an inspection revealed nothing amiss*: wrong, awry, faulty, out of order, defective, unsatisfactory, incorrect; inappropriate, improper.

– OPPOSITES right, in order.

■ **not come/go amiss** be welcome, be appropriate, be useful.

■ **take something amiss** be offended, take offence, be upset.

**amity** noun friendship, friendliness, harmony, harmoniousness, understanding, accord, cooperation, amicableness, goodwill, cordiality, warmth; formal concord.

– OPPOSITES animosity, enmity.

**ammunition** noun *police seized arms and ammunition*: bullets, shells, projectiles, missiles, rounds, shot, slugs, cartridges, munitions; informal ammo.

**amnesty** noun *an amnesty for political prisoners*: pardon, pardoning, reprieve; release, discharge; informal let-off.

• **verb** *the guerrillas were amnestied*: pardon, reprieve; release, discharge, liberate, free, spare; informal let off, let off the hook.

**amok** adverb

■ **run amok** go berserk, get out of control, rampage, riot, run riot, go on the rampage; informal raise hell.

**among, amongst** preposition **1** *you're among friends*: surrounded by, in the company of, amid, in the middle of; literary amidst, in the midst of. **2** *a child was among the injured*: included in, one/some of. **3** *he distributed the proceeds among his creditors*: between, to each of.

**amoral** adjective unprincipled, without standards/morals/scruples, unethical.

– OPPOSITES principled.

**amorous** adjective lustful, sexual, erotic, amatory, ardent, passionate, impassioned; in love, enamoured, lovesick; informal lovey-

dovey, kissy, smoochy, goo-goo, hot; Brit. informal randy; old use sportive.

– OPPOSITES unloving.

**amorphous** adjective shapeless, formless, structureless, indeterminate.

– OPPOSITES shaped, definite.

**amount** noun quantity, number, total, aggregate, sum, quota, group, size, mass, weight, volume, bulk, quantum.

■ **amount to £50**: add up to, come to, run to, be, make, total; Brit. tot up to. **2** *the delays amounted to maladministration*: constitute, comprise, be tantamount, come down, boil down; signify, signal, mean, indicate, suggest, denote, point to, be evidence, be symptomatic; literary betoken. **3** *her relationships had never amounted to anything significant*: become, grow/develop into, prove to be, turn out to be.

■ **the full amount** the grand total, the total, the aggregate; informal the whole caboodle/shebang, the full nine yards.

**ample** adjective **1** *there is ample time for discussion*: enough, sufficient, adequate, plenty of, more than enough, enough and to spare. **2** *an ample supply of wine*: plentiful, abundant, copious, profuse, rich, lavish, liberal, generous, bountiful, large, huge, great, bumper; informal a gogo, galore; literary plenteous. **3** *his ample tunic*: spacious, capacious, roomy, sizeable; voluminous, loose-fitting, baggy, sloppy; formal commodious.

– OPPOSITES insufficient, meagre.

**amplify** verb **1** *many frogs amplify their voices*: make louder, louden, turn up, magnify, intensify, increase, boost, step up, raise. **2** *these notes amplify our statement*: expand, enlarge on, elaborate on, add to, supplement, develop, flesh out, add detail to, go into detail about.

– OPPOSITES reduce, quieten.

**amplitude** noun magnitude, size, volume; extent, range, compass; breadth, width.

**amputate** verb **cut off**, sever, remove (surgically), saw/chop off.

**amulet** noun lucky charm, charm, talisman, fetish, mascot, totem, idol, juju; old use periapt.

**amuse** verb **1** *her annoyance simply amused him*: entertain, make laugh, delight, divert, cheer (up), please, charm, tickle; informal tickle pink, crack up; Brit. informal crease up.

**2** *he amused himself by writing poetry*: occupy, engage, busy, employ, distract, absorb, engross, hold someone's attention; interest, entertain, divert.

– OPPOSITES bore.

**amusement** noun **1** *we looked with amusement at the cartoon*: mirth, merriment, light-heartedness, hilarity, glee, delight, gaiety, joviality, fun; enjoyment, pleasure, high spirits, cheerfulness. **2** *I read the book for amusement*: entertainment, pleasure, leisure, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, interest, diversion; informal R & R; N. Amer. informal rec; old use disport. **3** *a wide range*

of amusements: **activity**, entertainment, diversion; game, sport.

**amusing** adjective entertaining, funny, comical, humorous, light-hearted, jocular, witty, mirthful, hilarious, droll, diverting, chucklesome; informal wacky, side-splitting, rib-tickling.

– OPPOSITES boring, solemn.

**anaemic** adjective **1** *his anaemic face:* colourless, bloodless, pale, pallid, wan, ashen, grey, sallow, pasty-faced, whey-faced, peaky, sickly, etiolated. **2** *an anaemic description of her feelings:* feeble, weak, insipid, wishy-washy, vapid, bland; lame, tame, lacklustre, spiritless, lifeless, ineffective, ineffectual, etiolated; informal pathetic.

**anaesthetic** noun narcotic, painkiller, painkilling drug, pain reliever, sedative, anodyne, analgesic; general, local.

**analgesic** adjective painkilling, pain-relieving, anodyne, narcotic, palliative.

**analogous** adjective comparable, parallel, similar, like, corresponding, related, kindred, equivalent; formal cognate.

– OPPOSITES unrelated.

**analogy** noun similarity, parallel, correspondence, likeness, resemblance, correlation, relation, kinship, equivalence, similitude.

– OPPOSITES dissimilarity.

**analyse** verb examine, inspect, survey, study, scrutinize, look over; investigate, explore, probe, research, go over (with a fine-tooth comb), review, evaluate, break down, dissect, anatomize.

**analysis** noun examination, investigation, inspection, survey, study, scrutiny; exploration, probe, research, review, evaluation, interpretation, anatomization, dissection.

**analytical, analytic** adjective systematic, logical, scientific, methodical, (well) organized, ordered, orderly, meticulous, rigorous.

– OPPOSITES unsystematic.

**anarchic** adjective lawless, without law and order, in disorder/turmoil, unruly, chaotic, turbulent.

– OPPOSITES ordered.

**anarchist** noun nihilist, insurgent, agitator, subversive, terrorist, revolutionary, revolutionist, insurrectionist.

**anarchy** noun lawlessness, nihilism, mobocracy, revolution, insurrection, disorder, chaos, tumult, turmoil.

– OPPOSITES government, order.

**anathema** noun **1** *racial hatred was anathema to her:* abhorrent, hateful, repugnant, repellent, offensive; **abomination**, outrage, bane, bugbear, bête noire. **2** *the Vatican Council issued an anathema:* curse, ban, excommunication, proscription, debarment, denunciation.

**anatomy** noun **1** *a cat's anatomy:* structure, make-up, composition, constitution, form.

**2** *an anatomy of society:* analysis,

examination, inspection, survey, study, investigation, review, evaluation.

**ancestor** noun **1** *he could trace his ancestors back to King James I:* forebear, forefather, predecessor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor. **2** *the instrument is an ancestor of the lute:* forerunner, precursor, predecessor.

– OPPOSITES descendant, successor.

**ancestral** adjective inherited, hereditary, familial.

**ancestry** noun ancestors, forebears, forefathers, progenitors, antecedents; family tree, pedigree; lineage, genealogy, roots.

**anchor** noun **1** *a ship's anchor:* kedge, killick, bower, grapnel, ground tackle. **2** *the anchor of the new coalition:* mainstay, cornerstone, linchpin, bulwark, foundation. **3** *a CBS news anchor:* presenter, announcer, anchorman, anchorwoman, broadcaster.

• verb **1** *the ship was anchored in the bay:*

**moor**, berth, be at anchor; old use harbour.

**2** *the fish anchors itself to the coral:* secure, fasten, attach, affix, fix.

**anchorage** noun moorings, moorage, roads, roadstead, harbour.

**anchorite** noun (historical) hermit, recluse, ascetic; historical stylite; old use eremite.

**ancient** adjective **1** *ancient civilizations:* early, prehistoric, primeval, primordial, primitive, of long ago; literary of yore; old use foregone. **2** *an ancient custom:* old, very old, age-old, archaic, antediluvian, time-worn, time-honoured. **3** *I feel positively ancient:* antiquated, aged, elderly, decrepit, antediluvian, in one's dotage; old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded, démodé, passé; informal out of the ark; Brit. informal past its/one's sell-by date.

– OPPOSITES recent, contemporary.

#### WORD LINKS

**archaeology** the study of ancient civilizations by examining excavated objects

**palaography** the study of ancient writing systems

**palaontology** the study of fossil animals and plants

**ancillary** adjective additional, auxiliary, supporting, helping, extra, supplementary, accessory; Medicine adjuvant; rare adminicular.

**and conjunction together with**, along with, with, as well as, in addition to, also, too; besides, furthermore; informal plus.

**anecdotal** adjective *anecdotal evidence:* unsentimental, unreliable, based on hearsay.

**anecdote** noun story, tale, narrative; urban myth; informal yarn.

**anew** adverb again, afresh, once more/again, over again.

**angel** noun **1** *God sent an angel:* messenger of God, divine being, archangel, seraph. **2** *she's an absolute angel:* paragon of virtue, saint; gem, treasure, darling, dear; informal star; Brit. informal, dated brick. **3** (informal) *a financial angel:* backer, sponsor, benefactor,

a

promoter, patron.

– OPPOSITES devil.

**angelic** adjective **1** *angelic beings*: divine, heavenly, celestial, holy, seraphic; literary empyrean. **2** *Sophie's angelic appearance*: innocent, pure, virtuous, good, saintly, wholesome.

– OPPOSITES demonic, infernal.

**anger** noun *his face was livid with anger*: annoyance, vexation, exasperation, crossness, irritation, irritability, indignation, pique; rage, fury, wrath, outrage, irascibility, ill temper/humour; informal aggravation; literary ire, cholera.

– OPPOSITES pleasure, good humour.

• verb *she was angered by his terse reply*:

annoy, irritate, exasperate, irk, vex, put out; enrage, incense, infuriate, make someone's hackles rise; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal make someone's blood boil, get someone's back up, make someone see red, get someone's dander up, rattle someone's cage; aggravate, get someone, rile, hack off; Brit. informal wind up, nark; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, burn up, gravel; informal, dated give someone the pip.

– OPPOSITES pacify, placate.

**angle**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the wall is sloping at an angle of 33°*: gradient, slant, inclination. **2** *the angle of the roof*: corner, intersection, point, apex. **3** *consider the problem from a different angle*: perspective, point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, position, aspect, slant, direction. • verb **1** *Anna angled her camera towards the tree*: tilt, slant, direct, turn. **2** *angle your answer so that it is relevant*: present, slant, orient, twist, bias.

**angle**<sup>2</sup> verb *he was angling for an invitation*: try to get, seek to obtain, fish for, hope for, be after.

**angler** noun fisherman, rod; old use fisher.

**angry** adjective **1** *Vivienne got angry*: irate, annoyed, cross, vexed, irritated, indignant, irked; furious, enraged, infuriated, in a temper, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, seething, beside oneself, outraged; informal (hopping) mad, wild, livid, apoplectic, as cross as two sticks, hot under the collar, up in arms, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a lather/paddy, fit to be tied; Brit. informal aerated, shirty; N. Amer. informal sore, bent out of shape, teed off, ticked off; Austral./NZ informal ropeable, snaky; literary wrathful; old use wroth. **2** *an angry debate*: heated, passionate, stormy, 'lively'; bad-tempered, ill-tempered, acrimonious, bitter. **3** *angry sores*: inflamed, red, swollen, sore, painful.

– OPPOSITES pleased, good-humoured.

■ **get angry** lose one's temper, go berserk, flare up; informal go mad/crazy/wild, go bananas, hit the roof, go through the roof, go off the wall, see red, go off the deep end, fly off the handle, blow one's top, blow a fuse/gasket, lose one's rag, flip (one's lid), have a fit, foam at the mouth, explode, go non-linear, go ballistic; Brit. informal go spare, do one's nut; N. Amer. informal flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack, have a conniption fit.

**angst** noun anxiety, fear, apprehension, worry, foreboding, trepidation, malaise, disquiet, disquietude, unease, uneasiness.

**anguish** noun agony, pain, torment, torture, suffering, distress, angst, misery, sorrow, grief, heartache, desolation, despair; literary dolour.

– OPPOSITES happiness.

**anguished** adjective agonized, tormented, tortured; grief-stricken, wretched, heartbroken, desolate, devastated; informal cut up; literary dolorous.

**angular** adjective **1** *an angular shape*: sharp-cornered, pointed, V-shaped, Y-shaped. **2** *an angular face*: bony, raw-boned, lean, rangy, spare, thin, gaunt.

– OPPOSITES rounded, curving.

**animal** noun **1** *endangered animals*: creature, beast, living thing; (animals) wildlife, fauna; N. Amer. informal critter. **2** *the man was an animal*: brute, beast, monster, devil, demon, fiend; informal swine, bastard, pig.

• adjective **1** *animal life*: zoological, animalistic; rare zoic. **2** *a grunt of animal passion*: carnal, fleshly, bodily, physical; brutish, unrefined, uncultured, coarse.

#### WORD LINKS

**zoology** the study of animals

**ethology** the study of animal behaviour

**invertebrate** an animal without a backbone

**vertebrate** an animal with a backbone

**marsupial** a mammal whose young are

carried and suckled in a pouch

**monotreme** a mammal which lays eggs

**quadruped** an animal with four feet

**menagerie, zoo** a collection of wild animals

kept for display to the public

**vivarium** an enclosure for keeping animals

in semi-natural conditions

**bestiary** a medieval book describing

different animals

**animate** verb *a sense of excitement animated the whole school*: enliven, vitalize, breathe (new) life into, energize, invigorate, revive, vivify, liven up; inspire, inspirit, exhilarate, thrill, excite, fire, arouse, rouse; N. Amer. light a fire under; informal buck up, pep up, give someone a buzz.

– OPPOSITES depress.

• adjective *an animate being*: living, alive, live, breathing; old use quick.

– OPPOSITES inanimate.

**animated** adjective lively, spirited, high-spirited, energetic, full of life, excited, enthusiastic, eager, alive, active, vigorous, vibrant, vital, vivacious, buoyant, exuberant, ebullient, effervescent, bouncy, bubbly, perky; informal bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans, bright and breezy, chirpy, chipper, peppy.

– OPPOSITES lethargic, lifeless.

**animosity** noun antipathy, hostility, friction, antagonism, enmity, animus, bitterness, rancour, resentment, dislike, ill feeling/will, bad blood, hatred, hate, loathing; malice, spite, spitefulness.

– OPPOSITES goodwill, friendship.



**annals** plural noun records, archives, chronicles, accounts, registers; Law muniments.

**annex** verb **1** *ten amendments were annexed to the constitution*: add, append, attach, tack on, tag on. **2** *Charlemagne annexed northern Italy*: take over, take possession of, appropriate, seize, conquer, occupy.  
• noun (also *annexe*) extension, addition; wing; N. Amer. ell.

**annexation** noun seizure, occupation, invasion, conquest, takeover, appropriation.

**annihilate** verb destroy, wipe out, obliterate, wipe off the face of the earth; kill, slaughter, exterminate, eliminate, liquidate; informal take out, rub out, snuff out, waste.

– OPPOSITES create.

**anniversary** noun jubilee, commemoration.

**annotate** verb comment on, add notes/footnotes to, gloss, interpret; old use margin.

**annotation** noun note, notation, comment, gloss, footnote; commentary, explanation, interpretation.

**announce** verb **1** *their financial results were announced*: make public, make known, report, declare, state, give out, notify, publicize, broadcast, publish, advertise, circulate, proclaim, blazon abroad. **2** *Victor announced the guests*: introduce, present, name. **3** *strains of music announced her arrival*: signal, indicate, give notice of, herald, proclaim; literary betoken.

**announcement** noun **1** *an announcement by the Minister*: statement, report, declaration, proclamation, pronouncement, rescript; bulletin, communiqué; N. Amer. advisory. **2** *the announcement of the decision*: declaration, notification, reporting, publishing, broadcasting, proclamation; old use annunciation.

**announcer** noun presenter, anchorman, anchorwoman, anchor; newsreader, newscaster, broadcaster.

**annoy** verb irritate, vex, make angry/cross, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise, nettle; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, peeve, hassle, miff, rile, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall, get someone's dander up; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, burn up, rankle, gravel; informal, dated give someone the pip.

– OPPOSITES please, gratify.

**annoyance** noun **1** *much to his annoyance, Louise didn't even notice*: irritation, exasperation, vexation, indignation, anger, displeasure, chagrin; informal aggravation. **2** *they found him an annoyance*: nuisance, pest, bother, irritant, inconvenience, thorn

in one's flesh; informal pain (in the neck), bind, bore, hassle; N. Amer. informal nudnik, burr under someone's saddle; Austral./NZ informal nark.

**annoyed** adjective irritated, cross, angry, vexed, exasperated, irked, piqued, displeased, put out, disgruntled, nettled, in a bad mood, in a temper; informal aggravated, peeved, miffed, miffy, riled, hacked off, hot under the collar; Brit. informal narked, shirty; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off, sore, bent out of shape; Austral./NZ informal snaky, crook; old use wroth.

**annoying** adjective irritating, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, irksome, vexing, vexatious, galling; informal aggravating, pesky.

**annual** adjective yearly, once-a-year; year-long, twelve-month.

**annually** adverb yearly, once a year, each year, per annum.

**annul** verb declare null and void, nullify, invalidate, void; repeal, reverse, rescind, revoke; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

– OPPOSITES restore, enact.

**anodyne** noun painkiller, painkilling drug, pain reliever, analgesic, narcotic.

• adjective *the conversation was anodyne*: bland, inoffensive, innocuous, neutral, unobjectionable.

**anoint** verb **1** *the head of the infant was anointed*: smear/rub with oil; old use anele. **2** *he was anointed and crowned*: consecrate, bless, ordain; formal hallow.

**anomalous** adjective abnormal, atypical, irregular, aberrant, exceptional, freak, freakish, odd, bizarre, peculiar, unusual, out of the ordinary.

– OPPOSITES normal, typical.

**anomaly** noun oddity, peculiarity, abnormality, irregularity, inconsistency, incongruity, aberration, quirk.

**anon** adverb (informal) soon, shortly, in a little while, presently, before long, by and by; dated directly; literary ere long.

**anonymous** adjective **1** *an anonymous donor*: unnamed, of unknown name, nameless, incognito, unidentified, unknown; rare innominate. **2** *an anonymous letter*: unsigned, unattributed. **3** *an anonymous housing estate*: characterless, nondescript, impersonal, faceless.

– OPPOSITES known, identified.

**another** determiner **1** *have another drink*: one more, a further, an additional; an extra, a spare. **2** *she left him for another man*: a different, some other, an alternative.

– OPPOSITES the same.

**answer** noun **1** *her answer was unequivocal*: reply, response, rejoinder, reaction; retort, riposte; informal comeback. **2** *the answer is 150*: solution, key. **3** *a new filter is the answer*: solution, remedy, way out.

– OPPOSITES question.

• verb **1** *Steve was about to answer*:

a

**reply**, respond, rejoin; retort, riposte.

**2** *he has yet to answer the charges*: **rebut**, refute, defend oneself against. **3** *a man answering this description*: **match**, fit, correspond to, be similar to. **4** *we're trying to answer the needs of our audience*: **satisfy**, meet, fulfil, fill, measure up to. **5** *I answer to the Commissioner*: **report**, work for/under, be subordinate, be accountable, be answerable, be responsible.

■ **answer someone back** respond cheekily to, be cheeky to, be impertinent to, talk back to, cheek; N. Amer. informal sass.

■ **answer for 1** *he will answer for his crime*: pay for, be punished for, suffer for; make amends for, make reparation for, atone for.

**2** *the government has a lot to answer for*: be accountable for, be responsible for, be liable for, take the blame for; informal take the rap for.

**answerable** adjective accountable, responsible, liable; subject.

**ant** noun

**WORD LINKS**

formic relating to ants  
myrmecology the study of ants

**antagonism** noun hostility, friction, enmity, antipathy, animus, opposition, dissension, rivalry; acrimony, bitterness, rancour, resentment, aversion, dislike, ill/bad feeling, ill will; Brit. informal needle.  
– OPPOSITES rapport, friendship.

**antagonist** noun adversary, opponent, enemy, rival; (antagonists) opposition, competition.  
– OPPOSITES ally.

**antagonistic** adjective **1** *he was antagonistic to the reforms*: **hostile**, against, (dead) set against, opposed, inimical, antipathetic, ill-disposed, resistant, in disagreement; informal **anti**. **2** *an antagonistic group of bystanders*: **hostile**, aggressive, belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious; rare oppugnant.  
– OPPOSITES pro.

**antagonize** verb anger, annoy, provoke, vex, irritate, alienate; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, rile, needle, rattle someone's cage, get someone's back up, get someone's dander up; Brit. informal nark, get on someone's wick.  
– OPPOSITES pacify, placate.

**antecedent** noun **1** *her antecedents have been traced*: **ancestor**, forefather, forebear, progenitor, primogenitor; (antecedents) ancestry, family tree, lineage, genealogy, roots. **2** *the guitar's antecedent*: **precursor**, forerunner, predecessor.  
– OPPOSITES descendant.

• **adjective antecedent events**: **previous**, earlier, prior, preceding, precursory; formal anterior.  
– OPPOSITES subsequent.

**antedate** verb precede, predate, come/go before.

**antediluvian** adjective **1** *antediluvian animals*: **prehistoric**, primeval, primordial, primal, ancient, early. **2** *his antediluvian*

*attitudes*: **out of date**, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, antiquated, behind the times, passé.

**anteroom** noun **antechamber**, vestibule, lobby, foyer; Architecture **narthex**.

**anthem** noun **hymn**, song, chorale, psalm, paean.

**anthology** noun **collection**, selection, compendium, treasury, miscellany; old use garland.

**anticipate** verb **1** *the police did not anticipate trouble*: **expect**, foresee, predict, be prepared for, bargain on, reckon on; N. Amer. informal figure on. **2** *Elaine anticipated her meeting with Will*: **look forward to**, await, lick one's lips over. **3** *warders can't always anticipate the actions of prisoners*: **pre-empt**, forestall, second-guess; informal beat someone to the punch. **4** *her plays anticipated her film work*: **foreshadow**, precede, antedate, come/go before.

**anticipation** noun **1** *my anticipation is that we will see a rise in rates*: **expectation**, prediction, forecast. **2** *her eyes sparkled with anticipation*: **expectancy**, expectation, excitement, suspense.

■ **in anticipation of** in the expectation of, in preparation for, ready for.

**anticlimax** noun **let-down**, disappointment, bathos, comedown, non-event; disillusionment; Brit. damp squib; informal washout.

**antics** plural noun **capers**, pranks, larks, high jinks, skylarking; Brit. informal monkey tricks.

**antidote** noun **1** *the antidote to this poison*: **antitoxin**, antiserum, antivenin. **2** *laughter is a good antidote to stress*: **remedy**, cure, nostrum.

**antipathetic** adjective **hostile**, against, (dead) set against, opposed, antagonistic, ill-disposed, unsympathetic; informal **anti**, down on.

– OPPOSITES pro.

**antipathy** noun **hostility**, antagonism, animosity, aversion, animus, enmity, dislike, distaste, hatred, hate, abhorrence, loathing.  
– OPPOSITES liking, affinity.

**antiquated** adjective **outdated**, out of date, outmoded, outworn, behind the times, old-fashioned, anachronistic, old-fangled, passé, démodé; informal out of the ark, mouldy; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, mossy, clunky.

– OPPOSITES modern, up to date.

**antique** noun **collector's item**, period piece, antiquity, object of virtue, objet d'art.

• **adjective 1** *antique furniture*: **old**, antiquarian, collectable. **2** *statues of antique gods*: **ancient**, of long ago; literary of yore.

**3** *antique work practices*. See **ANTIQUATED**.

– OPPOSITES modern, state-of-the-art.

**antiquity** noun **1** *the civilizations of antiquity*: **ancient times**, the ancient past, classical times, the distant past. **2** *Islamic antiquities*: **antique**, period piece, collector's item. **3** *a church of great antiquity*: **age**, oldness, ancientness.

**antiseptic** adjective **1** *an antiseptic substance*: **disinfectant**, germicidal, bactericidal. **2** *antiseptic bandages*: **sterile**, aseptic, germ-free, uncontaminated, disinfected. **3** *their antiseptic surroundings*: **characterless**, colourless, soulless; clinical, institutional.

— OPPOSITES contaminated.

• noun **disinfectant**, germicide, bactericide.

**antisocial** adjective **1** *antisocial behaviour*: **objectionable**, offensive, unacceptable, distasteful, disruptive; sociopathic. **2** *I'm feeling a bit antisocial*: **unsociable**, unfriendly, uncommunicative, reclusive, misanthropic.

**antithesis** noun (**direct**) **opposite**, converse, reverse, inverse, obverse, the other side of the coin; informal the flip side.

**antithetical** adjective (**directly**) **opposed**, contrasting, contrary, contradictory, conflicting, incompatible, irreconcilable, inconsistent, poles apart, at variance/odds; rare oppugnant.

— OPPOSITES identical, like.

**anxiety** noun **1** *his anxiety grew*: **worry**, concern, apprehension, apprehensiveness, uneasiness, unease, fearfulness, fear, disquiet, disquietude, perturbation, agitation, angst, nervousness, nerves, tension, tenseness; informal **butterflies** (in one's stomach), jitteriness, twitchiness, collywobbles, jim-jams. **2** *an anxiety to please*: **eagerness**, keenness, desire.

— OPPOSITES serenity.

**anxious** adjective **1** *I'm anxious about her*: **worried**, concerned, apprehensive, fearful, uneasy, perturbed, troubled, bothered, disturbed, distressed, fretful, agitated, nervous, edgy, unquiet, on edge, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up, worried sick, with one's stomach in knots, with one's heart in one's mouth; informal **uptight**, on tenterhooks, with butterflies in one's stomach, like a cat on a hot tin roof, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a stew/twitter, all of a dither/lather, in a tizz/tizzy, het up; Brit. informal strung up, windy, having kittens, in a (flat) spin, like a cat on hot bricks; N. Amer. informal **antsy**, spooky, squirrely, in a twit; Austral./NZ informal **toey**; dated **overstrung**. **2** *she was anxious for news*: **eager**, keen, desirous, impatient.

— OPPOSITES carefree, unconcerned.

**anyhow** adverb **1** *anyhow, it doesn't really matter*: **anyway**, in any case/event, at any rate; however, be that as it may; N. Amer. informal **anyways**. **2** *her clothes were strewn about anyhow*: **haphazardly**, carelessly, heedlessly, negligently, in a muddle; informal all over the place; Brit. informal all over the shop; N. Amer. informal all over the lot.

**apace** adverb (literary) **quickly**, fast, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, briskly, without delay, post-haste, expeditiously.

— OPPOSITES slowly.

**apart** adverb **1** *the villages are two miles apart*: **away from each other**. **2** *Isabel stood*

*apart: to one side*, aside, separately, alone, by oneself/itself. **3** *his parents are living apart*: **separately**, independently, on one's own. **4** *the car was blown apart*: **to pieces**/bits, up; literary **asunder**.

■ **apart** from except for, but for, aside from, with the exception of, excepting, excluding, bar, barring, besides, other than; informal outside of; formal **save**.

**apartment** noun **1** *a rented apartment*:

**flat**, penthouse; Austral. **home unit**;

N. Amer. informal **crib**. **2** *the royal apartments*: **suite (of rooms)**, rooms, living quarters, accommodation.

**apathetic** adjective **uninterested**, indifferent, unconcerned, unmoved, uninvolved, unemotional, emotionless, dispassionate, lukewarm, unmotivated; informal couldn't-care-less; rare **Laodicean**.

**apathy** noun **indifference**, lack of interest/enthusiasm, unconcern, uninterestedness, unresponsiveness, impassivity, dispassion, dispassionateness, lethargy, languor, ennui, **accidie**.

— OPPOSITES enthusiasm, passion.

**ape** noun **primate**, simian; monkey; technical **anthropoid**.

• verb *he aped Barbara's accent*: **imitate**, mimic, copy, do an impression of; informal **take off**, send up; old use **monkey**.

**aperture** noun **opening**, hole, gap, slit, slot, vent, crevice, chink, crack, interstice; technical **orifice**, **foramen**.

**apex** noun **1** *the apex of a pyramid*: **tip**, peak, summit, pinnacle, top, vertex. **2** *the apex of his career*: **climax**, culmination, apotheosis; peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, apogee, high(est) point.

— OPPOSITES bottom, nadir.

**aphorism** noun **saying**, maxim, axiom, adage, epigram, dictum, gnome, proverb, saw, tag, **apophthegm**.

**aphrodisiac** noun **love potion**, philtre.

• adjective **erotic**, sexy, sexually arousing.

**apiece** adverb **each**, respectively, per item; informal **a throw**.

**aplenty** adjective **in abundance**, in profusion, **galore**, in large quantities/numbers, by the dozen; informal **a gogo**, by the truckload.

**aplomb** noun **poise**, self-assurance, self-confidence, calmness, composure, collectedness, level-headedness, sangfroid, equilibrium, equanimity; informal **unflappability**.

**apocryphal** adjective **fictitious**, made-up, untrue, fabricated, false, spurious; unverified, unauthenticated, unsubstantiated.

— OPPOSITES authentic.

**apologetic** adjective **regretful**, sorry, contrite, remorseful, penitent, repentant; conscience-stricken, shamefaced, ashamed. — OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**apologia** noun **defence**, justification, vindication, explanation; argument, case.



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**apologist** noun defender, supporter, upholder, advocate, proponent, exponent, propagandist, champion, campaigner.  
– OPPOSITES critic.

**apologize** verb say sorry, express regret, be apologetic, ask forgiveness, ask for pardon, eat humble pie.

**apology** noun **1** *I owe you an apology:* expression of regret, one's regrets; Austral./NZ informal beg-pardon; literary amende honorable. **2** (informal) *an apology for a flat:* travesty, inadequate/poor example; informal excuse.

**apoplectic** adjective (informal) furious, enraged, infuriated, incensed, raging; incandescent, fuming, seething; informal (hopping) mad, livid, as cross as two sticks, foaming at the mouth, fit to be tied; literary wrathful.

**apostate** noun dissenter, heretic, defector, turncoat; old use recreant; rare tergiversator.  
– OPPOSITES follower.

**apostle** noun **1** *the twelve apostles:* disciple, follower. **2** *the apostles of the Slavs:* missionary, evangelist, proselytizer. **3** *an apostle of capitalism:* advocate, apologist, proponent, exponent, promoter, supporter, upholder, champion; N. Amer. booster.

**apotheosis** noun culmination, climax, peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, apogee, high(est) point.  
– OPPOSITES nadir.

**appal** verb horrify, shock, dismay, distress, outrage, scandalize; disgust, repel, revolt, sicken, nauseate, offend, make someone's blood run cold.

**appalling** adjective **1** *an appalling crime:* shocking, horrific, horrifying, horrible, terrible, awful, dreadful, ghastly, hideous, horrendous, frightful, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, outrageous, gruesome, grisly, monstrous, heinous, egregious. **2** *your schoolwork is appalling:* dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, abysmal, disgraceful, deplorable, hopeless, lamentable; informal rotten, crummy, pathetic, pitiful, woeful, useless, lousy, dire; Brit. informal chronic, shocking, pants.

**apparatus** noun **1** *laboratory apparatus:* equipment, gear, rig, tackle, gadgetry; appliance, instrument, machine, mechanism, device, contraption. **2** *the apparatus of government:* structure, system, framework, organization, network.

**apparel** noun (formal) clothes, clothing, garments, dress, attire, wear, garb; informal gear, togs, duds; Brit. informal clobber, kit; N. Amer. informal threads; old use raiment, habit, habiliments.

**apparent** adjective **1** *their relief was all too apparent:* evident, plain, obvious, clear, manifest, visible, discernible, perceptible; unmistakable, crystal clear, palpable, patent, blatant, as plain as a pikestaff, writ large; informal as plain as the nose on one's face,

written all over one's face. **2** *his apparent lack of concern:* seeming, ostensible, outward, superficial; supposed, alleged, professed.

– OPPOSITES unclear.

**apparently** adverb seemingly, evidently, it seems/appears (that), as far as one knows, by all accounts; ostensibly, outwardly, on the face of it, so the story goes, so I'm told; allegedly, reputedly.

**apparition** noun **1** *a monstrous apparition:* ghost, phantom, spectre, spirit, wraith; vision, hallucination; informal spook; literary phantasm, revenant, shade, visitant, wight; rare eidolon. **2** *the apparition of a strange man:* appearance, manifestation, materialization, emergence; visitation.

**appeal** verb **1** *police are appealing for information:* plead, ask, call, request, make a plea. **2** *Andrew appealed to me to help them:* implore, beg, entreat, call on, plead with, exhort, ask, request, petition; formal adjure; literary beseech. **3** *the thought of travelling appealed to me:* attract, be attractive to, interest, take someone's fancy, fascinate, tempt, entice, allure, lure, draw, whet someone's appetite; informal float someone's boat.

• noun **1** *an appeal for help:* plea, urgent/earnest request, entreaty, cry, call, petition, supplication, cri de cœur; rare obscuration.

**2** *the cultural appeal of the island:* attraction, attractiveness, allure, charm; fascination, magnetism, drawing power, pull. **3** *the court allowed the appeal:* retrial, re-examination.

**appealing** adjective attractive, engaging, alluring, enchanting, captivating, bewitching, fascinating, tempting, enticing, seductive, irresistible, winning, winsome, charming, desirable; Brit. informal tasty; dated taking.

– OPPOSITES disagreeable, off-putting.

**appear** verb **1** *a cloud of dust appeared on the horizon:* become visible, come into view/sight, materialize, pop up.

**2** *fundamental differences were beginning to appear:* be revealed, emerge, surface, manifest itself, become apparent/evident, come to light; arise, crop up. **3** (informal) *Bill still hadn't appeared:* arrive, turn up, put in an appearance, come, get here/there; informal show (up), pitch up, fetch up, roll in, blow in, rock up. **4** *they appeared to be completely devoted:* seem, look, give the impression, come across as, strike someone as. **5** *the paperback edition didn't appear for two years:* become available, come on the market, go on sale, come out, be published, be produced. **6** *he appeared on Broadway:* perform, play, act.

– OPPOSITES vanish.

**appearance** noun **1** *her dishevelled appearance:* look(s), air, aspect, mien.

**2** *an appearance of respectability:* impression, air, (outward) show; semblance, facade, veneer, front, pretence.

**3** the sudden appearance of her daughter: arrival, advent, coming, emergence, materialization. **4** the appearance of these symptoms: occurrence, manifestation, development.

**appease** verb **1** an attempt to appease his critics: conciliate, placate, pacify, propitiate, reconcile, win over; informal sweeten.

**2** I'd wasted a lot of money to appease my vanity: satisfy, fulfil, gratify, indulge; assuage, relieve, take the edge off.

– OPPOSITES provoke; inflame.

**appeasement** noun **1** a policy of appeasement: conciliation, placation, pacification, propitiation, reconciliation; peacemaking, peace-mongering.

**2** appeasement for battered consciences: satisfaction, fulfilment, gratification, indulgence; assuagement, relief.

– OPPOSITES provocation.

**appellation** noun (formal) name, title, designation, tag, sobriquet, byname, nickname, cognomen; informal moniker, handle; formal denomination.

**append** verb add, attach, affix, tack on, tag on; formal subjoin.

**appendage** noun **1** I am not just an appendage to the family: addition, attachment, adjunct, addendum, appurtenance, accessory. **2** a pair of feathery appendages: protuberance, projection; technical process.

**appendix** noun supplement, addendum, postscript, codicil; coda, epilogue, afterword, tailpiece, back matter.

**appertain** verb

■ appertain to pertain to, be pertinent to, apply to, relate to, concern, be concerned with, have to do with, be relevant to, have reference to, have a bearing on, bear on; old use regard.

**appetite** noun **1** a walk sharpens the appetite: hunger, ravenousness, hungriness; taste, palate; rare edacity. **2** my appetite for learning: craving, longing, yearning, hankering, hunger, thirst, passion; enthusiasm, keenness, eagerness, desire; informal yen; old use appetency.

**appetizer** noun starter, first course, hors d'oeuvre, amuse-gueule, antipasto.

**appetizing** adjective **1** an appetizing lunch: mouth-watering, inviting, tempting; tasty, delicious, flavoursome, toothsome, delectable; informal scrumptious, scrummy, yummy, moreish. **2** the least appetizing part of election campaigns: appealing, attractive, inviting, alluring.

– OPPOSITES bland, unappealing.

**applaud** verb **1** the audience applauded: clap, give a standing ovation, put one's hands together; show one's appreciation; informal give someone a big hand. **2** police have applauded the decision: praise, commend, acclaim, salute, welcome, celebrate, express admiration for, express approval of, look on with favour, approve of, sing the praises of, pay tribute to, speak

highly of, take one's hat off to, express respect for.

– OPPOSITES boo, criticize.

**applause** noun **1** a massive round of applause: clapping, handclapping, (standing) ovation; acclamation. **2** the museum's design won general applause: praise, acclaim, acclamation, admiration, commendation, adulation, favour, approbation, approval, respect; compliments, accolades, tributes.

**appliance** noun **1** domestic appliances: device, machine, instrument, gadget, contraption, apparatus, utensil, implement, tool, mechanism, contrivance, labour-saving device; informal gizmo, mod con.

**2** the appliance of science: application, use, exercise, employment, implementation, utilization, practice, applying, discharge, execution, prosecution, enactment; formal praxis.

**applicable** adjective the laws applicable to the dispute: relevant, appropriate, pertinent, appurtenant, apposite, germane, material, significant, related, connected; fitting, suitable, apt, befitting, to the point, useful, helpful; formal ad rem.

– OPPOSITES inappropriate, irrelevant.

**applicant** noun candidate, interviewee, competitor, contestant, contender, entrant; claimant, suppliant, supplicant, petitioner, postulant; prospective student/employee, job-seeker, job-hunter, auditioner.

**application** noun **1** an application for an overdraft: request, appeal, petition, entreaty, plea, solicitation, supplication, requisition, suit, approach, claim, demand. **2** the application of anti-inflation policies: implementation, use, exercise, employment, utilization, practice, applying, discharge, execution, prosecution, enactment; formal praxis. **3** the argument is clearest in its application to the theatre: relevance, relevancy, bearing, significance, pertinence, aptness, appositeness, germaneness, importance. **4** the application of make-up: putting on, rubbing in, applying. **5** an application to relieve muscle pain: ointment, lotion, cream, rub, salve, emollient, preparation, liniment, embrocation, balm, unguent, poultice. **6** the job takes a great deal of application: diligence, industriousness, industry, assiduity, commitment, dedication, devotion, conscientiousness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, doggedness, sedulousness; concentration, attention, attentiveness, steadiness, patience, endurance; effort, hard work, labour, endeavour. **7** a vector graphics application: program, software, routine.

**apply** verb **1** 300 people applied for the job: put in an application, put in, try, bid, appeal, petition, sue, register, audition; request, seek, solicit, claim, ask, try to obtain. **2** the Act did not apply to Scotland: be relevant, have relevance, have a bearing, appertain, pertain, relate, concern, affect, involve, cover, deal with, touch; be

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pertinent, be appropriate, be significant.

**3** *she applied some ointment:* **put on**, rub in, work in, spread, smear. **4** *a steady pressure should be applied:* **exert**, administer, implement, use, exercise, employ, utilize, bring to bear.

■ **apply oneself** be diligent, be industrious, be assiduous, show commitment, show dedication; work hard, exert oneself, make an effort, try hard, do one's best, give one's all, buckle down, put one's shoulder to the wheel, keep one's nose to the grindstone; strive, endeavour, struggle, labour, toil; pay attention, commit oneself, devote oneself; persevere, persist; informal put one's back in it, knuckle down, get stuck in.

**appoint verb 1** *he was appointed chairman:* **nominate**, name, designate, install as, commission, engage, co-opt; select, choose, elect, vote in; Military detail. **2** *the arbitrator shall appoint a date for the meeting:* **specify**, determine, assign, designate, allot, set, fix, arrange, choose, decide on, establish, settle, ordain, prescribe, decree.

– OPPOSITES reject.

**appointed adjective 1** *at the appointed time:* **scheduled**, arranged, prearranged, specified, decided, agreed, determined, assigned, designated, allotted, set, fixed, chosen, established, settled, preordained, ordained, prescribed, decreed. **2** *a well appointed room:* **furnished**, decorated, outfitted, fitted out, provided, supplied.

**appointment noun 1** *a six o'clock appointment:* **meeting**, engagement, interview, arrangement, consultation, session; date, rendezvous, assignment; commitment, fixture; literary tryst. **2** *the appointment of directors:* **nomination**, naming, designation, installation, commissioning, engagement, co-option; selection, choosing, election, voting in; Military detailing. **3** *he held an appointment at the university:* **job**, post, position, situation, employment, place, office; dated station.

**apportion verb share**, divide, allocate, distribute, allot, assign, give out, hand out, mete out, deal out, dish out, dole out; ration, measure out; split; informal divvy up.

**apposite adjective appropriate**, suitable, fitting, apt, befitting; relevant, pertinent, appurtenant, to the point, applicable, germane, material, congruous, felicitous; formal ad rem.

– OPPOSITES inappropriate.

**appraisal noun 1** *an objective appraisal of the book:* **assessment**, evaluation, estimation, judgement, rating, gauging, sizing up, summing-up, consideration. **2** *a free insurance appraisal:* **valuation**, estimate, estimation, quotation, pricing; survey.

**appraise verb 1** *they appraised their handiwork:* **assess**, evaluate, judge, rate, gauge, review, consider; informal size up. **2** *his goods were appraised at £1,800:* **value**, price, estimate, quote; survey.

**appreciable adjective considerable**, substantial, significant, sizeable, goodly, fair,

reasonable, marked; perceptible, noticeable, visible; informal tidy.

– OPPOSITES negligible.

**appreciate verb 1** *I'd appreciate your advice:* **be grateful**, be thankful, be obliged, be indebted, be in your debt, be appreciative.

**2** *the college appreciated her greatly:* **value**, treasure, admire, respect, hold in high regard, think highly of, think much of.

**3** *we appreciate the problems:* **recognize**, acknowledge, realize, know, be aware of, be conscious of, be sensitive to, understand, comprehend; informal be wise to. **4** *a home that will appreciate in value:* **increase**, gain, grow, rise, go up, escalate, soar, rocket.

– OPPOSITES disparage, depreciate, decrease.

**appreciation noun 1** *he showed his appreciation:* **gratitude**, thanks, gratefulness, thankfulness, recognition. **2** *her appreciation of literature:* **valuing**, treasuring, admiration, respect, regard, esteem, high opinion. **3** *an appreciation of the value of teamwork:* **acknowledgement**, recognition, realization, knowledge, awareness, consciousness, understanding, comprehension. **4** *the appreciation of the franc against the pound:* **increase**, gain, growth, rise, inflation, escalation. **5** *an appreciation of the professor's work:* **review**, critique, criticism, critical analysis, assessment, evaluation, judgement, rating; Brit. informal crit.

– OPPOSITES ingratitude, unawareness, depreciation, decrease.

**appreciative adjective 1** *we are appreciative of all your efforts:* **grateful**, thankful, obliged, indebted, in someone's debt.

**2** *an appreciative audience:* **supportive**, encouraging, sympathetic, responsive; enthusiastic, admiring, approving, complimentary.

– OPPOSITES ungrateful, disparaging.

**apprehend verb 1** *the thieves were quickly apprehended:* **arrest**, catch, capture, seize; take prisoner, take into custody, detain, put in jail, put behind bars, imprison, incarcerate; informal collar, nab, nail, run in, pinch, bust, pick up, pull in, feel someone's collar; Brit. informal nick, do. **2** *they are slow to apprehend danger:* **appreciate**, recognize, discern, perceive, make out, take in, realize, grasp, understand, comprehend; informal get the picture; Brit. informal twig, suss (out).

**apprehension noun 1** *he was filled with apprehension:* **anxiety**, worry, unease, nervousness, nerves, misgivings, disquiet, concern, tension, trepidation, perturbation, consternation, angst, dread, fear, foreboding; informal butterflies, the willies, the heebie-jeebies. **2** *her quick apprehension of their wishes:* **appreciation**, recognition, discernment, perception, realization, grasp, understanding, comprehension, awareness. **3** *the apprehension of a perpetrator:* **arrest**, capture, seizure; detention, imprisonment, incarceration; informal nabbing, bust.

– OPPOSITES confidence.



**apprehensive** adjective *anxious, worried, uneasy, nervous, concerned, agitated, tense, afraid, scared, frightened, fearful*; informal on tenterhooks, trepidatious.

– OPPOSITES confident.

**apprentice** noun *trainee, learner, probationer, novice, beginner, starter; pupil, student*; N. Amer. *tenderfoot*; informal *rookie*; N. Amer. informal *greenhorn*.

– OPPOSITES veteran.

**apprenticeship** noun *traineeship, training period, studentship, novitiate*; historical *indentureship*.

**apprise** verb *inform, tell, notify, advise, brief, make aware, enlighten, update, keep posted*; informal *clue in, fill in, put wise, put in the picture*.

**approach** verb **1** *she approached the altar: move towards, come/go towards, advance towards, go/come/draw/move nearer, go/come/draw/move closer, near; close in, gain on; reach, arrive at.* **2** *the trade deficit is approaching £20 million: border on, verge on, approximate, touch, nudge, get on for, near, come near to, come close to.* **3** *she approached him about leaving his job: speak to, talk to; make advances, make overtures, make a proposal, sound out, proposition.* **4** *he approached the problem in the best way: tackle, set about, address oneself to, undertake, get down to, launch into, embark on, go about, get to grips with.*

– OPPOSITES leave.

• noun **1** *the traditional British approach: method, procedure, technique, modus operandi, MO, style, way, manner; strategy, tactic, system, means, line of action.*

**2** *he considered an approach to the High Court: proposal, proposition, submission, application, appeal, plea, request.* **3** (dated) *his approaches were repulsed: advances, overtures, suggestions, attentions; suit.* **4** *the dog barked at the approach of any intruder: advance, coming, nearing; arrival, appearance; advent.* **5** *the approach to the castle: driveway, drive, access road, road, avenue; way.*

**approachable** adjective **1** *students found the staff approachable: friendly, welcoming, pleasant, agreeable, congenial, affable, cordial; obliging, communicative, helpful.* **2** *the south landing is approachable by boat: accessible, attainable, reachable; informal get-at-able.*

– OPPOSITES aloof, inaccessible.

**approbation** noun *approval, acceptance, endorsement, appreciation, respect, admiration, commendation, praise, congratulations, acclaim, esteem, applause.*

– OPPOSITES criticism.

**appropriate** adjective *this isn't the appropriate time: suitable, proper, fitting, apt, right; relevant, pertinent, apposite; convenient, opportune; seemingly, befitting; formal ad rem; old use meet.*

– OPPOSITES unsuitable.

• verb **1** *the barons appropriated church lands: seize, commandeer, expropriate, annex,*

*arrogate, sequester, sequester, take over, hijack; steal, take; informal swipe, nab, bag; Brit. informal pinch, half-inch, nick.* **2** *his images have been appropriated by advertisers: plagiarize, copy; poach, steal, 'borrow'; informal rip off.* **3** *we are appropriating funds for these expenses: allocate, assign, allot, earmark, set aside, devote, apportion.*

**approval** noun **1** *their proposals went to the ministry for approval: acceptance, agreement, consent, assent, permission, leave, the nod; rubber stamp, sanction, endorsement, ratification, authorization, validation; support, backing; informal the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the thumbs up.* **2** *Lily looked at him with approval: approbation, appreciation, favour, liking, admiration, regard, esteem, respect, praise.*

**3** *we will send you the goods on approval: trial, sale or return; Brit. informal appro.*

– OPPOSITES refusal, dislike.

**approve** verb **1** *his boss doesn't approve of his lifestyle: agree with, hold with, endorse, support, back, uphold, subscribe to, recommend, advocate, be in favour of, favour, think well of, like, appreciate, take kindly to; be pleased with, admire, applaud, praise.* **2** *the government approved the proposals: accept, agree to, consent to, assent to, give one's blessing to, bless, rubber-stamp, give the nod; ratify, sanction, endorse, authorize, validate, pass; support, back; informal give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the OK, give the thumbs-up.*

– OPPOSITES condemn, refuse.

**approximate** adjective *all measurements are approximate: estimated, rough, imprecise, inexact, indefinite, broad, loose*; N. Amer. informal *ballpark*.

– OPPOSITES precise.

• verb *this scenario probably approximates to the truth: be/come close to, be/come near to, approach, border on, verge on; resemble, be similar to, be not unlike.*

**approximately** adverb *roughly, about, around, circa, round about, more or less, in the neighbourhood of, in the region of, of the order of, something like, give or take (a few); near to, close to, nearly, almost, approaching; Brit. getting on for; informal pushing; N. Amer. informal in the ballpark of.*

– OPPOSITES precisely.

**approximation** noun **1** *the figure is only an approximation: estimate, estimation, guess, rough calculation; informal guesstimate; N. Amer. informal ballpark figure.* **2** *an approximation to the truth: semblance, resemblance, likeness, similarity, correspondence.*

**appurtenances** plural noun *accessories, trappings, appendages, accoutrements, equipment, paraphernalia, impedimenta, bits and pieces, things; informal stuff.*

**a priori** adjective *a priori reasoning: theoretical, deduced, deductive, inferred, postulated, suppositional; scientific.*

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•adverb *the results cannot be predicted a priori*: theoretically, deductively, scientifically.

**apron** noun **pinafore**, overall; informal pinny.

**apropos** preposition *he was asked a question apropos his resignation*: with reference to, with regard to, with respect to, regarding, concerning, on the subject of, connected with, about, re.

•adjective *the word 'conglomerate' was decidedly apropos*: appropriate, pertinent, relevant, apposite, apt, applicable, suitable, germane, material.

– OPPOSITES inappropriate.

**apt** adjective **1** *a very apt description of how I felt*: suitable, fitting, appropriate, befitting, relevant, applicable, apposite; Brit. informal spot on. **2** *they are apt to get a mite slipshod*: inclined, given, likely, liable, disposed, predisposed, prone. **3** *an apt pupil*: clever, quick, bright, sharp, smart, intelligent, able, gifted, adept, astute.

– OPPOSITES inappropriate, unlikely, slow.

**aptitude** noun **talent**, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, facility, ability, capability, potential, capacity, faculty, genius.

**aquatic** adjective **marine**, water, saltwater, freshwater, seawater, sea, oceanic, river; technical pelagic, thalassic.

**aqueduct** noun **conduit**, race, channel, watercourse, sluice, sluiceway, spillway; bridge, viaduct.

**aquiline** adjective **hooked**, curved, bent, angular; beak-like.

**arable** adjective **farmable**, cultivable, cultivatable; fertile, productive, fecund.

**arbiter** noun **1** *an arbiter between Moscow and Washington*. See **ARBITRATOR**. **2** *the great arbiter of fashion*: authority, judge, controller, director; master, expert, pundit.

**arbitrary** adjective **1** *an arbitrary decision*: capricious, whimsical, random, chance, unpredictable; casual, wanton, unmotivated, motiveless, unreasoned, unsupported, irrational, illogical, groundless, unjustified. **2** *the arbitrary power of a prince*: autocratic, dictatorial, autarchic, undemocratic, despotic, tyrannical, authoritarian; absolute, uncontrolled, unlimited, unrestrained.

– OPPOSITES reasoned, democratic.

**arbitrate** verb **adjudicate**, judge, referee, umpire; mediate, conciliate, intervene, intercede; settle, decide, resolve, pass judgement.

**arbitration** noun **adjudication**, judgement, arbitrament; mediation, mediatorship, conciliation, intervention, interposition.

**arbitrator** noun **adjudicator**, arbiter, judge, referee, umpire; mediator, conciliator, intervenor, intercessor, go-between.

**arbour** noun **bower**, alcove, grotto, recess, pergola, gazebo.

**arc** noun *the arc of a circle*: curve, arch, crescent, semicircle, half-moon; curvature, convexity.

•verb *I sent the ball arcing out over the river*: curl, curve; arch.

**arcade** noun **1** *a classical arcade*: gallery, colonnade, cloister, loggia, portico, peristyle, stoa. **2** (Brit.) *she went to a cafe in the arcade*: shopping centre, shopping precinct; N. Amer. plaza, mall, shopping mall.

**arcane** adjective **mysterious**, secret, covert, clandestine; enigmatic, esoteric, obscure, abstruse, recondite, recherché, impenetrable, opaque.

**arch**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a stone arch*: archway, vault, span, dome. **2** *the arch of his spine*: curve, bow, bend, arc, curvature, convexity; hunch, crook.

•verb *she arched her eyebrows*: curve, arc; raise.

**arch**<sup>2</sup> adjective *an arch grin*: mischievous, teasing, saucy, knowing, playful, roguish, impish, cheeky, tongue-in-cheek.

**arch-** combining form *his arch-enemy*: chief, principal, foremost, leading, main, major, prime, premier, greatest; informal number-one.

– OPPOSITES minor.

**archaic** adjective **obsolete**, out of date, old-fashioned, outmoded, behind the times, bygone, anachronistic, antiquated, superannuated, antediluvian, olde worlde, old-fangled; ancient, old, extinct, defunct; informal out of the ark; literary of yore.

– OPPOSITES modern.

**arched** adjective **vaulted**, domed, curved, bowed; literary embowed.

**archetypal** adjective **quintessential**, classic, most typical, representative, model, exemplary, textbook, copybook; stock, stereotypical, prototypical.

– OPPOSITES atypical.

**archetype** noun **quintessence**, essence, typification, representative, model, embodiment, prototype, stereotype; original, pattern, standard, paradigm.

**architect** noun **1** *the architect of Durham Cathedral*: designer, planner, draughtsman. **2** *the architect of the National Health Service*: originator, author, creator, founder, (founding) father; engineer, inventor, mastermind; literary begetter.

**architecture** noun **1** *modern architecture*: building design, building style, planning, building, construction; formal architectonics. **2** *the architecture of a computer system*: structure, construction, organization, layout, design, build, anatomy, make-up; informal set-up.

**archive** noun **1** *she delved into the family archives*: records, annals, chronicles, accounts; papers, documents, files; history; law muniments. **2** *the National Sound Archive*: record office, registry, repository, museum, chancery.

•verb *the videos are archived for future use*: file, log, catalogue, document, record, register; store, cache.

**arctic** adjective **1** *Arctic waters*: polar, far northern; literary hyperborean; technical boreal.

**2 arctic weather conditions: freezing**, cold, wintry, frozen, icy, glacial, gelid, sub-zero, polar, Siberian.

– OPPOSITES Antarctic, tropical.

• **noun far north**, North Pole, Arctic Circle.

– OPPOSITES Antarctic.

**ardent** adjective **passionate**, fervent, zealous, wholehearted, vehement, intense, fierce; enthusiastic, keen, eager, avid, committed, dedicated.

– OPPOSITES apathetic.

**ardour** noun **passion**, fervour, zeal, vehemence, intensity, fire, emotion; enthusiasm, eagerness, gusto, keenness, dedication.

**arduous** adjective **onerous**, taxing, difficult, hard, heavy, laborious, burdensome, strenuous, vigorous, back-breaking; demanding, tough, challenging, formidable; exhausting, tiring, punishing, gruelling; informal killing; Brit. informal knacker; old use toilsome.

– OPPOSITES easy.

**area** noun **1 an inner-city area: district**, region, zone, sector, quarter; locality, locale, neighbourhood, parish, patch; tract, belt; informal neck of the woods; Brit. informal manor; N. Amer. informal turf, hood. **2 specific areas of scientific knowledge: field**, sphere, discipline, realm, domain, sector, province, territory, line. **3 the dining area: section**, space; place, room. **4 the area of a circle: expanse**, extent, size, scope, compass; dimensions, proportions.

**arena** noun **1 an ice-hockey arena: stadium**, amphitheatre, coliseum; ground, field, ring, rink, pitch, court; N. Amer. bowl, park; historical circus. **2 the political arena: scene**, sphere, realm, province, domain, sector, forum, territory, world.

**argot** noun **jargon**, slang, idiom, cant, parlance, vernacular, patois; dialect, speech, language; informal lingo.

**arguable** adjective **1 he had an arguable claim for asylum: tenable**, defensible, defensible, supportable, sustainable, able to hold water; reasonable, viable, acceptable. **2 it is arguable whether these routes are worthwhile: debatable**, questionable, open to question, controversial, contentious, doubtful, uncertain, moot.

– OPPOSITES untenable, certain.

**arguably** adverb **possibly**, conceivably, feasibly, plausibly, probably, maybe, perhaps.

**argue** verb **1 they argued that the government was to blame: contend**, assert, maintain, insist, hold, claim, reason, swear, allege; law depose; formal aver, represent, opine. **2 the children are always arguing: quarrel**, disagree, row, squabble, fall out, bicker, fight, wrangle, dispute, feud, have words, cross swords, lock horns, be at each other's throats; informal argufy, spat; old use altercate.

**3 it is hard to argue the point: dispute**, debate, discuss, controvert.

**argument** noun **1 he had an argument with Tony: quarrel**, disagreement, squabble,

fight, dispute, wrangle, clash, altercation, feud, contretemps, disputation, falling-out; informal tiff, slanging match; Brit. informal row, barney. **2 arguments for the existence of God: reasoning**, justification, explanation, rationalization; case, defence, vindication; evidence, reasons, grounds. **3 (old use) the argument of the book: theme**, topic, subject matter; summary, synopsis, precis, gist, outline.

**argumentative** adjective **quarrelsome**, disputatious, captious, contrary, cantankerous, contentious; belligerent, bellicose, combative, antagonistic, truculent, pugnacious; rare oppugnant.

**arid** adjective **1 an arid landscape: dry**, dried up, waterless, moistureless, parched, scorched, baked, thirsty, droughty, desert; **barren**, infertile. **2 this town has an arid, empty feel: dreary**, dull, drab, dry, sterile, colourless, unstimulating, uninspiring, flat, boring, uninteresting, lifeless.

– OPPOSITES wet, fertile, vibrant.

**aright** adverb (dated) **correctly**, rightly, right, all right; accurately, properly, precisely, perfectly; informal OK.

**arise** verb **1 many problems arose: come to light**, become apparent, appear, emerge, crop up, turn up, surface, spring up; occur; literary befall, come to pass. **2 injuries arising from defective products: result**, proceed, follow, ensue, derive, stem, originate; be caused by. **3 (formal) the beast arose: stand up**, rise, get to one's feet, get up.

**aristocracy** noun **nobility**, peerage, gentry, upper class, ruling class, elite, high society, establishment, haut monde; aristocrats, lords, ladies, peers (of the realm), nobles, noblemen, noblewomen; informal upper crust, top drawer, aristos; Brit. informal nob, toffs.

– OPPOSITES working class.

**aristocrat** noun **nobleman**, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer (of the realm), peeress, grandee; informal arist; Brit. informal toff, nob.

– OPPOSITES commoner.

**aristocratic** adjective **1 an aristocratic family: noble**, titled, upper-class, blue-blooded, high-born, well born, elite; Brit. upmarket; informal upper crust, top drawer; Brit. informal posh; old use gentle.

**2 an aristocratic manner: refined**, polished, courtly, dignified, decorous, gracious, fine, gentlemanly, ladylike; haughty, proud.

– OPPOSITES working-class, vulgar.

**arm**<sup>1</sup> noun **1 the arm of her jacket: sleeve**.

**2 an arm of the sea: inlet**, creek, cove, fjord, bay, voe; estuary, firth, strait(s), sound, channel. **3 the political arm of the group:**

**branch**, section, department, division, wing, sector, detachment, offshoot, extension.

**4 the long arm of the law: reach**, power, authority, influence.

#### WORD LINKS

brachial relating to an arm

**arm**<sup>2</sup> verb **1 he armed himself with a revolver: equip**, provide, supply, furnish, issue, fit out. **2 arm yourself against criticism:**



## a

**prepare**, forearm, make ready, brace, steel, fortify.

**armada** noun **fleet**, flotilla, squadron; literary navy.

**armaments** plural noun **arms**, weapons, weaponry, firearms, guns, ordnance, artillery, munitions, materiel.

**armistice** noun **truce**, ceasefire, peace, suspension of hostilities.

**armour** noun **protective covering**, armour plate; historical chain mail, coat of mail, panoply.

**armoured** adjective **armour-plated**, steel-plated, ironclad; bulletproof, bombproof; reinforced, toughened.

**armoury** noun **arsenal**, arms depot, arms cache, ordnance depot, magazine, ammunition dump.

**arms** plural noun **1** *the illegal export of arms*: **weapons**, weaponry, firearms, guns, ordnance, artillery, armaments, munitions, materiel. **2** *the family arms*: **crest**, coat of arms, emblem, heraldic device, insignia, escutcheon, shield.

## WORD LINKS

**heraldic** relating to coats of arms

**heraldry** the system by which coats of arms are drawn up

**escutcheon** a shield or emblem bearing a coat of arms

**dexter** the right-hand side of a coat of arms

**sinister** the left-hand side of a coat of arms

**army** noun **1** *the invading army*: **armed force**, military force, land force, military, soldiery, infantry, militia; troops, soldiers; old use host. **2** *an army of tourists*: **crowd**, swarm, multitude, horde, mob, gang, throng, mass, flock, herd, pack.

## WORD LINKS

**military** relating to soldiers or armed forces

**vanguard** the leading part of an advancing army

**rearguard** the soldiers protecting a retreating army

**aroma** noun **smell**, odour, fragrance, scent, perfume, bouquet, nose; literary redolence.

**aromatic** adjective **fragrant**, scented, perfumed, fragranced, odoriferous; literary redolent.

**around** adverb **1** *there were houses scattered around*: **on every side**, on all sides, throughout, all over (the place), everywhere; about, here and there. **2** *he turned around*: **in the opposite direction**, to face the other way, backwards, to the rear. **3** *there was no one around*: **nearby**, near, about, close by, close (at hand), at hand, in the vicinity, at close range.

• **preposition** **1** *the palazzo is built around a courtyard*: **on all sides** of, about, encircling, surrounding. **2** *they drove around town*: **about**, all over, in/to all parts of. **3** *around three miles*: **approximately**, about, round about, circa, roughly, something like, more or less, in the region of, in the

neighbourhood of, give or take (a few); nearly, close to, approaching; Brit. getting on for; N. Amer. informal in the ballpark of.

**arouse** verb **1** *they had aroused his suspicion*: **induce**, prompt, trigger, stir up, bring out, kindle, fire, spark off, provoke, engender, cause, foster; literary enkindle. **2** *his ability to arouse the masses*: **stir up**, rouse, galvanize, excite, electrify, stimulate, inspire, inspirit, move, fire up, whip up, get going, inflame, agitate, goad, incite. **3** *his touch aroused her*: **excite**, stimulate (sexually), titillate; informal turn on, get going, give a thrill to, light someone's fire. **4** *she was aroused from her sleep*: **wake (up)**, awaken, bring to/round, rouse; Brit. informal knock up; literary waken.

– **OPPOSITES** allay, pacify, turn off.

**arraign** verb **1** *he was arraigned for murder*: **indict**, prosecute, put on trial, bring to trial, take to court, lay/file/prefer charges against, summons, cite; accuse of, charge with; N. Amer. impeach; informal do; old use inculpate. **2** *they bitterly arraigned the government*: **criticize**, censure, attack, condemn, chastise, lambaste, rebuke, admonish, remonstrate with, take to task, berate, reproach; informal knock, slam, blast, lay into; Brit. informal slate, slag off; formal castigate, excoriate.

– **OPPOSITES** acquit, praise.

**arrange** verb **1** *she arranged the flowers*: **order**, set out, lay out, array, position, dispose, present, display, exhibit; group, sort, organize, tidy. **2** *they hoped to arrange a meeting*: **organize**, fix (up), plan, schedule, pencil in, contrive, settle on, decide, determine, agree. **3** *he arranged the piece for a full orchestra*: **adapt**, set, score, orchestrate.

**arrangement** noun **1** *the arrangement of the furniture*: **positioning**, disposition, order, presentation, display; grouping, organization, alignment. **2** *the arrangements for my trip*: **preparation**, plan, provision; planning, groundwork. **3** *we had an arrangement*: **agreement**, deal, understanding, bargain, settlement, pact, modus vivendi. **4** *an arrangement of Beethoven's symphonies*: **adaptation**, orchestration, instrumentation.

**arrant** adjective *what arrant nonsense!* **utter**, complete, total, absolute, downright, outright, thorough, out-and-out, sheer, pure, unmitigated, unqualified; blatant, flagrant; Brit. informal right.

**array** noun **1** *a huge array of cars*: **range**, collection, selection, assortment, diversity, variety; arrangement, assemblage, line-up, formation; display, exhibition, exposition. **2** *she arrived in silken array*: **dress**, attire, clothing, garb, garments; finery; formal apparel.

• **verb** **1** *a buffet was arrayed on the table*: **arrange**, assemble, group, order, range, place, position, set out, lay out, dispose; display. **2** *he was arrayed in grey flannel*: **dress**, attire, clothe, garb, deck (out), outfit,

get up, turn out; old use apparel, habit.

**arrears** plural noun *rent arrears*: debts, money owing, outstanding payment(s), liabilities, dues.

– OPPOSITES credit.

■ in **arrears** behind, behindhand, late, overdue, in the red, in debt.

**arrest** verb **1** *police arrested him for murder*: apprehend, take into custody, take prisoner, detain, put in jail; informal pick up, pull in, pinch, bust, nab, do, collar; Brit. informal nick.

**2** *the spread of the disease can be arrested*: stop, halt, check, block, hinder, restrict, limit, inhibit, impede, curb; prevent, obstruct; literary stay. **3** *she tried to arrest his attention*: attract, capture, catch, hold, engage; absorb, occupy, engross.

– OPPOSITES release, start.

● noun **1** *a warrant for your arrest*: detention, apprehension, seizure, capture. **2** *a cardiac arrest*: stoppage, halt, interruption.

**arresting** adjective *an arresting image*: striking, eye-catching, conspicuous, engaging, impressive, imposing, spectacular, dramatic, breathtaking, awe-inspiring, dazzling, stunning; remarkable, outstanding, distinctive.

– OPPOSITES inconspicuous.

**arrival** noun **1** *they awaited Ruth's arrival*: coming, appearance, entrance, entry, approach. **2** *staff greeted the late arrivals*: comer, entrant, incomer; visitor, caller, guest. **3** *the arrival of democracy*: emergence, appearance, advent, coming, dawn, onset, inauguration, origin, birth.

– OPPOSITES departure, end.

**arrive** verb **1** *more police arrived*: come, turn up, get here/there, make it, appear, enter, present oneself, come along, materialize; informal show (up), roll in/up, blow in, rock up, show one's face. **2** *we arrived at his house*: reach, get to, come to, make, make it to, gain, end up at; informal wind up at. **3** *they arrived at an agreement*: reach, achieve, attain, gain, accomplish; work out, draw up, put together, strike, settle on; informal clinch. **4** *the wedding finally arrived*: happen, occur, take place, come about; present itself, crop up; literary come to pass. **5** *quadruphonies had arrived*: emerge, appear, surface, dawn, be born, come into being, arise.

– OPPOSITES depart, leave.

**arriviste** noun social climber, status-seeker, would-be, self-seeker; upstart, parvenu(e), vulgarian; (arrivistes) nouveau riche, new money; informal go-getter.

**arrogant** adjective *haughty*, conceited, self-important, egotistic, full of oneself, superior; overbearing, pompous, bumptious, imperious, overweening; proud, immodest; informal high and mighty, too big for one's boots, big-headed; rare hubristic.

– OPPOSITES modest.

**arrogate** verb assume, take, claim, appropriate, seize, expropriate, wrest, usurp, commandeer.

**arrow** noun **1** *a bow and arrow*: shaft, bolt, dart; historical quarrel. **2** *the arrow pointed right*: pointer, indicator, marker, needle.

#### WORD LINKS

**fletcher** (in the past) a person who made arrows

**flight** the tail of an arrow

**nock** a notch at the end of an arrow

**quiver** a case for carrying arrows

**toxophilite** a student or lover of archery

**arsenal** noun **1** *Britain's nuclear arsenal*: weapons, weaponry, arms, armaments.

**2** *mutineers broke into the arsenal*: armoury, arms depot, arms cache, ordnance depot, magazine, ammunition dump.

**arson** noun **incendiarism**, pyromania; Brit. fire-raising.

**arsonist** noun **incendiary**, pyromaniac; Brit. fire-raiser; informal firebug, pyro; N. Amer. informal torch.

**art** noun **1** *he studied art*: fine art, artwork, design. **2** *the art of writing*: skill, craft, technique, knack, facility, ability. **3** *she uses art to achieve her aims*: cunning, artfulness, slyness, craftiness, guile; deceit, duplicity, artifice, wiles.

**artery** noun *the main arteries out of town*: main road, trunk road, high road, highway.

**artful** adjective *sly*, crafty, cunning, wily, scheming, devious, Machiavellian, sneaky, tricky, conniving, designing, calculating; canny, shrewd; deceitful, duplicitous, disingenuous, underhand; informal foxy, shifty; old use subtle.

– OPPOSITES ingenuous.

**article** noun **1** *small household articles*: object, thing, item, artefact, commodity, product. **2** *an article in The Times*: report, account, story, write-up, feature, item, piece (of writing), column, review, commentary. **3** *the crucial article of the treaty*: clause, section, subsection, point, item, paragraph, division, subdivision, part, portion.

**articulate** adjective *an articulate speaker*: eloquent, fluent, effective, persuasive, lucid, expressive, silver-tongued; intelligible, comprehensible, understandable.

– OPPOSITES unintelligible.

● verb *they were unable to articulate their emotions*: express, voice, vocalize, put in words, communicate, state; air, ventilate, vent, pour out; utter, say, speak, enunciate, pronounce; informal come out with.

**articulated** adjective **hinged**, jointed, segmented; technical articulate.

**artifice** noun *trickery*, deceit, deception, duplicity, guile, cunning, artfulness, wiliness, craftiness, slyness, chicanery; fraud, fraudulence.

**artificial** adjective **1** *artificial flowers*: synthetic, fake, faux, imitation, mock, ersatz, substitute, replica, reproduction; man-made, manufactured, fabricated; plastic; informal pretend. **2** *an artificial smile*: insincere, feigned, false, unnatural,

a

contrived, put-on, exaggerated, forced, laboured, strained, hollow; informal pretend, phoney.

– OPPOSITES natural, genuine.

**artillery** noun **ordnance**, (big) guns, cannon(s), cannonry.

**artisan** noun **craftsman**, craftswoman, craftsperson; skilled worker, technician; smith, wright, journeyman; old use artificer.

**artist** noun **1** *a Belfast mural artist*: **painter**, illustrator, draughtsman, designer, creator, originator, producer; old master. **2** *the surgeon is an artist with the knife*: **expert**, master, maestro, past master, virtuoso, genius; informal pro, ace; Brit. informal dab hand.

– OPPOSITES novice.

**artiste** noun **entertainer**, performer, showman, artist; player, musician, singer, dancer, actor, actress; star.

**artistic** adjective **1** *he's very artistic*: creative, imaginative, inventive, expressive; sensitive, perceptive, discerning. **2** *artistic dances*:

**aesthetic**, aesthetically pleasing, beautiful, attractive, fine; decorative, ornamental; tasteful, stylish, elegant, exquisite.

– OPPOSITES unimaginative, inelegant.

**artistry** noun **creative skill**, creativity, art, skill, talent, genius, brilliance, flair, proficiency, virtuosity, finesse, style; craftsmanship, workmanship.

**artless** adjective **natural**, ingenuous, naive, simple, innocent, childlike, guileless; candid, open, sincere, unaffected.

– OPPOSITES scheming.

**as** conjunction **1** *she saw him as he disappeared*: while, just as, even as, just when, at the time that, at the moment that. **2** *we all felt as Frank did*: **in the (same) way that**, the (same) way; informal like. **3** *do as you're told*: **what**, that which. **4** *they were free, as the case had not been proved*: **because**, since, seeing that/as, in view of the fact that, owing to the fact that; informal on account of; literary for. **5** *try as she did, she couldn't smile*: **though**, although, even though, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that, notwithstanding that, for all that, albeit, however. **6** *relatively short distances, as Paris to Lyons*: **such as**, like, for instance, for example, e.g.

• **preposition** **1** *he was dressed as a policeman*: like, in the guise of. **2** *I'm speaking to you as your friend*: **in the role of**, being, acting as.

■ **as for/as to** concerning, with respect to, on the subject of, in the matter of, as regards, with regard to, regarding, with reference to, re, in re, apropos, vis-à-vis.

■ **as yet** so far, thus far, yet, still, up till now, up to now.

**ascend** verb **climb**, go up/upwards, move up/upwards, rise (up); mount, scale, conquer; take to the air, take off.

– OPPOSITES descend.

**ascendancy** noun **dominance**, domination, supremacy, superiority, paramountcy, predominance, primacy, dominion, hegemony, authority, control, command, power, rule, sovereignty, lordship,

leadership, influence.

– OPPOSITES subordination.

**ascendant** adjective **rising (in power)**, on the rise, on the way up, up-and-coming, flourishing, prospering, burgeoning.

– OPPOSITES declining.

**ascent** noun **1** *the first ascent of the Matterhorn*: **climb**, scaling, conquest. **2** *a balloon ascent*: **rise**, climb, launch, take-off, lift-off, blast-off. **3** *the ascent grew steeper*: **(upward) slope**, incline, rise, upward gradient, inclination, acclivity.

– OPPOSITES descent, drop.

**ascertain** verb **find out**, discover, get to know, work out, make out, fathom (out), learn, deduce, divine, discern, see, understand, comprehend; establish, determine, verify, confirm; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss (out).

**ascetic** adjective *an ascetic life*: **austere**, self-denying, abstinent, abstemious, self-disciplined, self-abnegating; simple, puritanical, monastic; reclusive, eremitic, hermitic; celibate, chaste.

– OPPOSITES sybaritic.

• **noun** *a desert ascetic*: **abstainer**, puritan, recluse, hermit, solitary; fakir, Sufi, dervish, sadhu, muni; historical anchorite; old use eremite.

– OPPOSITES sybarite.

**ascribe** verb **attribute**, assign, put down, accredit, credit, chalk up, impute; blame on, lay at the door of; connect with, associate with.

**ash** noun **cinders**, ashes, clinker.

**ashamed** adjective **1** *the poor are made to feel ashamed*: **sorry**, shamefaced, abashed, sheepish, guilty, contrite, remorseful, repentant, penitent, regretful, rueful, apologetic; embarrassed, mortified. **2** *he was ashamed to admit it*: **reluctant**, loath, unwilling, disinclined, indisposed, afraid.

– OPPOSITES proud, pleased.

**ashen** adjective **pale**, wan, pasty, grey, colourless, pallid, white, waxen, ghostly, bloodless.

**ashore** adverb **on to (the) land**, on to the shore; shorewards, landwards; on (dry) land.

**aside** adverb **1** *they stood aside*: **to one side**, to the side, on one side; apart, away, separately. **2** *that aside, he seemed a nice man*: **apart**, notwithstanding.

• **noun** *'Her parents died,' said Mrs Manton in an aside*: **whispered remark**, confidential remark, stage whisper; digression, incidental remark, obiter dictum, deviation.

■ **aside from** apart from, besides, in addition to, not counting, barring, other than, but (for), excluding, not including, except (for), excepting, leaving out, save (for).

**asinine** adjective **foolish**, stupid, brainless, mindless, senseless, idiotic, imbecilic, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd, nonsensical, fatuous, silly, inane, witless, empty-headed; informal half-witted, dumb, moronic; Brit. informal daft; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit.

– OPPOSITES intelligent, sensible.



**ask** verb **1** *he asked what time we opened:* enquire, query, want to know; question, interrogate, quiz. **2** *they want to ask a few questions:* put (forward), pose, raise, submit. **3** *don't be afraid to ask for advice:* request, demand; solicit, seek, crave, apply, petition, call, appeal, sue. **4** *let's ask them to dinner:* invite, bid, summon, have someone over/round.

— OPPOSITES answer.

**askance** adverb *they look askance at anything foreign:* suspiciously, sceptically, cynically, mistrustfully, distrustfully, doubtfully, dubiously; disapprovingly, contemptuously, scornfully, disdainfully.

— OPPOSITES approvingly.

**askew** adjective *crooked, lopsided, tilted, angled, at an angle, skew, skewed, slanted, aslant, awry, squint, out of true, to/on one side, uneven, off-centre, asymmetrical;* informal cockeyed, wonky; Brit. informal skew-whiff.

— OPPOSITES straight.

**asleep** adjective **1** *she was asleep in bed:* sleeping, napping, catnapping, dozing, drowsing; informal snoozing, dead to the world; Brit. informal kipping; humorous in the land of Nod; literary slumbering. **2** *my leg's asleep:* numb, numbed, benumbed, dead, insensible, insensate, unfeeling.

— OPPOSITES awake.

**aspect** noun **1** *the photos depict every aspect of life:* feature, facet, side, characteristic, particular, detail; angle, slant. **2** *his face had a sinister aspect:* appearance, look, air, cast, mien, demeanour, expression; atmosphere, mood, quality, ambience, feeling. **3** *a summer house with a southern aspect:* outlook, view, exposure; situation, position, location. **4** *the front aspect of the hotel:* face, elevation, facade, side.

**asperity** noun *harshness, sharpness, abrasiveness, severity, acerbity, astringency, tartness, sarcasm.*

**aspersions** plural noun *vilification, disparagement, denigration, defamation, condemnation, criticism, denunciation, slander, libel, calumny; slurs, smears, insults, slights; informal mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; Brit. informal slagging off; formal castigation.*

■ **cast aspersions on** vilify, disparage, denigrate, defame, run down, impugn, belittle, criticize, condemn, decry, denounce, pillory; malign, slander, libel, discredit; informal pull apart, throw mud at, knock, bad-mouth; Brit. informal rubbish, slate, slag off.

**asphyxiate** verb *suffocate, choke to death, smother, stifle; throttle, strangle.*

**aspiration** noun *desire, hope, dream, wish, longing, yearning; aim, ambition, expectation, goal, target.*

**aspire** verb *desire, hope, dream, long, yearn, set one's heart on, wish, want, be desirous of; aim, seek, pursue, set one's sights on.*

**aspiring** adjective *would-be, aspirant, hopeful, budding; potential, prospective, future; ambitious, determined; informal wannabe.*

**ass** noun **1** *he rode on an ass:* donkey, jackass, jenny; Scottish cuddy; Brit. informal moke, neddy.

**2** (informal) *don't be a silly ass:* fool, idiot, dolt, simpleton, imbecile; informal ninny, nincompoop, dimwit, donkey, chump, halfwit, dum-dum, loon, jackass, cretin, jerk, nerd, fathead, blockhead, numbskull, dunce, dipstick, lamebrain, pea-brain, thickhead, woodenhead, pinhead, airhead, birdbrain; Brit. informal nitwit, twit, clot, plonker, berk, prat, plank, pillock, wally, twerp, charlie, muppet, twonk, herbert; Scottish informal nyaff, balloon, gowk; N. Amer. informal schmuck, bozo, turkey, goofball, putz, wiener, weeny, hoser; Austral./NZ informal drongo, galah; dated tomfool, muttonhead.

**assail** verb **1** *the army moved in to assail the enemy:* attack, assault, pounce on, set upon/about, fall on, charge, rush, storm; informal lay into, tear into, pitch into. **2** *she was assailed by doubts:* plague, torment, rack, beset, dog, trouble, disturb, worry, bedevil, nag, vex.

**3** *critics assailed the policy:* criticize, censure, attack, condemn, pillory, revile; informal knock, slam; Brit. informal slate, slag off; formal castigate.

**assailant** noun *attacker, mugger, assaulter; rare assailer.*

**assassin** noun *murderer, killer, gunman; executioner; informal hit man, hired gun; literary slayer; dated homicide.*

**assassinate** verb *murder, kill, slaughter; eliminate, execute; N. Amer. terminate; informal hit; literary slay.*

**assassination** noun *murder, killing, slaughter, homicide; political execution, elimination; N. Amer. termination; informal hit; literary slaying.*

**assault** verb **1** *he assaulted a police officer:* attack, hit, strike, punch, beat up, thump; pummel, pound, batter; informal clout, wallop, belt, clobber, bop, biff, sock, deck, slug, plug, lay into, do over, rough up; Austral. informal quilt; literary smite. **2** *they left to assault the hill:* attack, assail, pounce on, set upon, strike, fall on, swoop on, rush, storm, besiege. **3** *he first assaulted then murdered her:* rape, sexually assault, molest, interfere with.

● **noun** **1** *he was charged with assault:* battery, violence; sexual assault, rape; Brit. grievous bodily harm, GBH, actual bodily harm, ABH. **2** *an assault on the city:* attack, strike, onslaught, offensive, charge, push, thrust, invasion, bombardment, sortie, incursion, raid, blitz, campaign.

**assay** noun *new plate was brought for assay:* evaluation, assessment, appraisal, analysis, examination, tests, inspection, scrutiny.

● **verb** *gold is assayed to determine its purity:* evaluate, assess, appraise, analyse, examine, test, inspect, scrutinize, probe.

**assemblage** noun *collection, accumulation,*

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conglomeration, gathering, group, grouping, cluster, aggregation, mass, number; assortment, selection, array.

**assemble** verb 1 *a crowd had assembled:*

**gather**, collect, get together, congregate, convene, meet, muster, rally; formal foregather. 2 *he assembled the suspects:* **bring/call together**, gather, collect, round up, marshal, muster, summon; formal convoke. 3 *how to assemble the kite:* **construct**, build, fabricate, manufacture, erect, set up, put/piece together, connect, join.

– OPPOSITES disperse, dismantle.

**assembly** noun 1 *an assembly of dockers:*

**gathering**, meeting, congregation, convention, rally, convocation, assemblage, group, body, crowd, throng, company; informal get-together. 2 *the labour needed in car assembly:* **construction**, manufacture, building, fabrication, erection.

**assent** noun *they are likely to give their*

**assent:** **agreement**, acceptance, approval, approbation, consent, acquiescence, compliance, concurrence, the nod; sanction, endorsement, confirmation; permission, leave, blessing; informal the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the thumbs up.

– OPPOSITES dissent, refusal.

• **verb** *he assented to the change:* **agree to**, accept, approve, consent to, acquiesce in, concur in, give one's blessing to, give the nod; sanction, endorse, confirm; informal give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the OK, OK, give the thumbs up; formal accede to.

– OPPOSITES refuse.

**assert** verb 1 *they asserted that all aboard*

*were safe:* **declare**, maintain, contend, argue, state, claim, propound, proclaim, announce, pronounce, swear, insist, avow; formal aver, opine; rare asseverate. 2 *we find it difficult to assert our rights:* **insist on**, stand up for, uphold, defend, contend, establish, press/push for, stress.

■ **assert oneself** behave/speak confidently, be assertive, put oneself forward, make one's presence felt; informal put one's foot down.

**assertion** noun 1 *I questioned his assertion:*

**declaration**, contention, statement, claim, opinion, proclamation, announcement, pronouncement, protestation, avowal; formal averment; rare asseveration. 2 *an assertion of the right to march:* **defence**, upholding; insistence on.

**assertive** adjective **confident**, self-confident, bold, decisive, assured, self-assured, self-possessed; authoritative, strong-willed, forceful, insistent, determined, commanding, pushy; informal feisty; dated pushful.

– OPPOSITES timid.

**assess** verb 1 *the committee's power is hard*

*to assess:* **evaluate**, judge, gauge, rate, estimate, appraise, get the measure of, determine, weigh up, analyse; informal size up. 2 *the damage was assessed at £5 billion:*

**value**, calculate, work out, determine, fix, cost, price, estimate.

**assessment** noun 1 *a teacher's assessment of the pupil's abilities:* **evaluation**, judgement, rating, estimation, appraisal, analysis, opinion. 2 *some assessments valued the estate at £2 million:* **valuation**, calculation, costing, pricing, estimate.

**asset** noun 1 *he sees his age as an asset:*

**benefit**, advantage, blessing, good point, strong point, strength, forte, virtue, recommendation, attraction, resource, boon, merit, bonus, plus, pro. 2 *the seizure of all their assets:* **property**, resources, estate, holdings, possessions, effects, goods, valuables, belongings, chattels.

– OPPOSITES liability.

**assiduous** adjective **diligent**, careful, meticulous, thorough, sedulous, attentive, conscientious, punctilious, painstaking, rigorous, particular; persevering.

**assign** verb 1 *a young doctor was assigned*

*the task:* **allocate**, allot, give, set; charge with, entrust with. 2 *she was assigned to a new post:* **appoint**, promote, delegate, commission, post, co-opt; select for, choose for, install in; Military detail. 3 *we assign large sums of money to travel budgets:*  **earmark**, designate, set aside, reserve, appropriate, allot, allocate, apportion. 4 *he assigned the opinion to the Prince:* **ascribe**, attribute, put down, accredit, credit, chalk up, impute; pin on, lay at the door of. 5 *he may assign the money to a third party:* **transfer**, make over, give, pass, hand over/down, convey, consign; Law **attorn**, devise.

**assignment** noun **rendezvous**, date,

appointment, meeting; literary **tryst**.

**assignment** noun 1 *I'm going to finish this assignment tonight:* **task**, piece of work, job, duty, chore, mission, errand, undertaking, exercise, business, endeavour, enterprise; project, homework. 2 *the assignment of tasks:* **allocation**, allotment, issuance, designation; sharing out, apportionment, distribution, handing out, dispensation.

3 *the assignment of property:* **transfer**, making over, giving, handing down, consignment; Law **conveyance**, devise, **attornment**.

**assimilate** verb 1 *the amount of information*

*he can assimilate:* **absorb**, take in, acquire, pick up, grasp, comprehend, understand, learn, master; digest, ingest. 2 *many tribes were assimilated by Turkic peoples:* **subsume**, incorporate, integrate, absorb, engulf, acculturate; co-opt, adopt, embrace, admit.

**assist** verb 1 *I spend my time assisting the*

*chef:* **help**, aid, abet, lend a (helping) hand to, oblige, accommodate, serve; collaborate with, work with; support, back (up), second; informal pitch in with; Brit. informal muck in with. 2 *the exchange rates assisted the firm's expansion:* **facilitate**, aid, ease, expedite, spur, promote, boost, benefit, foster, encourage, stimulate, precipitate, accelerate, advance, further, forward.

– OPPOSITES hinder, impede.

**assistance** noun **help**, aid, support, backing, reinforcement, succour, relief, intervention, cooperation, collaboration; a (helping) hand, a good turn; informal a break, a leg up.

– OPPOSITES hindrance.

**assistant** noun **1** *a photographer's assistant:* subordinate, deputy, second (in command), number two, right-hand man/woman, aide, personal assistant, PA, attendant, mate, apprentice, junior, auxiliary; hired hand, hired help, helper, man/girl Friday; informal sidekick, gofer; Brit. informal dogsbody, skivvy. **2** *an assistant in the local shop:* sales assistant, salesperson, saleswoman/girl, salesman, server, checkout operator; seller, vendor; N. Amer. clerk; informal counter-jumper; dated shop boy/girl.

**associate** verb **1** *the colours that we associate with fire:* link, connect, relate, identify, equate, bracket, set side by side. **2** *I was forced to associate with them:* mix, keep company, mingle, socialize, go around, rub shoulders, fraternize, consort, have dealings; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hobnob, hang out/around/round, be thick with; Brit. informal hang about. **3** *the firm is associated with a local charity:* affiliate, align, connect, join, attach, team up, be in league, ally; merge, integrate, confederate.

• noun *his business associate:* partner, colleague, co-worker, workmate, comrade, ally, confederate; connection, contact, acquaintance; collaborator; informal crony; Brit. informal oppo; Austral./NZ informal offside.

**associated** adjective **1** *salaries and associated costs:* related, connected, linked, correlated, similar, corresponding; attendant, accompanying, incidental. **2** *their associated company:* affiliated, allied, integrated, amalgamated, federated, confederated, syndicated, connected, related.

– OPPOSITES unrelated.

**association** noun **1** *a trade association:* alliance, consortium, coalition, union, league, guild, syndicate, federation, confederation, confederacy, conglomerate, cooperative, partnership, affiliation. **2** *the association between man and environment:* relationship, relation, interrelation, connection, interconnection, link, bond, union, tie, attachment, interdependence, affiliation.

**assorted** adjective **various**, miscellaneous, mixed, varied, varying, diverse, eclectic, multifarious, sundry; literary divers.

**assortment** noun **mixture**, variety, array, mixed bag, mix, miscellany, selection, medley, diversity, ragbag, potpourri, salmagundi, farrago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum.

**assuage** verb **1** *a pain that could never be assuaged:* relieve, ease, alleviate, soothe, mitigate, allay, palliate, abate, suppress, subdue, tranquillize; moderate, lessen, diminish, reduce. **2** *her hunger was quickly assuaged:* satisfy, gratify, appease, fulfil,

indulge, relieve, slake, sate, satiate, quench, check.

– OPPOSITES aggravate, intensify.

**assume** verb **1** *I assumed he wanted me to keep the book:* presume, suppose, take it (as given), take for granted, take as read, conjecture, surmise, conclude, deduce, infer, reckon, reason, think, fancy, believe, understand, gather; N. Amer. figure; old use ween. **2** *he assumed a Southern accent:* affect, adopt, impersonate, put on, simulate, feign, fake. **3** *the disease may assume epidemic proportions:* acquire, take on. **4** *they are to assume more responsibility:* accept, shoulder, bear, undertake, take on/up, manage, handle, deal with. **5** *he assumed control of their finances:* seize, take (over), appropriate, commandeer, expropriate, hijack, wrest, usurp.

**assumed** adjective **false**, fictitious, invented, made-up, fake, bogus, sham, spurious, make-believe, improvised, adopted; informal pretend, phoney; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**assumption** noun **1** *an informed assumption:* supposition, presumption, belief, expectation, conjecture, speculation, surmise, guess, premise, hypothesis; conclusion, deduction, inference, notion, impression. **2** *her assumption of ease:* pretence, simulation, affectation. **3** *the early assumption of community obligation:* acceptance, shouldering, tackling, undertaking. **4** *the assumption of power by revolutionaries:* seizure, arrogation, appropriation, expropriation, commandeering, confiscation, hijacking, wresting.

**assurance** noun **1** *her calm assurance:* self-confidence, confidence, self-assurance, self-possession, nerve, poise, aplomb, level-headedness; calmness, composure, sangfroid, equanimity; informal cool, unflappability. **2** *you have my assurance:* word (of honour), promise, pledge, vow, avowal, oath, bond, undertaking, guarantee, commitment. **3** *there is no assurance of getting one's money back:* guarantee, certainty, certitude, surety, confidence, expectation. **4** *life assurance:* insurance, indemnity, indemnification, protection, security, cover.

– OPPOSITES self-doubt, uncertainty.

**assure** verb **1** *we must assure him of our loyal support:* reassure, convince, satisfy, persuade, guarantee, promise, tell; affirm, pledge, swear, vow. **2** *he wants to assure a favourable vote:* ensure, secure, guarantee, seal, clinch, confirm; informal sew up. **3** *they guarantee to assure your life:* insure, provide insurance, cover, indemnify.

**assured** adjective **1** *an assured voice:* confident, self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed, poised, phlegmatic, level-headed; calm, composed, equanimous, imperturbable, unruffled; informal unflappable, together. **2** *an assured supply of weapons:* guaranteed, certain, sure, secure,



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reliable, dependable, sound; infallible, unfailing; informal sure-fire.

– OPPOSITES doubtful, uncertain.

**astonish** verb **amaze**, astound, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, confound, dumbfound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast; informal flabbergast, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six.

**astonished** adjective **amazed**, astounded, staggered, surprised, startled, stunned, thunderstruck, aghast, taken aback, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, stupefied, dazed, nonplussed, awestruck; informal flabbergasted; Brit. informal gobsmacked.

**astonishing** adjective **amazing**, astounding, staggering, surprising, breathtaking; remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal; informal mind-boggling.

**astonishment** noun **amazement**, surprise, stupefaction, incredulity, disbelief, speechlessness, awe, wonder.

**astound** verb **amaze**, astonish, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, confound, dumbfound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast; informal flabbergast, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six.

**astounding** adjective **amazing**, astonishing, staggering, surprising, breathtaking, remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal; informal mind-boggling.

**astray** adverb **1** *the shots went astray*: off target, wide of the mark, awry, off course. **2** *the older boys lead him astray*: into wrongdoing, into sin, into iniquity, away from the straight and narrow.

**astrigent** adjective **1** *the lotion has an astrigent effect on pores*: constricting, constrictive, contracting; styptic. **2** *her astrigent words*: severe, sharp, stern, harsh, acerbic, acidulous, caustic, mordant, trenchant; scathing, cutting, incisive, waspish; N. Amer. acerb.

**astrology** noun **horoscopy**; horoscopes; rare astromancy.

**astronaut** noun **spaceman**/woman, cosmonaut, taikonaut, space cadet; N. Amer. informal jock.

**astronomical** adjective **1** *astronomical alignments*: planetary, stellar; celestial. **2** (informal) *the sums he has paid are astronomical*: huge, enormous, very large, prodigious, monumental, colossal, vast, gigantic, massive; substantial, considerable, sizeable, hefty; inordinate; informal astronomic, whopping, humongous; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**astute** adjective **shrewd**, sharp, acute, quick, clever, intelligent, bright, smart, canny, intuitive, perceptive, insightful, incisive, sagacious, wise; informal on the ball, quick on the uptake, savvy; Brit. informal suss; N. Amer. informal heads-up; rare argute.

– OPPOSITES stupid.

**asunder** adverb (literary) *the fabric of society may be torn asunder*: **apart**, up, in two; to pieces, to shreds.

**asylum** noun **1** *he appealed for political asylum*: refuge, sanctuary, shelter, safety, protection, security, immunity; a safe haven. **2** *his father was confined to an asylum*: **psychiatric hospital**, mental hospital, mental institution, mental asylum; informal madhouse, loony bin, funny farm; N. Amer. informal bughouse; dated lunatic asylum; old use bedlam.

**asymmetrical** adjective **lopsided**, asymmetrical, uneven, unbalanced, crooked, awry, askew, skew, squint, misaligned; disproportionate, unequal, irregular; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal skew-whiff, wonky.

**atheism** noun **non-belief**, disbelief, unbelief, scepticism, doubt, agnosticism; nihilism.

**atheist** noun **non-believer**, disbeliever, unbeliever, sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas, agnostic; nihilist; rare nullifidian.

– OPPOSITES believer.

**athlete** noun **sportsman**, sportswoman, sportsperson; Olympian; runner; N. Amer. informal jock.

**athletic** adjective **1** *his athletic physique*: muscular, muscly, sturdy, strapping, well built, strong, powerful, robust, able-bodied, vigorous, hardy, lusty, hearty, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, Herculean; **fit**, in good shape, in trim; informal sporty, husky, hunky, beefy; literary thewy, stark. **2** *athletic events*: sporting, sports; Olympic.

– OPPOSITES puny.

**atmosphere** noun **1** *the gases present in the atmosphere*: air, sky, airspace; literary the heavens, the firmament, the blue, the azure, the ether. **2** *the hotel has a relaxed atmosphere*: **ambience**, air, mood, feel, feeling, character, tone, tenor, aura, quality, undercurrent, flavour; informal vibe.

## WORD LINKS

**meteorology** the study of the atmosphere  
**barometer** an instrument measuring atmospheric pressure  
**isobar** a line on a map connecting points with the same atmospheric pressure

**atom** noun **1** *they build tiny circuits atom by atom*: particle, molecule, bit, piece, fragment, fraction. **2** *there wasn't an atom of truth in the allegations*: grain, iota, jot, whit, mite, scrap, shred, ounce, scintilla; Irish stim; informal smidgen.

## WORD LINKS

**nucleus** the central core of an atom  
**ion** an atom with a net electric charge  
**anion** an ion with a negative electric charge  
**cation** an ion with a positive electric charge

**atone** verb **make amends**, make reparation, make up for, compensate, pay, recompense, expiate, make good, offset; do penance.

**atrocious** adjective **1** *atrocious cruelties:* brutal, barbaric, barbarous, savage, vicious; wicked, cruel, nasty, heinous, monstrous, vile, inhuman, black-hearted, fiendish, ghastly, horrible; abominable, outrageous, hateful, disgusting, despicable, contemptible, loathsome, odious, abhorrent, sickening, horrifying, unspeakable, execrable, egregious. **2** *the weather was atrocious:* appalling, dreadful, terrible, abysmal, unpleasant, miserable; informal dire, rotten, lousy, God-awful; Brit. informal shocking, chronic, pants.

– OPPOSITES admirable, superb.

**atrocities** noun **1** *press reports detailed a number of atrocities:* abomination, cruelty, enormity, outrage, horror, monstrosity, obscenity, violation, crime, abuse. **2** *conflict and atrocity around the globe:* barbarity, barbarism, brutality, savagery, inhumanity, cruelty, wickedness, evil, iniquity, horror.

**atrophy** verb **1** *muscles atrophy in microgravity:* waste away, become emaciated, wither, shrivel (up), shrink; decay, decline, deteriorate, degenerate, weaken. **2** *the Labour campaign atrophied:* dwindle, deteriorate, decline, wane, fade, peter out, crumble, disintegrate, collapse, slump, go downhill.

– OPPOSITES strengthen, flourish.

• noun *muscular atrophy:* wasting, emaciation, withering, shrivelling, shrinking; decay, decline, deterioration, degeneration, weakening, debilitation, enfeeblement.

– OPPOSITES strengthening.

**attach** verb **1** *a lead weight is attached to the cord:* fasten, fix, affix, join, connect, link, secure, make fast, tie, bind, chain; stick, adhere, glue, fuse; append. **2** *he attached himself to the Liberal Party:* affiliate, associate, align, ally, unite, integrate, join; be in league with, form an alliance with.

**3** *they attached importance to research:* ascribe, assign, attribute, accredit, impute.

**4** *the medical officer attached to HQ:* assign, appoint, allocate, second; Military detail.

– OPPOSITES detach, separate.

**attached** adjective **1** *I'm not interested in you—I'm attached:* married, engaged, spoken for, involved; informal hitched, spliced, going steady; dated betrothed; formal wed, wedded; literary affianced; old use espoused. **2** *she was very attached to her brother:* fond of, devoted to; informal mad about, crazy about.

– OPPOSITES single.

**attachment** noun **1** *he has a strong attachment to his mother:* bond, closeness, devotion, loyalty; fondness for, love for, affection for, feeling for; relationship with.

**2** *the shower had a massage attachment:* accessory, fitting, fitment, extension, add-on, appendage. **3** *the attachment of safety restraints:* fixing, fastening, linking, coupling, connection. **4** *he was on attachment from another regiment:* assignment, appointment, secondment, transfer; Military detail. **5** *his family's*

*Conservative attachment:* affiliation, association, alliance, alignment, connection; links, ties, sympathies.

**attack** verb **1** *Chris had been brutally attacked:* assault, assail, set upon, beat up; batter, pummel, punch; N. Amer. beat up on; informal do over, work over, rough up; Brit. informal duff up. **2** *the French had still not attacked:* strike, charge, pounce; bombard, shell, blitz, strafe, fire. **3** *the clergy attacked government policies:* criticize, censure, condemn, pillory, savage, revile, vilify; informal knock, slam, bash, lay into; Brit. informal slate, slag off, rubbish; N. Amer. informal pummel. **4** *they have to attack the problem soon:* address, attend to, deal with, confront, apply oneself to, get to work on, undertake, embark on; informal get stuck into, get cracking on, get weaving on. **5** *the virus attacks the liver:* affect, have an effect on, strike; infect, damage, injure.

– OPPOSITES defend, praise, protect.

• noun **1** *an attack on their home:* assault, onslaught, offensive, strike, blitz, raid, charge, rush, invasion, incursion. **2** *she wrote a hostile attack on him:* criticism, censure, rebuke, admonishment, reprimand, reproval; condemnation, denunciation, revilement, vilification; tirade, diatribe, polemic; informal roasting, caning; Brit. informal slating, rollicking, blast. **3** *an asthmatic attack:* fit, seizure, spasm, convulsion, paroxysm, outburst, bout.

– OPPOSITES defence, commendation.

**attacker** noun assailant, assaulter, aggressor; mugger, rapist, killer, murderer.

**attain** verb achieve, accomplish, reach, obtain, gain, procure, secure, get, hook, net, win, earn, acquire; realize, fulfil; informal clinch, bag, wrap up.

**attainable** adjective achievable, obtainable, accessible, within reach, securable, realizable; practicable, workable, realistic, reasonable, viable, feasible, possible; informal doable, get-at-able.

**attainment** noun **1** *the attainment of common goals:* achievement, accomplishment, realization, fulfilment, completion; formal effectuation, reification. **2** *educational attainment:* achievement, accomplishment, proficiency, competence; qualification; skill, aptitude, ability.

**attempt** verb **1** *I attempted to answer the question:* try, strive, aim, venture, endeavour, seek, undertake, make an effort; have a go at, try one's hand at; informal go all out, bend over backwards, bust a gut, have a crack at, have a shot at, have a stab at; formal essay; old use assay.

• noun **1** *an attempt to put the economy to rights:* effort, endeavour, try, venture, trial; informal crack, go, shot, stab; formal essay; old use assay.

**attend** verb **1** *they attended a carol service:* be present at, sit in on, take part in; appear at, present oneself at, turn up at, visit, go to; informal show up at, show one's face at.

**2** *he had not attended to the regulations:* pay

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**attention**, pay heed, be attentive, listen; concentrate, take note, bear in mind, take into consideration, heed, observe, mark.

**3 the wounded were attended to nearby: care for**, look after, minister to, see to; tend, treat, nurse, help, aid, assist, succour; informal doctor. **4 he attended to the boy's education: deal with**, see to, manage, organize, sort out, handle, take care of, take charge of, take in hand, tackle. **5 the queen was attended by an usher: escort**, accompany, chaperone, squire, guide, lead, conduct, usher, shepherd; assist, help, serve, wait on.

**6 her giddiness was attended with a fever: be accompanied by**, occur with, coexist with, be associated with, connected with, be linked with; be produced by, originate from/in, stem from, result from, arise from.

– OPPOSITES miss, disregard, ignore, neglect.

**attendance** noun **1** *you requested the attendance of a doctor: presence*, appearance; attention. **2** *their gig attendances grew: audience*, turnout, house, gate; crowd, congregation, gathering; Austral. informal muster.

– OPPOSITES absence.

■ **in attendance** present, here, there, near, nearby, at hand, available; assisting, supervising.

**attendant** noun **1** *a sleeping car attendant: steward*, waiter, waitress, garçon, porter, servant; N. Amer. waitperson. **2** *a royal attendant: escort*, companion, retainer, aide, lady-in-waiting, equerry, chaperone; servant, manservant, valet, gentleman's gentleman, maidservant, maid; N. Amer. houseman; Brit. informal skivvy; Military, dated batman.

• **adjective** *new discoveries and the attendant excitement: accompanying*, associated, related, connected, concomitant; resultant, resulting, consequent.

**attention** noun **1** *the issue needs further attention: consideration*, contemplation, deliberation, thought, study, observation, scrutiny, investigation, action. **2** *he tried to attract the attention of a policeman: awareness*, notice, observation, heed, regard, scrutiny, surveillance. **3** *adequate medical attention: care*, treatment, ministrations, succour, relief, aid, help, assistance. **4** *he was effusive in his attentions: overtures*, approaches, suit, wooing, courting; compliments, flattery.

**attentive** adjective **1** *a bright and attentive scholar: perceptive*, observant, alert, acute, aware, heedful, vigilant; intent, focused, committed, studious, diligent, conscientious, earnest; informal not missing a trick, on the ball. **2** *the most attentive of husbands: conscientious*, considerate, thoughtful, kind, caring, solicitous, understanding, sympathetic, obliging, accommodating, gallant, chivalrous; dutiful, responsible.

– OPPOSITES inconsiderate.

**attenuated** adjective **1** *attenuated fingers: thin*, slender, narrow, slim, skinny, spindly, bony; literary attenuated; rare attenuate.

**2** *his muscle activity was much attenuated: weakened*, reduced, lessened, decreased, diminished, impaired.

– OPPOSITES plump, broad, strengthened.

**attest** verb **certify**, corroborate, confirm, verify, substantiate, authenticate, evidence, demonstrate, show, prove; endorse, support, affirm, bear out, give credence to, vouch for; formal evince.

– OPPOSITES disprove.

**attic** noun **loft**, roof space, cock loft; garret, mansard.

**attire** noun *Thomas preferred formal attire: clothing*, clothes, garments, dress, wear, outfits, garb, costume; informal gear, togs, duds, get-up; Brit. informal clobber; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel; old use raiment, habiliments.

• **verb** *she was attired in black crêpe: dress (up)*, clothe, garb, robe, array, costume, swathe, deck (out), turn out, fit out, trick out/up, rig out; informal get up; old use apparel, invest, habit.

**attitude** noun **1** *you seem ambivalent in your attitude: view*, viewpoint, outlook, perspective, stance, standpoint, position, inclination, orientation, approach, reaction; opinion, ideas, convictions, feelings, thinking. **2** *an attitude of prayer: position*, posture, pose, stance.

**attorney** noun **lawyer**, legal practitioner, legal executive, legal representative, member of the bar, barrister, counsel; Brit. Queen's Counsel, QC; Scottish advocate; N. Amer. counselor(-at-law); informal brief.

**attract** verb **1** *positive ions are attracted to the negatively charged terminal: draw*, pull, magnetize. **2** *he was attracted by her smile: entice*, allure, lure, tempt, charm, win over, woo, engage, enchant, entrance, captivate, beguile, bewitch, seduce; excite, titillate, arouse; informal turn on.

– OPPOSITES repel.

**attraction** noun **1** *the stars are held together by gravitational attraction: pull*, draw; magnetism. **2** *she had lost whatever attraction she had ever had: appeal*, attractiveness, desirability, seductiveness, seduction, allure, animal magnetism; charisma, charm, beauty, good looks; informal come-on. **3** *the fair offers sideshows and other attractions: entertainment*, activity, diversion, interest.

– OPPOSITES repulsion.

**attractive** adjective **1** *a more attractive career: appealing*, inviting, tempting, irresistible; agreeable, pleasing, interesting. **2** *she has no idea how attractive she is: good-looking*, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, gorgeous, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, beguiling, engaging, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful; sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, irresistible, ravishing, desirable; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer.



informal cute, foxy; Austral./NZ informal spunky; literary beautiful; old use comely, fair.

– OPPOSITES uninviting, ugly.

**attribute** verb *they attributed their success to him*: ascribe, assign, accredit, credit, impute; put down, chalk up, hold responsible, pin on; connect with, associate with.

• **noun** **1** *he has all the attributes of a top player*: quality, characteristic, trait, feature, element, aspect, property, sign, hallmark, mark, distinction. **2** *the hourglass is the attribute of Father Time*: symbol, mark, sign, hallmark, trademark.

**attrition** noun **1** *a gradual attrition of the market economy*: wearing down/away, weakening, debilitation, enfeebling, sapping, attenuation. **2** *the attrition of the edges of the teeth*: abrasion, friction, erosion, corrosion, grinding, wearing (away); deterioration, damaging; rare detrition.

**attune** verb accustom, adjust, adapt, acclimatize, condition, accommodate, assimilate; N. Amer. acclimate.

**atypical** adjective unusual, untypical, uncommon, unconventional, unorthodox, irregular, abnormal, aberrant, deviant, unrepresentative; strange, odd, peculiar, bizarre, weird, queer, freakish; exceptional, singular, rare, out of the way, out of the ordinary, extraordinary; Brit. out of the common; informal funny, freaky.

– OPPOSITES normal.

**auburn** adjective reddish-brown, red-brown, Titian (red), tawny, russet, chestnut, copper, coppery, rufous.

**au courant** adjective up to date, au fait, in touch, familiar, at home, acquainted, conversant; abreast, apprised, in the know, well informed, knowledgeable, well versed, enlightened; informal clued-up, wise to, hip to.

**audacious** adjective **1** *his audacious exploits*: bold, daring, fearless, intrepid, brave, courageous, valiant, heroic, plucky; daredevil, devil-may-care, death-or-glory, reckless, madcap; venturesome, mettlesome; informal gutsy, spunky, ballsy; literary temerarious. **2** *an audacious remark*: impudent, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, cheeky, irreverent, discourteous, disrespectful, insubordinate, ill-mannered, unmannerly, rude, brazen, shameless, pert, defiant, cocky, bold (as brass); informal brass-necked, fresh, lippy, mouthy, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy, nerdy; old use malapert, contumelious.

– OPPOSITES timid, polite.

**audacity** noun **1** *a traveller of extraordinary audacity*: boldness, daring, fearlessness, intrepidity, bravery, courage, heroism, pluck, grit; recklessness; spirit, mettle; informal guts, gutsiness, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie. **2** *he had the audacity to contradict me*: impudence, impertinence, insolence, presumption, cheek, bad manners, effrontery, nerve, gall, defiance, temerity; informal brass (neck), chutzpah; Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sass.

**audible** adjective hearable, perceptible, discernible, detectable, appreciable; clear, distinct, loud.

– OPPOSITES faint.

**audience** noun **1** *the audience applauded*: spectators, listeners, viewers, onlookers, patrons; crowd, throng, congregation, turnout; house, gallery, stalls; Brit. informal punters. **2** *the radio station has a teenage audience*: market, public, following, fans; listenership, viewership. **3** *an audience with the Pope*: meeting, consultation, conference, hearing, reception, interview.

**audit** noun *an audit of the party accounts*: inspection, examination, scrutiny, probe, investigation, assessment, appraisal, evaluation, review, analysis.

• verb *we audited their accounts*: inspect, examine, survey, go through, scrutinize, check, probe, vet, investigate, enquire into, assess, appraise, evaluate, review, analyse, study.

**auditorium** noun theatre, hall, assembly room; chamber, room.

**au fait** adjective familiar, acquainted, conversant, at home, up to date, au courant, in touch; abreast, apprised, in the know, well informed, knowledgeable, well versed, enlightened; informal clued-up, wise to, hip to.

**augment** verb increase, add to, supplement, top up, build up, enlarge, expand, extend, raise, multiply, swell; magnify, amplify, escalate; improve, boost; informal up, jack up, hike up, bump up.

– OPPOSITES decrease.

**augur** verb *these successes augur well for the future*: bode, portend, herald, be a sign, warn, forewarn, foreshadow, be an omen, presage, indicate, signify, signal, promise, threaten, spell, denote; predict, prophesy; literary betoken, foretoken, forebode.

**august** adjective distinguished, respected, eminent, venerable, hallowed, illustrious, prestigious, renowned, celebrated, honoured, acclaimed, esteemed, exalted; great, important, lofty, noble; imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, stately, grand, dignified.

**aura** noun atmosphere, ambience, air, quality, character, mood, feeling, feel, flavour, tone, tenor; emanation, vibration; informal vibe.

**auspices** plural noun patronage, aegis, umbrella, protection, keeping, care; support, backing, guardianship, trusteeship, guidance, supervision.

**auspicious** adjective favourable, propitious, promising, rosy, good, encouraging; opportune, timely, lucky, fortunate, providential, felicitous, advantageous.

**austere** adjective **1** *an outwardly austere man*: severe, stern, strict, harsh, steely, flinty, dour, grim, cold, frosty, unemotional, unfriendly; formal, stiff, reserved, aloof, forbidding; grave, solemn, serious, unsmiling, unsympathetic, unforgiving; hard, unyielding, unbending, inflexible,

a

illiberal; informal hard-boiled. **2** *an austere life*: ascetic, self-denying, self-disciplined, non-indulgent, frugal, spartan, puritanical, abstemious, abstinent, self-sacrificing, strict, temperate, sober, simple, restrained; celibate, chaste. **3** *the buildings were austere*: plain, simple, basic, functional, modest, unadorned, unembellished, unfussy, restrained; stark, bleak, bare, clinical, spartan, ascetic; informal no frills.

– OPPOSITES genial, immoderate, ornate.

**Australia** noun informal **Oz**, Aussie, down under.

**authentic** adjective **1** *an authentic document*: genuine, real, bona fide, true, veritable, simon-pure; legitimate, lawful, legal, valid; informal the real McCoy, the real thing, pukka, kosher; Austral./NZ informal dinkum. **2** *an authentic depiction of the situation*: reliable, dependable, trustworthy, authoritative, honest, faithful; accurate, factual, true, truthful; formal veridical, veracious.

– OPPOSITES fake, unreliable.

**authenticate** verb **1** *the evidence will authenticate his claim*: verify, validate, prove, substantiate, corroborate, confirm, support, back up, attest to, give credence to. **2** *a mandate authenticated by the popular vote*: validate, ratify, confirm, seal, sanction, endorse.

**authenticity** noun **1** *the authenticity of the painting*: genuineness, bona fides; legitimacy, legality, validity. **2** *the authenticity of this account*: reliability, dependability, trustworthiness, credibility; accuracy, truth, veracity, fidelity.

**author** noun **1** *modern Canadian authors*: writer, wordsmith; novelist, playwright, poet, essayist, biographer; columnist, reporter; informal penman, penwoman, scribe, scribbler. **2** *the author of the peace plan*: originator, creator, instigator, founder, father, architect, designer, deviser, producer; cause, agent.

#### WORD LINKS

**auctorial** relating to an author  
**amanuensis** an author's assistant  
**autograph, holograph** an author's handwritten manuscript  
**juvenilia** works produced by an author when young  
**manuscript** an author's handwritten or typed work, submitted for printing  
**pen name, pseudonym** a false name used by an author

**authoritarian** adjective *his authoritarian manner*: autocratic, dictatorial, despotic, tyrannical, draconian, oppressive, repressive, illiberal, undemocratic; disciplinarian, domineering, overbearing, high-handed, peremptory, imperious, strict, rigid, inflexible; informal bossy.

– OPPOSITES democratic, liberal.

• noun *the army is dominated by authoritarians*: autocrat, despot, dictator, tyrant; disciplinarian, martinet.

**authoritative** adjective **1** *authoritative*

*information*: reliable, dependable, trustworthy, sound, authentic, valid, attested, verifiable; accurate. **2** *the authoritative edition*: definitive, most reliable, best; authorized, accredited, recognized, accepted, approved. **3** *his authoritative manner*: assured, confident, assertive; commanding, masterful, lordly; domineering, imperious, overbearing, authoritarian; informal bossy.

– OPPOSITES unreliable, timid.

**authority** noun **1** *a rebellion against those in authority*: power, jurisdiction, command, control, charge, dominance, rule, sovereignty, supremacy; influence; informal clout. **2** *the authority to arrest drug traffickers*: authorization, right, power, mandate, prerogative, licence. **3** *the money was spent without parliamentary authority*: authorization, permission, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, endorsement, clearance; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light. **4** *the authorities*: officials, officialdom; government, administration, establishment; police; informal the powers that be. **5** *an authority on the stock market*: expert, specialist, aficionado, pundit, doyen(ne), guru, sage; informal boffin. **6** *he cites the nuns' testimony as an authority*: source, reference, citation, quotation, passage. **7** *on good authority*: evidence, testimony, witness, attestation, word, avowal; Law deposition.

**authorization** noun permission, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, clearance, the nod; assent, agreement, approval, endorsement; authority, right, power, mandate; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light.

– OPPOSITES refusal.

**authorize** verb **1** *they authorized further action*: sanction, permit, allow, approve, consent to, assent to; ratify, endorse, validate; informal give the green light, give the go-ahead, OK, give the thumbs up. **2** *the troops were authorized to fire*: empower, mandate, commission; entitle.

– OPPOSITES forbid.

**authorized** adjective approved, recognized, sanctioned; accredited, licensed, certified; official, lawful, legal, legitimate.

– OPPOSITES unofficial.

**autobiography** noun memoirs, life story, personal history.

**autocracy** noun absolutism, totalitarianism, dictatorship, despotism, tyranny, monarchy, autarchy.

– OPPOSITES democracy.

**autocrat** noun absolute ruler, dictator, despot, tyrant, monarch.

**autocratic** adjective despotic, tyrannical, dictatorial, totalitarian, autarchic; undemocratic, one-party, monocratic; domineering, draconian, overbearing, high-handed, peremptory, imperious; harsh, rigid, inflexible, illiberal, oppressive.

**autograph** noun *fans pestered him for his autograph*: **signature**; N. Amer. informal John Hancock.

• verb *Jack autographed copies of his book*: **sign**.

**automatic** adjective **1** *automatic garage doors*: **mechanized**, mechanical, automated, computerized, electronic, robotic; self-activating. **2** *an automatic reaction*: **instinctive**, involuntary, unconscious, reflex, knee-jerk, instinctual, subconscious; spontaneous, impulsive, unthinking; mechanical; informal gut. **3** *he is the automatic choice for the team*: **inevitable**, unavoidable, inescapable, mandatory, compulsory; certain, definite, undoubted, assured.

— OPPOSITES manual, deliberate.

**autonomous** adjective **self-governing**, self-ruling, self-determining, independent, sovereign, free.

**autonomy** noun **self-government**, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, independence, sovereignty, freedom.

**autopsy** noun **post-mortem**, PM, necropsy.

**auxiliary** adjective **1** *an auxiliary power source*: **additional**, supplementary, supplemental, extra, reserve, back-up, emergency, fallback, other. **2** *auxiliary nursing staff*: **ancillary**, assistant, support.

• noun *a nursing auxiliary*: **assistant**, helper, ancillary.

**avail** verb **1** *guests can avail themselves of the facilities*: **use**, take advantage of, utilize, employ. **2** *his arguments cannot avail him*: **help**, aid, assist, benefit, profit, be of service.

■ **to no avail** in vain, without success, unsuccessfully, fruitlessly, for nothing.

**available** adjective **1** *refreshments will be available*: **obtainable**, accessible, to/at hand, at one's disposal, handy, convenient; on sale, procurable; untaken, unengaged, unused; informal up for grabs, on tap, gettable. **2** *I'll see if he's available*: **free**, unoccupied; present, in attendance; contactable.

— OPPOSITES busy, engaged.

**avalanche** noun **1** *snowslide*, icefall; rockslide, landslide, landslip; Brit. snow-slip. **2** *an avalanche of press comment*: **barrage**, volley, flood, deluge, torrent, tide, shower, wave.

**avant-garde** adjective **innovative**, innovatory, original, experimental, left-field, inventive, ahead of the times, new, modern, advanced, forward-looking, state-of-the-art, trendsetting, pioneering, progressive, groundbreaking, trailblazing, revolutionary; unfamiliar, unorthodox, unconventional; informal offbeat, way-out.

— OPPOSITES conservative.

**avarice** noun **greed**, acquisitiveness, cupidity, covetousness, rapacity, materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism; informal money-grubbing.

— OPPOSITES generosity.

**avenge** verb **requite**, punish, repay, pay back, take revenge for, get even for.

**avenue** noun **1** *tree-lined avenues*: **road**, street, drive, parade, boulevard, Broadway, thoroughfare. **2** *possible avenues of research*: **line**, path; method, approach.

**aver** verb (formal) **declare**, maintain, claim, assert, state, swear, avow, vow; rare asseverate.

**average** noun *the price is above the national average*: **mean**, median, mode; norm, standard, rule, par.

• adjective **1** *the average temperature in May*: **mean**, median, modal. **2** *a woman of average height*: **ordinary**, standard, normal, typical, regular. **3** *a very average director*: **mediocre**, second-rate, undistinguished, ordinary, middle-of-the-road, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, unmemorable, indifferent, pedestrian, lacklustre, forgettable, amateurish; informal OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much; Brit. informal not much cop; N. Amer. informal bush-league; NZ informal half-pie.

— OPPOSITES outstanding, exceptional.

■ **on average** normally, usually, ordinarily, generally, in general, for the most part, as a rule, typically; overall, by and large, on the whole.

**averse** adjective **opposed**, against, antipathetic, hostile, ill-disposed, resistant; disinclined, reluctant, loath; informal anti.

— OPPOSITES keen.

**aversion** noun **dislike**, antipathy, distaste, abhorrence, hatred, loathing, detestation, hostility; reluctance, disinclination; old use disrelish.

— OPPOSITES liking.

**avert** verb **1** *she averted her head*: **turn aside**, turn away. **2** *an attempt to avert political chaos*: **prevent**, avoid, stave off, ward off, forestall, preclude.

**aviator** noun (dated) **pilot**, airman/woman, flyer; dated aeronaut.

**avid** adjective **keen**, eager, enthusiastic, ardent, passionate, zealous; devoted, dedicated, wholehearted, earnest; Brit. informal as keen as mustard.

— OPPOSITES apathetic.

**avoid** verb **1** *I avoid situations that stress me*: **keep away from**, steer clear of, give a wide berth to, fight shy of. **2** *he is trying to avoid responsibility*: **evade**, dodge, sidestep, escape, run away from; informal duck, wriggle out of, get out of, cop out of; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove. **3** *she moved to avoid a blow*: **dodge**, duck, get out of the way of. **4** *you've been avoiding me all evening*: **shun**, stay away from, evade, keep one's distance, elude, hide from; ignore. **5** *he should avoid drinking alcohol*: **refrain from**, abstain from, desist from, eschew.

— OPPOSITES confront, face up to, seek out.

**avoidable** adjective **preventable**, stoppable, avertable, escapable.

— OPPOSITES inescapable.

**avow** verb **assert**, declare, state, maintain, swear, vow, insist; rare asseverate; formal aver.

**avowed** adjective **self-confessed**,



a

self-declared, acknowledged, admitted; open, overt.

**await** verb **1** *Peter was awaiting news: wait for, expect, anticipate.* **2** *many dangers await them: be in store for, lie ahead of, lie in wait for, be waiting for.*

**awake** verb **1** *she awoke the following morning: wake (up), awaken, stir, come to, come round; literary waken.* **2** *the alarm awoke him at 7.30: wake (up), awaken, rouse, arouse; Brit. informal knock up.* **3** *they finally awoke to the extent of the problem: realize, become aware of, become conscious of; informal get wise to.*

• **adjective** **1** *she was still awake: wakeful, sleepless, restless, restive; old use watchful; rare insomnolent.* **2** *too few are awake to the dangers: aware of, conscious of, mindful of, alert to; formal cognizant of; old use ware of.*

– OPPOSITES asleep, oblivious.

**awaken** verb **1** *I awakened early | the jolt awakened her. See AWAKE* senses **1**, **2**. **2** *he had awakened strong emotions in her: arouse, rouse, bring out, engender, evoke, trigger, stir up, stimulate, kindle; revive; literary enkindle.*

**award** verb *the society awarded him a silver medal: give, grant, accord, assign; confer on, bestow on, present to, endow with, decorate with.*

• **noun** **1** *an award for high-quality service: prize, trophy, medal, decoration; reward; informal gong.* **2** *a libel award: payment, settlement, compensation.* **3** *the Arts Council gave him an award of £1,500: grant, scholarship, endowment; Brit. bursary.* **4** *the award of an honorary doctorate: conferral, conferment, bestowal, presentation.*

**aware** adjective **1** *she is aware of the dangers: conscious of, mindful of, informed about, acquainted with, familiar with, alive to, alert to; informal wise to, in the know about, hip to; formal cognizant of; old use ware of.*

**2** *we need to be more environmentally aware: knowledgeable, enlightened, well informed, au fait; informal clued-up, genned-up, plugged-in; Brit. informal switched-on.*

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**awareness** noun **consciousness, recognition, realization; understanding, grasp, appreciation, knowledge, insight; familiarity; formal cognizance.**

**awash** adjective **1** *the road was awash: flooded, under water, submerged, submersed.* **2** *the city was awash with journalists: inundated, flooded, swamped, teeming, overflowing, overrun; informal knee-deep in.*

**away** adverb **1** *she began to walk away: off, from here, from there.* **2** *stay away from the trouble: at a distance from, apart from.* **3** *Bernice pushed him away: aside, off, to one side.* **4** *we'll be away for two weeks: elsewhere, abroad; gone, absent; on holiday, on vacation.*

**awe** noun **wonder, wonderment; admiration, reverence, respect; dread, fear.**

**awe-inspiring** adjective. See **AWESOME**.

**awesome** adjective **breathhtaking, awe-inspiring, magnificent, amazing, stunning, staggering, imposing, stirring, impressive; formidable, fearsome; informal mind-boggling, mind-blowing; literary wondrous; old use awful.**

– OPPOSITES unimpressive.

**awestruck** adjective **amazed, wonderstruck, awed, lost for words, open-mouthed; terrified, afraid, fearful.**

**awful** adjective **1** *the place smelled awful: disgusting, nasty, terrible, dreadful, ghastly, horrible, vile, foul, revolting, repulsive, repugnant, odious, sickening, nauseating; informal yucky, sick-making, gross, rank; Brit. informal beastly; literary noisome.* **2** *an awful book: dreadful, terrible, abysmal, frightful, atrocious, appalling, execrable; inadequate, inferior, substandard, lamentable; informal crummy, pathetic, rotten, woeful, lousy, dire, poxy; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, pants.* **3** *an awful accident: serious, grave, bad, terrible, dreadful.* **4** *you look awful—go and lie down: ill, unwell, sick, peaky, queasy, nauseous; Brit. off colour, poorly; informal rough, lousy, rotten, terrible, dreadful; Brit. informal grotty, ropy; Scottish informal wabbit, peely-wally; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated queer, seedy.* **5** *I felt awful for getting so angry: remorseful, guilty, ashamed, contrite, sorry, regretful, repentant, self-reproachful.* **6** (old use) *the awful sights of nature: awe-inspiring, awesome, impressive; dread, fearful.*

– OPPOSITES wonderful.

**awfully** adverb **1** (informal) *an awfully nice man: very, extremely, really, immensely, exceedingly, thoroughly, dreadfully, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily; N. English right; informal terrifically, terribly, devilishly, seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; informal, dated frightfully; old use exceeding.* **2** (informal) *thanks awfully: very much, a lot; informal a million.* **3** *we played awfully: very badly, terribly, dreadfully, abysmally, atrociously, appallingly, execrably; informal pitifully, diabolically.*

**awhile** adverb **for a moment, for a (little) while, for a short time; informal for a bit.**

**awkward** adjective **1** *the box was awkward to carry: difficult, tricky, cumbersome, lumbering, unwieldy; Brit. informal fiddly.* **2** *an awkward time: inconvenient, inappropriate, inopportune, unseasonable, difficult.* **3** *he put her in a very awkward position: embarrassing, uncomfortable, unpleasant, delicate, tricky, problematic(al), troublesome, thorny; humiliating, compromising; informal sticky, dicey, hairy; Brit. informal dodgy.* **4** *she felt awkward alone with him: uncomfortable, uneasy, tense, nervous, edgy, unquiet; self-conscious, embarrassed.* **5** *his awkward movements: clumsy, ungainly, uncoordinated, graceless, inelegant, gauche, gawky, wooden, stiff; unskilful, maladroit, inept, blundering; informal clodhopping, ham-fisted, ham-*

handed, cack-handed; Brit. informal all (fingers and) thumbs. **6** (Brit.) *you're being damned awkward*: **unreasonable**, uncooperative, unhelpful, disobliging, difficult, obstructive; contrary, perverse; stubborn, obstinate; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie; N. Amer. informal balky; formal refractory.

– **OPPOSITES** easy, convenient, at ease, graceful, amenable.

**awning** **noun** canopy, shade, sunshade, shelter, cover; Brit. blind, sunblind.

**awry** **adjective** **1** *something was awry*: amiss, wrong; informal up. **2** *his wig looked awry*: **askew**, crooked, lopsided, tilted, skewed, skew, squint, to one side, off-centre, uneven; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal skew-whiff, wonky.

– **OPPOSITES** straight.

**axe** **noun** hatchet, cleaver, tomahawk, adze, poleaxe; Brit. chopper; historical battleaxe.

• **verb** **1** *the show was axed*: **cancel**, withdraw, drop, scrap, discontinue, terminate, end; informal ditch, dump, pull the plug on. **2** *500 staff were axed*: **dismiss**, make redundant, lay off, let go, discharge, get rid of; informal sack, fire, give someone the sack, give someone their marching orders; Brit. informal give someone their cards.

**axiom** **noun** accepted truth, general truth, dictum, truism; maxim, adage, aphorism, apophthegm, gnome.

**axis** **noun** **1** *the earth revolves on its axis*: **centre line**, vertical, horizontal. **2** *the Anglo-American axis*: **alliance**, coalition, bloc, union, confederation, confederacy, league.

**axle** **noun** shaft, spindle, rod, arbor, mandrel, pivot.

**azure** **adjective** sky-blue, bright blue, blue; literary cerulean; rare cyanic.

## b

## Bb

**babble** verb **1** *Betty babbled away:* prattle, rattle on, gabble, chatter, jabber, twitter, go on, run on, prate, ramble, burble, blather, blether; informal gab, yak, yabber, yatter, yammer, blabber, jaw, gas, shoot one's mouth off; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, chunter, natter, waffle; N. Amer. informal run off at the mouth. **2** *a brook babbled gently:* burble, murmur, gurgle, purl, tinkle; literary plash. • **noun** *his inarticulate babble:* prattle, gabble, chatter, jabber, prating, rambling, blather, blether; informal gab, yak, yabbering, yatter; Brit. informal wittering, waffle, natter, chuntering.

**babe** noun (literary). See **BABY** noun.

**babel** noun *clamour, din, racket, confused noise, tumult, uproar, hubbub; babble, babbling, shouting, yelling, screaming; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row.*

**baby** noun *a newborn baby:* infant, newborn, child, tot, little one, bambino; Scottish & N. English bairn; informal sprog, tiny; literary babe, babe in arms; technical neonate.

• **adjective** *baby carrots:* miniature, mini, little, small, small-scale, scaled-down, toy, pocket, midget, dwarf; Scottish wee; N. Amer. vest-pocket; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, itty-bitty, tiddly, bite-sized; Brit. informal titchy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

• **verb** *her aunt babied her:* pamper, mollycoddle, spoil, cosset, coddle, indulge, overindulge, pet, nanny, pander to.

**babyish** adjective *childish, immature, infantile, juvenile, puerile, adolescent.*  
— **OPPOSITES** mature.

**back** noun **1** *she's broken her back:* spine, backbone, spinal column, vertebral column. **2** *the back of the house:* rear, rear side, other side; Nautical stern. **3** *the back of the queue:* end, tail end, rear end, tail; N. Amer. tag end. **4** *the back of a postcard:* reverse, other side, underside; verso; informal flip side.

— **OPPOSITES** front, head, face.

• **adverb** **1** *Michael pushed his chair back:* backwards, behind one, to one's rear, rearwards; away, off. **2** *a few months back:* ago, earlier, previously, before, in the past.

— **OPPOSITES** forward.

• **verb** **1** *the record companies backed the scheme with a few hundred pounds:* sponsor, finance, put up the money for, fund, subsidize, underwrite; informal foot the

bill for, pick up the tab for; N. Amer. informal bankroll, stake. **2** *most people backed the idea:* support, endorse, sanction, approve of, give one's blessing to, smile on, favour, advocate, promote, uphold, champion; vote for, ally oneself with, stand behind, side with, be on the side of, defend, take up the cudgels for; second; informal throw one's weight behind. **3** *he backed the horse at 33-1:* bet on, gamble on, stake money on. **4** *he backed away:* reverse, draw back, step back, move backwards, back off, pull back, retreat, withdraw, give ground, backtrack, retrace one's steps.

— **OPPOSITES** oppose, advance.

• **adjective** **1** *the back seats:* rear, rearmost, hind, hindmost, hinder, posterior. **2** *a back copy:* past, old, previous, earlier, former, out of date.

— **OPPOSITES** front, future.

■ **back down** give in, concede defeat, surrender, yield, submit, climb down, concede, reconsider; backtrack, back-pedal.

■ **back out of** renege on, go back on, withdraw from, pull out of, retreat from, fail to honour, abandon, default on, repudiate, back-pedal on.

■ **back something up** substantiate, corroborate, confirm, support, bear out, endorse, bolster, reinforce, lend weight to.

■ **back someone up** support, stand by, give one's support to, side with, be on someone's side, take someone's side, take someone's part; vouch for.

## WORD LINKS

dorsal, lumbar relating to the back  
supine lying on one's back

**backbiting** noun *malicious talk, spiteful talk, slander, libel, defamation, abuse, character assassination, disparagement, denigration; slurs, aspersions; informal bitching, bitchiness, cattiness, mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; Brit. informal slagging off, rubbishing.*

**backbone** noun **1** *an injured backbone:* spine, spinal column, vertebral column, vertebrae; back; Anatomy dorsum, rachis. **2** *infantry are the backbone of most armies:* mainstay, cornerstone, foundation, keystone, buttress, pillar. **3** *he has enough backbone to see us through:* strength of character, strength of will, firmness of



purpose, firmness, resolution, resolve, grit, determination, fortitude, mettle, spirit; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle.

**back-breaking** adjective gruelling, arduous, strenuous, onerous, punishing, crushing, demanding, exacting, taxing, exhausting, draining; informal killing; Brit. informal knacker; old use toilsome.

– OPPOSITES easy.

**backchat** noun (Brit. informal) impudence, impertinence, cheek, cheekiness, effrontery, insolence, rudeness, rude retorts; answering back, talking back; informal mouth, lip; N. Amer. informal sass, smart mouth, back talk; rare contumely.

**backer** noun 1 £3 million was provided by the project's backers: **sponsor**, investor, underwriter, financier, patron, benefactor, benefactress; informal angel. 2 the backers of the proposition: **supporter**, defender, advocate, promoter, proponent; seconder; N. Amer. booster.

**backfire** verb Bernard's plan backfired on him: **rebound**, boomerang, come back; fail, miscarry, go wrong; informal blow up in someone's face; old use redound on.

**background** noun 1 a background of palm trees: **backdrop**, backcloth, surrounding(s), setting, scene. 2 students from many different backgrounds: **social circumstances**, family circumstances; environment, class, culture, tradition; upbringing. 3 her nursing background: **experience**, record, history, past, training, education, grounding, knowledge. 4 the political background: **circumstances**, context, conditions, situation, environment, milieu, scene, scenario.

– OPPOSITES foreground.

■ in the background maybe there was a sugar daddy in the background: behind the scenes, out of the public eye, out of the spotlight, out of the limelight, backstage; inconspicuous, unobtrusive, unnoticed.

**backhanded** adjective ambiguous, indirect, oblique, equivocal; double-edged, two-edged; tongue-in-cheek.

– OPPOSITES direct.

**backing** noun 1 he has the backing of his colleagues: **support**, help, assistance, aid; approval, endorsement, sanction, blessing. 2 financial backing: **sponsorship**, funding, patronage; money, investment, funds, finance; grant, contribution, subsidy. 3 musical backing: **accompaniment**; harmony, obbligato.

**backlash** noun adverse reaction, adverse response, counterblast, comeback; retaliation, reprisal.

**backlog** noun accumulation, logjam, pile-up.

**back-pedal** verb the government has back-pedalled on its plans: **change one's mind**, go into reverse, backtrack, back down, climb down, do an about-face, do a U-turn, renege, go back on, back out of, fail to honour, withdraw, take back, default on; Brit. do an about-turn.

**backslide** verb many things can cause *slimmers to backslide*: **relapse**, lapse, regress, retrogress, weaken, lose one's resolve, give in to temptation, go astray, leave the straight and narrow.

– OPPOSITES persevere.

**backslider** noun recidivist, regressor; apostate, fallen angel.

**back-up** noun help, support, assistance, aid; reinforcements, reserves, additional resources.

**backward** adjective 1 a backward look: **rearward**, to/towards the rear, to/towards the back, behind one, reverse. 2 the decision was a backward step: **retrograde**, retrogressive, regressive, for the worse, in the wrong direction, downhill, negative.

3 an economically backward country: **underdeveloped**, undeveloped; primitive, benighted. 4 he was not backward in displaying his talents: **hesitant**, reticent, reluctant; shy, diffident, bashful, timid; unwilling, afraid, loath, averse.

– OPPOSITES forward, progressive, advanced, confident.

• **adverb** the car rolled slowly backward. See **BACKWARDS**.

**backwards** adverb 1 Penny glanced backwards: **towards the rear**, rearwards, backward, behind one. 2 count backwards from twenty to ten: **in reverse**, in reverse order.

– OPPOSITES forwards.

**backwash** noun 1 a ship's backwash: **wake**, wash, slipstream, backflow. 2 the backwash of the Cuban missile crisis: **repercussions**, reverberations, after-effects, aftermath, fallout.

**backwoods** plural noun the back of beyond, the wilds, the hinterlands, a backwater; N. Amer. the backcountry, the backland; informal the middle of nowhere, the sticks; N. Amer. informal the boondocks, the boonies; Austral./NZ informal beyond the black stump.

• **adjective** provincial, rural, hillbilly, country, primitive, crude, simple.

**bacteria** plural noun microorganisms, microbes, germs, bacilli, pathogens; informal bugs.

**bad** adjective 1 bad workmanship:

**substandard**, poor, inferior, second-rate, second-class, unsatisfactory, inadequate, unacceptable, not up to scratch, not up to par, deficient, imperfect, defective, faulty, shoddy, amateurish, careless, negligent, miserable, sorry; incompetent, inept, inexpert, ineffectual; informal crummy, rotten, pathetic, useless, woeful, bum, lousy, ropy, not up to snuff; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, pants. 2 the alcohol had a really bad effect on me: **harmful**, damaging, detrimental, injurious, hurtful, inimical, destructive, ruinous, negative; unhealthy, unwholesome; formal deleterious. 3 the bad guys: **wicked**, sinful, immoral, evil, morally wrong, corrupt, base, black-hearted, reprobate, amoral; criminal, villainous, nefarious, iniquitous, dishonest, dishonourable,

b

unscrupulous, unprincipled; informal crooked, bent, dirty; dated dastardly. **4** *you bad girl!* **naughty**, badly behaved, disobedient, wayward, wilful, self-willed, defiant, unruly, insubordinate, undisciplined. **5** *bad news:* **unpleasant**, disagreeable, unwelcome; unfortunate, unlucky, unfavourable; terrible, dreadful, awful, grim, distressing. **6** *a bad time to arrive:* **inauspicious**, unfavourable, inopportune, unpropitious, unfortunate, disadvantageous, adverse, inappropriate, unsuitable, untoward. **7** *a bad accident:* **severe**, serious, grave, critical, acute; formal grievous. **8** *the meat's bad:* **rotten**, off, decayed, decomposed, decomposing, putrid, putrefied, mouldy, mouldering; sour, rancid, rank, unfit for human consumption; addled. **9** *if you still feel bad, stay in bed.* See **ILL** adjective sense 1. **10** *a bad knee:* **injured**, wounded, diseased, sore; Brit. informal gammy, knackered; Austral./NZ informal crook. **11** *I felt bad about leaving them:* **guilty**, conscience-stricken, remorseful, guilt-ridden, ashamed, contrite, sorry, regretful, shamefaced, uncomfortable. **12** *a bad cheque:* **invalid**, worthless; counterfeit, fake, false, bogus, fraudulent; informal phoney, dud. **13** *bad language:* **offensive**, vulgar, crude, foul, obscene, rude, coarse, smutty, dirty, filthy, indecent, indecorous; blasphemous, profane.

– **OPPOSITES** good, beneficial, virtuous, well behaved, minor, slight, fresh, unrepentant.

**badge** **noun** **1** *a name badge:* pin, brooch; N. Amer. button. **2** *a badge of success:* **sign**, symbol, indication, signal, mark; hallmark, trademark.

**badger** **verb** **pester**, harass, bother, plague, torment, hound, nag, chivvy, harry, keep on at, go on at; informal hassle, bug.

**badinage** **noun** **banter**, repartee, witty conversation, raillery, wordplay, cut and thrust; witticisms, bons mots, ripostes, sallies, quips; N. Amer. informal josh.

**badly** **adverb** **1** *the job had been very badly done:* **poorly**, incompetently, ineptly, inexpertly, inefficiently, imperfectly, deficiently, defectively, unsatisfactorily, inadequately, incorrectly, faultily, shoddily, amateurishly, carelessly, negligently; informal crummily, pitifully, woefully. **2** *try not to think badly of me:* **unfavourably**, ill, critically, disapprovingly. **3** *stop behaving badly:* **naughtily**, disobediently, wilfully, reprehensibly, mischievously. **4** *he had been badly treated:* **cruelly**, wickedly, unkindly, harshly, shamefully; unfairly, unjustly, wrongly, improperly. **5** *it turned out badly:* **unsuccessfully**, unfavourably, adversely, unfortunately, unhappily, unluckily. **6** *some of the victims are badly hurt:* **severely**, seriously, gravely, acutely, critically; formal grievously. **7** *she badly needs help:* **desperately**, sorely, intensely, seriously, very much, greatly, exceedingly.

– **OPPOSITES** well, slightly.

**bad-tempered** **adjective** **irritable**, irascible, tetchy, testy, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, in a (bad) mood, cantankerous, curmudgeonly,

ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, having got out of bed on the wrong side, cross, as cross as two sticks, fractious, pettish, crabby; informal snappish, on a short fuse; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery; Austral./NZ informal snaky; informal, dated miffy.

– **OPPOSITES** good-humoured, affable.

**baffle** **verb** **perplex**, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, nonplus; informal flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox, be all Greek to, floor; N. Amer. informal discombobulate, buffalo.

– **OPPOSITES** enlighten.

**baffling** **adjective** **puzzling**, bewildering, perplexing, mystifying, bemusing, confusing, unclear; inexplicable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, cryptic, opaque.

– **OPPOSITES** clear, comprehensible.

**bag** **noun** **1** *I dug around in my bag for my lipstick:* **handbag**, shoulder bag, clutch bag, evening bag, pochette; N. Amer. pocketbook, purse; historical reticule, scrip. **2** *she began to unpack her bags:* **suitcase**, case, valise, portmanteau, holdall, grip, overnighter; backpack, rucksack, knapsack, haversack, kitbag, duffel bag; satchel; (**bags**) luggage, baggage.

• **verb** **1** *locals bagged the most fish:* **catch**, land, capture, trap, snare, ensnare; kill, shoot. **2** *he bagged seven medals:* **get**, secure, obtain, acquire, pick up; win, achieve, attain; commandeer, grab, appropriate, take; informal get one's hands on, land, net.

**baggage** **noun** **luggage**, suitcases, cases, bags.

**baggy** **adjective** **loose-fitting**, loose, roomy, generously cut, full, ample, voluminous, billowing; oversized, shapeless, ill-fitting, tent-like, sack-like.

– **OPPOSITES** tight.

**bail** **noun** *he was released on bail:* **surety**, security, assurance, indemnity, indemnification; bond, guarantee, pledge; old use gage.

■ **bail someone/something out** **rescue**, save, relieve; finance, help (out), assist, aid; informal save someone's bacon/neck/skin.

**bait** **noun** **1** *the fish let go of the bait:* **lure**, worm, fly, troll, jig, plug. **2** *was she the bait to lure him into a trap?* **enticement**, lure, decoy, snare, trap, siren, carrot, attraction, draw, magnet, incentive, temptation, inducement; informal come-on.

• **verb** *he was baited at school:* **taunt**, tease, goad, pick on, torment, persecute, plague, harry, harass, hound; informal needle; Brit. informal wind up, nark.

**bake** **verb** **1** *bake the fish for 15–20 minutes:* **cook**, oven-bake, roast, dry-roast, pot-roast; rare oven. **2** *the earth was baked by the sun:* **scorch**, burn, sear, parch, dry (up), desiccate; N. Amer. broil.

**balance** **noun** **1** *I tripped and lost my balance:* **stability**, equilibrium, steadiness, footing. **2** *political balance in broadcasting:* **fairness**, justice, impartiality,

egalitarianism, even-handedness; parity, equity, equilibrium, equipoise, evenness, symmetry, correspondence, uniformity, equality, equivalence, comparability. **3** *this stylistic development provides a balance to the rest of the work*: **counterbalance**, counterweight, stabilizer, compensation.

**4** *we need to maintain the proper balance of nutrients in the soil*: **proportion(s)**, ratio, combination, mix, mixture; interaction, relationship. **5** *the balance of the rent: remainder*, outstanding amount, rest, residue, difference, remaining part.

– OPPOSITES instability.

• **verb 1** *she balanced the book on her head: steady*, stabilize, poise, level. **2** *he balanced his radical remarks with more familiar declarations*: **counterbalance**, balance out, offset, even out/up, counteract, compensate for, make up for. **3** *she manages to balance work and family life: combine*, mix, offset, even out/up; juggle. **4** *their income and expenditure do not balance: correspond*, agree, tally, match up, concur, coincide, be in agreement, be consistent, equate, be equal. **5** *you need to balance cost against benefit: weigh*, weigh up, compare, evaluate, consider, assess, appraise, judge.

■ **in the balance** uncertain, undetermined, unsettled, unresolved, unsure, pending, in limbo, up in the air, at a turning point, critical, at a critical stage, at a crisis.

■ **on balance** overall, all in all, all things considered, taking everything into consideration/account, by and large, on average.

**balanced** adjective **1** *a balanced view: fair*, equitable, just, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, impartial, dispassionate. **2** *a balanced diet: mixed*, varied; healthy, sensible. **3** *a balanced individual: level-headed*, well balanced, well adjusted, mature, stable, sensible, practical, realistic, with both feet on the ground, pragmatic, reasonable, rational, sane, even-tempered, commonsensical; informal together.

– OPPOSITES partial, unhealthy, neurotic.

**balcony** noun **1** *the balcony of the villa: veranda, loggia, terrace, patio*. **2** *the applause from the balcony: gallery*, upper circle; informal the gods.

**bald** adjective **1** *a bald head: hairless*, smooth, shaven, depilated; bald-headed. **2** *a bald patch on the front tyre: bare*, worn, smooth. **3** *a bald statement: plain*, simple, unadorned, unvarnished, unembellished, undisguised, unveiled, stark, severe, austere, brutal, harsh; blunt, direct, forthright, plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, candid, honest, truthful, realistic, frank, outspoken; informal upfront.

– OPPOSITES hairy, vague.

**balderdash** noun. See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**baldness** noun **hair loss**, hairlessness; Medicine alopecia.

**bale**<sup>1</sup> noun *a bale of cotton: bundle*, truss, bunch, pack, package, parcel.

**bale**<sup>2</sup> verb

■ **bale out**. See **BAIL**.

**baleful** adjective **menacing**, threatening, unfriendly, hostile, antagonistic, evil, evil-intentioned, vindictive, malevolent, malicious, malignant, malign, sinister; harmful, injurious, dangerous, noxious, pernicious, deadly, venomous, poisonous; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES benevolent, friendly.

**balk** verb. See **BAULK**.

**ball**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a ball of dough* | *a cricket ball: sphere, globe, orb, globule, spherule, spheroid, ovoid*. **2** *a musket ball: bullet, pellet, slug, projectile*.

**ball**<sup>2</sup> noun *a fancy-dress ball: dance*, dinner dance, masked ball, masquerade; N. Amer. hoedown, prom; informal hop, disco, bop.

**ballad** noun **song**, folk song, shanty, ditty, canzone; poem, tale, saga.

**balloon** noun **hot-air balloon**, barrage balloon; airship, dirigible, Zeppelin; envelope, gasbag; informal blimp.

• **verb 1** *her long skirt ballooned in the wind: swell (out)*, puff out/up, bulge (out), bag, belly (out), fill (out), billow (out). **2** *the company's debt has ballooned: increase rapidly*, soar, rocket, shoot up, escalate, mount, surge, spiral; informal go through the roof, skyrocket.

**ballot** noun **vote**, poll, election, referendum, plebiscite, show of hands.

**ballyhoo** noun (informal) **publicity**, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, push, puffery, build-up, boosting; fuss, excitement; informal hype, spiel, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, splash.

**balm** noun **1** *a skin balm: ointment*, lotion, cream, salve, liniment, embrocation, rub, gel, emollient, unguent, balsam, moisturizer; dated pomade; technical demulcent, humectant; old use unction. **2** *balm for troubled spirits: relief*, comfort, ease, succour, consolation, cheer, solace; literary easement.

– OPPOSITES astringent, misery.

**balmy** adjective **mild**, gentle, temperate, summery, calm, tranquil, clement, fine, pleasant, benign, soothing, soft.

– OPPOSITES harsh, wintry.

**bamboozle** verb (informal). See **TRICK** verb.

**ban** verb **1** *smoking was banned: prohibit*, forbid, veto, proscribe, disallow, outlaw, make illegal, embargo, bar, debar, block, stop, suppress, interdict; Law enjoin, restrain.

**2** *Gary was banned from the playground: exclude*, banish, expel, eject, evict, drive out, force out, oust, remove, get rid of; informal boot out, kick out; Brit. informal turf out.

– OPPOSITES permit, admit.

• **noun 1** *a ban on smoking: prohibition*, veto, proscription, embargo, bar, suppression, stoppage, interdict, interdiction, moratorium, injunction. **2** *a ban from international football: exclusion*, banishment, expulsion, ejection, eviction, removal.

– OPPOSITES permission, admission.



## b

**banal** adjective trite, hackneyed, clichéd, platitudinous, vapid, commonplace, ordinary, common, stock, conventional, stereotyped, overused, overdone, overworked, stale, worn out, time-worn, tired, threadbare, hoary, hack, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninteresting, dull; informal old hat, corny, played out; N. Amer. informal cornball, dime-store.

— OPPOSITES original.

**banality** noun **1** *the banality of most sitcoms:* triteness, platitudinousness, vapidity, staleness, unimaginativeness, lack of originality, prosaicness, dullness; informal corniness. **2** *they exchanged banalities:* platitude, cliché, truism, commonplace, old chestnut, bromide.

— OPPOSITES originality, epigram, witticism.

**band**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a band round her waist:* belt, sash, girdle, strap, tape, ring, hoop, loop, circlet, circle, cord, tie, string, thong, ribbon, fillet, strip; literary cincture. **2** *the green band round his pullover:* stripe, strip, streak, line, bar, belt, swathe; technical stria, striation.

**band**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *a band of robbers:* group, gang, mob, pack, troop, troupe, company, party, crew, body, working party, posse; team, side, line-up; association, society, club, circle, fellowship, partnership, guild, lodge, order, fraternity, confraternity, sodality, brotherhood, sisterhood, sorority, union, alliance, affiliation, institution, league, federation, clique, set, coterie; informal bunch. **2** *the band played on: (musical) group*, pop group, ensemble, orchestra; informal combo. • verb *local people banded together:* join (up), team up, join forces, pool resources, club together, get together; amalgamate, unite, form an alliance, form an association, affiliate, federate.

— OPPOSITES split up.

**bandage** noun *she had a bandage on her foot:* dressing, covering, gauze, compress, plaster, tourniquet; trademark Elastoplast, Band-Aid. • verb *she bandaged my knee:* bind, bind up, dress, cover, wrap, swaddle, strap (up).

**bandit** noun *they were robbed by bandits:* robber, thief, raider, mugger; freebooter, outlaw, hijacker, looter, marauder, gangster; dated desperado; literary brigand; historical rustler, highwayman, footpad, reaver; Scottish historical mossrooper.

**bandy**<sup>1</sup> adjective *bandy legs:* bowed, curved, bent; bow-legged, bandy-legged.

— OPPOSITES straight.

**bandy**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *lots of figures were bandied about:* spread (about/around), put about, toss about, discuss, rumour, mention, repeat; literary bruit about/abroad. **2** *I'm not going to bandy words with you:* exchange, swap, trade.

**bane** noun scourge, plague, curse, blight, pest, nuisance, headache, nightmare, trial, hardship, cross to bear, burden, thorn in one's flesh/side, bitter pill, affliction, trouble, misery, woe, tribulation, misfortune; informal pain.

**bang** noun **1** *the door slammed with a bang:*

thud, thump, bump, crack, crash, smack, boom, clang, clap, knock, tap, clunk, clonk; stamp, stomp, clump, clomp; report, explosion, detonation; informal wham, whump, whomp. **2** *a nasty bang on the head:* blow, knock, thump, bump, hit, smack, crack; informal bash, whack, thwack.

• verb **1** *he banged the table with his fist:* hit, strike, beat, thump, hammer, knock, rap, pound, thud, punch, bump, smack, crack, slap, slam, welt, cuff, pummel, buffet; informal bash, whack, thwack, clobber, clout, clip, wallop, belt, biff, bop, sock, lam, whomp; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, bust, slug, whale. **2** *fireworks banged in the air:* go bang, thud, thump, boom, clap, pound, crack, crash, explode, detonate, burst, blow up.

• adverb (informal) **1** *bang in the middle of town* | *bang on time:* precisely, exactly, right, directly, immediately, squarely, dead; promptly, prompt, dead on, on the stroke of —, on the dot of —; sharp, on the dot; informal smack, slap, slap bang, plumb; N. Amer. informal on the button, on the nose, smack dab, spang. **2** *bang up to date:* completely, absolutely, totally, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, in all respects, utterly, perfectly, quite, altogether, one hundred per cent.

**bangle** noun bracelet, wristlet, anklet, armlet.

**banish** verb **1** *he was banished for his crime:* exile, expel, deport, eject, expatriate, extradite, repatriate, transport; cast out, oust, evict, throw out, exclude, shut out, ban. **2** *he tried to banish his fear:* dispel, dismiss, disperse, scatter, dissipate, drive away, chase away, shut out, quell, allay.

— OPPOSITES admit, engender.

**banister** noun handrail, railing, rail; baluster; balustrade.

**bank**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the banks of Lake Michigan:* edge, side, embankment, levee, border, verge, boundary, margin, rim, fringe; literary marge, bourn, skirt. **2** *a grassy bank:* slope, rise, incline, gradient, ramp; mound, ridge, hillock, hummock, knoll; bar, reef, shoal, shelf; accumulation, pile, heap, mass, drift. **3** *a bank of switches:* array, row, line, tier, group, series.

• verb **1** *they banked up the earth:* pile (up), heap (up), stack (up); accumulate, amass, assemble, put together. **2** *the aircraft banked:* tilt, lean, tip, slant, incline, angle, slope, list, camber, pitch, dip, cant.

## WORD LINKS

riparian, riverine relating to or found on a riverbank

**bank**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *money in the bank:* financial institution, merchant bank, savings bank, finance company, finance house; Brit. building society; N. Amer. savings and loan (association), thrift. **2** *a blood bank:* store, reserve, accumulation, stock, stockpile, supply, pool, fund, cache, hoard, deposit; storehouse, reservoir, repository, depository, archive.

• verb **1** *he banked the money:* deposit, pay in.

■ **bank on** rely on, depend on, count on, bargain on, plan on, reckon on, calculate on; anticipate, expect; be confident of, be sure of, pin one's hopes/faith on; N. Amer. informal figure on.

**banknote** noun **note**; N. Amer. bill; US informal greenback; US & historical Treasury note; (**banknotes**) paper money.

**bankrupt** adjective **1** *the company was declared bankrupt: insolvent, failed, ruined, in debt, owing money, in the red, in arrears; Brit. in administration, in receivership; informal bust, belly up, gone to the wall, broke, flat broke; informal, dated smashed; Brit. informal skint, stony broke, in Queer Street; Brit. informal, dated in Carey Street.* **2** *this government is bankrupt of ideas: bereft, devoid, empty, destitute; completely lacking, without, in need of, wanting; informal minus, sans.*

– **OPPOSITES** solvent.  
• **verb** *the strike nearly bankrupted the union: ruin, impoverish, bring someone to their knees, wipe out, break, pauperize; rare beggar.*

**bankruptcy** noun *many companies were facing bankruptcy: insolvency, liquidation, failure, (financial) ruin; Brit. administration, receivership.*  
– **OPPOSITES** solvency.

**banner** noun **1** *students waved banners: placard, sign, poster, notice.* **2** *banners fluttered above the troops: flag, standard, ensign, colour(s), pennant, banderole, guidon; Brit. pendant; Nautical burgee.*

**banquet** noun **feast**, dinner; informal spread, blowout; Brit. informal nosh-up, slap-up meal; Brit. informal, dated tuck-in.

– **OPPOSITES** snack.

**banter** noun *a brief exchange of harmless banter: repartee, conversation, raillery, wordplay, cut and thrust, badinage; N. Amer. informal josh.*

• **verb** *sightseers were bantering with the guards: joke, jest, quip; informal josh, wisecrack.*

**baptism** noun **1** *the baptism ceremony: christening, naming; rare lustration.* **2** *his baptism as a politician: initiation, debut, introduction, inauguration, launch, rite of passage.*

**baptize** verb **1** *he was baptized as a baby: christen; rare lustrate.* **2** *they were baptized into the church: admit, initiate, enrol, recruit, convert.* **3** *he was baptized Enoch: name, give the name, call, dub; formal denominate.*

**bar** noun **1** *an iron bar: rod, pole, stick, batten, shaft, rail, paling, spar, strut, crosspiece, beam.* **2** *a bar of chocolate: block, slab, cake, tablet, brick, loaf, wedge, ingot.* **3** *your drinks are on the bar: counter, table, buffet, stand.* **4** *she had a drink in a bar: hostelry, tavern, inn, taproom; Brit. pub, public house; informal watering hole; Brit. informal local, boozer; dated alehouse; N. Amer. historical saloon.* **5** *a bar to promotion: obstacle, impediment, hindrance, obstruction, block, hurdle,*

*barrier, stumbling block.* **6** (Brit.) *members of the Bar: barristers, advocates, counsel.* **7** *the bar across the river mouth: sandbank, shoal, shallow, reef.*

– **OPPOSITES** aid.

• **verb** **1** *they have barred the door: bolt, lock, fasten, secure, block, barricade, obstruct.* **2** *I was barred from entering: prohibit, debar, preclude, forbid, ban, interdict, inhibit; exclude, keep out; obstruct, hinder, block; Law enjoin.*

– **OPPOSITES** open, admit.

• **preposition** *everyone bar me.* See **EXCEPT** preposition.

**barb** noun **1** *the hook has a nasty barb: spike, prong, spur, thorn, needle, prickle, spine, quill.* **2** *the barbs from his critics: insult, sneer, jibe, cutting remark, shaft, slight, brickbat, slur, jeer, taunt; (barbs) abuse, disparagement, scoffing, scorn, sarcasm, goading; informal dig, put-down.*

**barbarian** noun **savage**, animal, brute, beast; ruffian, thug, lout, vandal, hoodlum, hooligan; informal roughneck; Brit. informal yobbo, yob, lager lout.

• **adjective** **savage**, uncivilized, barbaric, primitive, heathen, wild, brutish, Neanderthal.

– **OPPOSITES** civilized.

**barbaric** adjective **1** *barbaric crimes: brutal, barbarous, brutish, bestial, savage, vicious, wicked, cruel, ruthless, merciless, villainous, murderous, heinous, monstrous, vile, inhuman, infernal, dark, fiendish, diabolical.* **2** *barbaric cultures: savage, barbarian, primitive, heathen, wild, brutish, Neanderthal.*

– **OPPOSITES** civilized.

**barbarity** noun **1** *the barbarity of slavery: brutality, brutalism, cruelty, bestiality, barbarism, barbarousness, savagery, viciousness, wickedness, villainy, baseness, inhumanity.* **2** *the barbarities of the last war: atrocity, act of brutality, act of savagery, crime, outrage, enormity.*

– **OPPOSITES** benevolence.

**barbarous** adjective. See **BARBARIC** sense 1.

**barbecue** noun N. Amer. cookout; informal barbie, BBQ.

• **verb** grill, spit-roast; N. Amer. broil, charbroil.

**barbed** adjective **hurtful**, wounding, cutting, stinging, mean, spiteful, nasty, cruel, vicious, unkind, snide, scathing, pointed, bitter, acid, caustic, sharp, vitriolic, venomous, poisonous, hostile, malicious, malevolent, vindictive; informal bitchy, catty.

– **OPPOSITES** kindly.

**bard** noun (literary). See **POET**.

**bare** adjective **1** *he was bare to the waist: naked, unclothed, undressed, uncovered, stripped, with nothing on, nude, in the nude, stark naked; informal without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the altogether, in the buff; Brit. informal starkers; Scottish informal in the scud; N. Amer. informal buck naked.* **2** *a bare room: empty, unfurnished,*

cleared; stark, austere, spartan, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, plain.

**3 a cupboard bare of food:** empty, devoid, bereft; without, lacking, wanting, free from.

**4 a bare landscape:** barren, bleak, exposed, desolate, stark, arid, desert, lunar; treeless, deforested. **5 the bare facts:** basic, essential, fundamental, plain, straightforward, simple, pure, stark, bald, cold, hard, brutal, harsh. **6 a bare minimum:** mere, no more than, simple; slim, slight, slender, paltry, minimum.

– OPPOSITES clothed, furnished, embellished, lush.

• **verb** he bared his arm: uncover, strip, lay bare, undress, uncover, denude, expose.

– OPPOSITES cover.

**barefaced** adjective **flagrant**, blatant, glaring, obvious, undisguised, unconcealed, naked; shameless, unabashed, unashamed, impudent, audacious, unblushing, brazen, brass-necked.

**barely** adverb **hardly**, scarcely, just, only just, narrowly, by the skin of one's teeth, by a hair's breadth; almost not; informal by a whisker.

– OPPOSITES easily.

**bargain** noun **1** I'll make a bargain with you: agreement, arrangement, understanding, deal; contract, pact, compact; pledge, promise. **2** this binder is a bargain at £1.98: (good) value for money, good buy; informal snip, steal, giveaway.

– OPPOSITES rip-off.

• **verb** they bargained over the contract: haggle, negotiate, discuss terms, hold talks, deal, barter, dicker; formal treat.

■ **bargain for/on** expect, anticipate, be prepared for, allow for, plan for, reckon with, take into account/consideration, contemplate, imagine, envisage, foresee, predict; count on, rely on, depend on, bank on, plan on, reckon on; N. Amer. informal figure on.

■ **into the bargain** also, as well, in addition, additionally, besides, on top (of that), over and above that, to boot, for good measure; N. Amer. in the bargain.

**barge** noun lighter, canal boat; Brit. narrowboat, wherry; N. Amer. scow.

• **verb** he barged us out of the way: push, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, jostle, bulldoze, muscle.

■ **barge in** burst in, break in, butt in, cut in, interrupt, intrude, encroach; gatecrash; informal horn in.

**bark**<sup>1</sup> noun the bark of a dog: woof, yap, yelp, bay.

• **verb** 1 the dog barked: woof, yap, yelp, bay.

**2** 'Okay, outside!' he barked: shout, snap, cry, yell, roar, bellow, bawl, thunder; informal holler.

– OPPOSITES whisper.

**bark**<sup>2</sup> noun the bark of a tree: rind, skin, peel, covering; integument; cork; technical cortex.

• **verb** he barked his shin: scrape, graze, scratch, abrade, scuff, rasp, skin.

#### WORD LINKS

corticate relating to bark

decorticate remove the bark from

**barmy** adjective (Brit. informal). See **MAD**.

**bar** noun **outbuilding**, shed, outhouse, shelter; stable, stall; Brit. byre; old use grange, garner.

**baron** noun **1** he was created a baron: lord, noble, nobleman, aristocrat, peer. **2** a press baron: magnate, tycoon, mogul, captain of industry, nabob, mandarin.

**baroque** adjective **1** the baroque exuberance of his printed silk shirts: ornate, fancy, over-elaborate, extravagant, rococo, fussy, busy, ostentatious, showy. **2** baroque prose: flowery, florid, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund, overblown, convoluted, pleonastic; informal highfalutin, purple; rare fustian.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**barrack** verb (Brit. & Austral./NZ) jeer, heckle, shout at/down; interrupt, boo, hiss.

– OPPOSITES applaud.

**barracks** plural noun garrison, camp, encampment, depot, billet, quarters, fort, cantonment.

**barrage** noun **1** an artillery barrage:

bombardment, cannonade; gunfire, shelling; salvo, volley, fusillade; historical broadside.

**2** a barrage of criticism: deluge, stream, storm, torrent, onslaught, flood, spate, tide, avalanche, hail, blaze; abundance, mass, profusion. **3** a barrage across the river: dam, barrier, weir, dyke, embankment, wall.

**barrel** noun cask, keg, butt, vat, tun, drum, hogshead, kilderkin, pin, pipe; historical firkin.

#### WORD LINKS

cooper a maker of barrels

spigot, spile a small plug for the vent of a barrel

stave a plank from which barrels are made

**barren** adjective **1** barren land: unproductive, infertile, unfruitful, sterile, arid, desert, empty, bleak, lifeless. **2** (old use) a barren woman: infertile, sterile, childless; technical infecund. **3** a barren exchange of courtesies: pointless, futile, worthless, profitless, valueless, unrewarding, purposeless, useless, vain, aimless, hollow, empty.

– OPPOSITES fertile.

**barricade** noun a barricade across the street: barrier, roadblock, blockade; obstacle, obstruction.

• **verb** they barricaded the building: seal (up), close up, block off, shut off/up; defend, protect, fortify, occupy.

**barrier** noun **1** the barrier across the entrance: fence, railing, barricade, hurdle, bar, blockade, roadblock. **2** a barrier to international trade: obstacle, obstruction, hurdle, stumbling block, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, curb.

**barring** preposition except for, with the exception of, excepting, if there is/are no,



bar, discounting, short of, apart from, but for, other than, aside from, excluding, omitting, leaving out, save for, saving; informal outside of.

**barrister** noun **counsel**, Queen's Counsel, QC, lawyer; Scottish advocate; N. Amer. attorney, counselor(-at-law); informal brief; (**barristers**) Brit. the Bar.

**barter** verb **1** *they bartered grain for salt: trade, swap, exchange, sell.* **2** *you can barter for souvenirs: haggle, bargain, negotiate, discuss terms, deal, dicker; formal treat.*  
 • noun *an economy based on barter: trading, trade, exchange, business, commerce, buying and selling, dealing.*

**base**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the base of the tower: foundation, bottom, foot, support, stand, pedestal, plinth.* **2** *the system uses existing technology as its base: basis, foundation, bedrock, starting point, source, origin, root(s), core, key component, heart, backbone.* **3** *the troops returned to their base: headquarters, camp, site, station, settlement, post, centre, starting point.*

– OPPOSITES top.

• verb **1** *he based his idea on a movie: found, build, construct, form, ground, root; (be based on) derive from, spring from, stem from, originate in, have its origin in, issue from.* **2** *the company was based in London: locate, situate, position, install, station, site, establish, garrison.*

**base**<sup>2</sup> adjective *base motives: sordid, ignoble, low, low-minded, mean, immoral, improper, unseemly, unscrupulous, unprincipled, dishonest, dishonourable, shameful, bad, wrong, evil, wicked, iniquitous, sinful.*

– OPPOSITES noble.

**baseless** adjective *baseless accusations: groundless, unfounded, ill-founded, without foundation; unsubstantiated, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated, unconfirmed, unverified, unattested; unjustified, unwarranted; speculative, conjectural; unsound, unreliable, spurious, specious, trumped up, fabricated, untrue.*

– OPPOSITES valid.

**basement** noun **cellar**, vault, crypt, undercroft; Brit. lower ground floor; Scottish dunny.

**bash** (informal) verb **1** *she bashed him with her stick: strike, hit, beat, thump, slap, smack, clip, bang, knock, batter, pound, pummel; informal wallop, clout, belt, whack, thwack, clobber, bop, biff, sock; old use smite.* **2** *they bashed into one another: crash, run, bang, smash, slam, cannon, knock, bump; collide with, hit, meet head-on.*

• noun **1** *a bash on the head: blow, rap, hit, knock, bang, slap, crack, thump, tap, clip; informal wallop, clout, belt, whack, thwack, bop, biff, sock.* **2** *Harry's birthday bash.* See **PARTY** noun sense 1. **3** (Brit.) *I'll have a bash at it.* See **ATTEMPT**.

**bashful** adjective *shy, reserved, diffident, inhibited, retiring, reticent, reluctant, shrinking; hesitant, timid, apprehensive, nervous, wary.*

– OPPOSITES bold, confident.

**basic** adjective **1** *basic human rights:*

**fundamental**, essential, primary, principal, cardinal, elementary, elemental, quintessential, intrinsic, central, pivotal, critical, key, focal; vital, necessary, indispensable. **2** *basic cooking facilities: plain, simple, unsophisticated, straightforward, adequate; unadorned, undecorated, unornamented, without frills; spartan, stark, severe, austere, limited, meagre, rudimentary, patchy, sketchy, minimal; unfussy, homely, homespun; rough (and ready), crude, makeshift; informal bog-standard.*

– OPPOSITES secondary, unimportant, elaborate.

**basically** adverb **fundamentally**, essentially, in essence; firstly, first of all, first and foremost, primarily; at heart, at bottom, au fond; principally, chiefly, above all, most of all, mostly, mainly, on the whole, by and large, substantially; intrinsically, inherently; informal at the end of the day, when all is said and done.

**basics** plural noun **fundamentals**, essentials, rudiments, (first) principles, foundations, preliminaries, groundwork; essence, basis, core; informal nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts, ABC.

**basin** noun **1** *she poured water into the basin: bowl, dish, pan.* **2** *a basin among low hills: valley, hollow, dip, depression.*

**basis** noun **1** *the basis of his method: foundation, support, base; reasoning, rationale, defence; reason, grounds, justification, motivation.* **2** *the basis of discussion: starting point, base, point of departure, beginning, premise, fundamental point/principle, principal constituent, main ingredient, cornerstone, core, heart, thrust, essence, kernel, nub.* **3** *on a part-time basis: footing, condition, status, position; arrangement, system, method.*

**bask** verb **1** *I basked in the sun: laze, lie, lounge, relax, sprawl, lol; sunbathe, sun oneself.* **2** *she's basking in all the glory: revel, delight, luxuriate, wallow, take pleasure, rejoice, glory, indulge oneself; enjoy, relish, savour, lap up.*

**basket** noun **wickerwork box**, hamper, creel, pannier, punnet, trug.

**bass** adjective **low**, deep, low-pitched, resonant, sonorous, rumbling, booming, resounding; baritone.

– OPPOSITES high.

**bastard** noun **1** (old use) *he had fathered a bastard: illegitimate child; dated love child; Brit. dated by-blow; old use natural child/son/daughter.* **2** (informal) *he's a real bastard.* See **SCOUNDREL**.

• adjective **1** (old use) *a bastard child: illegitimate, born out of wedlock; old use natural.* **2** *a bastard Darwinism: adulterated, alloyed, impure, inferior; hybrid, mongrel, patchwork.*

**bastardize** verb **adulterate**, corrupt, contaminate, weaken, dilute, taint, pollute,

debase, distort.

**bastion** noun **1** *the town wall and bastions:* projection, outwork, breastwork, barbican; Architecture bartizan. **2** *a bastion of respectability:* stronghold, bulwark, defender, support, supporter, guard, protection, protector, defence, prop, mainstay.

**batch** noun group, quantity, lot, bunch, mass, cluster, raft, set, collection, bundle, pack; consignment, shipment.

**bath** noun **1** *he lay soaking in the bath:* bathtub, tub, hot tub, whirlpool, sauna, steam bath, Turkish bath; trademark jacuzzi. **2** *she had a quick bath:* wash, soak, dip; shower.

**bathe** verb **1** *she bathed and dressed.* See **BATH** verb. **2** *I bathed in the local swimming pool:* swim, go swimming, take a dip. **3** *they bathed his wounds:* clean, wash, rinse, wet, soak, immerse. **4** *the room was bathed in light:* suffuse, permeate, pervade, envelop, flood, cover, wash, fill.  
• noun *we had a bathe:* swim, dip, paddle.

**bathing costume** (Brit.) noun swimsuit, bathing suit; swimming trunks, bikini; swimwear; Brit. swimming costume; informal cossie; Austral./NZ informal bathers.

**bathos** noun anticlimax, let-down, disappointment, disillusionment; absurdity; informal comedown.

**baton** noun **1** *the conductor's baton:* stick, rod, staff, wand. **2** *police batons:* truncheon, club, cudgel, bludgeon, stick, mace, shillelagh; N. Amer. nightstick, blackjack; Brit. informal cosh.

**battalion** noun **1** *an infantry battalion:* regiment, brigade, force, division, squadron, squad, company, section, detachment, contingent, legion, corps, cohort. **2** *a battalion of supporters.* See **CROWD** noun sense 1.

**batten** noun *a timber batten:* bar, bolt, rail, shaft; board, strip.  
• verb *Stephen was battening down the shutters:* fasten, fix, secure, clamp, lash, make fast, nail, seal.

**batter** verb pummel, pound, hit repeatedly, rain blows on, buffet, belabour, thrash, beat up; informal knock about/around, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a good hiding, lay into, lace into, do over, rough up.

**battered** adjective damaged, shabby, run down, worn out, falling to pieces, falling apart, dilapidated, rickety, ramshackle, crumbling, the worse for wear, on its last legs.

**battery** noun **1** *a flat battery:* cell, accumulator. **2** *a gun battery:* emplacement, artillery unit; cannonry, ordnance. **3** *a battery of equipment:* array, set, bank, group, row, line, line-up, collection. **4** *a battery of tests:* series, sequence, cycle, string, succession. **5** *assault and battery:* violence, assault, mugging; Brit. grievous bodily harm, GBH, actual bodily harm, ABH.

**battle** noun **1** *he was killed in the battle:* fight,

armed conflict, clash, struggle, skirmish, engagement, fray, duel; war, campaign, crusade; fighting, warfare, combat, action, hostilities; informal scrap, dogfight, shoot-out. **2** *a legal battle:* conflict, clash, contest, competition, struggle; disagreement, argument, altercation, dispute, controversy.  
• verb **1** *conservation groups battled to save the house:* fight, struggle, strive, work, campaign, lobby; war, feud. **2** *the company was battling lawsuits alleging copyright infringement:* contest, combat, contend with, resist, withstand, stand up to, confront. **3** *Mark battled his way to the bar:* force, push, elbow, shoulder, fight; struggle, labour.

**battleaxe** noun **1** *a severe blow from a battleaxe:* poleaxe, axe, pike, halberd, tomahawk, war mattock. **2** (informal) *she's a real battleaxe.* See **HARRIDAN**.

**battle cry** noun *the battle cry of the feminist movement:* slogan, motto, watchword, catchphrase; mantra.

**battlefield** noun battleground, field of battle, field of operations, combat zone, theatre (of war), front.

**battlement** noun castellation, crenellation, parapet, rampart, wall.

**batty** adjective (informal). See **MAD** sense 1.

**bauble** noun trinket, knick-knack, ornament, frippery, gewgaw, gimcrack, bibelot; N. Amer. kickshaw; N. Amer. informal tchotchke.

**baulk** verb **1** *I baulk at paying that much:* be unwilling to, draw the line at, jib at, be reluctant to, hesitate over; eschew, resist, scruple to, refuse to, take exception to; draw back from, flinch from, shrink from, recoil from, demur from, not like to, hate to. **2** *they were baulked by traffic:* impede, obstruct, thwart, hinder, prevent, check, stop, curb, halt, bar, block, forestall, frustrate.

– OPPOSITES accept, assist.

**bawdy** adjective ribald, indecent, risqué, racy, rude, spicy, sexy, suggestive, titillating, naughty, improper, indelicate, indecorous, off colour, earthy, broad, locker-room, Rabelaisian; pornographic, obscene, vulgar, crude, coarse, gross, lewd, dirty, filthy, smutty, unseemly, salacious, prurient, lascivious, licentious, near the bone, near the knuckle; informal X-rated, blue, raunchy, nudge-nudge; euphemistic adult.

– OPPOSITES clean, innocent.

**bawl** verb **1** *'Come on!' he bawled:* shout, yell, roar, bellow, screech, scream, shriek, howl, whoop, bark, trumpet, thunder; informal yammer, holler. **2** *the children continued to bawl:* cry, sob, weep, shed tears, wail, whine, howl, squall, ululate; Scottish informal greet.

– OPPOSITES whisper.

**bay**<sup>1</sup> noun *ships were anchored in the bay:* cove, inlet, indentation, gulf, bight, basin, fjord, arm; natural harbour, anchorage.

**bay**<sup>2</sup> noun *there was a bay let into the wall:* alcove, recess, niche, nook, opening, hollow, cavity, inglenook; compartment.

**bay**<sup>3</sup> verb **1** *the hounds bayed:* howl, bark,

yelp, yap, cry, bellow, roar. **2** *the crowd bayed for an encore:* clamour, shout, call, press, yell, scream, shriek, roar; demand, insist on. ■ **at bay** at a distance, away, off, at arm's length.

**bayonet** noun *a man armed with a bayonet:* sword, knife, blade, spear, lance, pike, javelin; literary brand.

● **verb** *stragglers were bayoneted:* stab, spear, knife, gore, spike, stick, impale, run through, transfix, gash, slash.

**bazaar** noun **1** *a Turkish bazaar:* market, market place, souk, mart, exchange. **2** *the church bazaar:* fete, fair, carnival; fund-raiser, charity event; Brit. jumble sale, bring-and-buy sale, car boot sale; N. Amer. tag sale.

**be** verb **1** *there was once a king:* exist, have being, have existence; live, be alive, have life, breathe, draw breath, be extant. **2** *is there a cafe here?* **be present**, be around, be available, be near, be nearby, be at hand. **3** *the trial is tomorrow at half past one:* occur, happen, take place, come about, arise, crop up, transpire, fall, materialize, ensue; literary come to pass, befall, betide. **4** *the bed is over there:* **be situated**, be located, be found, be present, be set, be positioned, be placed, be installed. **5** *it has been like this for hours:* remain, stay, last, continue, survive, endure, persist, prevail; wait, linger, hold on, hang on; formal obtain. **6** *I'm at college:* attend, go to, be present at, take part in; frequent, haunt, patronize.

**beach** noun *a sandy beach:* seaside, seashore, shore, coast, coastline, coastal region, littoral, seaboard, foreshore, water's edge; sands, lido; dated plage; literary strand.

● **verb** **1** *they beached the boat:* land, ground, strand, run aground, run ashore. **2** *65 dolphins have been beached on Cornish shores this year:* ground, strand, maroon, wash up/ashore.

**beachcomber** noun scavenger, forager, collector; informal scrounger.

**beached** adjective stranded, grounded, aground, ashore, marooned, high and dry, stuck.

**beacon** noun signal, light, flare, fire, bonfire; lighthouse, light-tower.

**bead** noun **1** *a string of beads:* ball, pellet, pill, globule, sphere, spheroid, oval, ovoid, orb, round; (beads) necklace, rosary, chaplet.

**2** *beads of sweat:* droplet, drop, blob, dot, dewdrop, teardrop.

**beak** noun **1** *a bird's beak:* bill, nib, mandible; Scottish & N. English neb. **2** (informal) *he blew his beak loudly.* See **nose** noun sense 1.

**beaker** noun cup, tumbler, glass, mug, drinking vessel.

**beam** noun **1** *an oak beam:* joist, lintel, rafter, purlin; spar, girder, baulk, timber, plank; support, strut; scantling, transom, stringer.

**2** *a beam of light coming from the window:* ray, shaft, stream, streak, pencil, finger; flash, gleam, glow, glimmer, glint, flare.

**3** *the beam on her face:* grin, smile, happy expression.

— **OPPOSITES** frown.

● **verb** **1** *the signal is beamed out:* broadcast, transmit, relay, send/put out, disseminate; direct, aim. **2** *the sun beamed down:* shine, radiate, glare, gleam. **3** *he beamed broadly:* grin, smile, smirk; informal be all smiles.

— **OPPOSITES** frown.

■ **off beam** (informal) mistaken, incorrect, inaccurate, wrong, erroneous, off target, out, on the wrong track, wide of the mark, awry.

**bear<sup>1</sup>** verb **1** *she was bearing a box of cookies:* carry, bring, transport, move, convey, take, fetch, deliver; informal tote. **2** *the bag bore my name:* display, exhibit, be marked with, show, carry, have. **3** *will it bear his weight?* support, carry, hold, prop up. **4** *they can't bear the cost alone:* sustain, carry, support, shoulder, absorb, take on. **5** *she bore no grudge:* harbour, foster, entertain, cherish, nurse, nurture, brood over. **6** *such a solution does not bear close scrutiny:* withstand, stand up to, stand, put up with, take, cope with, handle, sustain, accept. **7** *I can't bear having him around:* endure, tolerate, put up with, stand, abide, submit to, experience, undergo, go through, countenance, brave, weather, stomach, support; Scottish thole; informal hack, swallow; Brit. informal stick, wear, be doing with; formal brook; old use suffer. **8** *she bore a son:* give birth to, bring forth, deliver, be delivered of, have, produce, spawn; N. Amer. birth; informal drop; literary beget. **9** *a shrub that bears yellow berries:* produce, yield, give forth, give, grow, provide, supply. **10** *bear left at the junction:* veer, curve, swerve, fork, diverge, deviate, turn, bend.

■ **bear oneself** conduct oneself, carry oneself, acquit oneself, act, behave, perform; formal comport oneself.

■ **bear down on** advance on, close in on, move in on, converge on.

■ **bear fruit** yield results, get results, succeed, meet with success, be successful, be effective, be profitable, work informal pay off, come off, do the trick, do the business.

■ **bear something in mind** take into account, take into consideration, remember, consider, be mindful, mind, mark, heed.

■ **bear on** be relevant to, appertain to, pertain to, relate to, have a bearing on, have relevance to, apply to, be pertinent to.

■ **bear something out** confirm, corroborate, substantiate, endorse, vindicate, give credence to, support, ratify, warrant, uphold, justify, prove, authenticate, verify.

■ **bear up** remain cheerful, grin and bear it; cope, manage, get by, muddle through; informal hack it.

■ **bear with** be patient with, show forbearance towards, make allowances for, tolerate, put up with, endure.

■ **bear witness/testimony to** testify to, be evidence of, be proof of, attest to, evidence, prove, vouch for; demonstrate, show, establish, indicate, reveal, bespeak.



**bear**<sup>2</sup> noun

**WORD LINKS**

ursine relating to bears

**bearable** adjective tolerable, endurable, supportable, sustainable.

**beard** noun *a black beard: facial hair*, whiskers, stubble, five o'clock shadow, bristles; goatee, imperial, Vandyke.  
 •verb *I bearded him when he was on his own: confront*, face, challenge, brave, come face to face with, meet head on; defy, oppose, stand up against, square up to, dare, throw down the gauntlet to.

**bearded** adjective unshaven, whiskered, whiskery, bewhiskered; stubbly, bristly.  
 – OPPOSITES clean-shaven.

**bearer** noun **1** *a lantern-bearer: carrier*, porter. **2** *the bearer of bad news: messenger*, agent, bringer, conveyor, carrier, emissary. **3** *the bearer of the documents: holder*, possessor, owner.

**bearing** noun **1** *a man of military bearing: posture*, stance, carriage, gait; Brit. deportment; formal comportment. **2** *a rather regal bearing: demeanour*, manner, air, aspect, attitude, behaviour, mien, style. **3** *this has no bearing on the matter: relevance*, pertinence, connection, appositeness, germaneness, importance, significance, application. **4** *a bearing of 015°: direction*, orientation, course, trajectory, heading, tack, path, line, run. **5** *he tormented her beyond bearing: endurance*, tolerance, toleration. **6** *I lost my bearings: orientation*, sense of direction; whereabouts, location, position.

**beast** noun **1** *the beasts of the forest: animal*, creature, brute; N. Amer. informal critter. **2** *he is a cruel beast: monster*, brute, savage, barbarian, animal, swine, pig, ogre, fiend, sadist, demon, devil.

**beastly** adjective (Brit. informal) **1** *politics is a beastly profession: awful*, horrible, rotten, nasty, foul, objectionable, unpleasant, disagreeable, offensive, vile, hateful, detestable; informal terrible, God-awful. **2** *he was beastly to her: unkind*, malicious, mean, nasty, unpleasant, unfriendly, spiteful, cruel, vicious, base, foul, malevolent, despicable, contemptible; informal horrid, rotten.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, kind.

**beat** verb **1** *they were beaten with truncheons: hit*, strike, batter, thump, bang, hammer, punch, knock, thrash, pound, pummel, slap, rain blows on; assault, attack, abuse; cudgel, club, birch; informal wallop, belt, bash, whack, thwack, clout, clobber, slug, tan, biff, bop, sock, deck, plug, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a good hiding. **2** *the waves beat all along the shore: break on/against*, dash against; lash, strike, lap, wash; splash, ripple, roll; literary plash, lave. **3** *the metal is beaten into a die: hammer*, forge, form, shape, mould, work, stamp, fashion, model. **4** *her heart was still beating: pulsate*, pulse, palpitate, vibrate, throb; pump, pound, thump, thud, hammer, drum; pitter-

patter, go pit-a-pat. **5** *the eagle beat its wings: flap*, flutter, thresh, thrash, wave, vibrate, oscillate. **6** *beat the cream into the mixture: whisk*, mix, blend, whip. **7** *she beat a path through the grass: tread*, tramp, trample, wear, flatten, press down. **8** *the team they need to beat: defeat*, conquer, win against, get the better of, vanquish, trounce, rout, overpower, overcome, subdue; informal lick, thrash, whip, wipe the floor with, clobber. **9** *he beat the record: surpass*, exceed, better, improve on, go one better than, eclipse, transcend, top, trump, cap.

•noun **1** *the song has a good beat: rhythm*, pulse, metre, time, measure, cadence; stress, accent. **2** *the beat of hooves: pounding*, banging, thumping, thudding, booming, hammering, battering, crashing. **3** *the beat of her heart: pulse*, pulsation, vibration, throb, palpitation, reverberation; pounding, thump, thud, hammering, drumming; pit-a-pat. **4** *a policeman on his beat: circuit*, round, route, way, path.

•adjective (informal) *phew, I'm beat!* See EXHAUSTED sense 1.

■beat it (informal). See RUN verb sense 2.

■beat someone/something off *repel*, fight off, fend off, stave off, repulse, drive away/back, force back, beat back, push back, put to flight.

■beat someone up *assault*, attack, mug, thrash; informal knock about/around, do over, work over, rough up, fill in, lay into, lace into, sail into, beat the living daylights out of, let someone have it; Brit. informal duff someone up; N. Amer. informal beat up on.

**beatific** adjective **1** *a beatific smile: rapturous*, joyful, ecstatic, seraphic, blissful, serene, happy, beaming. **2** *a beatific vision: blessed*, exalted, sublime, heavenly, holy, divine, celestial, paradisiacal, glorious.

**beatify** verb *canonize*, bless, sanctify, hallow, consecrate, make holy.

**beatitude** noun *blessedness*, benediction, grace; bliss, ecstasy, exaltation, supreme happiness, divine joy/rapture; saintliness, sainthood.

**beau** noun (dated) **1** *Sally and her beau: boyfriend*, sweetheart, lover, darling, partner, significant other, escort, young man, admirer, suitor. **2** *an eighteenth-century beau: dandy*, fop, man about town; informal, dated swell; dated popinjay; old use coxcomb.

**beautiful** adjective *attractive*, pretty, handsome, good-looking, alluring, prepossessing; lovely, charming, delightful, appealing, engaging, winsome; ravishing, gorgeous, stunning, arresting, glamorous, bewitching, beguiling; graceful, elegant, exquisite, aesthetic, artistic, decorative, magnificent; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal tasty, divine, knockout, drop-dead gorgeous, fanciable; Brit. informal smashing; N. Amer. informal cute, foxy; Austral./NZ informal beaut, spunky; literary beauteous; old use comely, fair.

– OPPOSITES ugly.

**beautify** verb *adorn*, embellish, enhance,

decorate, ornament, garnish, gild, smarten, prettify, enrich, glamorize, spruce up, deck (out), trick out, grace; informal get up, do up, do out, tart up.

— OPPOSITES spoil, uglify.

**beauty** noun 1 *the great beauty of the scenery* | *he was struck by her beauty*: attractiveness, prettiness, good looks, allure; loveliness, charm, appeal, heavenliness; winsomeness, grace, elegance, exquisiteness; splendour, magnificence, grandeur, impressiveness, decorativeness; gorgeousness, glamour; Scottish & N. English bonniness; literary beauteousness, pulchritude. 2 *she is a beauty: beautiful woman*, belle, vision, Venus, goddess, beauty queen, English rose, picture; informal looker, good-looker, lovely, stunner, knockout, bombshell, dish, cracker, peach, eye-ful, bit of all right; Brit. informal smasher. 3 *the beauty of this plan*: advantage, attraction, strength, benefit, boon, blessing, good thing, strong point, virtue, merit, selling point.

— OPPOSITES ugliness, drawback.

#### WORD LINKS

aesthetic concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty

**becalm** adjective motionless, still, at a standstill, at a halt, unmoving, stuck.

**because** conjunction since, as, in view of the fact that, owing to the fact that, seeing that; as; informal on account of; literary for.

— OPPOSITES despite.

■ **because of** on account of, as a result of, as a consequence of, owing to, due to; thanks to, by/in virtue of; formal by reason of.

**beckon** verb 1 *the guard beckoned to Benny*: gesture, signal, wave, gesticulate, motion. 2 *the countryside beckons you*: entice, invite, tempt, coax, lure, charm, attract, draw, call.

**become** verb 1 *she became rich*: grow, get, turn, come to be, get to be; literary wax. 2 *he became a tyrant*: turn into, change into, be transformed into, be converted into. 3 *he became Foreign Secretary*: be appointed (as), be assigned as, be nominated, be elected (as), be made. 4 *the dress becomes her*: suit, flatter, look good on; set off, show to advantage; informal do something for. 5 *it ill becomes him to preach the gospel*: befit, suit; formal behave.

■ **become of** happen to, be the fate of, be the lot of, overtake; literary befall, betide.

**becoming** adjective flattering, fetching; attractive, lovely, pretty, handsome; stylish, elegant, chic, fashionable, tasteful; old use comely.

**bed** noun 1 *she got into bed*: couch, cot, cradle, berth, billet; informal the sack, the hay; Brit. informal one's pit; Scottish informal one's kip. 2 *a flower bed*: patch, plot, border, strip. 3 *built on a bed of stones*: base, foundation, support, prop, substructure, substratum. 4 *a river bed*: bottom, floor, ground.

• verb 1 *the tiles are bedded in mortar*: embed, set, fix, insert, inlay, implant, bury, base,

plant, settle. 2 *time to bed out the seedlings*: plant (out), transplant.

■ **go to bed** retire, call it a day; go to sleep, take a nap, get some sleep; informal hit the sack, hit the hay, turn in, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal get some kip; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs.

**bedaub** verb (literary) smear, daub, bespatter, spatter, splatter, cover, coat; literary besmirch, begrime.

**bedclothes** plural noun bedding, sheets and blankets; bedlinen; bedcovers, covers.

**bedding** noun. See BEDCLOTHES.

**bedeck** verb decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish, furnish, garnish, trim, deck, grace, enrich, dress up, trick out; swathe, wreath, festoon; informal get up, do out; literary furbelaw.

**bedevil** verb afflict, torment, beset, assail, beleague, plague, blight, rack, oppress, harry, curse, dog; harass, distress, trouble, worry, torture.

**bedlam** noun uproar, pandemonium, commotion, mayhem, confusion, disorder, chaos, anarchy, lawlessness; furore, upheaval, hubbub, hurly-burly, turmoil, riot, ruckus, rumpus, tumult; informal hullabaloo, ructions, snafu.

— OPPOSITES calm.

**bedraggled** adjective dishevelled, disordered, untidy, unkempt, tousled, disarranged, in a mess; N. Amer. informal mussed.

— OPPOSITES neat, clean, dry.

**bedridden** adjective confined to bed, immobilized; informal laid up, flat on one's back.

**bedrock** noun *this fact is the bedrock of our authority*: core, basis, base, foundation, roots, heart, backbone, principle, essence, nitty-gritty; informal nuts and bolts.

**bedspread** noun bedcover, coverlet, quilt, throw-over, blanket; Brit. eiderdown; N. Amer. throw, spread, comforter; dated counterpane.

**bee** noun

#### WORD LINKS

apiary relating to bees

apiary a place where bees are kept

drone a male bee which does no work but can fertilize a queen

queen a reproductive female bee

worker a neuter bee who performs the basic work of a colony

honeycomb a wax structure made by bees

royal jelly a substance produced by honeybee workers

varroa a serious parasite of the honeybee

**beef** (informal) noun 1 *there's plenty of beef on him*: muscle, brawn, bulk; strength, power.

2 *his beef was about the cost*: complaint, criticism, objection, cavil, quibble, grievance, grumble, grouse; informal gripe, grouch, moan, whinge.

• verb *security was being beefed up*: toughen up, strengthen, build up, reinforce, consolidate, invigorate, improve.

**beefy** adjective (informal) muscular, brawny,

hefty, burly, hulking, strapping, well built, solid, strong, powerful, heavy, robust, sturdy; informal hunky, husky.

– OPPOSITES puny.

**beer** noun *ale*, brew; Brit. informal bitter, lager, wallop; Austral./NZ informal sherbet.

#### WORD LINKS

**hop** a plant whose dried flowers are used in brewing beer

**malt** grain used for brewing beer

**wort** a solution made from soaking malt, used in brewing beer

**tankard**, **stein** a large beer mug

**widget** a device used in some beer cans to give a creamy head

**beetle** verb (informal) *he beetled past*: scurry, scamper, scuttle, bustle, hurry, hasten, rush, dash; informal scoot, zip.

**beetling** adjective projecting, protruding, prominent, overhanging, sticking out, jutting out.

**befall** verb (literary) **1** *the same fate befell him*: happen to, overtake, come upon, be visited on. **2** *tell us what befell*: happen, occur, take place, come about, transpire, materialize; ensue, follow, result; N. Amer. informal go down; literary come to pass, betide; formal eventuate.

**befitting** adjective *he couldn't have chosen a more befitting slogan*: appropriate, apt, fit, suitable, suited, proper, right, in keeping, compatible, consistent; old use meet.

**befogged** adjective confused, muddled, fuddled, befuddled, groggy, dizzy, muzzy; informal dopey, woozy, not with it.

– OPPOSITES lucid.

**before** preposition **1** *he dressed up before going out*: prior to, previous to, earlier than, preparatory to, in preparation for, preliminary to, in anticipation of, in expectation of; in advance of, ahead of, leading up to, on the eve of; rare anterior to. **2** *he appeared before the judge*: in front of, in the presence of, in the sight of. **3** *death before dishonour*: in preference to, rather than, sooner than.

– OPPOSITES after.

• **adverb** *she has ridden before*: previously, before now/then, until now/then, up to now/then; earlier, formerly, hitherto, in the past, in days gone by; formal heretofore.

– OPPOSITES behind.

**beforehand** adverb in advance, in readiness, ahead of time; before, before now/then, earlier (on), previously, already, sooner.

– OPPOSITES afterwards.

**befriend** verb make friends with; look after, help, protect, stand by.

**befuddled** adjective confused, muddled, addled, bewildered, disorientated, all at sea, fazed, perplexed, dazed, dizzy, stupefied, groggy, muzzy, foggy, fuzzy, dopey, woozy; informal mixed up; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**beg** verb **1** *he begged on the streets*: ask for

money, seek charity, seek alms; informal sponge, cadge, scrounge, bum; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge. **2** *we begged for mercy*: ask for, request, plead for, appeal for, call for, sue for, solicit, seek, press for. **3** *he begged her not to go*: implore, entreat, plead with, appeal to, supplicate, pray to, importune; ask, request, call on, petition; literary beseech.

**beget** verb (literary) **1** *he begat a son*: father, sire, have, bring into the world, give life to, bring into being, spawn. **2** *violence begets violence*: cause, give rise to, lead to, result in, bring about, create, produce, generate, engender, spawn, occasion, bring on, precipitate, prompt, provoke, kindle, trigger, spark off, touch off, stir up, whip up, induce, inspire, promote; literary enkindle.

**beggar** noun **1** *he never turned any beggar from his kitchen door*: tramp, beggarman, beggarwoman, vagrant, vagabond, mendicant; N. Amer. hobo; informal scrounger, sponger, cadger, freeloader; Brit. informal dossier; N. Amer. informal bum, moocher, mooch, schnorrer; Austral./NZ informal bagman, bludger; rare clochard. **2** (informal) *the lucky beggar!* See PERSON.

• **verb** *the fare beggared her for a week*: impoverish, make poor, reduce to penury, bankrupt, make destitute, pauperize, ruin, wipe out, break, cripple; bring someone to their knees.

**beggarly** adjective **1** *a beggarly sum*: meagre, paltry, pitiful, miserable, miserly, ungenerous, scant, scanty, skimpy, puny, inadequate, insufficient, insubstantial; informal measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling, piffling, mingy; formal exiguous. **2** in *beggarly circumstances*: wretched, miserable, sordid, squalid, shabby, mean; poor, poverty-stricken, impoverished, distressed, needy, destitute.

– OPPOSITES considerable, affluent.

**beggary** noun poverty, penury, destitution, ruin, ruination, indigence, impecuniousness, impoverishment, need, privation, pauperism, mendicity, want, hardship, reduced circumstances, straitened circumstances, debt, financial ruin; rare pauperdom.

**begin** verb **1** *we began work*: start, commence, set about, go about, embark on, launch into, get down to, take up; initiate, set in motion, institute, inaugurate, get ahead with; informal get cracking on, get going on. **2** *he began by saying hello*: open, lead off, get under way, get going, get off the ground, start (off), go ahead, commence; informal start the ball rolling, kick off, get the show on the road, fire away, take the plunge. **3** *when did the illness begin?* appear, arise, become apparent, make an appearance, spring up, crop up, turn up, come into existence, come into being, originate, start, commence, develop; literary come to pass.

– OPPOSITES finish, end, disappear.

**beginner** noun novice, starter, (raw) recruit, newcomer, tyro, fledgling, neophyte,



initiate, fresher, freshman, cub, probationer; postulant, novitiate; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie, new kid (on the block), newie, newbie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn, probie.

– OPPOSITES expert, veteran.

**beginning** noun **1** *the beginning of socialism:* dawn, birth, inception, conception, origination, genesis, emergence, rise, start, commencement, starting point, launch, onset, outset; day one; informal kick-off. **2** *the beginning of the article:* opening, start, commencement, first part, introduction, preamble, opening statement. **3** *the therapy has its beginnings in China:* origin, source, roots, starting point, birthplace, fons et origo, cradle, spring, early stages, fountainhead; genesis, creation; literary fount, well spring.

– OPPOSITES end, conclusion.

**begrime** verb (literary) dirty, soil, sully, stain, mark, muddy; smear, daub, spatter, bespatter, splatter; literary besmirk, bedaub.

**begrudge** verb **1** *she begrudged Brian his affluence:* envy, grudge; resent, be jealous of, be envious of. **2** *don't begrudge the cost:* resent, feel aggrieved about, feel bitter about, be annoyed about, be resentful of, grudge, mind, object to, take exception to, regret; give unwillingly, give reluctantly.

**beguile** verb **1** *she was beguiled by its beauty:* charm, attract, enchant, entrance, win over, woo, captivate, bewitch, spellbind, dazzle, hypnotize, mesmerize, seduce. **2** *the programme has been beguiling children for years:* entertain, amuse, delight, please, occupy, absorb, engage, distract, divert, fascinate, enthrall, engross.

– OPPOSITES repel, bore.

**beguiling** adjective charming, enchanting, entrancing, charismatic, captivating, bewitching, spellbinding, hypnotizing, mesmerizing, magnetic, alluring, enticing, tempting, inviting, seductive, irresistible; informal come-hither.

– OPPOSITES unappealing.

**behalf** noun

■ **on behalf of/on someone's behalf** **1** *I am writing on behalf of my client:* for, in the name of, in place of, on the authority of, at the behest of. **2** *a campaign on behalf of cycling:* in the interests of, in support of, for, for the benefit of, for the good of, for the sake of.

**behave** verb **1** *she behaved badly:* conduct oneself, act, acquit oneself, bear oneself; formal comport oneself; old use deport oneself. **2** *the children behaved themselves:* act correctly, act properly, conduct oneself well, be well behaved, be good; be polite, mind one's manners, mind one's Ps and Qs.

– OPPOSITES misbehave.

**behaviour** noun **1** *his behaviour was inexcusable:* conduct, bearing, etiquette; actions, doings; manners, ways; N. Amer. deportment; formal comportment. **2** *the behaviour of these organisms:* functioning, action, performance, operation, working, reaction, response.

**behead** verb decapitate, cut someone's head off, guillotine.

**behest** noun (literary) instruction, requirement, demand, insistence, bidding, request, wish, desire, will; command, order, decree, ruling, directive; informal say-so.

**behind** preposition **1** *he hid behind a tree:* at the back/rear of, beyond, on the far/other side of; N. Amer. in back of. **2** *a guard ran behind him:* after, following, at the back/rear of, hard on the heels of, in the wake of. **3** *he was behind the bombings:* responsible for, at the bottom of, the cause of, the source of, the organizer of; to blame for, culpable of, guilty of. **4** *they have the nation behind them:* supporting, backing, for, on the side of, in agreement with; financing; informal rooting for.

– OPPOSITES in front of, ahead of.

• **adverb** **1** *a man followed behind:* after, afterwards, at the back/end, in the rear. **2** *I looked behind:* over one's shoulder, to/towards the back, to/towards the rear, backwards. **3** *we're behind, so don't stop:* (running) late, behind schedule, behindhand, not on time, behind time. **4** *he was behind with his subscription:* in arrears, overdue; late, unpunctual, behindhand.

– OPPOSITES ahead.

• **noun** (informal) *he sat on his behind.* See **BOTTOM** noun sense 6.

**behindhand** adjective behind, behind schedule/time; late, belated, unpunctual, slow.

– OPPOSITES ahead.

**behold** verb (literary) *no eyes beheld them:* see, observe, view, look at, watch, survey, gaze at/upon, regard, contemplate, inspect, eye; catch sight of, glimpse, spot, spy, notice; literary espy, descry.

• **exclamation** (old use) *behold, here I am!* look, see; old use lo.

**beholden** adjective indebted, in someone's debt, obligated, under an obligation; grateful, owing a debt of gratitude.

**behoove** verb (formal) **1** *it behoves me to go:* be incumbent on, be obligatory for, be required of, be expected of, be appropriate for. **2** *it ill behoves them to comment:* befit, become, suit.

**beige** adjective fawn, pale brown, buff, sand, sandy, oatmeal, biscuit, coffee, coffee-coloured, café au lait, camel, ecru.

**being** noun **1** *she is warmed by his very being:* existence, living, life, reality, actuality, essential nature, lifeblood, vital force; Philosophy esse. **2** *God is alive in the being of man:* soul, spirit, nature, essence, inner being, inner self, psyche; heart, bosom, breast; Philosophy quiddity, pneuma. **3** *an enlightened being:* creature, life form, living entity, living thing, (living) soul, individual, person, human (being).

**belabour** verb **1** *he belaboured the driver about the head:* beat, hit, strike, smack, batter, pummel, pound, buffet, rain blows on, thrash; N. Amer. beat up on; informal wallop, whack, clout, clobber, bop, biff, sock, plug;

b

N. Amer. informal **whale**; old use **smite**. **2** *he was belaboured in the press*: **criticize**, attack, berate, censure, condemn, denounce, denigrate, revile, pillory, flay, lambaste, savage, tear/pull to pieces, run down; informal knock, slam, pan, bash, take apart, crucify, hammer, lay into, roast; Brit. informal slate, rubbish, slag off; N. Amer. informal pummel, cut up; formal castigate, excoriate. **3** *don't belabour the point*: **over-elaborate**, labour, dwell on, harp on about, hammer away at; overdo, overplay, overdramatize, make too much of, place too much emphasis on; informal flog to death, drag out, make a big thing of, blow out of all proportion.

– OPPOSITES praise, understate.

**belated** adjective late, overdue, behindhand, behind time, behind schedule, delayed, tardy, unpunctual.

– OPPOSITES early.

**belch** verb **1** *onions make me belch*: bring up wind; informal **burp**; Scottish & N. English informal rift. **2** *the furnace belched flames*: **emit**, give off, give out, pour out, discharge, disgorge, spew out, spit out, vomit, cough up; literary disembogue.

• **noun** *he gave a loud belch*: informal **burp**; Scottish & N. English informal rift; formal eructation.

**beleaguered** adjective **1** *the beleaguered garrison*: **besieged**, under siege, blockaded, surrounded, encircled, hemmed in, under attack. **2** *a beleaguered government*: **hard-pressed**, troubled, in difficulties, under pressure, under stress, with one's back to the wall, in a tight corner, in a tight spot; informal up against it.

**belie** verb **1** *his eyes belied his words*: **contradict**, be at odds with, call into question, give the lie to, show/prove to be false, disprove, debunk, discredit, controvert, negative; formal confute. **2** *his image belies his talent*: **conceal**, cover, disguise; misrepresent, falsify, give a false idea/account of.

– OPPOSITES testify to, reveal.

**belief** noun **1** *it's my belief that age is irrelevant*: **opinion**, view, conviction, judgement, thinking, way of thinking, idea, impression, theory, conclusion, notion. **2** *belief in God*: **faith**, trust, reliance, confidence, credence. **3** *traditional beliefs*: **ideology**, principle, ethic, tenet, canon; doctrine, teaching, dogma, article of faith, creed, credo.

– OPPOSITES disbelief, doubt.

**believable** adjective credible, plausible, tenable, able to hold water, conceivable, likely, probable, possible, feasible, reasonable, having a ring of truth.

– OPPOSITES inconceivable.

**believe** verb **1** *I don't believe you*: **be convinced by**, trust, have confidence in, consider honest, consider truthful. **2** *do you believe his story?* **accept**, be convinced by, give credence to, credit, trust, put confidence in; informal swallow, buy, go for. **3** *I believe he worked for you*: **think**, be of the opinion that, have an idea that, imagine,

suspect, suppose, assume, presume, take it, conjecture, surmise, conclude, deduce, understand, be given to understand, gather, fancy, guess, dare say; informal reckon, figure; old use ween.

– OPPOSITES doubt.

■ **believe** in have faith in, pin one's faith on, trust in, have every confidence in, cling to, set (great) store by, value, be convinced by, be persuaded by; subscribe to, approve of; informal swear by, rate.

**believer** noun devotee, adherent, disciple, follower, supporter, upholder, worshipper.

– OPPOSITES infidel, sceptic.

**belittle** verb disparage, denigrate, run down, deprecate, depreciate, downgrade, play down, trivialize, minimize, make light of, treat lightly; informal do down, pooh-pooh; formal derogate; rare misprize.

– OPPOSITES praise, magnify.

**bell** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**belfry** the place in a tower in which bells are housed  
**campanile** a bell tower  
**campanology** bell-ringing  
**change** the order in which a peal of bells can be rung

**belle** noun beauty, vision, picture, pin-up, beauty queen, English rose, goddess, Venus; informal looker, good-looker, lovely, stunner, knockout, bombshell, dish, cracker, bobby-dazzler, peach, honey, eyeful, sight for sore eyes, bit of all right; Brit. informal smasher.

**bellicose** adjective **belligerent**, aggressive, hostile, antagonistic, pugnacious, truculent, confrontational, contentious, militant, combative; informal spoiling for a fight; Brit. informal strop, bolshie; N. Amer. informal scrappy; rare oppugnant.

– OPPOSITES peaceable.

**belligerent** adjective **1** *a belligerent stare*: **hostile**, aggressive, threatening, antagonistic, pugnacious, bellicose, truculent, confrontational, contentious, militant, combative; informal spoiling for a fight; Brit. informal strop, bolshie; N. Amer. informal scrappy; rare oppugnant.

**2** *the belligerent states*: **warring**, at war, combatant, fighting, battling.

– OPPOSITES peaceable, neutral.

**bellow** verb *she bellowed in his ear*: **roar**, shout, bawl, thunder, trumpet, boom, bark, yell, shriek, howl, scream; raise one's voice; informal holler.

– OPPOSITES whisper.

• **noun** *a bellow of pain*: **roar**, shout, bawl, bark, yell, yelp, shriek, howl, scream; informal holler.

– OPPOSITES whisper.

**belly** noun *he scratched his belly*: **stomach**, abdomen, paunch, middle, midriff, girth; informal tummy, tum, gut, guts, insides, pot, pot belly, beer belly, beer gut, bread basket; Scottish informal kyte; N. Amer. informal bay window; dated corporation.

• **verb** *her skirt bellied out*: **billow** (out),

bulge (out), balloon (out), bag (out), fill (out); distend.

– OPPOSITES sag, flap.

**belong** verb **1** *the house belongs to his mother: be owned by*, be the property of, be the possession of, be held by, be in the hands of. **2** *I belong to a trade union: be a member of*, be in, be affiliated to, be allied to, be associated with, be linked to, be an adherent of. **3** *the garden belongs to the basement flat: be part of*, be attached to, be an adjunct of, go with. **4** *these creatures belong with bony fish: be classed*, be classified, be categorized, be included, be located, be situated, be found, lie. **5** *she doesn't belong here: fit in*, be suited to, have a rightful place, have a home; informal go, click.

**belonging** noun affiliation, acceptance, association, attachment, integration, closeness; rapport, fellow feeling, fellowship.

– OPPOSITES alienation.

**belongings** plural noun possessions, effects, worldly goods, chattels, property; paraphernalia; informal gear, tackle, kit, things, stuff, bits and pieces, bits and bobs; Brit. informal clobber, gubbins.

**beloved** adjective *her beloved brother: darling*, dear, dearest, precious, adored, much loved, cherished, treasured, prized, highly regarded, admired, esteemed, worshipped, revered, venerated, idolized.

– OPPOSITES hated.

• **noun** *he watched his beloved: sweetheart*, love, darling, dearest, lover, girlfriend, boyfriend, young lady, young man, lady friend, man friend; informal steady, baby, angel, honey, pet; literary swain; dated beau; old use paramour, doxy.

**below** preposition **1** *the water rushed below them: beneath*, under, underneath, further down than, lower than. **2** *the sum is below average: less than*, lower than, under, not as much as, smaller than. **3** *a captain is below a major: lower than*, under, inferior to, subordinate to, subservient to.

– OPPOSITES above, over.

• **adverb** **1** *I could see what was happening below: further down*, lower down, in a lower position, underneath, beneath. **2** *the statements below: underneath*, following, further on, at a later point.

**belt** noun **1** *the belt of her coat: girdle*, sash, strap, cummerbund, band; literary cincture; historical baldric. **2** *farmers in the cotton belt: region*, area, district, zone, sector, territory; tract, strip, stretch. **3** (informal) *a belt across the face: blow*, punch, smack, crack, slap, bang, thump, knock, box; informal clout, bash, clip, biff, whack, thwack, wallop, sock, swipe; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, bust, slug, whale.

• **verb** **1** *she belted the children in: fasten*, tie, bind; literary gird. **2** (informal) *a guy belted him in the face: hit*, strike, smack, slap, bang, beat, punch, thump, welt; informal clout, bash, biff, whack, thwack, wallop, sock, slog, clobber, bop, lam, larrup; N. Amer. informal boff, bust,

slug, whale; old use smite. **3** (informal) *he belted down the hill*. See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

■ **below the belt** unfair, unjust, unacceptable, inequitable; unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, unsporting, sneaky, dishonourable, dishonest, underhand; informal low-down, dirty; Brit. informal out of order, off, a bit thick, not cricket:

■ **belt up** (informal) be quiet, quieten down, be silent, fall silent, hush, stop talking, hold your tongue; informal shut up, shut your face/mouth/trap, button your lip, pipe down, cut the cackle, put a sock in it; Brit. informal shut your gob, wrap up; N. Amer. informal save it.

**bemoan** verb lament, bewail, mourn, grieve over, sorrow over, cry over; deplore, complain about; old use plain over.

– OPPOSITES rejoice at, applaud.

**bemused** adjective bewildered, confused, puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified, nonplussed, muddled, dumbfounded, at sea, at a loss, taken aback, disoriented, disconcerted; informal flummoxed, bamboozled, clueless, fazed; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

**bemusement** noun bewilderment, confusion, puzzlement, perplexity, bafflement, befuddlement, stupefaction, mystification, disorientation; informal bamboozlement; N. Amer. informal discombobulation.

**bench** noun **1** *he sat on a bench: pew*, form, stall, settle. **2** *a laboratory bench: workbench*, work table, worktop, work surface, counter. **3** *the bench heard the evidence: judges*, magistrates, judiciary; court.

**benchmark** noun standard, point of reference, gauge, criterion, specification, canon, convention, guide, guideline, guiding principle, norm, touchstone, yardstick, barometer, indicator, measure, model, exemplar, pattern.

**bend** verb **1** *the frames can be bent to fit your face: curve*, crook, flex, angle, hook, bow, arch, buckle, warp, contort, distort, deform. **2** *the highway bent to the left: turn*, curve, incline, swing, veer, deviate, diverge, fork, change course, curl, loop. **3** *he bent down to tie his shoe: stoop*, bow, crouch, hunch, lean down/over. **4** *they want to bend me to their will: mould*, shape, manipulate, direct, force, press, influence, incline, sway. **5** *he bent his mind to the question: direct*, turn, train, steer, set.

– OPPOSITES straighten.

• **noun** *he came to a bend in the road: curve*, turn, corner, kink, angle, arc, crescent, twist, crook, deviation, deflection, loop; dog-leg, oxbow, zigzag; Brit. hairpin bend, hairpin turn, hairpin; rare incurvation.

– OPPOSITES straight.

■ **bend over backwards** (informal) try one's hardest, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, make every effort; informal do one's damndest, go all out, pull



out all the stops, bust a gut, move heaven and earth.

b

**beneath** preposition **1** *we sat beneath the trees:* under, underneath, below, at the foot of, at the bottom of; lower than. **2** *the rank beneath theirs:* inferior to, below, not so important as, lower in status than, subordinate to, subservient to. **3** *such an attitude was beneath her:* unworthy of, unbecoming to, degrading to, below.

– OPPOSITES above.

**benediction** noun **1** *the priest said a benediction:* blessing, prayer, invocation; grace. **2** *filled with heavenly benediction:* blessedness, beatitude, bliss, grace.

**benefactor, benefactress** noun patron, supporter, backer, sponsor; donor, contributor, subscriber; informal angel.

**beneficent** adjective **benefvolent**, charitable, altruistic, humanitarian, neighbourly, public-spirited, philanthropic; generous, magnanimous, munificent, unselfish, unstinting, open-handed, liberal, lavish, bountiful; literary bounteous.

– OPPOSITES unkind, mean.

**beneficial** adjective **advantageous**, favourable, helpful, useful, of use, of benefit, of assistance, valuable, of value, profitable, rewarding, gainful.

– OPPOSITES disadvantageous.

**beneficiary** noun heir, heiress, inheritor, legatee; recipient; Law devisee, cestui que trust; Scottish Law heritor.

**benefit** noun **1** *for the benefit of others:* good, sake, welfare, well-being, advantage, comfort, ease, convenience; help, aid, assistance, service. **2** *the benefits of working for a large firm:* advantage, reward, merit, boon, blessing, virtue; bonus; value; informal perk; formal perquisite. **3** *state benefit:* social security, welfare; charity, donations, gifts, financial assistance; informal the dole; Scottish informal the buroo, the broo.

– OPPOSITES detriment, disadvantage.

• **verb 1** *the deal benefited them both:* **be advantageous to**, be beneficial to, be of advantage to, be to the advantage of, profit, do good to, be of service to, serve, be useful to, be of use to, be helpful to, be of help to, help, aid, assist, be of assistance to; better, improve, strengthen, boost, advance, further. **2** *they may benefit from drugs:* profit, gain, reap benefits, reap reward, make money; make the most of, exploit, turn to one's advantage, put to good use, do well out of; informal cash in, make a killing.

– OPPOSITES damage, suffer.

**benevolence** noun kindness, kind-heartedness, big-heartedness, goodness, goodwill, charity, altruism, humanitarianism, compassion, philanthropism; generosity, magnanimity, munificence, unselfishness, open-handedness, beneficence; literary bounty, bounteousness.

– OPPOSITES spite, miserliness.

**benevolent** adjective **1** *a benevolent patriarch:* kind, kindly, kind-hearted,

big-hearted, good-natured, good, benign, compassionate, caring, altruistic, humanitarian, philanthropic; generous, magnanimous, munificent, unselfish, open-handed, beneficent; literary bounteous. **2** *a benevolent institution:* charitable, non-profit-making, non-profit, not-for-profit; formal eleemosynary.

– OPPOSITES unkind, tight-fisted.

**benighted** adjective ignorant, unenlightened, uneducated, uninformed, backward, simple; primitive, uncivilized, unsophisticated, philistine, barbarian, barbaric, barbarous; literary nescient; old use rude.

– OPPOSITES enlightened.

**benign** adjective **1** *a benign grandfatherly role:* kindly, kind, warm-hearted, good-natured, friendly, warm, affectionate, agreeable, genial, congenial, cordial, approachable, tender-hearted, gentle, sympathetic, compassionate, caring, well disposed, benevolent. **2** *a benign climate:* temperate, mild, gentle, balmy, soft, pleasant; healthy, wholesome, salubrious. **3** (Medicine) *a benign tumour:* harmless, non-malignant, non-cancerous, innocent; Medicine benignant.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly, hostile, unhealthy, unfavourable, malignant.

**bent** adjective **1** *the bucket had a bent handle:* twisted, crooked, warped, contorted, deformed, misshapen, out of shape, irregular; bowed, arched, curved, angled, hooked, kinked; N. Amer. informal pretzeled. **2** (Brit. informal) *a bent policeman.* See **CORRUPT** adjective sense 1.

– OPPOSITES straight.

• **noun an artistic bent: inclination, leaning, tendency; talent, gift, flair, aptitude, facility, skill, capability, capacity; predisposition, disposition, instinct, orientation, predilection, proclivity, propensity.**

■ **bent on** intent on, determined on, set on, insistent on, resolved on, hell-bent on; committed to, single-minded about, obsessed with, fanatical about, fixated on.

**benumbed** adjective numb, unfeeling, insensible, stupefied, groggy, foggy, fuzzy, muzzy, dazed, dizzy; befuddled, fuddled, disoriented, confused, bewildered, all at sea; informal doopey, woozy, mixed up; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

– OPPOSITES perceptive.

**bequeath** verb *leave (in one's will), will, make over, pass on, hand on/down, entrust, grant, transfer; donate, give; bestow on, confer on; endow with; Law demise, devise, convey.*

**bequest** noun legacy, inheritance, endowment, settlement; estate, heritage; bestowal, bequeathal; Law devise; Law, dated hereditament.

**berate** verb scold, rebuke, reprimand, reproach, reprove, admonish, chide, criticize, upbraid, take to task, pull up, read someone the Riot Act, haul over the coals; informal tell off, give someone a talking-to,

give someone a telling-off, give someone a dressing-down, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, send someone away with a flea in their ear, bawl out, come down on, tear into, slap down, blast; Brit. informal tick off, have a go at, carpet, give someone a rocket, give someone a rollicking, tear someone off a strip; Brit. informal, dated give someone a wiggling; N. Amer. informal chew out, team out, take to the woodshed; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate; dated call down, rate; rare reprehend, objugate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**bereaved** adjective orphaned, widowed; mourning, grieving.

**bereavement** noun death in the family, loss, passing (away), demise; formal decease.

**bereft** adjective deprived, robbed, stripped, devoid, bankrupt; wanting, in need of, lacking, without; informal minus, sans, clean out of.

**berserk** adjective mad, crazy, insane, out of one's mind, hysterical, frenzied, crazed, demented, maniacal, manic, frantic, raving, wild, out of control, amok, on the rampage; informal off one's head, off the deep end, ape, bananas, bonkers, nuts, hyper; Brit. informal spare, crackers, barmy; N. Amer. informal postal.

**berth** noun **1** a 4-berth cabin: bunk, bed, cot, couch, hammock. **2** the vessel left its berth: mooring, dock.

• verb **1** the ship berthed in London Docks: dock, moor, land, tie up, make fast. **2** the boats each berth six: accommodate, sleep. ■ give someone/something a wide berth avoid, shun, keep away from, stay away from, steer clear of, keep at arm's length, have nothing to do with; dodge, sidestep, circumvent, skirt round.

**beseech** verb (literary) implore, beg, entreat, plead with, appeal to, call on, supplicate, importune, pray to, ask, request, petition.

**beset** verb **1** he is beset by fears: plague, bedevil, assail, beleague, afflict, torment, rack, oppress, trouble, worry, harass, dog. **2** they were beset by enemy forces: surround, besiege, hem in, shut in, fence in, box in, encircle, ring round.

**beside** preposition **1** Kate walked beside him: alongside, by/at the side of, next to, parallel to, abreast of, at someone's elbow; adjacent to, next door to, cheek by jowl with; bordering, abutting, neighbouring. **2** beside Paula, she felt clumsy: compared with/to, in comparison with/to, by comparison with, next to, against, contrasted with, in contrast to/with.

■ beside oneself distraught, overcome, out of one's mind, frantic, desperate, distracted, at one's wits' end, frenzied, wound up, worked up; hysterical, unhinged, mad, crazed, berserk, demented.

■ beside the point see POINT<sup>1</sup>.

**besides** preposition who did you ask besides Mary? in addition to, as well as, over and above, above and beyond, on top of; apart from, other than, aside from, but for, save

for, not counting, excluding, not including, except, with the exception of, excepting, leaving aside; N. Amer. informal outside of; old use forbye.

• adverb **1** there's a lot more besides: in addition, as well, too, also, into the bargain, on top of that, to boot; old use therewithal.

**2** besides, he's a man: furthermore, moreover, further; anyway, anyhow, in any case, be that as it may; informal what's more; N. Amer. informal anyways.

**besiege** verb **1** the English army besieged Leith: lay siege to, beleague, blockade, surround; old use invest. **2** fans besieged his hotel: surround, mob, crowd round, swarm round, throng round, ring round, encircle. **3** guilt besieged him: oppress, torment, torture, rack, plague, afflict, haunt, harrow, beset, beleague, trouble, bedevil, prey on. **4** he was besieged with requests: overwhelm, inundate, deluge, flood, swamp, snow under; bombard.

**besmirch** verb (literary) sully, tarnish, blacken, drag through the mud/mire, stain, taint, smear, disgrace, dishonour, bring discredit to, damage, ruin.

– OPPOSITES honour, enhance.

**besotted** adjective infatuated, smitten, in love, head over heels in love, obsessed; doting on, greatly enamoured of; informal bowled over by, swept off one's feet by, struck on, crazy about, mad about, wild about, gone on, carrying a torch for; Brit. informal potty about.

**bespatter** verb splatter, spatter, splash, speck, fleck, spot; dirty, soil; Scottish & Irish slabber; informal splotch, splodge, splosh.

**bespeak** verb **1** a tree-lined road which bespoke money: indicate, be evidence of, be a sign of, denote, point to, testify to, evidence, reflect, demonstrate, show, manifest, display, signify; reveal, betray; informal spell; literary betoken. **2** he had bespoken a room: order, reserve, book; informal bag.

– OPPOSITES belie.

**best** adjective **1** the best hotel in Paris: finest, greatest, top, foremost, leading, pre-eminent, premier, prime, first, chief, principal, supreme, of the highest quality, superlative, par excellence, unrivalled, second to none, without equal, nonpareil, unsurpassed, peerless, matchless, unparalleled, unbeaten, unbeatable, optimum, optimal, ultimate, incomparable, ideal, perfect; highest, record-breaking; informal star, number-one, a cut above the rest, top-drawer; formal unexampled.

**2** do whatever you think best: most advantageous, most useful, most suitable, most fitting, most appropriate; most prudent, most sensible, most advisable.

– OPPOSITES worst.

• adverb **1** the best-dressed man: to the highest standard, in the best way. **2** the food he liked best: most, to the highest/greatest degree. **3** this is best done at home: most advantageously, most usefully, most suitably, most fittingly, most appropriately;

most sensibly, most prudently, most wisely; better.

– OPPOSITES worst, least.

**b**

• **noun 1** *only the best will do: finest*, choicest, top, cream, choice, prime, elite, crème de la crème, flower, jewel in the crown, nonpareil; informal tops, pick of the bunch. **2** *she dressed in her best: best clothes*, finery, Sunday best; informal best bib and tucker, glad rags. **3** *give her my best: best wishes*, regards, kind/kindest regards, greetings, compliments, felicitations, respects; love.

• **verb** (informal) *she was not to be bested:*

**defeat**, beat, get the better of, outdo, outwit, outsmart, worst, be more than a match for, prevail over, vanquish, trounce, triumph over; surpass, outclass, outshine, put someone in the shade, overshadow, eclipse; informal lick, get one over on.

■ **do one's best** do one's utmost, try one's hardest, make every effort, do all one can, give one's all; informal bend over backwards, do one's damndest, go all out, pull out all the stops, bust a gut, break one's neck, move heaven and earth.

**bestial** adjective **1** *Stanley's bestial behaviour: savage*, brutish, brutal, barbarous, barbaric, cruel, vicious, violent, inhuman, subhuman; depraved, degenerate, perverted, immoral, warped. **2** *man's bestial ancestors: animal*, beast-like, animalistic; rare zoic.

– OPPOSITES civilized, humane.

**bestir** verb

■ **bestir oneself** exert oneself, make an effort, rouse oneself, get going, get moving, get on with it; informal shake a leg, look lively, get cracking, get weaving, get one's finger out, get off one's backside; Brit. informal, dated stir one's stumps.

**bestow** verb **confer on**, grant, accord, afford, endow someone with, vest in, present, award, give, donate, entrust with, vouchsafe.

**bestride** verb **1** *the oilfield bestrides the border: extend across*, lie on both sides of, straddle, span, bridge. **2** *he bestrode his horse: straddle*, sit/stand astride. **3** *Italy bestrode Europe in opera: dominate*, tower over/above.

**best-seller** noun great success, brand leader; informal hit, smash (hit), blockbuster, chart-topper, chartbuster.

– OPPOSITES failure, flop.

**best-selling** adjective **very successful**, very popular; informal number-one, chart-topping, hit, smash.

**bet** verb **1** *he bet £10 on the favourite: wager*, gamble, stake, risk, venture, hazard, chance; put/lay money, speculate; informal punt; Brit. informal have a flutter, chance one's arm.

**2** (informal) *I bet it was your idea: be certain*, be sure, be convinced, be confident; expect, predict, forecast, guess; Brit. informal put one's shirt on.

• **noun 1** *a £20 bet: wager*, gamble, stake, ante; Brit. informal flutter, punt. **2** (informal) *my bet is that they'll lose: prediction*, forecast, guess; opinion, belief, feeling, view, theory. **3** (informal) *your best bet is to go early: option*,

choice, alternative, course of action, plan.

**bête noire** noun bugbear, pet hate, bogey; a thorn in one's flesh/side, the bane of one's life; N. Amer. bugaboo.

– OPPOSITES favourite.

**betide** verb (literary) **happen**, occur, take place, come about, transpire, arise, chance; result, ensue, follow, develop, supervene; N. Amer. informal go down; formal eventuate; literary come to pass, befall; old use hap, bechance.

**betoken** verb (literary) **1** *a small gift betokening regret: indicate*, be a sign of, be evidence of, evidence, manifest, mean, signify, denote, represent, show, demonstrate, bespeak; informal spell. **2** *the blue sky betokened a day of good weather: foretell*, signal, give notice of, herald, proclaim, prophesy, foreshadow, presage, be a harbinger of, portend, augur, be an omen of, be a sign of, be a warning of, warn of, bode; literary foretoken, forebode.

**betray** verb **1** *he betrayed his own brother:*

**break one's promise to**, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, break faith with, play someone false; inform on/against, give away, denounce, sell out, stab in the back; informal split on, rat on, peach on, stitch up, do the dirty on, sell down the river, squeal on; Brit. informal grass on, shop, sneak on; N. Amer. informal rat out, drop a/the dime on, finger; Austral./NZ informal dob on, point the bone at. **2** *he betrayed a secret: reveal*, disclose, divulge, tell, give away, leak; unmask, expose; let slip, let out, let drop, blurt out; informal blab, spill.

– OPPOSITES be loyal to, hide.

**betrayal** noun **disloyalty**, treachery, bad faith, faithlessness, falseness, Punic faith; duplicity, deception, double-dealing; breach of faith, breach of trust, stab in the back; double-cross, sell-out; literary perfidy.

– OPPOSITES loyalty.

**betrayor** noun **traitor**, back-stabber, Judas, double-crosser; renegade, quisling, double agent, collaborator, informer, mole, stool pigeon; turncoat, defector; informal snake in the grass, rat, scab; Brit. informal grass, supergrass, nark; N. Amer. informal fink, stoolie.

**betrothal** noun (dated) **engagement**, marriage contract; old use espousal.

**betrothed** adjective (dated) **engaged (to be married)**, promised/pledged in marriage, attached; informal spoken for; literary affianced; old use plighted, espoused.

– OPPOSITES unattached.

**better** adjective **1** *better facilities: superior*, finer, of higher quality; preferable; informal a cut above, streets ahead, head and shoulders above, ahead of the pack/field.

**2** *there couldn't be a better time: more advantageous*, more suitable, more fitting, more appropriate, more useful, more valuable, more desirable. **3** *are you better? healthier*, fitter, stronger; well, cured, healed, recovered; recovering, on the road to recovery, making progress, improving, on the mend.

– OPPOSITES worse, inferior.

• **adverb 1** *I played better today: to a higher*



standard, in a superior/finer way. **2** *this may suit you better*: more, to a greater degree/extent. **3** *the money could be better spent*: more wisely, more sensibly, more suitably, more fittingly, more advantageously.

• **verb 1** *he bettered the record*: surpass, improve on, beat, exceed, top, cap, trump, eclipse. **2** *refugees who want to better their lot*: improve, ameliorate, raise, advance, further, lift, upgrade, enhance.

– OPPOSITES worsen.

**betterment** noun improvement, amelioration, advancement, development, upgrading, enhancement.

**between** preposition **1** *Philip stood between his parents*: in the middle of, with one on either side; old use betwixt. **2** *the bond between her and her mother*: connecting, linking, joining; uniting, allying.

**bevel** noun slope, slant, angle, cant, chamfer.

**beverage** noun. See **DRINK** noun sense 1.

**bevy** noun group, crowd, herd, flock, horde, army, galaxy, assemblage, gathering, band, body, pack; knot, cluster; informal bunch, gaggle, posse.

**bewail** verb lament, bemoan, mourn, grieve over, sorrow over, cry over; deplore, complain about; old use plain over.

– OPPOSITES rejoice at, applaud.

**beware** verb **be on your guard**, watch out, look out, mind out, be alert, be on the lookout, keep your eyes open/peeled, keep an eye out, keep a sharp lookout, be on the qui vive; take care, be careful, be cautious, have a care, watch your step; Brit. school slang, dated cave; Golf fore; Hunting ware.

**bewilder** verb baffle, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confuse, confound, nonplus; informal flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox, be all Greek to, floor; N. Amer. informal discombobulate, buffalo.

– OPPOSITES enlighten.

**bewildered** adjective baffled, mystified, bemused, perplexed, puzzled, confused, nonplussed, at sea, at a loss, disorientated, taken aback; informal flummoxed, bamboozled; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

**bewitch** verb **1** *that evil woman bewitched him*: cast/put a spell on, enchant; possess, witch, curse; N. Amer. hex, hoodoo; Austral. point the bone at. **2** *she was bewitched by her surroundings*: captivate, enchant, entrance, enrapture, charm, beguile, delight, fascinate, enthrall.

– OPPOSITES repel.

**beyond** preposition **1** *beyond the trees*: on the far side of, on the other side of, further away than, behind, past, after. **2** *beyond six o'clock*: later than, past, after. **3** *inflation beyond 10 per cent*: greater than, more than, exceeding, in excess of, above, over and above, above and beyond, upwards of. **4** *little beyond food was provided*: apart from, except, other than, besides; informal outside of; formal save.

• **adverb** *a house with a garden beyond*: further away, further off.

**bias** noun **1** *he accused the media of bias*: prejudice, partiality, partisanship, favouritism, unfairness, one-sidedness; bigotry, intolerance, discrimination, a jaundiced eye; leaning, tendency, inclination, predilection. **2** *a dress cut on the bias*: diagonal, cross, slant, angle.

– OPPOSITES impartiality.

• **verb** *this may have biased the result*:

prejudice, influence, colour, sway, weight, predispose; distort, skew, slant.

**biased** adjective prejudiced, partial, partisan, one-sided, blinkered; bigoted, intolerant, discriminatory; jaundiced, distorted, warped, twisted, skewed.

– OPPOSITES impartial.

**Bible** noun **1** *he read the Bible*: the (Holy) Scriptures, Holy Writ, the Good Book, the Book of Books. **2** (informal) *the taxi driver's bible*: handbook, manual, ABC, companion, guide, vade mecum.

**bibliophile** noun book lover, avid reader; informal bookworm; rare bibliomaniac.

**bicker** verb squabble, argue, quarrel, wrangle, fight, disagree, dispute, spar, have words, be at each other's throats, lock horns; informal scrap, arguify, spat; old use altercate.

– OPPOSITES agree.

**bicycle** noun cycle, two-wheeler, pedal cycle; informal bike, pushbike.

**bid<sup>1</sup>** verb **1** *United bid £1 million for the striker*: offer, make an offer of, put in a bid of, put up, tender, proffer, propose. **2** *she is bidding for a place in the England team*: try to obtain, try to get, make a pitch for, make a bid for.

• **noun 1** *a bid of £3,000*: offer, tender, proposal. **2** *a bid to cut crime*: attempt, effort, endeavour, try; informal crack, go, shot, stab; formal essay.

**bid<sup>2</sup>** verb **1** *she bid him farewell*: wish; utter. **2** (literary) *I did as he bade me*: order, command, tell, instruct, direct, enjoin, charge. **3** (literary) *he bade his companions enter*: invite to, ask to, request to.

**biddable** adjective obedient, acquiescent, compliant, tractable, amenable, complaisant, cooperative, dutiful, submissive; rare persuasible.

– OPPOSITES disobedient, uncooperative.

**bidding** noun command, order, instruction, decree, injunction, demand, mandate, direction, summons, call; wish, desire; request; literary behest; old use heft.

**big** adjective **1** *a big building*: large, sizeable, substantial, great, huge, immense, enormous, extensive, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, tremendous, gigantic, giant, monumental, mighty, gargantuan, elephantine, titanic, mountainous, Brobdingnagian; towering, tall, high, lofty; outsize, oversized; goodly; capacious, voluminous, spacious; king-size(d), man-size(d), family-size(d), economy-size(d); informal jumbo, whopping, thumping, bumper, mega, humongous, monster, astronomical, almighty, dirty great, socking great;

## b

Brit. informal whacking, ginormous; formal commodious. **2** *a big man: well built*, sturdy, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, muscular, muscly, rugged, lusty, Herculean, bulky, hulking, strapping, thickset, stocky, solid, hefty; tall, huge, gigantic; fat, stout, portly, plump, fleshy, paunchy, corpulent, obese; informal hunky, beefy, husky; literary thewy, stark. **3** *my big brother: grown-up*, adult, mature, grown; elder, older. **4** *a big decision: important*, significant, major, momentous, weighty, consequential, far-reaching, key, vital, critical, crucial. **5** (informal) *a big man in the government: powerful*, important, prominent, influential, high-powered, leading; N. Amer. major-league. **6** (informal) *he has big plans: ambitious*, far-reaching, grandiose, on a grand scale. **7** *she's got a big heart: generous*, kind, kindly, caring, compassionate, loving. **8** (informal) *African bands are big in Britain: popular*, successful, in demand, sought-after, all the rage; informal hot, in, cool, trendy, now, hip; Brit. informal, dated all the go.

– OPPOSITES small, minor, modest.

■ **too big for one's boots** (informal) conceited, full of oneself, swollen-headed, cocky, arrogant, cocksure, above oneself, self-important; vain, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, smug, complacent; informal big-headed; literary vainglorious.

**big-headed** adjective (informal) **conceited**, full of oneself, swollen-headed, cocky, arrogant, cocksure, above oneself, self-important; vain, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, smug, complacent; informal too big for one's boots; literary vainglorious.

– OPPOSITES modest.

**big-hearted** adjective **generous**, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, bountiful, unstinting, unselfish, altruistic, charitable, philanthropic, benevolent; kind, kindly, kind-hearted; literary bounteous.

– OPPOSITES mean.

**bigot** noun **dogmatist**, partisan, sectarian; racist, sexist, chauvinist, jingoist.

**bigoted** adjective **prejudiced**, biased, partial, one-sided, sectarian, discriminatory; opinionated, dogmatic, intolerant, narrow-minded, blinkered, illiberal; racist, sexist, chauvinistic, jingoistic; jaundiced, warped, twisted, distorted.

– OPPOSITES open-minded.

**bigotry** noun **prejudice**, bias, partiality, partisanship, sectarianism, discrimination; dogmatism, intolerance, narrow-mindedness; racism, sexism, chauvinism, jingoism.

– OPPOSITES open-mindedness.

**bigwig** noun (informal) **VIP**, important person, notable, dignitary, grandee; celebrity; informal somebody, heavyweight, big shot, big noise, big gun, big cheese, big fish; Brit. informal brass hat; N. Amer. informal big wheel.

– OPPOSITES nonentity.

**bijou** adjective **small**, little, compact, snug, cosy.

**bilge** noun (informal). See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**bilious** adjective **1** *I felt bilious: nauseous*, sick, queasy, nauseated, green about the gills; N. Amer. informal barfy. **2** *his bilious disposition: bad-tempered*, irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, ill-tempered, ill-natured, ill-humoured, peevish, fractious, pettish, crabby, waspish, prickly, crusty, shrewish, quick-tempered; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery. **3** *a bilious green and pink colour scheme: lurid*, garish, loud, violent; sickly, nauseating.

– OPPOSITES well, good-humoured, muted.

**bilk** verb (informal). See **SWINDLE** verb.

**bill**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a bill for £6: invoice*, account, statement, list of charges; N. Amer. check; humorous *the damage*; N. Amer. informal tab; old use reckoning, score. **2** *a parliamentary bill: draft law*, proposal, measure. **3** *she was top of the bill: programme (of entertainment)*, line-up; N. Amer. playbill. **4** (N. Amer.) *a \$10 bill: banknote*, note; US informal greenback; US & historical Treasury note. **5** *he had been posting bills: poster*, advertisement, public notice, announcement; flyer, leaflet, handbill; Brit. fly-poster; N. Amer. dodger; informal ad; Brit. informal advert.

• verb **1** *please bill me for the work: invoice*, charge, debit. **2** *the concert went ahead as billed: advertise*, announce; schedule, programme, timetable; N. Amer. slate. **3** *he was billed as the new Sean Connery: describe*, call, style, label, dub; promote, publicize, talk up; informal hype.

**bill**<sup>2</sup> noun *a bird's bill: beak*; Scottish & N. English neb; technical mandibles.

**billet** noun *the troops' billets: quarters*, rooms; accommodation, lodging, housing; barracks, cantonment.

• verb *two soldiers were billeted here: accommodate*, quarter, put up, lodge, house; station, garrison.

**billow** noun **1** *billows of smoke: cloud*, mass. **2** (old use) *the billows that break upon the shore: wave*, roller, boomer, breaker.

• verb **1** *her dress billowed around her: puff up/out*, balloon (out), swell, fill (out), belly out. **2** *smoke billowed from the chimney: swirl*, spiral, roll, undulate, eddy; pour, flow.

**billowing** adjective **rolling**, swirling, undulating, surging, heaving, billowy, swelling, rippling.

**bin** noun **container**, receptacle, holder; drum, canister, caddy, can, tin.

**bind** verb **1** *they bound her hands and feet: tie (up)*, fasten (together), hold together, secure, make fast, attach; rope, strap, lash, truss, tether. **2** *Shelley bound up the wound with a clean dressing: bandage*, dress, cover, wrap; strap up, tape up. **3** *the experience had bound them together: unite*, join, bond, knit together, draw together, yoke together. **4** *we have not bound ourselves to join: commit oneself*, undertake, pledge, vow, promise, swear, give one's word. **5** *the edges are bound in a contrasting colour: trim*, hem, edge, border, fringe; finish. **6** *they are bound by the agreement: constrain*, restrict, restrain, trammel, tie hand and foot, straitjacket, tie

down, shackle; hamper, hinder, inhibit.

– **OPPOSITES** untie, separate.

• **noun** (informal) **1** *starting so early is a bind: nuisance*, annoyance, inconvenience, bore, bother, source of irritation, irritant, trial; informal pain, pain in the neck/backside, headache, hassle, drag; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt. **2** *he is in a political bind: predicament*, difficult/awkward situation, quandary, dilemma, plight, cleft stick; informal spot, tight spot, hole.

**binding** adjective **irrevocable**, unalterable, inescapable, unbreakable, contractual; compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, incumbent.

**binge** noun (informal) **drinking bout**, debauch; informal bender, session, booze-up, blind; Scottish informal skite; N. Amer. informal jag, toot; dated souse; literary bacchanal, bacchanalia; old use wassail.

**biography** noun **life story**, life history, life, memoir; informal bio, biog.

**bird** noun fowl; chick, fledgling, nestling; (birds) avifauna; informal feathered friend, birdie.

#### WORD LINKS

**avian** relating to birds  
**aviary** a large enclosure for keeping birds  
**aviculture** the breeding of birds  
**ornithology** the study of birds  
**passerine** referring to all birds that have feet adapted for perching  
**twitcher** a birdwatcher devoted to spotting rare birds

**birth** noun **1** *the birth of a child: childbirth*, delivery, nativity, birthing; formal parturition; dated confinement; old use accouchement, childbed. **2** *the birth of science: beginning(s)*, emergence, genesis, dawn, dawning, rise, start. **3** *he is of noble birth: ancestry*, lineage, blood, descent, parentage, family, extraction, origin, genealogy, heritage, stock, kinship.

– **OPPOSITES** death, demise, end.

■ **give birth to** have, bear, produce, be delivered of, bring into the world; N. Amer. birth; informal drop; dated mother; old use bring forth.

#### WORD LINKS

**natal** relating to one's birth  
**antenatal** before childbirth  
**perinatal** close to the time of birth  
**postnatal**, **post-partum** after childbirth  
**midwife** a nurse trained to help women give birth  
**neonate** a baby that has just been born  
**obstetrics** the branch of medicine concerned with childbirth  
**viviparous** giving birth to live young

**birthmark** noun naevus, mole, blemish.

**birthright** noun **patrimony**, inheritance, heritage; right, due, prerogative, privilege; primogeniture.

**biscuit** noun (Brit.) **cracker**, wafer; N. Amer. cookie; informal bicky.

**bisect** verb **cut in half**, halve, divide/cut/

split in two, split down the middle; cross, intersect.

**bisexual** adjective **1** *bisexual crustaceans: hermaphrodite*, hermaphroditic, intersex; androgynous, epicene; technical monoclinal, gynandrous, gynandromorphic. **2** *a bisexual actor: ambisexual*; informal AC/DC, bi, swinging both ways, ambidextrous; N. Amer. informal switch-hitting.

**bishop** noun diocesan, metropolitan, suffragan; formal prelate.

#### WORD LINKS

**episcopal** relating to a bishop  
**bishopric**, **diocese**, see the district for which a bishop is responsible  
**episcopate** a bishop's period of office  
**crozier** a bishop's hooked staff  
**mitre** a bishop's headdress  
**encyclical** a letter sent by the Pope to all Roman Catholic bishops

**bishopric** noun **diocese**, see.

**bit** noun **1** *a bit of bread: piece*, portion, segment, section, part; chunk, lump, hunk, slice; fragment, scrap, shred, crumb, grain, speck; spot, drop, pinch, dash, soupçon, modicum; morsel, mouthful, bite, sample; iota, jot, tittle, whit, atom, particle, trace, touch, suggestion, hint, tinge; snippet, snatch; informal smidgen, tad. **2** *wait a bit: moment*, minute, second, (little) while; informal sec, jiffy; Brit. informal mo, tick.

– **OPPOSITES** lot.

■ **a bit** rather, fairly, slightly, somewhat, quite, moderately; informal pretty, sort of, kind of.

■ **bit by bit** gradually, little by little, in stages, step by step, piecemeal, slowly.

■ **in a bit** soon, in a (little) while, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, shortly; informal anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap; dated directly; literary ere long.

**bitch** noun (informal) **1** *she's such a bitch: shrew*, vixen, she-devil, hellcat; informal cow, cat; old use grimalkin. **2** *a bitch of a job: nightmare*; informal bastard, bummer, — from hell, swine, pig, stinker.

• **verb** **1** *big men bitched about the price of oil: complain*, whine, grumble, grouse; informal whinge, moan, grouch, gripe. **2** *he's always bitching about colleagues: criticize*, run down, speak ill of, slander, malign; informal knock, pull to pieces, take apart, bad-mouth, do a hatchet job on; N. Amer. informal trash; Brit. informal slag off.

**bitchy** adjective (informal). See **SPITEFUL**.

**bite** verb **1** *the dog bit his arm: sink one's teeth into*, chew, munch, crunch, champ, tear at. **2** *the acid bites into the copper: corrode*, eat into, eat away at, burn (into), etch, dissolve. **3** *my boots failed to bite: grip*, hold, get a purchase. **4** *the measures begin to bite: take effect*, have an effect, be effective, work, act, have results. **5** *a hundred or so retailers should bite: accept*, agree, respond;



be lured, be enticed, be tempted; take the bait.

• **noun** **1** *he took a bite at his sandwich*: chew, munch, nibble, gnaw, nip, snap. **2** *he ate it in two bites*: **mouthful**, piece, bit, morsel. **3** *do you fancy a bite?* **snack**, light meal, **mouthful**, soupçon; refreshments; informal a little something. **4** *the appetizer had a fiery bite*: **piquancy**, pungency, spiciness, strong flavour, tang, zest, sharpness, tartness; informal kick, punch, zing.

**biting** **adjective** **1** *biting comments*: vicious, harsh, cruel, savage, cutting, sharp, bitter, scathing, caustic, acid, acrimonious, acerbic, stinging; vitriolic, hostile, spiteful, venomous, mean, nasty; informal bitchy, catty. **2** *the biting wind*: **freezing**, icy, arctic, glacial; bitter, piercing, penetrating, raw, wintry.

– OPPOSITES mild.

**bitter** **adjective** **1** *bitter coffee*: sharp, acid, acidic, acrid, tart, sour, biting, unsweetened, vinegary; N. Amer. acerb; technical acerbic.

**2** *a bitter woman*: **resentful**, embittered, aggrieved, grudge-bearing, begrudging, rancorous, spiteful, jaundiced, ill-disposed, sullen, sour, churlish, morose, petulant, peevish; informal with a chip on one's shoulder. **3** *a bitter blow*: **painful**, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, cruel, awful, distressing, upsetting, harrowing, heartbreaking, heart-rending, agonizing, traumatic, tragic, chilling; formal grievous.

**4** *a bitter wind*: **freezing**, icy, arctic, glacial; biting, piercing, penetrating, raw, wintry.

**5** *a bitter row*: **acrimonious**, virulent, angry, rancorous, spiteful, vicious, vitriolic, savage, ferocious, hate-filled, venomous, poisonous, acrid, nasty, ill-natured.

– OPPOSITES sweet, magnanimous, content, welcome, warm, amicable.

**bitterness** **noun** **1** *the bitterness of the medicine*: sharpness, acidity, acidity, tartness, sourness, harshness, vinegariness; technical acerbity. **2** *his bitterness grew*:

**resentment**, rancour, indignation, grudge, spite, sullenness, sourness, churlishness, moroseness, petulance, pique, peevishness.

**3** *the bitterness of war*: **trauma**, pain, agony, grief; unpleasantness, disagreeableness, nastiness; heartache, heartbreak, distress, desolation, despair, tragedy. **4** *there was no bitterness between them*: **acrimony**, hostility, antipathy, antagonism, enmity, animus, friction, rancour, vitriol, hatred, loathing, venom, poison, nastiness, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood.

– OPPOSITES sweetness, magnanimity, contentment, warmth, goodwill.

**bitty** **adjective** (informal) **disjointed**, incoherent, fragmented, fragmentary, scrappy, piecemeal; inconsistent, unsystematic, jumbled; uneven, erratic, patchy.

– OPPOSITES coherent.

**bizarre** **adjective** **strange**, peculiar, odd, funny, curious, outlandish, outré, eccentric, unconventional, unorthodox, queer, extraordinary; informal weird, wacky, oddball, way out, freaky, off the wall, offbeat; Brit.

informal rum; N. Amer. informal wacko.

– OPPOSITES normal.

**blab** **verb** (informal) **1** *she blabbed to the press*: talk, give the game away; informal let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans; Brit. informal blow the gaff, cough. **2** *I do not blab secrets*: **blurt out**, let slip, let out, tell, reveal, betray, disclose, give away, divulge, leak; informal let on, spill.

**blabber** **verb** (informal). See **CHAT** verb.

**blabbermouth** **noun** (informal) **talker**, chatterer, prattler; N. Amer. blatherskite; informal chatterbox, windbag, gasbag; Brit. informal natterer.

**black** **adjective** **1** *a black horse*: dark, pitch-black, jet-black, coal-black, inky; Heraldry sable; rare nigrescent. **2** *a black night*: **unlit**, dark, starless, moonless; literary tenebrous, Stygian. **3** *the blackest day of the war*: tragic, disastrous, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, fateful, wretched, woeful, awful, terrible; formal grievous. **4** *Mary was in a black mood*: **miserable**, unhappy, sad, wretched, broken-hearted, heartbroken, grief-stricken, grieving, sorrowful, sorrowing, anguished, desolate, despairing, disconsolate, downcast, dejected, cheerless, melancholy, morose, gloomy, glum, mournful, doleful, funereal, dismal, forlorn, woeful, abject; informal blue; literary dolorous.

**5** *black humour*: **cynical**, macabre, weird, unhealthy, ghoulis, morbid, perverted, gruesome; informal sick. **6** *a black look*. See **ANGRY** sense 1. **7** (old use) *a black deed*. See **WICKED** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES white, clear, bright, joyful.

• **verb** **1** *the steps of the houses were neatly blacked*: **blacken**, darken; dirty, make sooty, make smoky, stain, grime, soil. **2** *she blacked his eye*: **bruise**, contuse; hit, punch, injure.

**3** (Brit. dated) *trade union members blacked the work*: **boycott**, embargo, blacklist, proscribe.

■ **black out** faint, lose consciousness, pass out, swoon; informal flake out, go out.

■ **in the black** in credit, in funds, debt-free, solvent, financially sound, creditworthy; rare unindebted.

■ **black and white** **1** *a black-and-white picture*: monochrome, greyscale. **2** *I wish to see the proposals in black and white*: in print, printed, written down, set down, on paper, recorded, on record, documented. **3** *in black-and-white terms*: categorical, unequivocal, absolute, uncompromising, unconditional, unqualified, unambiguous, clear, clear-cut.

**blackball** **verb** reject, debar, bar, ban, vote against, blacklist, exclude, shut out.

– OPPOSITES admit.

**blacken** **verb** **1** *pollutants blackening the air*: darken, dirty, stain, soil, make sooty, make smoky, pollute. **2** *the sky blackened*: **darken**, dim, grow dim, cloud over. **3** *someone has blackened my name*: **sully**, tarnish, besmirch, drag through the mud/mire, stain, taint, smear, disgrace, dishonour, bring discredit to, damage, ruin; slander, defame.

– OPPOSITES whiten, clean, lighten, brighten, clear.

**blackguard** noun (old use). See **VILLAIN**.

**blacklist** verb **boycott**, ostracize, avoid, embargo, steer clear of, ignore; refuse to employ; Brit. dated **black**.

**black magic** noun **sorcery**, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, the black arts, devilry; malediction, voodoo, witching, witchery.

**blackmail** noun *he was accused of blackmail: extortion*, demanding money with menaces; informal hush money; formal exaction.

•verb **1** *he was blackmailing the murderer:*

**extort money from**, threaten, hold to ransom; informal demand hush money from. **2** *she blackmailed me to work for her:* **coerce**, pressurize, pressure, force; informal lean on, put the screws on, twist someone's arm.

**blackout** noun **1** *a power blackout:* **power cut**, power failure; brown-out. **2** *a news blackout:* **suppression**, silence, censorship, reporting restrictions. **3** *he had a blackout:* **fainting fit**, faint, loss of consciousness, passing out, swoon, collapse; Medicine **syncope**.

**blame** verb **1** *he always blames others:* **hold responsible**, hold accountable, condemn, accuse, find/consider guilty, assign fault/liability/guilt to; old use inculpate. **2** *they blame youth crime on unemployment:* **ascribe to**, attribute to, impute to, lay at the door of, put down to; informal pin.

– OPPOSITES absolve.

•noun *he was cleared of all blame for the accident:* **responsibility**, guilt, accountability, liability, culpability, fault.

**blameless** adjective **innocent**, guiltless, above reproach, irreproachable, unimpeachable, in the clear, exemplary, perfect, virtuous, pure, impeccable; informal squeaky clean.

– OPPOSITES blameworthy.

**blameworthy** adjective **culpable**, reprehensible, indefensible, inexcusable, guilty, criminal, delinquent, wrong, evil, wicked; to blame, at fault, reproachable, responsible, answerable, erring, errant, in the wrong.

– OPPOSITES blameless.

**blanch** verb **1** *the cold light blanched her face:* **turn pale**, whiten, lighten, bleach, wash out, fade. **2** *his face blanched:* **pale**, turn pale, turn white, whiten, lose its colour, lighten, fade, blench. **3** *blanch the spinach leaves:* **scald**, boil briefly.

– OPPOSITES colour, darken.

**bland** adjective **1** *bland food:* **tasteless**, flavourless, insipid, weak, watery, spiceless, wishy-washy. **2** *a bland film:* **uninteresting**, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, dry, drab, dreary, wearisome; unexciting, unimaginative, uninspiring, uninspired, lacklustre, vapid, flat, stale, trite, vacuous, wishy-washy. **3** *a bland expression:* **unemotional**, emotionless, dispassionate, passionless; unexpressive, cool, impassive; expressionless, blank, wooden, stony, deadpan, hollow, undemonstrative, imperturbable.

– OPPOSITES tangy, interesting, emotional.

**blandishments** plural noun **flattery**, cajolery, coaxing, wheedling, persuasion, honeyed words, smooth talk, blarney; informal sweet talk, soft soap, buttering up.

**blank** adjective **1** *a blank sheet of paper:*

**empty**, unmarked, unused, clear, free, bare, clean, plain. **2** *a blank face:* **expressionless**, deadpan, wooden, stony, impassive, unresponsive, poker-faced, vacuous, empty, glazed, fixed, lifeless, inscrutable.

**3** *'What?' said Maxim, looking blank:* **baffled**, mystified, puzzled, perplexed, stumped, at a loss, stuck, bewildered, nonplussed, bemused, lost, uncomprehending, (all) at sea, confused; informal flummoxed, bamboozled. **4** *a blank refusal:* **outright**, absolute, categorical, unqualified, complete, flat, straight, positive, certain, explicit, unequivocal, clear, clear-cut.

– OPPOSITES full, expressive, qualified.

•noun **space**, gap, lacuna.

**blanket** noun *a blanket of cloud:* **covering**, layer, coating, carpet, overlay, cloak, mantle, veil, pall, shroud.

•adjective *a blanket ban on tobacco advertising:* **complete**, total, comprehensive, overall, general, mass, umbrella, inclusive, all-inclusive, all-round, wholesale, outright, across the board, sweeping, indiscriminate, thorough; universal, global, worldwide, international, nationwide, countrywide, coast-to-coast.

– OPPOSITES partial, piecemeal.

•verb **1** *snow blanketed the mountains:* **cover**, coat, carpet, overlay; cloak, shroud, swathe, envelop; literary mantle. **2** *double glazing blankets the noise a bit:* **muffle**, deaden, soften, mute, silence, quieten, smother, dampen.

– OPPOSITES amplify.

**blare** verb *sirens blared:* **blast**, sound loudly, trumpet, clamour, boom, roar, thunder, bellow, resound.

– OPPOSITES murmur.

•noun *the blare of the siren:* **blast**, trumpeting, clamour, boom, roar, thunder, bellow.

– OPPOSITES murmur.

**blarney** noun **blandishments**, honeyed words, smooth talk, flattery, cajolery, coaxing, wheedling, persuasion; charm offensive; informal sweet talk, soft soap, smarm, buttering up.

**blasé** adjective **indifferent**, unconcerned, uncaring, casual, nonchalant, offhand, uninterested, apathetic, unimpressed, unmoved, unresponsive, phlegmatic; informal laid-back; rare pocourante.

– OPPOSITES concerned, responsive.

**blaspheme** verb **swear**, curse, take the Lord's name in vain; informal cuss; old use execrate.

**blasphemous** adjective **sacrilegious**, profane, irreligious, irreverent, impious, ungodly, godless.

– OPPOSITES reverent.

**blasphemy** noun **profanity**, sacrilege,

irreligion, irreverence, taking the Lord's name in vain, swearing, curse, cursing, impiety, desecration; old use execration.

**b** – OPPOSITES reverence.

**blast** noun **1** *the blast from the bomb*: shock wave, pressure wave. **2** *Friday's blast killed two people*: explosion, detonation, discharge, burst. **3** *a sudden blast of cold air*: gust, rush, gale, squall, wind, draught, waft, puff, flurry. **4** *the shrill blast of the trumpets*: blare, wail, roar, screech, shriek, hoot, honk, beep.

• **verb 1** *bombers were blasting enemy airfields*: blow up, bomb, blow (to pieces), dynamite, explode; shell, strafe, bombard. **2** *guns were blasting away*: fire, shoot, blaze, let fly, discharge. **3** *he blasted his horn*: honk, beep, toot, sound. **4** *radios blasting out pop music*: blare, boom, roar, thunder, bellow, pump, shriek, screech. **5** *Fowler was blasted with an air gun*: shoot, gun down, mow down, cut down; informal pot, plug. **6** (informal) *he blasted the pupils for being late*. See REPRIMAND verb.

■ **blast off** be launched, take off, lift off, leave the ground, become airborne, take to the air.

**blasted** adjective (informal). See DAMNED sense 2.

**blast-off** noun launch, lift-off, take-off, ascent, firing.

– OPPOSITES touchdown.

**blatant** adjective flagrant, glaring, obvious, undisguised, unconcealed, open; shameless, barefaced, unabashed, unashamed, unblushing, brazen, brass-necked.

– OPPOSITES inconspicuous, shamefaced.

**blather** verb *he just blathered on*: prattle, babble, chatter, twitter, prate, go on, run on, rattle on, yap, jibber-jabber, maunder, ramble, burble, drivel; informal yak, yatter; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle.

• **noun** *mindless blather*: prattle, chatter, twitter, babble, prating, gabble, jabber, rambling; informal yatter, twaddle; Brit. informal wittering, chuntering.

**blaze** noun **1** *firemen fought the blaze*: fire, flames, conflagration, inferno, holocaust. **2** *a blaze of light*: glare, gleam, flash, burst, flare, streak, radiance, brilliance, beam. **3** *a blaze of anger*: outburst, burst, eruption, flare-up, explosion, outbreak; blast, attack, fit, spasm, paroxysm, access, rush, storm.

• **verb 1** *the fire blazed merrily*: burn, be alight, be on fire, be in flames, flame. **2** *headlights blazed*: shine, flash, flare, glare, gleam, glint, dazzle, glitter, glisten. **3** *soldiers blazed away*: fire, shoot, blast, let fly.

**blazon** verb **1** *their name is blazoned across the sails*: display, exhibit, present, spread, emblazon, plaster. **2** *the newspapers blazoned the news abroad*: publicize, make known, make public, announce, report, communicate, spread, circulate, give out, publish, broadcast, trumpet, proclaim, promulgate.

**bleach** verb **1** *the blinds had been bleached by the sun*: turn white, whiten, turn pale, blanch, lighten, fade, decolour, decolorize,

peroxide. **2** *they saw bones bleaching in the sun*: turn white, whiten, turn pale, pale, blanch, lose its colour, lighten, fade.

– OPPOSITES darken.

**bleak** adjective **1** *a bleak landscape*: bare, exposed, desolate, stark, desert, lunar, open, empty, windswept; treeless, without vegetation, denuded. **2** *the future is bleak*: unpromising, unfavourable, unpropitious, inauspicious; discouraging, disheartening, depressing, dim, gloomy, black, dark, grim, hopeless.

– OPPOSITES lush, promising.

**bleary** adjective blurred, blurry, unfocused; fogged, clouded, dull, misty, watery, rheumy; old use blear.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**bleat** verb **1** *the sheep were bleating*: baa; N. Amer. informal blat. **2** *don't bleat to me about fairness*: complain, grouse, carp, fuss, snivel; Scottish & Irish gurn; informal gripe, beef, whinge, bellyache, moan, go on; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**bleed** verb **1** *his arm was bleeding*: lose blood, haemorrhage. **2** *the doctor bled him*: draw blood from; Medicine exsanguinate; old use phlebotomize. **3** *one colour bled into another*: flow, run, seep, filter, percolate, leach. **4** *sap was bleeding from the trunk*: flow, run, ooze, seep, exude, weep. **5** *the country was bled dry by poachers*: drain, sap, deplete, milk, exhaust. **6** *my heart bleeds for them*: grieve, ache, sorrow, mourn, lament, feel, suffer; sympathize with, pity.

**blemish** noun **1** *not a blemish marred her skin*: imperfection, flaw, defect, fault, deformity, discoloration, disfigurement; bruise, scar, pit, pock, scratch, cut, gash; mark, streak, spot, smear, speck, blotch, smudge, smut; birthmark; Medicine stigma. **2** *government is not without blemish*: defect, fault, failing, flaw, imperfection, foible, vice; shortcoming, weakness, deficiency, limitation; taint, stain, dishonour, disgrace. – OPPOSITES virtue.

• **verb 1** *nothing blemished the coast*: mar, spoil, impair, disfigure, blight, deface, mark, scar; ruin. **2** *his reign has been blemished by controversy*: sully, tarnish, besmirch, blacken, blot, taint; spoil, mar, ruin, disgrace, damage, undermine, degrade, dishonour; formal vitiate.

– OPPOSITES enhance.

**blench** verb flinch, start, shy (away), recoil, shrink, pull back, cringe, wince, quail, cower.

**blend** verb **1** *blend the ingredients until smooth*: mix, mingle, combine, merge, fuse, meld, coalesce, integrate, intermix; stir, whisk, fold in; technical admix; literary commingle. **2** *the new buildings blend with the older ones*: harmonize, go (well), fit (in), be in tune, be compatible; coordinate, match, complement.

• **noun** *a blend of bananas, raisins, and ginger*: mixture, mix, combination, amalgamation, amalgam, union, marriage, fusion, meld, synthesis; technical admixture.

**bless** verb **1** *the chaplain blessed the couple*:



ask/invoke God's favour for. **2** *the Cardinal blessed the memorial plaque*: consecrate, sanctify, dedicate (to God), make holy, make sacred; formal hallow. **3** *bless the name of the Lord*: praise, worship, glorify, honour, exalt, pay homage to, venerate, reverence, hallow; old use magnify. **4** *the gods blessed us with magical voices*: endow, bestow, furnish, accord, give, favour, grace; confer on; literary endue. **5** *I bless the day you came here*: give thanks for, be grateful for, thank; appreciate. **6** *the government refused to bless the undertaking*: sanction, consent to, endorse, agree to, approve, back, support; informal give the thumbs up to, give the green light to, OK.

– OPPOSITES curse, trouble, rue, oppose.

**blessed** adjective **1** *a blessed place*: holy, sacred, hallowed, consecrated, sanctified; ordained, canonized, beatified. **2** *blessed are the meek*: favoured, fortunate, lucky, privileged, enviable. **3** *the fresh air made a blessed change*: welcome, pleasant, agreeable, refreshing, favourable, gratifying, heartening, much needed.

– OPPOSITES cursed, wretched, unwelcome.

**blessing** noun **1** *may God give us his blessing*: protection, favour. **2** *a special blessing from the priest*: benediction, invocation, prayer, intercession; grace. **3** *she gave the plan her blessing*: sanction, endorsement, approval, approbation, favour, consent, assent, agreement; backing, support; informal the thumbs up. **4** *it was a blessing they didn't have far to go*: boon, godsend, advantage, benefit, help, bonus, plus; stroke of luck, windfall; literary benison.

– OPPOSITES condemnation, affliction.

**blight** noun **1** *potato blight*: disease, canker, infestation, fungus, mildew, mould. **2** *the blight of aircraft noise*: affliction, scourge, bane, curse, plague, menace, misfortune, woe, trouble, ordeal, trial, nuisance, pest.

– OPPOSITES blessing.

• verb **1** *a tree blighted by leaf curl*: infect, mildew, kill, destroy. **2** *scandal blighted the careers of several politicians*: ruin, wreck, spoil, mar, frustrate, disrupt, undo, end, scotch, destroy, shatter, devastate, demolish; informal mess up, foul up, put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie; Brit. informal scupper; old use bring to naught.

**blind** adjective **1** *he has been blind since birth*: sightless, unsighted, visually impaired, visionless, unseeing; partially sighted, purblind; informal as blind as a bat. **2** *she was ignorant, but not blind*: imperceptive, unperceptive, insensitive, slow, obtuse, uncomprehending; stupid, unintelligent; informal dense, dim, thick, dumb, dopey; Brit. informal dozy; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit. **3** *you should be blind to failure*: unmindful of, mindless of, careless of, heedless of, oblivious to, insensible to, unconcerned about, indifferent to. **4** *blind acceptance of conventional opinion*: uncritical, unreasoned, unthinking, unconsidered, mindless, undiscerning, indiscriminate. **5** *a blind rage*: wild, uncontrolled, unbridled,

uncontrollable, unrestrained, furious, towering. **6** *a blind alley*: without exit, blocked, closed, barred, impassable; dead end.

– OPPOSITES sighted, perceptive, mindful, discerning.

• verb **1** *he was blinded in a car crash*: make blind, deprive of sight, render sightless; put someone's eyes out. **2** *scaffolding blinded the windows*: obscure, cover, blot out, mask, shroud, block, eclipse, obstruct. **3** *he was blinded by his faith*: deprive of judgement, deprive of reason, deprive of sense. **4** *they try to blind you with science*: overawe, intimidate, daunt, deter, discourage, cow, abash, subdue, dismay; disquiet, discomfit, unsettle, disconcert; confuse, bewilder, confound, perplex, overwhelm; informal faze, psych out.

• noun **1** *a window blind*: screen, shade, sunshade, curtain, awning, canopy; louvre, jalousie, shutter. **2** *some crook had sent the card as a blind*: deception, camouflage, smokescreen, front, facade, cover, pretext, masquerade, feint; trick, ploy, ruse, machination.

**blindly** adverb **1** *he stared blindly ahead*: sightlessly, unseeingly. **2** *he ran blindly upstairs*: impetuously, impulsively, recklessly, heedlessly, uncontrolledly. **3** *they blindly followed US policy*: uncritically, unthinkingly, mindlessly, indiscriminately.

**blink** verb **1** *his eyes did not blink*: flutter, flicker, wink, bat; technical nictitate, nictate. **2** *several red lights began to blink*: flash, flicker, wink. **3** *no one even blinks at the 'waitresses' in drag*: be surprised, look twice; informal boggle.

**blinkered** adjective narrow-minded, inward-looking, parochial, provincial, insular, small-minded, close-minded, short-sighted; hidebound, inflexible, entrenched, prejudiced, bigoted; Brit. parish-pump.

– OPPOSITES broad-minded.

**bliss** noun **1** *she gave a sigh of bliss*: joy, happiness, pleasure, delight, ecstasy, elation, rapture, euphoria. **2** *religions promise perfect bliss after death*: blessedness, benediction, beatitude, glory, heavenly joy, divine happiness; heaven, paradise.

– OPPOSITES misery, hell.

**blissful** adjective ecstatic, euphoric, joyful, elated, rapturous, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven; delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, joyous; informal over the moon, on top of the world; Austral. informal wrapped.

**blister** noun **1** *a blister on each heel*: bleb; Medicine bulla, pustule, vesicle, vesication. **2** *check for blisters in the roofing felt*: bubble, swelling, bulge, protuberance.

**blistering** adjective **1** *blistering heat*: intense, extreme, ferocious, fierce; scorching, searing, blazing, burning, fiery; informal boiling, baking, roasting, sweltering. **2** *a blistering attack on the government*: savage, vicious, fierce, bitter, harsh, scathing, devastating, caustic, searing, vitriolic. **3** *a blistering pace*: very fast,

breakneck; informal blinding.

– OPPOSITES mild, leisurely.

**blythe** adjective **1** *a blythe disregard for the rules:* casual, indifferent, unconcerned, unworried, untroubled, uncaring, careless, heedless, thoughtless; nonchalant, blasé.

**2** (literary) *his blythe, smiling face:* happy, cheerful, jolly, merry, joyful, joyous, blissful, ecstatic, euphoric, elated; literary blithesome; dated gay.

– OPPOSITES thoughtful, sad.

**blitz** noun *the 1940 blitz on London:*

**bombardment**, bombing, onslaught, barrage; campaign, attack, assault, raid, strike, blitzkrieg.

• **verb** *the town was blitzed in the war:* bombard, attack, bomb, shell, torpedo, strafe; destroy, devastate, ravage.

**blizzard** noun *snowstorm*, white-out.

**bloated** adjective *swollen*, distended, tumefied, bulging, inflated, enlarged, expanded, dilated.

**blob** noun **1** *a blob of cold gravy:* drop, droplet, globule, bead, bubble; informal glob.

**2** *a blob of ink:* spot, dab, blotch, blot, dot, smudge; informal splotch, splodge.

• **verb** *masking fluid is blobbed on freely:* daub, dab, spot, slop.

**bloc** noun *alliance*, coalition, federation, confederation, league, union, partnership, axis, body, association, group.

**block** noun **1** *a block of cheese:* chunk, hunk, lump, wedge, cube, brick, slab, piece; Brit. informal wodge. **2** *an apartment block:*

**building**, complex, structure, development. **3** *a block of shares:* batch, group, set, quantity, tranche. **4** *a sketching block:* pad, notepad, sketch pad, jotter, tablet. **5** *a block to Third World development:* obstacle,

bar, barrier, impediment, hindrance, check, hurdle, stumbling block, handicap, deterrent. **6** *a block in the pipe:* blockage, obstruction, stoppage, congestion, occlusion, clot.

– OPPOSITES aid.

• **verb** **1** *weeds can block drainage ditches:* clog (up), stop up, choke, plug, obstruct, gum up, dam up, bung up, congest, jam, close; Brit. informal gunge up; technical occlude. **2** *picket lines blocked access to the factory:* hinder, hamper, obstruct, impede, inhibit, restrict, limit; halt, stop, bar, check, prevent. **3** *he blocked a shot on the goal line:* parry, stop, deflect, fend off, hold off, repel, repulse.

– OPPOSITES facilitate.

■ **block something off** close up, shut off, seal off, barricade, bar, obstruct.

■ **block something out** *the trees blocked out the light:* conceal, keep out, blot out, exclude, obliterate, blank out, stop. **2** *block out an area in charcoal:* rough out, sketch out, outline, delineate, draft.

**blockade** noun **1** *a naval blockade of the island:* siege; rare besiegement. **2** *they erected blockades in the streets:* barricade, barrier, roadblock; obstacle, obstruction.

• **verb** *rebels blockaded the capital:* barricade, block off, shut off, seal; besiege, surround.

**blockage** noun *obstruction*, stoppage, block, occlusion, congestion.

**bloke** noun (Brit. informal). See **FELLOW** sense 1.

**blonde**, **blond** adjective *fair*, light, yellow, flaxen, tow-coloured, golden, platinum, ash blonde, strawberry blonde; bleached, peroxide.

– OPPOSITES dark.

**blood** noun **1** *he had lost too much blood:* gore, vital fluid; literary lifeblood, ichor. **2** *a woman of noble blood:* ancestry, lineage, bloodline, descent, parentage, family, birth, extraction, origin, genealogy, heritage, stock, kinship.

#### WORD LINKS

**corpuscle** a blood cell

**haemoglobin** the protein in the blood that transports oxygen

**plasma** the colourless part of the blood  
**anaemia** a shortage of haemoglobin in the blood

**septicaemia**, **toxaemia** blood poisoning

**leukaemia** a blood disease in which increased numbers of white cells are produced

**haematology** the branch of medicine relating to blood

**haemophilia** a medical condition in which the blood cannot clot properly

**haemorrhage** an escape of blood from a ruptured blood vessel

**styptic** able to stop bleeding

**blood-curdling** adjective *terrifying*, frightening, spine-chilling, chilling, hair-raising, horrifying, alarming; eerie, sinister, horrible; Scottish eldritch; informal scary.

**bloodless** adjective **1** *a bloodless revolution:* non-violent, peaceful, peaceable, pacifist.

**2** *his face was bloodless:* anaemic, pale, wan, pallid, ashen, colourless, chalky, waxen, white, grey, pasty, drained, drawn, deathly.

**3** *a bloodless Hollywood mogul:* heartless, unfeeling, cruel, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, uncharitable; cold, hard, stony-hearted, cold-blooded, callous. **4** *a bloodless chorus:* feeble, spiritless, lifeless, listless, half-hearted, unenthusiastic, lukewarm.

– OPPOSITES bloody, ruddy, charitable, powerful.

**bloodshed** noun *slaughter*, massacre, killing, wounding; carnage, butchery, bloodletting, bloodbath; violence, fighting, warfare; literary slaying.

**bloodthirsty** adjective *murderous*, homicidal, violent, vicious, barbarous, barbaric, savage, brutal, cut-throat; fierce, ferocious, inhuman.

**bloody** adjective **1** *his bloody nose:* bleeding. **2** *bloody medical waste:* bloodstained, blood-soaked, gory; old use sanguinary. **3** *a bloody civil war:* vicious, ferocious, savage, fierce, brutal, murderous, gory; old use sanguinary. **4** (informal) *a bloody nuisance!* See **DAMNED**.

**bloody-minded** adjective (Brit. informal) *uncooperative*, awkward, disobliging, recalcitrant, unaccommodating, inflexible, uncompromising, contrary, perverse, obstinate, stubborn; difficult; informal

pig-headed; Brit. informal bolshie, stropky.

– OPPOSITES compliant.

**bloom** noun **1** *orchid blooms: flower, blossom, floweret, floret.* **2** *a girl in the bloom of youth: prime, perfection, acme, peak, height, heyday; salad days.* **3** *the bloom of her skin: radiance, lustre, sheen, glow, freshness; blush, rosininess, pinkness, colour.* •verb **1** *the geraniums bloomed: flower, blossom, open; mature.* **2** *the children bloomed in the Devonshire air: flourish, thrive, prosper, progress, burgeon; informal be in the pink.*

– OPPOSITES wither, decline.

**blossom** noun *pink blossoms: flower, bloom, floweret, floret.*

•verb **1** *the snowdrops have blossomed: bloom, flower, open, unfold; mature.* **2** *the whole region had blossomed: develop, grow, mature, progress, evolve; flourish, thrive, prosper, bloom, burgeon.*

– OPPOSITES fade, decline.

**blot** noun **1** *an ink blot: spot, dot, mark, blotch, smudge, patch, dab; informal splotch; Brit. informal splodge.* **2** *the only blot on a clean campaign: blemish, taint, stain, blight, flaw, fault; disgrace, dishonour.* **3** *a blot on the landscape: eyesore, monstrosity, carbuncle, mess; informal sight.*

•verb **1** *blot the excess water: soak up, absorb, sponge up, mop up; dry up/out; dab, pat.* **2** *the writing was messy and blotted: smudge, smear, blotch, mark.* **3** *he had blotted out her name forever: tarnish, taint, stain, blacken, sully, mar; dishonour, disgrace, besmirch.*

– OPPOSITES honour.

■ **blot something out** **1** *Mary blotted out her picture: erase, obliterate, delete, efface, rub out, blank out, expunge; cross out, strike out.* **2** *clouds were starting to blot out the stars: conceal, hide, obscure, exclude, obliterate; shadow, eclipse.* **3** *he urged her to blot out the memory: erase, efface, eradicate, expunge, wipe out.*

**blotch** noun **1** *pink flowers with dark blotches: patch, smudge, dot, spot, blot, dab, daub; informal splotch; Brit. informal splodge.* **2** *his face was covered in blotches: patch, mark, freckle, birthmark, discoloration, eruption, naevus.*

•verb *her face was blotched and swollen: spot, mark, smudge, streak, blemish.*

**blotchy** adjective *mottled, dappled, blotched, patchy, spotty, spotted, smudged, marked; informal splotchy; Brit. informal splodge.*

**blow**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *the icy wind blew around us: gust, puff, flurry, blast, roar, bluster, rush, storm.* **2** *his ship was blown on to the rocks: sweep, carry, toss, drive, push, force.* **3** *leaves blew across the road: drift, flutter, waft, float, glide, whirl, move.* **4** *he blew a smoke ring: exhale, puff; emit, expel, discharge, issue.* **5** *Uncle Albert was puffing and blowing: wheeze, puff, pant, gasp.* **6** *he blew a trumpet: sound, blast, toot, pipe, trumpet; play.* **7** *a rear tyre had blown: burst, explode, blow out, split, rupture, puncture.* **8** *the bulb had blown: fuse,*

*short-circuit, burn out, break, go.* **9** (informal) *he blew his money on gambling: squander, waste, misspend, throw away, fritter away, go through, lose, lavish, dissipate, use up; spend recklessly; informal splurge; Brit. informal, dated blue.* **10** (informal) *don't blow this opportunity: spoil, ruin, bungle, mess up, fudge; waste, lose, squander; informal botch, miff, screw up, foul up; Brit. informal cock up, bodge.* **11** *his cover was blown: expose, reveal, uncover, disclose, divulge, unveil, betray, leak.*

■ **blow out** **1** *the matches will not blow out in a strong wind: be extinguished, go out, be put out, stop burning.* **2** *the windows blew out: shatter, rupture, crack, smash, splinter, disintegrate; burst, explode, fly apart; informal bust.*

■ **blow something out** *extinguish, put out, snuff, douse, quench, smother.*

■ **blow over** *abate, subside, drop off, lessen, ease (off), let up, diminish, fade, dwindle, slacken, recede, tail off, peter out, pass, die down, fizzle out.*

■ **blow up** **1** *a lorryload of shells blew up: explode, detonate, go off, ignite, erupt.* **2** *he blows up at whoever's in his way: lose one's temper, get angry, rant and rave, go berserk, flare up, erupt; informal go mad, go crazy, go wild, go ape, hit the roof, fly off the handle.* **3** *a crisis blew up: break out, erupt, flare up, boil over; emerge, arise.*

■ **blow something up** **1** *they blew the plane up: bomb, blast, destroy; explode, detonate.* **2** *blow up the balloons: inflate, pump up, fill up, puff up, swell, expand, aerate.*

**3** *things get blown up out of all proportion: exaggerate, overstate, overstress, overestimate, magnify, amplify; aggrandize, embellish, elaborate.* **4** *I blew the picture up on a photocopier: enlarge, magnify, expand, increase.*

**blow**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *a blow on the head: knock, bang, hit, punch, thump, smack, crack, rap; informal whack, thwack, bash, clout, sock, wallop.* **2** *losing his wife must have been a blow: shock, surprise, bombshell, thunderbolt, jolt; calamity, catastrophe, disaster, upset, setback.*

**blowout** noun **1** *the steering is automatic in the event of blowouts: puncture, flat tyre, burst tyre; informal flat.* **2** (informal) *this meal is our last real blowout: feast, banquet, celebration, party; informal shindig, do, binge; Brit. informal beanfeast, bunfight, nosh-up.*

**blowsy** adjective *untidy, sloppy, scruffy, messy, dishevelled, unkempt, frowzy, slovenly; coarse; red-faced, ruddy, florid, raddled.*

– OPPOSITES tidy, respectable.

**blowy** adjective *windy, windswept, blustery, gusty, breezy; stormy, squally.*

– OPPOSITES still.

**blubber**<sup>1</sup> noun *whale blubber: fat, fatty tissue.*

**blubber**<sup>2</sup> verb (informal) *she started to blubber: cry, sob, weep, howl, snivel; informal blub, boohoo.*



b

**bludgeon** noun *hooligans wielding**bludgeons: cudgel, club, stick, truncheon, baton; N. Amer. nightstick, blackjack; Brit. informal cosh.*• **verb 1** *he was bludgeoned to death:**batter, cudgel, club, beat, thrash; informal clobber. 2 I let him bludgeon me into**marriage: coerce, force, compel, pressurize, pressure, bully, browbeat, hector, dragoon, steamroller; informal strong-arm, railroad.***blue** adjective **1** *bright blue eyes:* sky-blue, azure, cobalt, sapphire, navy, Oxford blue, Cambridge blue, ultramarine, aquamarine, cyan; literary cerulean. **2** (informal) *Mum was feeling a bit blue:* depressed, down, sad, unhappy, melancholy, miserable,*gloomy, dejected, downhearted, downcast, despondent, low, glum; informal down in the dumps, down in the mouth, fed up. 3* (informal) *a blue movie: pornographic, racy, risqué, naughty, spicy; indecent, dirty, lewd, smutty, filthy, obscene, sordid; erotic, arousing, sexy, titillating, explicit; informal porn, porno, X-rated, raunchy; euphemistic adult.*

– OPPOSITES happy, clean.

**blueprint** noun **1** *blueprints of the aircraft:**plan, design, diagram, drawing, sketch, map, layout, representation. 2 a blueprint for similar measures in other countries: model, plan, template, framework, pattern, example, guide, prototype, pilot.***blues** plural noun (informal) *a fit of blues:**depression, sadness, unhappiness, melancholy, misery, sorrow, gloom, dejection, despondency, despair; the doldrums.***bluff**<sup>1</sup> noun *this offer was denounced as a**bluff: deception, subterfuge, pretence, sham, fake, deceit, feint, hoax, fraud, charade; trick, ruse, scheme, machination; informal put-on.*• **verb 1** *they are bluffing to hide their guilt: pretend, sham, fake, feign, lie, hoax, pose, posture, masquerade, dissemble.***2** *I managed to bluff the board into believing me: deceive, delude, mislead, trick, fool, hoodwink, dupe, hoax, beguile, gull; informal con, kid, have on.***bluff**<sup>2</sup> adjective *a bluff man:* plain-spoken, straightforward, blunt, direct, no-nonsense, frank, open, candid, forthright, unequivocal; hearty, genial, good-natured; informal upfront.**bluff**<sup>3</sup> noun *an impregnable high bluff: cliff, promontory, headland, crag, bank, peak, escarpment, scarp.***blunder** noun *he shook his head at his**blunder: mistake, error, gaffe, slip, oversight, faux pas; informal botch, slip-up, boo-boo; Brit. informal clanger, boob; N. Amer. informal blooper.*• **verb 1** *the government admitted it**had blundered: make a mistake, err, miscalculate, bungle, trip up, be wrong; informal slip up, screw up, blow it, goof; Brit. informal boob. 2 she blundered down the steps: stumble, lurch, stagger, flounder, struggle, fumble, grope.***blunt** adjective **1** *a blunt knife: unsharpened,**dull, worn, edgeless. 2 the leaf is broad with a blunt tip: rounded, flat, obtuse, stubby. 3 a blunt message: straightforward, frank, plain-spoken, candid, direct, bluff, forthright, unequivocal; brusque, abrupt, curt, terse, bald, brutal, harsh; stark, undisguised, unvarnished; informal upfront.*

– OPPOSITES sharp, pointed, subtle.

• **verb 1** *ebony blunts tools very rapidly: dull, make less sharp. 2 age hasn't blunted my passion for life: dull, deaden, dampen, numb, weaken, sap, cool, temper, allay, abate; diminish, reduce, decrease, lessen, deplete.*

– OPPOSITES sharpen, intensify.

**blur** verb **1** *she felt tears blur her vision:**cloud, fog, obscure, dim, make hazy, unfocus, soften; literary bedim; old use blear. 2 films blur the difference between villains and victims: obscure, make vague, confuse, muddle, muddy, obfuscate, cloud, weaken. 3 memories of the picnic had blurred:**become dim, dull, numb, deaden, mute; lessen, decrease, diminish.*

– OPPOSITES sharpen, focus.

• **noun** *a blur on the horizon: shape, form, smudge; haze, cloud, mist.***blurred** adjective *indistinct, blurry, fuzzy, hazy, misty, foggy, shadowy, faint; unclear, vague, indefinite, unfocused, obscure, nebulous.***blurt** verb• **blurt something out** burst out with, exclaim, call out; divulge, disclose, reveal, betray, let slip, give away; informal blab, gush, let on, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag; dated ejaculate.**blush** verb *Joan blushed at the compliment:**redden, turn/go pink, turn/go red, flush, colour, burn up; feel shy, feel embarrassed.*• **noun** *the darkness hid her fiery blush: flush, rosiness, pinkness, bloom, high colour.***bluster** verb **1** *he started blustering about the general election: rant, thunder, bellow, sound off; be overbearing; informal throw one's weight about/around. 2 storms bluster in from the sea: blast, gust, storm, roar, rush.*• **noun** *his bluster turned to cooperation: ranting, thundering, hectoring, bullying; bombast, bumptiousness, braggadocio.***blustery** adjective *stormy, gusty, blowy, windy, squally, wild, tempestuous, turbulent; howling, roaring.*

– OPPOSITES calm.

**board** noun **1** *a wooden board: plank, beam,**panel, slat, batten, timber, lath. 2 the board of directors: committee, council, panel, directorate, commission, group. 3 your room and board will be free: food, meals, provisions, refreshments, diet, table, bread; keep, maintenance; informal grub, nosh, eats, chow; Brit. informal scoff.*• **verb 1** *he boarded the aircraft: get on, go aboard, enter, mount, ascend; embark, emplane, entrain; catch; informal hop on. 2 a number of students boarded with them:**lodge, live, reside, be housed; N. Amer. room; informal put up, have digs. 3 they run a facility for boarding dogs: accommodate, lodge, take*

in, put up, house; keep, feed, cater for.

**boast** verb **1** *his mother had been boasting about him*: brag, crow, swagger, swank, gloat, show off; exaggerate, overstate; informal talk big, lay it on thick; Austral./NZ informal skate. **2** *the hotel boasts a fine restaurant*: possess, have, own, enjoy, pride oneself/itself on.

• **noun** **1** *I said I would win and it wasn't an idle boast*: brag, self-praise; claim, exaggeration, overstatement; informal swank; Austral./NZ informal skate; rare fanfaronade. **2** *the hall is the boast of the county*: pride, joy, wonder, delight, treasure, gem.

**boastful** adjective bragging, swaggering, bumptious, puffed up, full of oneself; cocky, conceited, arrogant, egotistical; informal swanky, big-headed; N. Amer. informal blowhard; literary vainglorious.

— OPPOSITES modest.

**boat** noun *a rowing boat*: vessel, craft, watercraft, ship; literary keel, barque.

• verb *he insisted on boating into the lake*: sail, yacht, cruise.

**bob** verb **1** *their yacht bobbed about*: move up and down, bounce, toss, skip, dance, jounce; wobble, jiggle, joggle, jolt, jerk. **2** *the bookie's head bobbed*: nod, incline, dip; wag, waggle. **3** *the maid bobbed and left the room*: curtsy, bow.

• **noun** **1** *a bob of his head*: nod, inclination, dip; wag, waggle. **2** *the maid scurried away with a bob*: curtsy, bow, obeisance.

**bode** verb *augur, portend, herald, be a sign of, warn of, foreshadow, be an omen of, presage, indicate, signify, promise, threaten, spell, denote, foretell; prophesy, predict; literary betoken, forebode*.

**bodily** adjective *bodily sensations*: physical, corporeal, corporal, somatic, fleshly; concrete, real, actual, tangible.

— OPPOSITES spiritual, mental.

• **adverb** *he hauled her bodily from the van*: forcefully, forcibly, violently, wholly, completely, entirely.

**body** noun **1** *the human body*: figure, frame, form, physique, anatomy, skeleton; soma; informal bod. **2** *he was hit by shrapnel in the head and body*: torso, trunk. **3** *the bodies were put in the fire*: corpse, carcass, skeleton, remains; informal stiff; Medicine cadaver.

**4** *the body of the article*: main part, central part, core, heart, hub. **5** *the body of the ship*: bodywork, hull; fuselage. **6** *a body of water*: expanse, mass, area, stretch, tract, sweep, extent. **7** *a growing body of evidence*: quantity, amount, volume, collection, mass, corpus. **8** *the representative body of the employers*: association, organization, group, party, company, society, circle, syndicate, guild, corporation, contingent. **9** *a heavenly body*: object, entity. **10** *add body to your hair*: fullness, thickness, substance, bounce, lift, shape.

■ **body and soul** completely, entirely, totally, utterly, fully, thoroughly, wholeheartedly, unconditionally, to the hilt.

#### WORD LINKS

corporeal, corporeal, somatic relating to the body

**anatomy** the study of the structure of the body

**biorhythm** a recurring cycle in the functioning of the body

**palpate** examine a part of the body by touch

**bodyguard** noun *minder, guard, protector, guardian, defender; informal heavy*.

**boffin** noun (Brit. informal) **expert, specialist, authority, genius, mastermind; scientist, technician, inventor; informal egghead, Einstein**.

**bog** noun **marsh, swamp, mire, quagmire, morass, slough, fen, wetland; Brit. carr; Scottish & N. English moss**.

■ **bog someone/something down** mire, stick, entangle, ensnare, embroil; hamper, hinder, impede, delay, stall, detain; swamp, overwhelm.

**bogey** noun **1** *water bogies frighten children from pools*: evil spirit, bogle, spectre, phantom, hobgoblin, demon; informal spook. **2** *the guild is the bogey of bankers*: bugbear, pet hate, bane, anathema, abomination, nightmare, horror, dread, curse; N. Amer. bugaboo.

**boggle** verb (informal) **1** *this data makes the mind boggle*: marvel, wonder, be astonished, be overwhelmed, be staggered; gape, goggle; informal gawk. **2** *you never boggle at plain speaking*: demur, balk; shrink from, shy away from, be shy about; hesitate, waver, falter; informal be cagey about.

**boggy** adjective marshy, swampy, miry, fenny, muddy, waterlogged, wet, soggy, sodden, squelchy; spongy, heavy, sloughy.

**bogus** adjective *fake, spurious, false, fraudulent, sham, deceptive; counterfeit, forged, feigned; make-believe, dummy, pseudo; informal phoney, pretend*.

— OPPOSITES genuine.

**bohemian** noun *he is an artist and a real bohemian*: nonconformist, avant-gardist, free spirit, dropout; hippy, beatnik.

— OPPOSITES conservative.

• **adjective** *his family disapproved of his bohemian life*: unconventional, nonconformist, unorthodox, avant-garde, irregular, alternative; artistic; informal arty-farty, way-out, offbeat.

— OPPOSITES conventional.

**boil**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *boil the potatoes*: cook, simmer; bring to the boil. **2** *the soup is boiling*: simmer, bubble, stew. **3** *a huge cliff with the sea boiling below*: churn, seethe, froth, foam; literary roil. **4** *she boiled at his lack of consideration*: fume, seethe, rage, smoulder, bristle, be angry, be furious; get worked up; informal see red, get steamed up.

• **noun** *bring the stock to the boil*: boiling point, 100 degrees centigrade.

■ **boil something down** condense, reduce, concentrate, thicken.

b

■ **boil down** to come down to, amount to, add up to, be in essence.

**boil**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *a boil on her neck: swelling, spot, pimple, blister, pustule, eruption, carbuncle, wen, abscess, ulcer; technical furuncle.*

**boiling** **adjective** **1** *boiling water: at boiling point, at 100 degrees centigrade; very hot, piping hot; bubbling.* **2** (informal) *it was a boiling day: very hot, scorching, blistering, sweltering, sultry, torrid; informal roasting, baking.*

– **OPPOSITES** freezing.

**boisterous** **adjective** **1** *a boisterous game of handball: lively, animated, exuberant, spirited; rowdy, unruly, wild, uproarious, unrestrained, undisciplined, uninhibited, uncontrolled, rough, disorderly, riotous; noisy, loud, clamorous; informal rumbustious, Tiggerish.* **2** *a boisterous wind: blustery, gusty, windy, stormy, wild, squally, tempestuous; howling, roaring; informal blowy.*

– **OPPOSITES** restrained, calm.

**bold** **adjective** **1** *bold adventurers: daring, intrepid, brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, fearless, dauntless, audacious, daredevil; adventurous, heroic, plucky, spirited, confident, assured; informal gutsy, spunky, feisty.* **2** *a bold pattern: striking, vivid, bright, strong, eye-catching, prominent; gaudy, lurid, garish.* **3** *departure times are in bold type: heavy, thick.*

– **OPPOSITES** timid, pale.

**bolshie** **adjective** (Brit. informal) *uncooperative, awkward, disobliging, unhelpful, recalcitrant, contrary, perverse, obstinate, stubborn, difficult, unreasonable, exasperating, trying; Brit. informal bloody-minded, stropky.*

– **OPPOSITES** compliant.

**bolster** **noun** *the bed was strewn with bolsters: pillow, cushion, pad.*

• **verb** *a break would bolster her morale: strengthen, reinforce, boost, fortify, renew; support, buoy up, shore up, maintain, aid, help; augment, increase.*

– **OPPOSITES** undermine.

**bolt** **noun** **1** *the bolt on the shed door: bar, lock, catch, latch, fastener.* **2** *nuts and bolts: rivet, pin, peg, screw.* **3** *a bolt whirled over my head: arrow, quarrel, dart, shaft; literary reed.* **4** *a bolt of lightning: flash, shaft, streak, burst, flare.* **5** *Mark made a bolt for the door: dash, dart, run, sprint, leap, bound.* **6** *a bolt of cloth: roll, reel, spool; quantity, amount.*

• **verb** **1** *he bolted the door: lock, bar, latch, fasten, secure.* **2** *the lid was bolted down: rivet, pin, peg, screw; fasten, fix.* **3** *Anna bolted from the room: dash, dart, run, sprint, hurtle, rush, fly, shoot, bound; flee; informal tear, scoot, leg it.* **4** *he bolted down his breakfast: gobble, gulp, wolf, guzzle, devour; informal demolish, polish off, scoff, shovel down, Hoover up, trough; Brit. informal shift, gallop; N. Amer. informal scarf, snarf.*

■ **a bolt from/out of the blue** shock, surprise, bombshell, thunderbolt,

revelation; informal turn-up for the books.

**bomb** **noun** **1** *bombs burst on the runway: explosive, incendiary (device).* **2** *the fight against the bomb: nuclear weapons, nuclear bombs, atom bombs, A-bombs, weapons of mass destruction, WMD.* **3** (Brit. informal) *a new superstore will cost a bomb.* See **FORTUNE** sense 5.

• **verb** **1** *their headquarters were bombed: bombard, blast, shell, blitz, strafe, pound; attack, assault; blow up, destroy, demolish, flatten, devastate.* **2** (Brit. informal) *she bombed across Texas.* See **SPEED** verb sense 1. **3** (informal) *the film bombed at the box office.* See **FAIL** sense 1.

**bombard** **verb** **1** *gun batteries bombarded the islands: shell, pound, blitz, strafe, bomb; assail, attack, assault, batter, blast, pelt.* **2** *we were bombarded with information: inundate, swamp, flood, deluge, snow under; besiege, overwhelm.*

**bombast** **noun** *bluster, pomposity, empty talk, humbug, turgidity, verbosity, verbiage; pretentiousness, ostentation, grandiloquence; informal hot air; rare fustian.*

**bombastic** **adjective** *pompous, blustering, turgid, verbose, orotund, high-flown, high-sounding, overwrought, pretentious, ostentatious, grandiloquent; informal highfalutin; rare fustian.*

**bona fide** **adjective** *authentic, genuine, real, true, actual; legal, legitimate, lawful, valid, proper; informal legit, pukka, the real McCoy.*

– **OPPOSITES** bogus.

**bonanza** **noun** *windfall, godsend, boon, blessing, bonus, stroke of luck; informal jackpot.*

**bond** **noun** **1** *the women forged a close bond: friendship, relationship, fellowship, partnership, association, affiliation, alliance, attachment.* **2** *the prisoner struggled with his bonds: chains, fetters, shackles, manacles, irons, restraints.* **3** *I've broken my bond: promise, pledge, vow, oath, word (of honour), guarantee, assurance; agreement, contract, pact, bargain, deal.*

• **verb** *the extensions are bonded to your hair: join, fasten, fix, affix, attach, secure, bind, stick, fuse.*

**bondage** **noun** *slavery, enslavement, servitude, subjugation, subjection, oppression, domination, exploitation, persecution; historical serfdom, vassalage; old use enthrallment.*

– **OPPOSITES** liberty.

**bone** **noun**

#### WORD LINKS

**osseous** consisting of bone  
**orthopaedics** the branch of medicine concerned with bones

**ossify** turn into bone or bony tissue

**osteopathy** treatment involving manipulation of the bones and muscles

**osteoporosis** a condition in which the bones become brittle

**caries** the decay of a bone or tooth



**bonhomie** noun geniality, affability, conviviality, cordiality, amiability, sociability, friendliness, warmth, joviality.  
– OPPOSITES coldness.

**bon mot** noun witticism, quip, pun, pleasantry, jest, joke; informal wisecrack, one-liner.

**bonny** adjective (Scottish & N. English) beautiful, attractive, pretty, gorgeous, fetching, prepossessing; lovely, nice, sweet, cute, appealing, endearing, adorable, lovable, charming, winsome; informal divine; Austral./NZ informal beaut; literary beauteous; old use fair, comely.

– OPPOSITES unattractive.

**bonus** noun **1** *the extra work's a real bonus:* benefit, advantage, boon, blessing, godsend, stroke of luck, asset, plus, pro, attraction, extra; informal perk; formal perquisite. **2** *she's on a good salary and she gets a bonus:* gratuity, handout, gift, present, reward, prize; incentive, inducement; informal perk, sweetener; formal perquisite.

– OPPOSITES disadvantage.

**bon vivant**, **bon viveur** noun hedonist, pleasure-seeker, sensualist, sybarite, voluptuary; epicure, gourmet, gastronome.  
– OPPOSITES puritan.

**bony** adjective gaunt, angular, skinny, thin, lean, spare, spindly, skin and bone, skeletal, emaciated, underweight; informal like a bag of bones.

– OPPOSITES plump.

**booby** noun. See **IDIOT**.

**book** noun **1** *he published his first book in 1610:* volume, tome, publication, title; novel, storybook, treatise, manual; paperback, hardback, softback. **2** *he scribbled in his book:* notepad, notebook, pad, memo pad, exercise book; logbook, ledger, journal, diary; Brit. jotter, pocketbook; N. Amer. scratch pad. **3** *the council had to balance its books:* accounts, records; account book, record book, ledger, balance sheet.

• **verb 1** *she booked a table at the restaurant:* reserve, make a reservation for, prearrange, order; informal bag; formal bespeak. **2** *we booked a number of events in the Festival:* arrange, programme, schedule, timetable, line up, lay on; N. Amer. slate.

■ **by the book** according to the rules, within the law, lawfully, legally, legitimately; honestly, fairly; informal on the level, fair and square.

■ **book in** register, check in, enrol.

#### WORD LINKS

**bibliography** a list of books

**bibliophile** a book lover

**recto** the right-hand page of an open book

**verso** the left-hand page of an open book

**colophon** a publisher's emblem or imprint

**booklet** noun pamphlet, brochure, leaflet, handbill, flyer, tract; N. Amer. folder, mailer.

**boom** noun **1** *the boom of the waves on the rocks:* reverberation, resonance, thunder, echoing, crashing, drumming, pounding, roar, rumble. **2** *an unprecedented boom in sales:* upturn, upsurge, upswing, increase, advance, growth, boost, escalation, improvement.

– OPPOSITES slump.

• **verb 1** *thunder boomed overhead:*

reverberate, resound, resonate; rumble, thunder, blare, echo; crash, roll, clap, explode, bang. **2** *a voice boomed at her:*

bellow, roar, thunder, shout, bawl; informal holler. **3** *the market continued to boom:*

flourish, burgeon, thrive, prosper, progress, improve, pick up, expand, mushroom, snowball.

– OPPOSITES whisper, slump.

**boomerang** verb backfire, recoil, reverse, rebound, come back, ricochet; be self-defeating; informal blow up in one's face.

**booming** adjective **1** *a booming voice:* resonant, sonorous, ringing, resounding, reverberating, carrying, thunderous; strident, stentorian, strong, powerful. **2** *booming business:* flourishing, burgeoning, thriving, prospering, prosperous, successful, strong, buoyant; profitable, fruitful, lucrative; expanding.

**boon**<sup>1</sup> noun *their help was such a boon:*

blessing, godsend, bonus, plus, benefit, advantage, help, aid, asset; stroke of luck; informal perk; formal perquisite.

– OPPOSITES curse.

**boon**<sup>2</sup> adjective *a boon companion:* close, intimate, bosom, inseparable, faithful; favourite, best.

**boor** noun lout, oaf, ruffian, thug, barbarian, Neanderthal, brute, beast; informal clod, yahoo, roughneck, peasant, pig; Brit. informal yobbo, yob, oik.

**boorish** adjective coarse, uncouth, rude, ill-bred, ill-mannered, uncivilized, unrefined, common, rough, thuggish, loutish; vulgar, unsavoury, gross, brutish, Neanderthal; informal cloddish, plebby; Brit. informal yobbish; Austral. informal ocker.

– OPPOSITES refined.

**boost** noun **1** *a boost to one's morale:* uplift, lift, spur, encouragement, help, inspiration, stimulus, fillip. **2** *a boost in sales:* increase, expansion, upturn, upsurge, upswing, rise, escalation, improvement, advance, growth, boom; informal hike.

– OPPOSITES decrease.

• **verb 1** *he phones her to boost her morale:*

improve, raise, uplift, increase, enhance, encourage, heighten, help, promote, foster, stimulate, invigorate, revitalize; informal buck up. **2** *they used advertising to boost sales:* increase, raise, escalate,

improve, strengthen, inflate, push up, promote, advance, foster, stimulate; facilitate, help, assist, aid; informal hike, bump up.

– OPPOSITES decrease.

**booking** noun reservation, prearrangement; appointment, date.

**bookish** adjective studious, scholarly, academic, intellectual, highbrow, erudite, learned, educated, knowledgeable; cerebral, serious, earnest, thoughtful.

## b

**boot**<sup>1</sup> **noun** 1 *muddy boots*: gumboot, wellington, wader, walking boot, riding boot, moon boot, thigh boot, ankle boot, pixie boot, desert boot; informal welly; trademark Dr Martens; historical top boot. 2 (informal) *a boot in the stomach*: kick, blow, knock. • **verb** 1 *his shot was booted away by the goalkeeper*: kick, punt, bunt, tap; propel, drive, knock. 2 *boot up your computer*: start up, fire up, activate.

**boot**<sup>2</sup> **noun**

■ **to boot** as well, also, too, besides, into the bargain, in addition, additionally, on top, what's more, moreover, furthermore.

**booth** **noun** 1 *booths for different traders*: stall, stand, kiosk. 2 *a phone booth*: cubicle, kiosk, box, enclosure, cabin.

**bootleg** **adjective** illegal, illicit, unlawful, unauthorized, unlicensed, pirated; contraband, smuggled, black-market.

**bootless** **adjective** (old use). See **FRUITLESS**.

**bootlicker** **noun** (informal) *sycophant*, toady, fawner, flatterer, creep, crawler, lickspittle, truckler, groveller, kowtower; informal yes-man; old use toad-eater.

**booty** **noun** *loot*, plunder, pillage, haul, spoils, stolen goods, ill-gotten gains, pickings; informal swag.

**booze** (informal) **noun** *fill him up with food and booze*: alcohol, alcoholic drink, (intoxicating) liquor, drink, spirits, intoxicants; informal grog, firewater, rotgut, the hard stuff, the bottle, Dutch courage, hooch, moonshine; Brit. informal bevvy; N. Amer. informal juice, the sauce.

• **verb** *I was boozing with my mates*: drink (alcohol), tippie, imbibe, indulge; informal hit the bottle, knock a few back, swill; Brit. informal bevvy; N. Amer. informal bend one's elbow.

**boozer** **noun** 1 (informal) *he's a notorious boozer*: drinker, drunk, drunkard, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, tippler, imbibor, sot, inebriate; informal lush, alky, dipso, soak, tosspot, wino, sponge, barfly; Austral./NZ informal hophead; old use toper. 2 (Brit. informal) *I'm off down the boozer*: bar, wine bar, inn, roadhouse; Brit. pub, public house; N. Amer. tavern; informal watering hole; Brit. informal local; dated alehouse; N. Amer. historical saloon; old use hostelry.

**bop** **noun** (Brit. informal) 1 *I fancy a bop*: dance; informal boogie, jive. 2 *a college bop*: discotheque; informal disco, hop. • **verb** (informal) *they were bopping to disco music*: dance, jig; informal boogie, jive, groove, disco, rock, stomp, hoof it; N. Amer. informal get down, cut a/the rug.

**bordello** **noun** (N. Amer.) *brothel*, whorehouse; Law disorderly house; Brit. informal knocking shop; N. Amer. informal cathouse; euphemistic massage parlour; old use bawdy house, house of ill fame, house of ill repute.

**border** **noun** 1 *the border of a medieval manuscript*: edge, margin, perimeter, circumference, periphery; rim, fringe, verge; sides. 2 *the Soviet border*: frontier,

boundary, borderline, perimeter; marches, bounds.

• **verb** 1 *the fields were bordered by hedges*: surround, enclose, encircle, circle, edge, fringe, bound, flank. 2 *the straps are bordered with gold braid*: edge, fringe, hem; trim, pipe, finish. 3 *the forest bordered on Broadmoor*: adjoin, abut, be next to, be adjacent to, be contiguous with, touch, join, meet, reach.

■ **border** on verge on, approach, come close to, be comparable to, approximate to, be tantamount to, be similar to, resemble.

**borderline** **noun** *the borderline between old and antique*: dividing line, divide, division, demarcation line, line, cut-off point; threshold, margin, border, boundary.

• **adjective** *borderline cases*: marginal, uncertain, indefinite, unsettled, undecided, doubtful, indeterminate, unclassifiable, equivocal; questionable, debatable, controversial, contentious, problematic; informal iffy.

**bore**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *bore a hole in the ceiling*: drill, pierce, perforate, puncture, punch, cut; tunnel, burrow, mine, dig, gouge, sink.

• **noun** 1 *a well bore*: borehole, hole, well, shaft, pit. 2 *the canon has a bore of 890 millimetres*: calibre, diameter, gauge.

**bore**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *the television news bored Philip*: stultify, pall on, stupefy, weary, tire, fatigue, send to sleep, leave cold; bore to death, bore to tears; informal turn off.

– **OPPOSITES** interest.

• **noun** *you can be such a bore*: tedious person/thing, tiresome person/thing, bother, nuisance, pest, annoyance, trial, vexation, thorn in one's flesh/side; informal drag, pain (in the neck), headache, hassle; N. Amer. informal nudnik.

**boredom** **noun** weariness, ennui, apathy, unconcern, accidia; frustration, dissatisfaction, restlessness, restiveness; tedium, dullness, monotony, repetitiveness, flatness, dreariness; informal deadliness.

**boring** **adjective** tedious, dull, monotonous, repetitive, unrelieved, unvaried, unimaginative, uneventful; characterless, featureless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, unstimulating, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, banal, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane; mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome, trying, frustrating; informal deadly, not up to much; Brit. informal samey; N. Amer. informal dullsville.

**borrow** **verb** 1 *we borrowed a lot of money*: loan, take as a loan; lease, hire; informal cadge, scrounge, bum; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge. 2 (informal) *they 'borrowed' all of his tools*: take, help oneself to, appropriate, commandeering, abscond with, carry off; steal, pilfer; informal filch, rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', snaffle; Brit. informal nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off; N. Amer. informal heist, gnom. 3 *adventurous chefs borrow foreign*

*techniques: adopt*, take on, acquire, embrace.

– OPPOSITES lend.

**bosom** **noun** **1** *the gown was set low over her bosom: bust*, chest; breasts, mammary glands, mammae; informal boobs, knockers, bobbies; Brit. informal bristols, charlies, baps; N. Amer. informal bazooms; old use embonpoint.

**2** (literary) *the family took Gill into its bosom: protection*, shelter, safety, refuge; heart, core; literary midst. **3** *love was kindled within his bosom: heart*, breast, soul, core, spirit.

• **adjective** *bosom friends: close*, boon, intimate, inseparable, faithful, constant, devoted; good, best, firm, favourite.

**boss** (informal) **noun** *the boss of a large company: head*, chief, principal, director, president, chief executive, chair, manager(ess); supervisor, foreman, overseer, controller; employer, owner, proprietor, patron; Brit. gangmaster; informal number one, kingpin, top dog, bigwig; Brit. informal gaffer, governor; N. Amer. informal head honcho, padrone, sachem, big kahuna.

• **verb** *you have no right to boss me about: order about/around*, dictate to, lord it over, bully, push around/about, domineer, dominate, pressurize, browbeat; call the shots, lay down the law; informal bulldoze, walk all over, railroad.

**bossy** **adjective** (informal) *domineering*, pushy, overbearing, imperious, officious, high-handed, authoritarian, dictatorial, controlling; informal high and mighty.

– OPPOSITES submissive.

**botch** (informal) **verb** *examiners botched the marking: bungle*, mismanage, mishandle, make a mess of; informal mess up, make a hash of, muff, fluff, foul up, screw up; Brit. informal bodge, cock up; N. Amer. informal flub.

• **noun** *I've made a botch of things: mess*, blunder, failure, wreck, fiasco, debacle; informal hash; Brit. informal bodge, cock-up, pig's ear.

– OPPOSITES success.

**bother** **verb** **1** *no one bothered her: disturb*, trouble, inconvenience, pester, badger, harass, molest, plague, nag, hound, harry, annoy, upset, irritate; informal hassle, bug, get up someone's nose, get in someone's hair; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal ride.

**2** *the incident was too small to bother about: mind*, care, concern oneself, trouble oneself, worry oneself; informal give a damn, give a hoot. **3** *there was something bothering him: worry*, trouble, concern, perturb, disturb, disquiet, disconcert, unnerve; fret, upset, distress, agitate, gnaw at, weigh down; informal rattle.

• **noun** **1** *I don't want to put you to any bother: trouble*, effort, exertion, inconvenience, fuss, pains; informal hassle. **2** *the food was such a bother to cook: nuisance*, pest, palaver, rigmarole, job, trial, bind, bore, drag, inconvenience, trouble, problem; informal hassle, headache, pain (in the neck). **3** *a spot of bother in the public bar: disorder*, fighting, trouble, ado, disturbance, agitation, commotion, uproar; NZ bobsy-die; informal hoo-ha, aggro, argy-bargy, kerfuffle.

**bothersome** **adjective** *annoying*, irritating, vexatious, maddening, exasperating; tedious, wearisome, tiresome; troublesome, trying, taxing, awkward; informal aggravating, pesky, pestilential.

**bottle** **noun** **1** *a bottle of whisky: carafe*, flask, decanter, pitcher, flagon, carboy, demijohn.

**2** (Brit. informal) *no one had the bottle to stand up to McGregor: courage*, bravery, valour, nerve, confidence, daring, audacity, pluck, spirit, grit, mettle, spine, backbone; informal guts, spunk, gumption; N. Amer. informal moxie.

■ **bottle something up** *suppress*, repress, restrain, withhold, hold in, rein in, inhibit, smother, stifle, contain, conceal, hide; informal keep a lid on.

**bottleneck** **noun** *traffic jam*, jam, congestion, hold-up, gridlock, tailback; constriction, narrowing, restriction, obstruction, blockage; informal snarl-up.

**bottom** **noun** **1** *the bottom of the stairs: foot*, lowest part, lowest point, base; foundation, substructure, underpinning. **2** *the bottom of the car: underside*, underneath,

undersurface, undercarriage, underbelly. **3** *the bottom of Lake Ontario: floor*, bed, depths. **4** *the bottom of his garden: farthest point*, far end, extremity. **5** *the bottom of his class: lowest level*, lowest position.

**6** (Brit.) *I've got a tattoo on my bottom: rear (end)*, rump, seat; buttocks, cheeks; Scottish bahookie; informal behind, backside, BTM, sit-upon, derrière; Brit. informal bum, botty, jacksie; N. Amer. informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heinie, bippy; humorous fundament, posterior, stern; Anatomy nates. **7** *police got to the bottom of the mystery: origin*, cause, root, source, basis, foundation; heart, kernel; reality, essence.

– OPPOSITES top, surface.

• **adjective** *she sat on the bottom step: lowest*, last, bottommost; technical basal.

– OPPOSITES top.

**bottomless** **adjective** **1** *the bottomless pits of hell: fathomless*, unfathomable, endless, infinite, immeasurable. **2** *George's appetite was bottomless: unlimited*, limitless, boundless, infinite, inexhaustible, endless, never-ending, everlasting; vast, huge, enormous.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**bough** **noun** *branch*, limb, arm, offshoot.

**boulder** **noun** *rock*, stone; Austral./NZ gibber.

**boulevard** **noun** *avenue*, street, road, drive, lane, parade, Broadway, thoroughfare.

**bounce** **verb** **1** *the ball bounced: rebound*, spring back, ricochet, jounce; N. Amer. carom.

**2** *William bounced down the stairs: bound*, leap, jump, spring, bob, hop, skip, trip, prance.

• **noun** **1** *he reached the door in a single bounce: bound*, leap, jump, spring, hop, skip.

**2** *the pitch's uneven bounce: springiness*, resilience, elasticity, give. **3** *she had lost her bounce: vitality*, vigour, energy, vivacity, liveliness, animation, sparkle, verve, spirit, enthusiasm, dynamism; cheerfulness, happiness, buoyancy, optimism; informal



get-up-and-go, pep, zing.

■ **bounce back** recover, revive, rally, pick up, be on the mend; perk up, cheer up, brighten up, liven up; informal buck up.

b

**bouncing** adjective vigorous, thriving, flourishing, blooming; **healthy**, strong, robust, fit, in fine fettle; informal in the pink.

**bouncy** adjective **1** a *bouncy bridge*: springy, flexible, resilient, elastic, stretchy, rubbery.

**2** a *rather bouncy ride*: **bumpy**, jolting, jerky, jarring, rough; informal jumpy. **3** *she was always bouncy*: lively, energetic, perky, frisky, jaunty, dynamic, vital, vigorous, vibrant, animated, spirited, buoyant, bubbly, sparkling, vivacious; enthusiastic, upbeat; informal peppy, zingy, chirpy.

**bound**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *he raised his bound ankles*: tied, chained, fettered, shackled, secured.

**2** *she seemed bound to win*: certain, sure, very likely, destined. **3** *you're bound by the Official Secrets Act to keep quiet*: obligated, obliged, compelled, required, constrained.

**4** *religion and morality are bound up with one another*: connected, linked, tied, united, allied.

**bound**<sup>2</sup> verb *hares bound in the fields*: leap, jump, spring, bounce, hop; skip, bob, dance, prance, gambol, gallop.

• **noun** *he crossed the room with a single bound*: leap, jump, spring, bounce, hop.

**bound**<sup>3</sup> verb **1** *corporate freedom is bounded by law*: limit, restrict, confine, circumscribe, demarcate, delimit. **2** *the heath is bounded by a hedge*: enclose, surround, encircle, circle, border; close in/off, hem in. **3** *the garden was bounded by Mill Lane*: border, adjoin, abut; be next to, be adjacent to.

**boundary** noun **1** *the boundary between Israel and Jordan*: border, frontier, borderline, partition. **2** *the boundary between art and advertising*: dividing line, divide, division, borderline, cut-off point. **3** *the boundary of his estate*: bounds, confines, limits, margins, edges, fringes; border, periphery, perimeter. **4** *the boundaries of accepted behaviour*: limits, parameters, bounds, confines; ambit, compass.

**boundless** adjective limitless, unlimited, unbounded, untold, immeasurable, abundant; inexhaustible, endless, infinite, interminable, unending, ceaseless, everlasting.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**bounds** plural noun **1** *we keep rents within reasonable bounds*: limits, confines, proportions. **2** *land within the forest bounds*: borders, boundaries, confines, limits, margins, edges; periphery, perimeter.

■ **out of bounds** off limits, restricted; forbidden, banned, proscribed, illegal, illicit, unlawful, unacceptable, taboo; informal no go.

**bountiful** adjective **1** *their bountiful patron*: generous, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, unselfish, unstinting, lavish; benevolent, beneficent, charitable. **2** *a bountiful supply of fresh food*: abundant, plentiful, ample, copious, bumper,

superabundant, inexhaustible, prolific, profuse; lavish, generous, handsome, rich; informal whopping; literary plentiful.

– OPPOSITES mean, meagre.

**bounty** noun **1** *a bounty for each man killed*: reward, prize, award, commission, premium, dividend, bonus, gratuity, tip, donation, handout; incentive, inducement; money; informal perk, sweetener; formal perquisite.

**2** (literary) *I thank the Lord for all his bounty*: generosity, magnanimity, munificence, bountifulness, largesse, lavishness; benevolence, beneficence, charity, goodwill; blessings, favours.

**bouquet** noun **1** *her bridal bouquet*: bunch of flowers, posy, nosegay, tussie-mussie, spray, corsage. **2** *bouquets go to Ann for a well-planned event*: compliment, commendation, tribute, accolade; praise, congratulations, applause. **3** *the Chardonnay has a fine bouquet*: aroma, nose, smell, fragrance, perfume, scent, odour.

**bourgeois** adjective **1** *a bourgeois family*: middle-class, propertied; conventional, conservative, conformist; provincial, suburban, small-town. **2** *bourgeois decadence*: capitalistic, materialistic, money-oriented, commercial.

– OPPOSITES proletarian, communist.

• **noun** *a proud bourgeois*: member of the middle class, property owner.

**bout** noun **1** *a short bout of exercise*: spell, period, time, stretch, stint, session; burst, flurry, spurt. **2** *a coughing bout*: attack, fit, spasm, paroxysm, convulsion, eruption, outburst. **3** *he is fighting only his fifth bout*: contest, match, round, heat, competition, event, meeting, fixture; fight, prizefight.

**bovine** adjective **1** *large, bovine eyes*: cow-like, calf-like, taurine. **2** *an expression of bovine amazement*: stupid, slow, ignorant, unintelligent, imperceptive, half-baked, vacuous, mindless, witless, doltish; informal dumb, dense, dim, dim-witted, dopey, birdbrained, pea-brained; Brit. informal dozy, daft; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit.

• **noun** *cow*, heifer, bull, bullock, calf, ox; N. Amer. informal boss, bossy; Farming beef.

**bow**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *the officers bowed*: incline the body, incline the head, nod, salaam, curtsy, bob. **2** *the mast quivered and bowed*: bend, buckle, stoop, curve, flex, deform. **3** *the government bowed to foreign pressure*: yield, submit, give in, surrender, succumb, capitulate, defer, conform; comply with, accept, heed, observe. **4** *a footman bowed her in*: usher, conduct, show, lead, guide, direct, steer, shepherd.

• **noun** *a perfunctory bow*: obeisance, salaam, bob, curtsy, nod; old use reverence.

■ **bow out** withdraw, resign, retire, step down, pull out, back out; give up, quit, leave; informal pack in, chuck (in); Brit. informal jack in.

**bow**<sup>2</sup> noun *the bow of the tanker*: prow, front, stern, nose, head, cutwater; Brit. humorous sharp end.

**bow**<sup>3</sup> noun **1** *she tied a bow in her hair*: loop, knot; ribbon. **2** *he bent the rod into a bow*:

**arc**, curve, bend; crescent, half-moon. **3** *an archer's bow*: longbow, crossbow; Archery recurve.

**bowdlerize** **verb** expurgate, censor, blue-pencil, cut, edit; sanitize, water down, emasculate.

**bowel** **noun** **1** *a disorder of the bowels*: intestine(s), small intestine, large intestine, colon; informal guts, insides. **2** *the bowels of the ship*: interior, inside, core, belly; depths, recesses; informal innards.

**bower** **noun** **1** *a rose-scented bower*: arbour, pergola, grotto, alcove, sanctuary. **2** (literary) *the lady's bower*: bedroom; historical boudoir; old use bedchamber, chamber.

**bowl**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *he bowled a hundred or so balls*: pitch, throw, propel, hurl, toss, lob, loft, fling, launch, deliver; spin, roll; informal chuck, sling, bung, heave, buzz; dated shy. **2** *the car bowled along the roads*: hurtle, speed, shoot, sweep, career, hare, fly; informal belt, tear, scoot; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal clip.

■ **bowl someone over** **1** *the explosion bowled us over*: knock down/over, fell, floor, prostrate. **2** (informal) *I have been bowled over by your generosity*: overwhelm, astound, astonish, overawe, dumbfound, stagger, stun, daze, shake, take aback, leave aghast; informal knock sideways, flabbergast, blow away; Brit. informal knock for six.

**bowl**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *she cracked two eggs into a bowl*: dish, basin, pot, crock, crucible, mortar; container, vessel, receptacle; historical jorum, porringer. **2** *the town lay in a shallow bowl*: valley, hollow, dip, depression, trough, crater. **3** (N. Amer.) *the Hollywood Bowl*: stadium, arena, amphitheatre, coliseum; enclosure, ground; informal park.

**box**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *a box of cigars*: carton, pack, packet; case, crate, chest, coffer, casket; container, receptacle. **2** *a telephone box*: booth, cubicle, kiosk, cabin, hut; compartment, carrel, alcove, bay, recess. • **verb** *Muriel boxed up his clothes*: package, pack, parcel, wrap, bundle, bale, crate. ■ **box something/someone** in hem in, fence in, close in, shut in; trap, confine, imprison, intern; surround, enclose, encircle, circle.

**box**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *he began boxing professionally*: fight, prizefight, spar; battle, brawl; informal scrap. **2** *he boxed my ears*: cuff, smack, strike, hit, thump, slap, swat, punch, jab, wallop; Scottish & N. English skelp; informal belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, clobber, whack, plug, slug; Brit. informal slosh, dot; N. Amer. informal boff, bust. • **noun** *a box on the ear*: cuff, hit, thump, slap, smack, swat, punch, jab, hook; Scottish & N. English skelp; informal belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, whack, plug, slug.

**boxer** **noun** fighter, pugilist, ringster, prizefighter, kick-boxer; informal bruiser, scrapper.

**boxing** **noun** pugilism, the noble art, fighting, sparring, fisticuffs; kick-boxing, prizefighting; the (prize) ring.

**boy** **noun** lad, schoolboy, male child, youth, young man, stripling; Scottish & N. English

laddie; derogatory brat. See also **CHILD**.

**boycott** **verb** *they boycotted the elections*: spurn, snub, shun, avoid, abstain from, wash one's hands of, turn one's back on, reject, veto.

– **OPPOSITES** support.

• **noun** *a boycott on the use of tropical timbers*: ban, veto, embargo, prohibition, sanction, restriction; avoidance, rejection, refusal.

**boyfriend** **noun** lover, sweetheart, beloved, darling, dearest, young man, man friend, man, escort, suitor; **partner**, significant other; informal fella, flame, fancy man, toy boy, sugar daddy; N. Amer. informal squeeze; literary swain; dated beau; old use paramour.

**boyish** **adjective** youthful, young, childlike, adolescent, teenage; immature, juvenile, infantile, childish, babyish, puerile.

**brace** **noun** **1** *the saw is best used with a brace*: vice, clamp, press. **2** *power drills run faster than a brace*: drill, boring tool, rotary tool.

**3** *the aquarium is supported by wooden braces*: prop, beam, joist, batten, rod, post, strut, stay, support, stanchion, bracket.

**4** *a brace on his right leg*: support, caliper.

**5** *a brace of partridges*: pair, couple, duo, twosome; two. **6** (Printing) *the term within braces*: bracket, parenthesis.

• **verb** **1** *the plane's wing is braced by a system of rods*: support, shore up, prop up, hold up, buttress, underpin; strengthen, reinforce. **2** *he braced his hand on the railing*: steady, secure, stabilize, fix, poise; tense, tighten. **3** *brace yourself for disappointment*: prepare, get ready, gear up, nerve, steel, galvanize, gird, strengthen, fortify; informal psych oneself up.

**bracelet** **noun** bangle, band, circlet, armlet, wristlet; manilla, rakhi, kara.

**bracing** **adjective** invigorating, refreshing, stimulating, energizing, exhilarating, reviving, restorative, rejuvenating, revitalizing, rousing, fortifying, strengthening; fresh, brisk, keen.

**bracket** **noun** **1** *each speaker is fixed on a separate bracket*: support, prop, stay, batten, joist; rest, mounting, rack, frame. **2** *put the words in brackets*: parenthesis; Printing brace. **3** *a higher tax bracket*: group, category, grade, band, classification, set, division, order.

• **verb** *women were bracketed with minors*: group, classify, class, categorize, grade, list, sort, place, assign; couple, pair, twin; liken, compare.

**brackish** **adjective** slightly salty, saline, salt.

**brag** **verb** boast, crow, swagger, swank, bluster, gloat, show off; blow one's own trumpet, sing one's own praises; informal talk big, lay it on thick; Austral./NZ informal skate.

**braggart** **noun** *he was a prodigious braggart and a liar*: boaster, bragger, swaggerer, poser, poseur, egotist; informal big-head, loudmouth, show-off, swank; N. Amer. informal showboat, blowhard; Austral./NZ informal skite; Brit. informal, dated swankpot.

## b

**braid** noun **1** *straps bordered with gold*  
*braid: cord, bullion, thread, tape, binding, rickrack, ribbon; cordon, torsade; Military slang scrambled egg.* **2** *his hair is in braids:* **plait**, pigtail, twist; cornrows, dreadlocks.  
 •verb **1** *she began to braid her hair:* **plait**, entwine, intertwine, interweave, weave, twist, twine. **2** *the sleeves are braided in scarlet:* **trim**, edge, border, pipe, hem, fringe.

**brain** noun **1** *the disease attacks certain cells in the brain:* **cerebrum**, cerebral matter, encephalon. **2** *success requires brains as well as brawn:* **intelligence**, intellect, brainpower, cleverness, wit(s), reasoning, wisdom, acumen, discernment, judgement, understanding, sense; informal nous, grey matter, savvy; N. Amer. informal smarts. **3** (informal) *Janice is the brains of the family:* **clever person**, intellectual, intellect, thinker, mind, scholar; genius, Einstein; informal egghead, bright spark; Brit. informal brainbox, clever clogs; N. Amer. informal brainiac, rocket scientist.

## WORD LINKS

**cerebral**, **encephalic** relating to the brain  
**encephalitis** inflammation of the brain  
**hydrocephalus** fluid in the brain  
**lobotomy** an operation involving cutting into part of the brain

**brainless** adjective **stupid**, foolish, witless, unintelligent, ignorant, idiotic, simple-minded, empty-headed, half-baked; informal dumb, half-witted, brain-dead, moronic, cretinous, thick, dopey, dozy, birdbrained, pea-brained, dippy, wooden-headed; Brit. informal divvy; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded.

**brain-teaser** noun (informal) **puzzle**, problem, riddle, conundrum, poser.

**brainwash** verb **indoctrinate**, condition, re-educate, persuade, influence, programme.

**brainy** adjective (informal) **clever**, intelligent, bright, brilliant, gifted; intellectual, erudite, academic, scholarly, studious, bookish; informal smart; Brit. informal swotty.

– OPPOSITES stupid.

**brake** noun *a brake on research:* **curb**, check, restraint, restriction, constraint, control, limitation.

•verb *she braked at the traffic lights:* **slow (down)**, decelerate, reduce speed.

– OPPOSITES accelerate.

**branch** noun **1** *the branches of a tree:* **bough**, limb, arm, offshoot. **2** *a branch of the river:* **tributary**, feeder, side stream. **3** *the judicial branch of government:* **division**, subdivision, section, subsection, department, sector, part, side, wing. **4** *the corporation's New York branch:* **office**, bureau, agency; subsidiary, offshoot, satellite.

•verb **1** *the place where the road branches:* **fork**, bifurcate, divide, subdivide, split.

**2** *narrow paths branched off the road:* **diverge from**, deviate from, split off from; fan out from, radiate from.

■ **branch out** expand, open up, extend; diversify, broaden one's horizons.

**brand** noun **1** *a new brand of margarine:* **make**, line, label, marque; type, kind, sort, variety; trade name, trademark, proprietary name. **2** *her particular brand of humour:* **type**, kind, sort, variety, class, category, genre, style, ilk; N. Amer. **stripe**. **3** *the brand on a sheep:* **identification**, marker, earmark. **4** *the brand of dipsomania:* **stigma**, shame, disgrace; taint, blot, mark.

•verb **1** *the letter M was branded on each animal:* **mark**, stamp, burn, sear.

**2** *the scene was branded on her brain:*

**engrave**, stamp, etch, imprint. **3** *the media branded us as communists:*

**stigmatize**, mark out; denounce, discredit, vilify; label.

**brandish** verb **wave**, flourish, shake, wield; swing, swish; display, flaunt.

**brash** adjective **1** *a brash man:* **self-assertive**, pushy, cocksure, cocky, self-confident, arrogant, bold, audacious, brazen; forward, impudent, insolent, rude. **2** *brash colours:* **garish**, gaudy, loud, flamboyant, showy, tasteless; informal flashy, tacky.

– OPPOSITES meek, muted.

**brassy** adjective **1** **brazen**, forward, bold, self-assertive, pushy, cocksure, cocky, brash; shameless, immodest; loud, vulgar, showy, ostentatious; informal flashy. **2** *brassy music:* **loud**, blaring, noisy, deafening, strident; raucous, harsh, dissonant, discordant, cacophonous; tinny.

– OPPOSITES demure, soft.

**brat** noun (derogatory) **rascal**, wretch, imp; minx, chit; informal monster, horror, whippersnapper.

**bravado** noun **boldness**, swaggering, bluster; machismo; boasting, bragging, bombast, braggadocio; informal showing off.

**brave** adjective **1** *they put up a brave fight:* **courageous**, plucky, valiant, valorous, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, bold, fearless, daring, audacious; unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, doughty, mettlesome, stout-hearted, spirited; informal game, gutsy, spunky. **2** (literary) *his medals made a brave show:* **splendid**, magnificent, impressive, fine, handsome.

– OPPOSITES cowardly.

•noun (dated) *an Indian brave:* **warrior**, soldier, fighter.

•verb *fans braved freezing temperatures to see them play:* **endure**, put up with, bear, withstand, weather, suffer, go through; face, confront, defy.

**bravery** noun **courage**, pluck, valour, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism; backbone, grit, spine, spirit, mettle; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

**bravo** exclamation **well done**, congratulations; encore.

**bravura** noun *a display of bravura:* **skill**, brilliance, virtuosity, expertise, artistry, talent, ability, flair.

•adjective *a bravura performance:* **virtuoso**, masterly, outstanding, excellent, superb,



brilliant, first-class, top-tier; informal mean, ace, A1.

**brawl** noun *a drunken brawl*: fight, skirmish, scuffle, tussle, fray, melee, free-for-all, scrum; fisticuffs; informal scrap, dust-up, set-to; Brit. informal **punch-up**, ruck; Scottish informal **rammy**; N. Amer. informal rough house, brannigan; Law, dated affray.

• **verb** *he ended up brawling with*

**photographers**: fight, skirmish, scuffle, tussle, exchange blows, grapple, wrestle; informal scrap; N. Amer. informal rough-house.

**brawn** noun **physical strength**, muscle(s), burliness, huskiness, toughness, power, might; informal beef, beefiness.

**brawny** adjective **strong**, muscular, muscly, well built, powerful, mighty, Herculean, strapping, burly, sturdy, husky, rugged; bulky, hefty, meaty, solid; informal beefy, hunky, hulking.

– OPPOSITES puny, weak.

**bray** verb **1** *a donkey brayed*: neigh, whinny, hee-haw. **2** *Billy brayed with laughter*: roar, bellow, trumpet.

**brazen** adjective **1** *brazen defiance*: bold, shameless, unashamed, unabashed, unembarrassed; defiant, impudent, impertinent, cheeky; barefaced, blatant, flagrant; Brit. informal saucy. **2** (literary) *brazen objects*: brass.

– OPPOSITES timid.

■ **brazen it out** put on a bold front, stand one's ground, be defiant, be unrepentant, be unabashed.

**breach** noun **1** *a clear breach of the regulations*: contravention, violation, infringement, infraction, transgression, neglect; Law delict. **2** *a breach between government and Church*: rift, schism, division, gulf, chasm; disunion, estrangement, discord, dissension, disagreement; split, break, rupture, scission; Brit. informal bust-up. **3** *a breach in the sea wall*: break, rupture, split, crack, fracture; opening, gap, hole, fissure.

• **verb** **1** *the river breached its bank*: break (through), burst, rupture; informal bust.

**2** *the changes breached union rules*: break, contravene, violate, infringe; defy, disobey, flout, fly in the face of; Law infract.

**breadth** noun **1** *a breadth of 100 metres*: width, broadness, wideness, thickness; span; diameter. **2** *the breadth of his knowledge*: range, extent, scope, depth, reach, compass, scale, degree.

**break** verb **1** *the mirror broke*: shatter, smash, crack, snap, fracture, fragment, splinter, fall to bits, fall to pieces; split, burst; informal bust. **2** *she had broken her leg*: fracture, crack. **3** *the bite had barely broken the skin*: pierce, puncture, penetrate, perforate; cut. **4** *the coffee machine has broken*: stop working, break down, give out, go wrong, malfunction, crash; informal go kaput, conk out, be on the blink, give up the ghost; Brit. informal pack up. **5** *traders who break the law*: contravene, violate, infringe, breach; defy, flout, disobey, fly in the face of.

**6** *his concentration was broken*: interrupt, disturb, interfere with. **7** *they broke for coffee*: stop, pause, have a rest; N. Amer. recess; informal knock off, take five. **8** *a pile of carpets broke his fall*: cushion, soften the impact of, take the edge off. **9** *the film broke box-office records*: exceed, surpass, beat, better, cap, top, outdo, outstrip, eclipse; informal leave standing. **10** *habits are very difficult to break*: give up, relinquish, drop; informal kick, shake, pack in, quit. **11** *the strategies used to break the union*: destroy, crush, quash, defeat, vanquish, overcome, overpower, overwhelm, suppress, cripple; weaken, subdue, cow, undermine. **12** *her self-control finally broke*: give way, crack, cave in, yield, go to pieces. **13** *four thousand pounds wouldn't break him*: bankrupt, ruin, pauperize.

**14** *he tried to break the news gently*: reveal, disclose, divulge, impart, tell; announce, release. **15** *he broke the encryption code*: decipher, decode, decrypt, unravel, work out; informal figure out. **16** *the day broke fair and cloudless*: dawn, begin, start, emerge, appear. **17** *a political scandal broke*: erupt, break out. **18** *the weather broke*: change, alter, shift. **19** *waves broke against the rocks*: crash, dash, beat, pound, lash. **20** *her voice broke as she relived the experience*: falter, quaver, quiver, tremble, shake.

– OPPOSITES repair, keep, resume.

• **noun** **1** *the magazine has been published without a break since 1950*: interruption, interval, gap, hiatus; discontinuation, suspension, disruption, cut-off; stop, stoppage, cessation. **2** *a break in the weather*: change, alteration, variation. **3** *let's have a break*: rest, respite, recess; stop, pause; interval, intermission; informal breather, time out, down time. **4** *a weekend break*: holiday; N. Amer. vacation; Brit. informal vac. **5** *a break in diplomatic relations*: rift, schism, split, break-up, severance, rupture; Brit. informal bust-up. **6** *a break in the wall*: gap, opening, space, hole, breach, chink, crack, fissure; tear, split. **7** (informal) *the actress got her first break in 1951*: opportunity, chance, opening. ■ **break away** **1** *she attempted to break away from his grip*: escape, get away, run away, flee, make off; break free, break loose, get out of someone's clutches; informal leg it, cut and run. **2** *a group broke away from the main party*: leave, secede from, split off from, separate from, part company with, defect from; form a splinter group.

■ **break down** **1** *his van broke down*. See **BREAK** verb sense **4**. **2** *pay negotiations broke down*: fail, collapse, founder, fall through, disintegrate; informal fizzle out. **3** *Vicky broke down, sobbing loudly*: burst into tears; lose control, be overcome, go to pieces, crumble, disintegrate; informal crack up, lose it.

■ **break something down** **1** *the police broke the door down*: knock down, kick down, smash in, pull down, tear down, demolish. **2** *break big tasks down into smaller parts*: divide, separate. **3** *graphs show how the information can be broken down*: analyse, categorize, classify, sort out, itemize, organize; dissect.

b

■ **break in** 1 *thieves broke in and took her cheque book*: commit burglary, break and enter; force one's way in, burst in. 2 *'I don't want to interfere,' Mrs Hendry broke in*: interrupt, butt in, cut in, interject, interpose, intervene, chime in; Brit. informal chip in.

■ **break into** 1 *thieves broke into a house in Perth Street*: burgle, rob; force one's way into, burst into. 2 *Phil broke into the discussion*: interrupt, butt into, cut in on, intervene in. 3 *he broke into a song*: burst into, launch into.

■ **break off** snap off, come off, become detached, become separated.

■ **break something off** 1 *I broke off a branch from the tree*: snap off, pull off, sever, detach. 2 *they threatened to break off diplomatic relations*: end, terminate, stop, cease, call a halt to, finish, dissolve; suspend, discontinue; informal pull the plug on.

■ **break out** 1 *he broke out of the detention centre*: escape from, abscond from, flee from; get free. 2 *fighting broke out*: flare up, start suddenly, erupt, burst out.

■ **break up** 1 *the meeting broke up*: end, finish, stop, terminate; adjourn; N. Amer. recess. 2 *the crowd began to break up*: disperse, scatter, disband, part company. 3 *Danny and I broke up last year*: split up, separate, part (company); divorce. 4 (informal) *the whole cast broke up*: burst out laughing, dissolve into laughter; informal fall about, crack up, crease up; theatrical slang corpse.

■ **break something up** 1 *police tried to break up the crowd*: disperse, scatter, disband. 2 *I'm not going to let you break up my marriage*: wreck, ruin, destroy.

**breakable** adjective fragile, delicate, flimsy, insubstantial; destructible; formal frangible.

**breakaway** adjective *a breakaway group*: separatist, secessionist, schismatic, splinter; rebel, renegade.

**breakdown** noun 1 *the breakdown of the negotiations*: failure, collapse, disintegration, foundering. 2 *on the death of her father she suffered a breakdown*: nervous breakdown; informal crack-up. 3 *the breakdown of the computer system*: malfunction, failure, crash. 4 *a breakdown of the figures*: analysis, classification, examination, investigation, dissection.

**breaker** noun wave, roller, comber, white horse; informal boomer; N. Amer. informal kahuna.

**break-in** noun burglary, robbery, theft, raid; informal smash-and-grab.

**breakneck** adjective *the breakneck pace of change*: extremely fast, rapid, speedy, high-speed, lightning, whirlwind. ■ **at breakneck speed** dangerously fast, at full tilt, flat out, ventre à terre; informal hell for leather, like the wind, like a bat out of hell, like greased lightning; Brit. informal like the clappers.

**breakthrough** noun advance, development, step forward, success, improvement; discovery, innovation, revolution. – OPPOSITES setback.

**break-up** noun 1 *the break-up of*

*negotiations*: end, dissolution; breakdown, failure, collapse, disintegration. 2 *their break-up was very amicable*: separation, split, parting, divorce; estrangement, rift; Brit. informal bust-up. 3 *the break-up of the Soviet Union*: division, partition.

**breakwater** noun sea wall, jetty, mole, groyne, pier.

**breast** noun 1 *the curve of her breasts*: mammary gland, mamma; (breasts) bosom(s), bust, chest; informal boobs, knockers, bobbies; Brit. informal bristols, charlies, baps; N. Amer. informal bazooms. 2 *feelings of frustration were rising up in his breast*: heart, bosom, soul, core.

#### WORD LINKS

**mastectomy** the surgical removal of a breast  
**mammogram** a breast X-ray

**breath** noun 1 *I took a deep breath*: inhalation, inspiration, gulp of air; exhalation, expiration; Medicine respiration. 2 *I had barely enough breath to reply*: wind; informal puff. 3 *a breath of wind*: puff, waft, faint breeze. 4 *a breath of scandal*: hint, suggestion, trace, touch, whisper, suspicion, whiff, undertone. 5 (old use) *there was no breath left in him*: life (force). ■ **take someone's breath away** astonish, astound, amaze, stun, startle, stagger, shock, take aback, dumbfound, jolt, shake up; awe, overawe, thrill; informal knock sideways, flabbergast, blow away, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six.

#### WORD LINKS

**respiratory** relating to breath  
**respirator** a device enabling someone to breathe artificially  
**hyperventilation** abnormally rapid breathing  
**apnoea** a condition in which a person temporarily stops breathing  
**halitosis** bad breath

**breathe** verb 1 *she breathed deeply*: inhale and exhale, respire, draw breath; puff, pant, blow, gasp, wheeze; Medicine inspire, expire; literary suspire. 2 *at least I'm still breathing*: be alive, be living, live. 3 *he would breathe new life into his firm*: instil, infuse, inject, impart. 4 *'Together at last,' she breathed*: whisper, murmur, purr, sigh, say.

**breather** noun (informal) break, rest, respite, breathing space, pause, interval, recess.

**breathless** adjective 1 *Will arrived flushed and breathless*: out of breath, panting, puffing, gasping, wheezing; winded, puffed out, short of breath; informal out of puff. 2 *the crowd were breathless with anticipation*: agog, open-mouthed, waiting with bated breath, on the edge of one's seat, on tenterhooks, in suspense; excited, impatient.

**breathtaking** adjective spectacular, magnificent, wonderful, awe-inspiring, awesome, astounding, astonishing, amazing, stunning, incredible; thrilling, exciting; informal sensational, out of this world; literary wondrous.

**breed** verb **1** *elephants breed readily in captivity*: reproduce, produce offspring, procreate, multiply; mate. **2** *she was born and bred in the village*: bring up, rear, raise, nurture. **3** *the political system bred discontent*: cause, bring about, give rise to, lead to, produce, generate, foster, result in; stir up; literary beget.

• **noun 1** *a breed of cow*: variety, stock, strain; type, kind, sort. **2** *a new breed of journalist*: type, kind, sort, variety, class, genre, generation; N. Amer. stripe.

**breeding** noun **1** *individual birds pair for breeding*: reproduction, procreation; mating. **2** *the breeding of rats*: rearing, raising, nurturing. **3** *her aristocratic breeding*: upbringing, rearing; parentage, family, pedigree, blood, birth. **4** *people of rank and breeding*: (good) manners, gentility, refinement, cultivation, polish, urbanity; informal class.

**breeding ground** noun *the school is a breeding ground for communists*: nursery, cradle, nest, den; hotbed.

**breeze** noun **1** *a breeze ruffled the leaves*: gentle wind, puff of air, gust; Meteorology light air(s); literary zephyr. **2** (informal) *travelling through London was a breeze*: easy task, five-finger exercise, walkover; child's play, nothing; informal doddle, piece of cake, cinch, kids' stuff, cakewalk, walk in the park; N. Amer. informal duck soup, snap; Austral./NZ informal bludge; dated snip.

• **verb** (informal) *Roger breezed into her office*: saunter, stroll, sail, sweep, cruise.

**breezy** adjective **1** *a bright, breezy day*: windy, fresh, brisk, airy; blowy, blustery, gusty. **2** *his breezy manner*: jaunty, cheerful, cheery, brisk, carefree, easy, casual, relaxed, informal, light-hearted, lively, buoyant, sunny; informal upbeat, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed; dated gay.

**brevity** noun **1** *the report is notable for its brevity*: conciseness, concision, succinctness, economy of language, pithiness, shortness, incisiveness, compactness. **2** *the brevity of human life*: shortness, briefness, transience, ephemerality, impermanence.

– OPPOSITES verbosity.

**brew** verb **1** *this beer is brewed in Frankfurt*: ferment, make. **2** *I'll brew some tea*: prepare, infuse, make, stew; Brit. informal mash.

**3** *there's trouble brewing*: develop, loom, impend, be imminent, be on the horizon, be in the offing, be just around the corner.

• **noun 1** *home brew*: beer, ale. **2** *a hot reviving brew*: drink, beverage; tea, coffee. **3** *a dangerous brew of political turmoil and violent conflict*: mixture, mix, blend, combination, amalgam.

**bribe** verb *he used his wealth to bribe officials*: buy off, pay off, suborn; informal grease someone's palm, keep someone sweet, fix, square; Brit. informal nabble.

• **noun** *he accepted bribes*: inducement, incentive, carrot, douceur; informal backhand, pay-off, kickback, sweetener; Brit. informal bung; N. Amer. informal schmear.

## WORD LINKS

venal able to be bribed

**bribery** noun subornation, corruption; N. Amer. payola; informal palm-greasing, graft, hush money.

**bric-a-brac** noun ornaments, knick-knacks, trinkets, bibelots, gewgaws, gimcracks; paraphernalia, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, odds and ends, things, stuff; informal junk.

**brick** noun **1** *bricks and mortar*: breeze block, adobe, clinker; header, stretcher, bondstone; Brit. airbrick. **2** *a brick of ice cream*: block, cube, bar, cake.

**bridal** adjective *the bridal party*: wedding, nuptial, marriage, matrimonial, marital, conjugal.

**bride** noun wife, marriage partner; newly-wed.

**bridge** noun **1** *a bridge over the river*: viaduct, flyover, overpass, aqueduct. **2** *a bridge between rival groups*: link, connection, bond, tie.

• **verb 1** *a walkway bridged the motorway*: span, cross (over), extend across, traverse, arch over. **2** *an attempt to bridge the gap between cultures*: join, link, connect, unite; straddle; overcome, reconcile.

## WORD LINKS

pontine relating to bridges

cantilever a type of long beam or girder used in bridge construction

bascule a movable section forming part of a bridge that can be raised to allow ships to pass

pontoon a floating object supporting a temporary bridge

span the part of a bridge between its supports

truss a supporting framework for a bridge

**bridle** noun *a horse's bridle*: harness, headgear.

• **verb 1** *she bridled at his tone*: bristle, take offence, take umbrage, be affronted, be offended, get angry. **2** *he bridled his indignation*: curb, restrain, hold back, control, check, rein in/back; suppress, stifle; informal keep a/the lid on.

**brief** adjective **1** *a brief account*: concise, succinct, short, pithy, incisive, abridged, condensed, compressed, abbreviated, compact, thumbnail, potted; formal compendious. **2** *a brief visit*: short, flying, fleeting, hasty, hurried, quick, cursory, perfunctory; temporary, short-lived, momentary, transient; informal quickie. **3** *a pair of brief shorts*: skimpy, scanty, short; revealing. **4** *the boss was rather brief with him*: brusque, abrupt, curt, short, blunt, sharp.

– OPPOSITES lengthy.

• **noun 1** *my brief is to reorganize the project*: instructions, directions, directive, briefing, remit, mandate; job, task; guidelines, guidance. **2** *a barrister's brief*: case, summary, argument, contention; dossier, information. **3** (Brit. informal) *his brief's*



eloquence saved him. See **LAWYER**.

•verb employees were briefed about the decision: **inform**, tell, update, notify, advise, apprise; prepare, prime, instruct; informal fill in, clue in, put in the picture.

**briefing** noun **1** a press briefing: conference, meeting, interview; N. Amer. backgrounder. **2** this briefing explains the systems: **information**, rundown, guidance; instructions, directions, guidelines.

**briefly** adverb **1** Henry paused briefly: momentarily, temporarily, for a moment, fleetingly. **2** briefly, the plot is as follows: in short, in brief, to cut a long story short, in a word, in sum, in a nutshell, in essence.

**briefs** plural noun underpants, pants, knickers, Y-fronts, G-string, thong; N. Amer. shorts, undershorts; informal panties, undies, frillies; Brit. informal kecks, smalls, trolleys.

**brigade** noun **1** a brigade of soldiers: unit, contingent, battalion, regiment, division, squadron, company, platoon, section, corps, troop. **2** the volunteer ambulance brigade: squad, team, group, band, party, crew, force, outfit.

**brigand** noun (literary). See **BANDIT**.

**bright** adjective **1** the bright surface of the metal: shining, brilliant, dazzling, beaming, glaring; sparkling, flashing, glittering, scintillating, gleaming, glowing, luminous, radiant; shiny, lustrous, glossy. **2** a bright morning: sunny, sunshiny, cloudless, clear, fair, fine. **3** bright colours: vivid, brilliant, intense, strong, bold, glowing, rich; gaudy, lurid, garish. **4** bright flowers: colourful, brightly-coloured, vivid, vibrant; dated gay. **5** a bright guitar sound: clear, vibrant, ringing, pellucid; high-pitched, sharp. **6** a bright young graduate: clever, intelligent, quick-witted, smart, canny, astute, intuitive, perceptive; ingenious, resourceful; gifted, brilliant; informal brainy. **7** he felt remarkably bright: happy, cheerful, cheery, jolly, merry, sunny, beaming; lively, exuberant, buoyant, bubbly, bouncy, perky, chirpy; Brit. Tiggerish; dated gay. **8** a bright future: promising, rosy, optimistic, hopeful, favourable, propitious, auspicious, encouraging, good, golden. –OPPOSITES dull, dark, stupid.

**brighten** verb **1** sunshine brightened the room: illuminate, light up, lighten, make bright, make brighter, cast/shed light on. **2** you can brighten up the shades of corners: enhance, embellish, enrich, dress up, prettify, beautify; informal jazz up. **3** Sarah brightened up as she thought of Emily's words: cheer up, perk up, rally; be enlivened, feel heartened, be uplifted, be encouraged, take heart; informal buck up, pep up.

**brilliance** noun **1** a philosopher of great brilliance: genius, talent, ability, prowess, skill, expertise, aptitude, flair, finesse, panache; greatness, distinction; intelligence, wisdom, sagacity, intellect. **2** the brilliance and beauty of Paris: splendour, magnificence, grandeur, resplendence. **3** the brilliance of the sunshine: brightness, vividness, intensity; sparkle, glitter,

glittering, glow, blaze, beam, luminosity, radiance.

**brilliant** adjective **1** a brilliant student: gifted, talented, able, adept, skilful; bright, intelligent, clever, smart, astute, intellectual; elite, superior, first-class, first-rate, excellent, top-tier; informal brainy. **2** his brilliant career: superb, glorious, glittering, illustrious, impressive, remarkable, exceptional; informal stellar. **3** (Brit. informal) we had a brilliant time: excellent, marvellous, superb, very good, first-rate, first-class, wonderful, splendid; informal great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, fab, ace, cool, awesome, magic, wicked; Brit. informal smashing, brill; Austral./NZ informal bonzer. **4** a shaft of brilliant light: bright, shining, blazing, dazzling, vivid, intense, gleaming, glaring, luminous, radiant; literary irradant, coruscating. **5** brilliant green: vivid, intense, bright, bold, dazzling.

–OPPOSITES stupid, bad, dark.

**brim** noun **1** the brim of his hat: peak, visor, shield, shade. **2** the cup was filled to its brim: rim, lip, brink, edge.

•verb **1** the pan was brimming with water: be full (up), be filled to the top; overflow, run over. **2** her eyes were brimming with tears: fill, fill up; overflow.

**brimful** adjective full (up), brimming, filled/ full to the brim, filled to capacity, overfull, running over; informal chock-full.

–OPPOSITES empty.

**brindle, brindled** adjective tawny, brownish, brown; dappled, streaked, mottled, speckled, flecked.

**bring** verb **1** he brought over a tray: carry, fetch, bear, take; convey, transport; move, haul, shift. **2** Philip brought his bride to his mansion: escort, conduct, guide, lead, usher, show, shepherd. **3** the wind changed and brought rain: cause, produce, create, generate, precipitate, lead to, give rise to, result in; stir up, whip up, promote; literary beget. **4** the police contemplated bringing charges: put forward, prefer, lay, submit, present, initiate, institute. **5** this job brings him a regular salary: earn, make, fetch, bring in, yield, net, gross, return, produce; command, attract.

■bring something about **1** the affair that brought about her death: cause, produce, give rise to, result in, lead to, occasion, bring to pass; provoke, generate, engender, precipitate; formal effectuate. **2** he brought the ship about: turn (round/around), reverse, change the direction of.

■bring something back **1** the smell brought back memories: remind one of, put one in mind of, bring/call to mind, conjure up, evoke, summon up; take one back. **2** bring back capital punishment: reintroduce, reinstate, re-establish, revive, resurrect.

■bring something down **1** we will bring down the price: decrease, reduce, lower, cut, drop; informal slash. **2** the unrest brought down the government: unseat, overturn, topple, overthrow, depose, oust.

■bring something forward propose,

suggest, advance, raise, table, present, move, submit, lodge.

■ **bring something in** 1 *he brought in a private member's bill*: introduce, launch, inaugurate, initiate, institute. 2 *the event brings in one million pounds each year*. See **BRING** sense 5.

■ **bring something off** achieve, accomplish, attain, bring about, pull off, manage, realize, complete, finish; execute, perform, discharge; formal effectuate.

■ **bring something on**. See **BRING SOMETHING ABOUT** sense 1.

■ **bring something out** 1 *they were bringing out a new magazine*: launch, establish, begin, start, found, set up, instigate, inaugurate, market; publish, print, issue, produce. 2 *the shawl brings out the colour of your eyes*: accentuate, highlight, emphasize, accent, set off.

■ **bring someone round** 1 *she administered artificial respiration and brought him round*: wake up, rouse, bring to. 2 *we would have brought him round, given time*: persuade, convince, talk round, win over, sway, influence.

■ **bring oneself to** force oneself to, make oneself, bear to.

■ **bring someone up** rear, raise, care for, look after, nurture, provide for.

■ **bring something up** mention, allude to, touch on, raise, broach, introduce; voice, air, suggest, propose, submit, put forward, bring forward, table.

**brink** noun 1 *the brink of the abyss*: edge, verge, margin, rim, lip; border, boundary, perimeter, periphery, limit(s). 2 *two countries on the brink of war*: verge, threshold, point, edge.

**brio** noun vigour, vivacity, gusto, verve, zest, enthusiasm, vitality, dynamism, animation, spirit, energy; informal pep, vim, get-up-and-go.

**brisk** adjective 1 *a brisk pace*: quick, rapid, fast, swift, speedy, hurried; energetic, lively, vigorous; informal nippy. 2 *the bar was doing a brisk trade*: busy, bustling, lively, hectic; good. 3 *his tone became brisk*: no-nonsense, decisive, businesslike; brusque, abrupt, short, sharp, curt, blunt, terse, gruff; informal snappy. 4 *a brisk breeze*: bracing, fresh, crisp, invigorating, refreshing, stimulating, energizing; biting, keen, chilly, cold; informal nippy.

– OPPOSITES slow, quiet.

**bristle** noun 1 *the bristles on his chin*: hair, whisker; (bristles) stubble, five o'clock shadow; Zoology seta. 2 *a hedgehog's bristles*: spine, prickle, quill, barb.

• verb 1 *the hair on the back of his neck bristled*: rise, stand up, stand on end; literary horripilate. 2 *she bristled at his tone*: bridle, take offence, take umbrage, be affronted, be offended; get angry, be irritated. 3 *the roof bristled with antennae*: abound, overflow, be full, be packed, be crowded, be jammed, be covered; informal be thick, be jam-packed, be chock-full.

**bristly** adjective 1 *bristly little bushes*:

prickly, spiky, thorny, scratchy, brambly.

2 *the bristly skin of his cheek*: stubbly, hairy, fuzzy, unshaven, whiskered, whiskery; scratchy, rough, coarse, prickly; Zoology hispid.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**Britain** noun the United Kingdom, the UK, Great Britain, the British Isles; Brit. informal Blighty; literary Albion.

**brittle** adjective 1 *glass is a brittle material*: breakable, fragile, delicate; splintery; formal frangible. 2 *a brittle laugh*: harsh, hard, sharp, grating. 3 *a brittle young woman*: edgy, nervy, anxious, unstable, highly strung, tense, excitable, skittish, neurotic; informal uptight, jumpy.

– OPPOSITES flexible, resilient, soft, relaxed.

**broach** verb 1 *I broached the matter with my parents*: bring up, raise, introduce, talk about, mention, touch on, air. 2 *he broached a barrel of beer*: pierce, puncture, tap; open, uncork; informal crack open.

**broad** adjective 1 *a broad flight of steps*: wide. 2 *the leaves are two inches broad*: wide, across, in breadth, in width. 3 *a broad expanse of prairie*: extensive, vast, immense, great, spacious, expansive, sizeable, sweeping, rolling. 4 *a broad range of opportunities*: comprehensive, inclusive, extensive, wide, all-embracing, eclectic, unlimited. 5 *this report gives a broad outline*: general, non-specific, unspecific, rough, approximate, basic; loose, vague. 6 *a broad hint*: obvious, unsubtle, explicit, direct, plain, clear, straightforward, bald, patent, transparent, undisguised, overt. 7 *his broad humour has been toned down*: indecent, coarse, indelicate, ribald, risqué, racy, rude, suggestive, naughty, off colour, earthy, smutty, dirty, filthy, vulgar; informal blue, near the knuckle. 8 *a broad Somerset accent*: pronounced, noticeable, strong, thick. 9 *he was attacked in broad daylight*: full, complete, total; clear, bright.

– OPPOSITES narrow, limited, detailed, subtle.

**broadcast** verb 1 *the show will be broadcast worldwide*: transmit, relay, air, beam, show, televise, telecast, screen. 2 *the result was broadcast far and wide*: report, announce, publicize, proclaim; spread, circulate, air, blazon, trumpet. 3 *don't broadcast too much seed*: scatter, sow, disperse, sprinkle, spread, distribute.

• noun radio and television broadcasts:

programme, show, production, transmission, telecast, screening; informal prog.

**broaden** verb 1 *her smile broadened*:

widen, expand, stretch (out), draw out, spread; deepen. 2 *the government tried to broaden its political base*: expand, enlarge, extend, widen, swell; increase, augment, add to, amplify; develop, enrich, improve, build on.

**broadly** adverb 1 *the pattern is broadly similar for men and women*: in general, on the whole, as a rule, in the main, mainly, predominantly; loosely, roughly,

approximately. **2** *he was smiling broadly now: widely, openly.*

**broad-minded** adjective liberal, tolerant, open-minded, freethinking, indulgent, progressive, permissive, unshockable; unprejudiced, unbiased, unbogoted.

– OPPOSITES intolerant.

**broadside** noun **1** (historical) *the gunners fired broadsides: salvo, volley, cannonade, barrage, blast, fusillade.* **2** *a broadside against the economic reforms: criticism, censure, polemic, diatribe, tirade; attack, onslaught; literary philippic.*

**brochure** noun booklet, prospectus, catalogue; pamphlet, leaflet, handbill, handout; N. Amer. folder.

**broil** verb (N. Amer.) grill, toast, barbecue, bake; cook.

**broke** adjective (informal). See PENNILESS.

**broken** adjective **1** *a broken bottle: smashed, shattered, fragmented, splintered, crushed, snapped; in bits, in pieces; destroyed, disintegrated; cracked, split; informal in smithereens.* **2** *a broken arm: fractured, damaged, injured.* **3** *his video's broken: damaged, faulty, defective, not working, malfunctioning, in disrepair, inoperative, out of order, broken-down, down; informal on the blink, kaput, bust, busted, conked out, acting up, done for; Brit. informal knackered.* **4** *broken skin: cut, ruptured, punctured, perforated.* **5** *a broken marriage: failed, ended, unsuccessful.* **6** *broken promises: flouted, violated, infringed, contravened, disregarded, ignored.* **7** *he was left a broken man: defeated, beaten, subdued; demoralized, dispirited, discouraged, crushed, humbled; dishonoured, ruined.* **8** *a night of broken sleep: interrupted, disturbed, fitful, disrupted, discontinuous, intermittent, unsettled, troubled.* **9** *he pressed on over the broken ground: uneven, rough, irregular, bumpy; rutted, pitted.* **10** *she spoke in broken English: halting, hesitating, disjointed, faltering, imperfect.*  
– OPPOSITES whole, working, uninterrupted, smooth, perfect.

**broken-down** adjective **1** *a broken-down hotel: dilapidated, run down, ramshackle, tumbledown, in disrepair, battered, crumbling, deteriorated, gone to rack and ruin.* **2** *a broken-down car: defective, broken, faulty; not working, malfunctioning, inoperative, non-functioning; informal kaput, conked out, clapped out, done for; Brit. informal knackered.*

– OPPOSITES smart.

**broken-hearted** adjective heartbroken, grief-stricken, desolate, devastated, inconsolable, miserable, depressed, melancholy, wretched, sorrowful, forlorn, heavy-hearted, woeful, doleful, downcast, weebegone, sad, down; informal down in the mouth; literary heartsick.

– OPPOSITES overjoyed.

**broker** noun *a top City broker: dealer, broker-dealer, agent; middleman, intermediary, mediator; factor, liaison; stockbroker.*

• verb *an agreement brokered by the secretariat: arrange, organize, orchestrate, work out, settle, clinch, bring about; negotiate, mediate.*

**bronze** noun *Scotland won the bronze: bronze medal, third prize.*

**bronzed** adjective tanned, suntanned, tan, bronze, brown, reddish-brown.

**brooch** noun brooch, pin, clip, badge.

**brood** noun **1** *the bird flew to feed its brood: offspring, young, progeny; family, hatch, clutch; formal progeniture.* **2** (informal) *Gill was the youngest of the brood: family; children, offspring, youngsters, progeny; informal kids.*

• verb **1** *once the eggs are laid the male broods them: incubate, hatch.* **2** *he slumped in his armchair, brooding: worry, fret, agonize, mope, sulk; think, ponder, contemplate, meditate, muse, ruminate.*

**brook**<sup>1</sup> noun *a babbling brook: stream, streamlet, rill, brooklet, runnel, runlet, gill; N. English beck; Scottish & N. English burn; S. English bourn; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ creek.*

**brook**<sup>2</sup> verb (formal) *we brook no violence: tolerate, allow, stand, bear, abide, put up with, endure; accept, permit, countenance; informal stomach, stand for, hack; Brit. informal stick; old use suffer.*

**brothel** noun whorehouse; N. Amer. bordello; Brit. informal knocking shop; N. Amer. informal cathouse, creepjoint; euphemistic massage parlour; law disorderly house; old use bawdy house, house of ill fame, house of ill repute.

**brother** noun **1** *they were brothers in crime: colleague, associate, partner, comrade, fellow, friend; informal pal, chum; Brit. informal mate.* **2** *a brother of the Carmelite Order: monk, cleric, friar, religious, monastic.*

#### WORD LINKS

fraternal relating to a brother

fratricide the killing of one's brother or sister

**brotherhood** noun **1** *the ideals of justice and brotherhood: comradeship, fellowship, brotherliness, fraternalism, kinship; camaraderie, friendship.* **2** *a Masonic brotherhood: society, fraternity, association, alliance, union, league, guild, order, body, community, club, lodge, circle.*

**brotherly** adjective **1** *brotherly rivalry: fraternal, sibling.* **2** *brotherly love: friendly, comradely; affectionate, amicable, kind, devoted, loyal.*

**brow** noun **1** *the doctor wiped his brow: forehead, temple; Zoology frons.* **2** *heavy black brows: eyebrow.* **3** *the brow of the hill: summit, peak, top, crest, crown, head, pinnacle, apex.*

**browbeat** verb bully, hector, intimidate, force, coerce, compel, dragoon, bludgeon, pressure, pressurize, tyrannize, terrorize, menace; harass, harry, hound; informal bulldoze, railroad.

**brown** adjective **1** *she has brown eyes: hazel, chocolate-coloured, coffee-coloured, cocoa-coloured, nut-brown; Brunette; sepia,*



mahogany, umber, burnt sienna; beige, buff, tan, fawn, camel, café au lait, caramel, chestnut. **2** *his skin was brown: tanned*, suntanned, browned, bronzed, bronzed; dark, swarthy, dusky. **3** *brown bread: wholemeal; unrefined*.

• **verb** *the grill browns food evenly: grill*, toast, singe, sear, crisp (up); barbecue, bake, cook.

**browned off** adjective (informal) irritated, annoyed, irked, put out, peeved, disgruntled; disheartened, depressed; informal fed up, hacked off; Brit. informal brassed off, cheesed off, narked.

**browse** verb **1** *I browsed among the little shops: look around/round*, window-shop, peruse. **2** *she browsed through the newspaper: scan*, skim, glance, look, peruse; thumb, leaf, flick; dip into. **3** *three cows were browsing in the meadow: graze*, feed, crop; ruminate.

• **noun** *this brochure is well worth a browse: scan*, read, skim, glance, look.

**bruise** noun *a bruise across her forehead: contusion*, lesion, mark, injury; swelling, lump, bump, welt; Medicine ecchymosis. • **verb** **1** *her face was badly bruised: contuse*, injure, mark, discolour. **2** *every one of the apples is bruised: mark*, discolour, blemish; damage, spoil. **3** *Eric's ego was bruised: upset*, offend, insult, affront, hurt, wound, injure, crush.

**brunette** adjective brown-haired, dark, dark-haired.

**brunt** noun (full) force, impact, shock, burden, pressure, weight; effect, repercussions, consequences.

**brush**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a dustpan and brush: broom*, sweeper, besom, whisk. **2** *he gave the seat a brush with his hand: clean*, sweep, wipe, dust. **3** *a fox's brush: tail*. **4** *the brush of his lips against her cheek: touch*, stroke, skim, graze, nudge, contact; kiss. **5** *a brush with the law: encounter*, clash, confrontation, conflict, altercation, incident; informal run-in, to-do; Brit. informal spot of bother. • **verb** **1** *he spent his day brushing the floors: sweep*, clean, buff, scrub. **2** *she brushed her hair: groom*, comb, neat, tidy, smooth, arrange, fix, do; curry. **3** *she felt his lips brush her cheek: touch*, stroke, caress, skim, sweep, graze, contact; kiss. **4** *she brushed a wisp of hair away: push*, move, sweep, clear. ■ **brush something aside** disregard, ignore, dismiss, shrug off, wave aside; overlook, pay no attention to, take no notice of, neglect, forget about, turn a blind eye to; reject, spurn; laugh off, make light of, trivialize; informal pooh-pooh.

■ **brush someone off** rebuff, dismiss, spurn, reject; slight, scorn, disdain; ignore, disregard, snub, cut, turn one's back on, give someone the cold shoulder, freeze out; jilt, cast aside, discard, throw over, drop, leave; informal knock back.

■ **brush up (on)** revise, read up, go over, relearn, cram, study; improve, sharpen (up), polish up; hone, refine, perfect; informal bone up; Brit. informal swot up, gen up.

**brush**<sup>2</sup> noun *an area covered in dense brush: undergrowth*, underwood, scrub, brushwood, shrubs, bushes; N. Amer. underbrush, chaparral.

**brush-off** noun (informal) rejection, refusal, rebuff, repulse; snub, slight, cut; informal knock-back; N. Amer. informal kiss-off.

**brusque** adjective curt, abrupt, blunt, short, sharp, terse, brisk, peremptory, gruff, bluff; offhand, discourteous, impolite, rude; informal snappy.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**brutal** adjective **1** *a brutal attack: savage*, cruel, vicious, ferocious, barbaric, barbarous, wicked, murderous, bloodthirsty, cold-blooded, callous, heartless, merciless, sadistic; heinous, monstrous, abominable, atrocious. **2** *brutal honesty: unsparing*, unstinting, unembellished, unvarnished, bald, naked, stark, blunt, direct, straightforward, frank, outspoken, forthright, plain-spoken; complete, total.

– OPPOSITES gentle.

**brutalize** verb **1** *the men were brutalized by life in the trenches: desensitize*, dehumanize, harden, toughen, inure. **2** *they were brutalized by the police: attack*, assault, beat, batter; abuse.

**brute** noun **1** *a callous brute: savage*, beast, monster, animal, barbarian, fiend, ogre; sadist; thug, lout, ruffian; informal swine, pig. **2** *the alsatian was a vicious-looking brute: animal*, beast, creature; N. Amer. informal critter. • **adjective** *brute force: physical*, bodily; crude, violent.

**bubble** noun *the bubbles in his mineral water: globule*, bead, blister; air pocket; (bubbles) sparkle, fizz, effervescence, froth.

• **verb** **1** *this wine bubbled nicely on the tongue: sparkle*, fizz, effervesce, foam, froth. **2** *the milk was bubbling above the flame: boil*, simmer, seethe, gurgle. **3** *she was bubbling over with enthusiasm: overflow*, brim over, be filled, gush; burst.

**bubbly** adjective **1** *a bubbly wine: sparkling*, bubbling, fizzy, effervescent, gassy, aerated, carbonated; spumante, pétillant, vin mousseux; frothy, foamy, foaming. **2** *she was bubbly and full of life: vivacious*, animated, ebullient, lively, high-spirited, zestful; sparkling, bouncy, buoyant, carefree; merry, happy, cheerful, perky, sunny, bright; Brit. Tiggerish; informal upbeat, chirpy.

– OPPOSITES still, listless.

• **noun** (informal) *a bottle of bubbly: champagne*, sparkling wine; mousseux, spumante, cava; informal champers, fizz.

**buccaneer** noun (old use) pirate, marauder, raider, freebooter, plunderer, cut-throat, privateer.

**buck** verb *it takes guts to buck the system: resist*, oppose, defy, fight, kick against.

■ **buck up** (informal) cheer up, perk up, take heart, pick up, bounce back.

■ **buck someone up** (informal) cheer up, buoy up, ginger up, perk up, hearten, uplift, encourage, enliven, give someone a lift; informal pep up.

b

**bucket** noun **1** *a bucket of cold water*: pail, scuttle, can, tub. **2** (informal) *everyone wept buckets: floods, gallons, oceans.*  
**• verb** (Brit. informal) **1** *it was bucketing down: rain heavily, rain cats and dogs, rain hard, pour, pelt, lash, teem*; Brit. tip. **2** *the car came bucketing out of a side road.* See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

**buckle** noun *a belt buckle*: clasp, clip, catch, hasp, fastener.

**• verb** **1** *he buckled the belt round his waist: fasten, do up, hook, strap, secure, clasp, clip.* **2** *pillars were put in to stop the walls buckling: bend, warp, twist, curve, bulge, arc, arch; crumple, collapse, give way.*  
**■ buckle down** get (down) to work, set to work, get down to business; work hard, apply oneself, make an effort, be industrious, be diligent, focus; informal pull one's finger out; Brit. informal get stuck in.

**bucolic** adjective rustic, rural, pastoral, country, countryside; literary Arcadian, sylvan, georgic.

**bud** noun *fresh buds*: sprout, shoot; Botany plumule.

**• verb** *trees began to bud*: sprout, shoot, germinate, swell; dated vegetate.

**budding** adjective promising, up-and-coming, rising, in the making, aspiring, future, prospective, potential, fledgling, developing; informal would-be, wannabe.

**budge** verb **1** *the horses wouldn't budge: move, shift, stir, go.* **2** *I couldn't budge the door*: dislodge, shift, move; open. **3** *they refuse to budge on the issue*: give way, give in, yield, change one's mind, acquiesce, compromise, do a U-turn. **4** *our customers won't be budged on price alone*: influence, sway, convince, persuade, induce, entice, tempt, lure, cajole, bring round.

**budget** noun **1** *your budget for the week*: financial plan, forecast; accounts, statement. **2** *the defence budget*: allowance, allocation, quota; grant, award, funds, resources, capital.

**• verb** **1** *we have to budget £7,000 for the work*: allocate, allot, allow, earmark, designate, set aside. **2** *the work was initially budgeted at \$100m*: cost, price; value; estimate, schedule. **3** *you should budget for periods of unemployment*: allow, plan, be ready/prepared, make allowances.

**• adjective** *a budget hotel*: cheap, inexpensive, economy, low-cost, low-price, cut-price, discount, bargain.

– OPPOSITES expensive.

**buff**<sup>1</sup> adjective *a plain buff envelope*: beige, yellowish, yellowish-brown, light brown, fawn, sandy, wheaten, biscuit, camel.

**• verb** *he buffed the glass*: polish, burnish, shine, clean, rub.

**■ in the buff** (informal). See **NAKED** sense 1.

**buff**<sup>2</sup> noun (informal) *a film buff*: enthusiast, fan, devotee, lover, admirer; expert, aficionado, authority, pundit; informal freak, nut, fanatic, addict.

**buffer** noun *a buffer against market fluctuations*: cushion, bulwark, shield,

barrier, guard, safeguard.

**• verb** *a massage helped to buffer the strain*: cushion, absorb, soften, lessen, diminish, moderate, allay.

– OPPOSITES intensify.

**buffet**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a sumptuous buffet*: cold table, self-service meal, smorgasbord. **2** *a station buffet*: cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, canteen, restaurant. **3** *the plates are kept in the buffet*: sideboard, cabinet, cupboard.

**buffet**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *rough seas buffeted the coast*: batter, pound, lash, strike, hit. **2** *he has been buffeted by bad publicity*: afflict, trouble, harm, burden, bother, beset, harass, torment, blight, bedevil.

**• noun** **1** (dated) *I rained buffets on the door*: blow, punch, thump, box, knock, rap; informal whack, wallop, clout. **2** *all the buffets of this world*: shock, upset, setback, crisis, blow; misfortune, trouble, problem, hardship, adversity; affliction, sorrow, tribulation, tragedy, vicissitude.

**buffoon** noun *he regarded the chaplain as a buffoon*: fool, idiot, dunce, ignoramus, simpleton, jackass; informal chump, blockhead, nincompoop, numbskull, dope, twit, nitwit, halfwit, clot, birdbrain, twerp.

**bug** noun **1** *bugs were crawling everywhere*: insect, mite; informal creepy-crawly, beastie.

**2** (informal) *a stomach bug*: illness, ailment, disorder, infection, disease, sickness, complaint, upset, condition; bacterium, germ, virus; Brit. informal lurgy. **3** (informal) *he caught the journalism bug*: obsession, enthusiasm, craze, fad, mania, passion, fixation. **4** *the bug planted on his phone*: listening device, hidden microphone, wire, wiretap, tap. **5** *the program developed a bug*: fault, error, defect, flaw; virus; informal glitch, gremlin.

**• verb** **1** *her conversations were bugged*: record, eavesdrop on, spy on, overhear; wiretap, tap, monitor. **2** (informal) *she really bugs me*. See **ANNOY**.

**bugbear** noun *pet hate*, bête noire, bogey; bane, irritation, vexation, anathema, thorn in one's flesh/side; nightmare, horror; informal peeve, pain (in the neck), hang-up; N. Amer. bugaboo.

**build** verb **1** *a supermarket had been built*: construct, erect, put up, assemble. **2** *they were building a snowman*: make, construct, form, create, fashion, model, shape. **3** *they are building a business strategy*: establish, found, set up, institute, inaugurate, initiate.

**• noun** *a man of slim build*: physique, frame, body, figure, form, shape, stature, proportions; informal vital statistics.

**■ build something in/into** incorporate in/into, include in, absorb into, subsume into, assimilate into.

**■ build on** expand on, enlarge on, develop, elaborate, flesh out, embellish, amplify; refine, improve, perfect.

**■ build up** increase, grow, mount up, intensify, escalate; strengthen.

**■ build something up** **1** *he built up a huge business*: establish, set up, found, institute,

start, create; develop, expand, enlarge. **2** *he built up his stamina*: boost, strengthen, increase, improve, augment, raise, enhance, swell; informal beef up. **3** *I have built up a collection of prints*: accumulate, amass, collect, gather; stockpile, hoard.

**builder** noun **1** *a canal builder*: designer, planner, architect, deviser, creator, maker, constructor. **2** *the builders must finish the job in time*: construction worker, bricklayer, labourer; Brit. ganger; Brit. dated navvy.

**building** noun **1** *a brick building*: structure, construction, erection, pile; property, premises, establishment; formal edifice. **2** *the building of power stations*: construction, erection, fabrication, assembly.

#### WORD LINKS

architecture the design and construction of buildings

**build-up** noun **1** *the build-up of military strength*: increase, growth, expansion, escalation, development, proliferation. **2** *the build-up of carbon dioxide*: accumulation, accretion. **3** *the build-up for the World Cup*: publicity, promotion, advertising, marketing; informal hype, ballyhoo.

**built-in** adjective **1** *a built-in cupboard*: fitted, integral, integrated, incorporated. **2** *built-in advantages*: inherent, intrinsic, inbuilt; essential, implicit, basic, fundamental, deep-rooted.

**bulb** noun tuber, corm, rhizome.

**bulbous** adjective bulging, protuberant, round, fat, rotund; swollen, tumid, distended, bloated.

**bulge** noun **1** *a bulge in his pocket*: swelling, bump, lump, protuberance, prominence. **2** (informal) *a bulge in the population*: surge, upsurge, rise, increase, escalation. • verb *his eyes were bulging*: swell, stick out, puff out, balloon (out), fill out, belly, distend; project, protrude, stand out.

**bulk** noun **1** *the sheer bulk of the bags*: size, volume, dimensions, proportions, mass, scale, magnitude, immensity, vastness. **2** *the bulk of entrants were British*: majority, generality, main part, major part, lion's share, preponderance; most, almost all. — OPPOSITES minority.

• verb *some meals are bulked out with fat*: expand, pad out, fill out, eke out; augment, increase.

■ **bulk large** be important, loom large, dominate; be significant, be influential, be of consequence, carry weight; count, matter, signify.

**bulky** adjective **1** *bulky items of refuse*: large, big, huge, sizeable, substantial, massive; king-size, outsize, oversized, considerable; cumbersome, unmanageable, unwieldy, ponderous, heavy, weighty; informal jumbo, whopping, hulking; Brit. informal ginormous. **2** *a bulky man*: heavily built, stocky, thickset, sturdy, well built, burly, strapping, solid, heavy, hefty, meaty; stout, fat, plump, chubby, portly, rotund, round, chunky; overweight, obese, fleshy, corpulent; informal

tubby, pudgy, roly-poly, beefy, porky, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy.

— OPPOSITES small, slight.

**bull** noun

#### WORD LINKS

taurine relating to a bull  
matador, toreador, torero, picador types of bullfighter

Minotaur a mythological creature that was half-man and half-bull

**bulldoze** verb **1** *they plan to bulldoze the park*: demolish, knock down, tear down, pull down, flatten, level, raze, clear. **2** *he bulldozed his way through*: force, push, shove, barge, elbow, shoulder, jostle; plunge, crash, sweep, bundle. **3** (informal) *she tends to bulldoze everyone*: bully, hector, browbeat, intimidate, steamroller, dragoon, bludgeon, domineer, pressurize, tyrannize, strong-arm; informal railroad, lean on, boss.

**bullet** noun ball, shot; informal slug; (bullets) lead.

**bulletin** noun **1** *a news bulletin*: report, dispatch, story, press release, newscast, flash; statement, announcement, message, communication, communiqué. **2** *the society's monthly bulletin*: newsletter, news-sheet, proceedings; newspaper, magazine, digest, gazette, review.

**bullish** adjective confident, positive, assertive, self-assertive, assured, self-assured, bold, determined; optimistic, buoyant, sanguine; informal feisty, upbeat.

**bully** noun *the village bully*: persecutor, oppressor, tyrant, tormentor, intimidator; tough guy, bully boy, thug. • verb **1** *the others bully him*: persecute, oppress, tyrannize, browbeat, intimidate, strong-arm, dominate; informal push around/about. **2** *she was bullied into helping*: coerce, pressure, pressurize, press, push; force, compel; badger, goad, prod, browbeat, bludgeon, intimidate, dragoon, strong-arm; informal bulldoze, railroad, lean on.

**bulwark** noun **1** *ancient bulwarks*: wall, rampart, fortification, parapet, stockade, palisade, barricade, embankment, earthwork. **2** *a bulwark of liberty*: protector, defender, protection, guard, defence, supporter, buttress; mainstay, bastion, stronghold.

**bum**<sup>1</sup> noun (Brit. informal). See **BOTTOM** noun sense 6.

**bum**<sup>2</sup> (informal) noun **1** (N. Amer.) *the bums sleeping on the sidewalk*. See **TRAMP** noun sense 1. **2** *you lazy bum*: idler, loafer, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, layabout, lounge, shirker; informal waster, loser, scrounger. • verb **1** *he bummed around Florida*: loaf, lounge, idle, moon, amble, wander, drift, meander, dawdle; informal mooch; N. Amer. informal lollygag. **2** *they bummed money off him*: beg, borrow; informal scrounge, cadge, sponge; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge. • adjective *a bum deal*: bad, poor, second-rate, third-rate, second-class, unsatisfactory,



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inadequate, unacceptable; dreadful, awful, terrible, deplorable, lamentable; informal crummy, rotten, pathetic, lousy, pitiful, dire, poxy; Brit. informal duff, rubbish.

– OPPOSITES excellent.

**bumble** verb **1** *they bumbled around the house: blunder, lurch, stumble, stagger, lumber, flounder, totter.* **2** *the speakers bumbled: mutter, mumble, stumble, babble, burble, drivel, gibber.*

**bumbling** adjective **blundering, bungling, inept, clumsy, maladroit, awkward, muddled; oafish, clodhopping, lumbering; crude; informal botched, ham-fisted, cack-handed.**

– OPPOSITES efficient.

**bump** noun **1** *I landed with a bump: jolt, crash, smash, smack, crack, bang, thud, thump; informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop.* **2** *I was woken by a bump: bang, crack, boom, clang, knock, thud, thump, clunk, crash, smash; stomp, clump, clomp; informal whump.* **3** *a bump in the road: hump, lump, ridge, bulge, knob, protuberance.* **4** *a bump on his head: swelling, lump, bulge, injury, contusion; outgrowth, growth, carbuncle, protuberance; Anatomy bursa.*

• verb **1** *cars bumped into each other: hit, crash, smash, slam, bang, knock, run, plough; ram, collide with, strike; N. Amer. impact.* **2** *a cart bumping along the road: bounce, jolt, jerk, rattle, shake.*

■ **bump into** (informal) meet (by chance), encounter, run into/across, come across, chance on, happen on.

**bumper** adjective **abundant, rich, bountiful, good, fine; large, big, huge, plentiful, profuse, copious; informal whopping; literary plentiful, bounteous.**

– OPPOSITES meagre.

**bumpkin** noun **yokel, peasant, provincial, rustic, country cousin, countryman/woman; Irish informal culchie; N. Amer. informal hayseed, hillbilly, hick; Austral. informal bushy.**

**bumptious** adjective **self-important, conceited, arrogant, self-assertive, pushy, swollen-headed, pompous, overbearing, cocky, swaggering; proud, haughty, overweening, egotistical; informal snooty, uppity.**

– OPPOSITES modest.

**bumpy** adjective **1** *a bumpy road: uneven, rough, rutted, pitted, potholed, holey; lumpy, rocky.* **2** *a bumpy ride: bouncy, rough, uncomfortable, jolting, lurching, jerky, jarring, bone-shaking.* **3** *a bumpy start: inconsistent, variable, irregular, fluctuating, intermittent, erratic, patchy; rocky, unsettled, unstable, turbulent, chaotic, full of ups and downs.*

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**bunch** noun **1** *a bunch of flowers: bouquet, posy, nosegay, tussie-mussie, spray, corsage; wreath, garland.* **2** *a bunch of keys: cluster, clump, knot; group.* **3** (informal) *a great bunch of people: group, set, circle, company, collection, bevy, band; informal gang, crowd,*

*load.* **4** (N. Amer. informal) *a whole bunch of things.* See **LOT** pronoun.

• verb **1** *he bunched the reins in his hand: bundle, clump, cluster, group, gather; pack.* **2** *his trousers bunched around his ankles: gather, ruffle, pucker, fold, pleat.* **3** *the runners bunched up behind him: cluster, huddle, gather, congregate, collect, amass, group, crowd.*

**bundle** noun *a bundle of clothes: bunch, roll, clump, wad, parcel, sheaf, bale, bolt; pile, stack, heap, mass; informal load, wodge.*

• verb **1** *she bundled up her things: tie, pack, parcel, wrap, roll, fold, bind, truss, bale.*

**2** *she was bundled in furs: wrap, envelop, clothe, cover, muffle, swathe, swaddle, shroud, drape, enfold.* **3** (informal) *he was bundled into a van: hustle, manhandle, frogmarch, hurry, rush; shove, push, thrust.*

**bung** noun **stopper, plug, cork, spigot, spile, seal; N. Amer. stopple.**

**bungle** verb **mishandle, mismanage, mess up, spoil, ruin; informal botch, muff, fluff, make a hash of, foul up, screw up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, cock up; N. Amer. informal flub, goof up.**

**bungler** noun **blunderer, incompetent, amateur, bungler, clown; informal botcher, butterfingers; Brit. informal bodger; N. Amer. informal jackleg.**

**bungling** adjective **incompetent, blundering, amateurish, inept, unskilful, clumsy, awkward, bungling; informal ham-fisted, cack-handed.**

**bunk**<sup>1</sup> noun *he slept in a bunk: berth, cot, bed.*

**bunk**<sup>2</sup> (Brit. informal) verb *he bunked off school: (play) truant from, skip, avoid, shirk; informal sag off; Brit. informal skive off; N. Amer. informal play hookey from, goof off, cut; Austral./NZ informal wag.*

■ **do a bunk.** See **ABSCOND.**

**bunk**<sup>3</sup> noun (informal) *what bunk you talk!* See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**bunkum** noun (informal, dated). See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**buoy** noun *a mooring buoy: float, marker, beacon.*

• verb *the party was buoyed by an election victory: cheer (up), hearten, rally, invigorate, uplift, lift, encourage, stimulate, inspirit; informal pep up, perk up, buck up.*

– OPPOSITES depress.

**buoyancy** noun **1** *the drum's buoyancy: ability to float, lightness, floatability.* **2** *her natural buoyancy: cheerfulness, happiness, light-heartedness, joy, bounce, sunniness, breeziness, jollity, liveliness, ebullience, high spirits, vivacity, vitality, verve, sparkle, zest; optimism; informal pep.* **3** *the buoyancy of the market: vigour, strength, resilience, growth, improvement, expansion.*

**buoyant** adjective **1** *a buoyant substance: able to float, floating, floatable.* **2** *a buoyant mood: cheerful, cheery, happy, light-hearted, carefree, bright, merry, joyful, bubbly, bouncy, sunny, jolly; lively, jaunty, high-spirited, perky; optimistic,*

confident, positive; informal peppy, upbeat. **3 sales were buoyant:** booming, strong, vigorous, thriving; improving, expanding, mushrooming, snowballing.

**burble verb 1** *the exhaust was burbling:* gurgle, bubble, murmur, purr, whirr, drone, hum, rumble. **2** *he bumbled on:* prattle, blather, blither, babble, gabble, prate, drivel, rattle, ramble, maunder, go on, run on; informal jabber, blabber, yatter, gab; Brit. informal rabbit, witter, waffle, chunter; N. Amer. informal run off at the mouth.

**burden noun 1** *they shouldered their burdens:* load, cargo, weight; pack, bundle. **2** *a financial burden:* responsibility, onus, charge, duty, obligation, liability; trouble, care, problem, worry, difficulty, strain, encumbrance. **3** *the burden of his message:* gist, substance, drift, thrust, meaning, significance, essence, import, message. **• verb 1** *he was burdened with a heavy pack:* load, charge, weigh down, encumber, hamper; overload, overburden. **2** *avoid burdening them with guilt:* oppress, trouble, worry, harass, upset, distress; haunt, afflict, strain, stress, tax, overwhelm.

**burdensome adjective** onerous, oppressive, troublesome, weighty, worrisome, stressful; vexatious, irksome, trying, difficult; arduous, strenuous, hard, laborious, exhausting, tiring, taxing, demanding, punishing, gruelling.

**bureau noun 1** *an oak bureau:* desk, writing table, secretaire, esbutoire; Brit. davenport. **2** *a marriage bureau:* agency, service, office, business, company, firm. **3** *the intelligence bureau:* department, division, branch, section.

**bureaucracy noun 1** *the ranks of the bureaucracy:* civil service, government, administration; establishment, system, powers that be; ministries, authorities. **2** *unnecessary bureaucracy:* red tape, rules and regulations, protocol, officialdom, paperwork.

**bureaucrat noun** official, administrator, civil servant, minister, functionary, mandarin; Brit. jack-in-office; derogatory apparatchik.

**bureaucratic adjective 1** *bureaucratic structure:* administrative, official, governmental, ministerial, state, civic. **2** *current practice is far too bureaucratic:* rule-bound, rigid, inflexible, complicated.

**burgeon verb** flourish, thrive, prosper, improve; expand, escalate, swell, grow, boom, mushroom, snowball, rocket.

**burglar noun** housebreaker, robber, cat burglar, thief, raider, looter, safe-breaker/cracker; intruder; N. Amer. informal yegg; informal, dated cracksman.

**burglary noun 1** *a sentence for burglary:* housebreaking, breaking and entering, theft, stealing, robbery, larceny, thievery, looting. **2** *a series of burglaries:* break-in, theft, robbery, raid; informal smash-and-grab; N. Amer. informal heist.

**burgle verb** rob, loot, steal from, plunder, rifle, pillage; break into; informal do.

**burial noun** burying, interment, committal, inhumation, entombment; funeral, obsequies; formal exequies; old use sepulture. **– OPPOSITES** exhumation.

#### WORD LINKS

**funerary, sepulchral, mortuary** relating to burial

**barrow, tumulus** an ancient burial mound  
**shroud, winding sheet** a piece of cloth in which a dead body is wrapped for burial.  
See also **FUNERAL**.

**burial ground noun** cemetery, graveyard, churchyard, necropolis, garden of remembrance; Scottish kirkyard; N. Amer. memorial park; informal boneyard; historical potter's field; old use God's acre.

**burlesque noun** parody, caricature, satire, lampoon, skit; informal send-up, take-off, spoof.

**burly adjective** strapping, well built, sturdy, brawny, strong, muscular, muscly, thickset, big, hefty, bulky, stocky, Herculean; informal hunky, beefy, husky, hulking.

**– OPPOSITES** puny.

**burn verb 1** *the coal was burning:* be on fire, be alight, be ablaze, blaze, go up (in smoke), be in flames, be aflame; smoulder, glow. **2** *he burned the letters:* set fire to, set on fire, set alight, set light to, light, ignite, touch off; incinerate; informal torch. **3** *I burned my arm:* scorch, singe, sear, char, blacken, brand; scald; Medicine cauterize. **4** *her face burned:* be hot, be warm, be feverish, be on fire; blush, redden, go red, flush, colour. **5** *she was burning with curiosity:* be consumed, be eaten up, be obsessed, be tormented, be beside oneself. **6** *Meredith burned to know the secret:* yearn, long, ache, desire, want, wish, hanker, crave, hunger, thirst; informal have a yen, yen, itch, be dying. **7** *the energy they burn up:* consume, use up, expend, get/go through, eat up; dissipate.

**burning adjective 1** *burning coals:* blazing, flaming, fiery, ignited, glowing, red-hot, smouldering; raging, roaring. **2** *burning desert sands:* hot, red-hot, fiery, blistering, scorching, searing, sweltering, torrid; informal baking, boiling (hot), roasting, sizzling. **3** *a burning desire:* intense, passionate, deep-seated, profound, wholehearted, strong, ardent, fervent, urgent, fierce, eager, frantic, consuming, uncontrollable. **4** *the burning issues of the day:* important, crucial, significant, vital, essential, pivotal; urgent, pressing, compelling, critical.

**burnish verb** polish (up), shine, buff (up), rub (up).

**burp** (informal) verb belch, bring up wind; Scottish & N. English informal rift.

**• noun** belch; wind; Scottish & N. English informal rift; formal eructation.

**burrow noun** a rabbits' burrow: warren, tunnel, hole, dugout; lair, set, den, earth. **• verb** the mouse burrows a hole: tunnel, dig

(out), excavate, grub, mine, bore, channel; hollow out, gouge out.

**burst** verb **1** *one balloon burst: split (open)*, rupture, break, tear. **2** *a shell burst: explode*, blow up, detonate, go off. **3** *smoke burst through the hole: break*, erupt, surge, gush, rush, stream, flow, pour, spill; spout, spurt, jet, spew. **4** *he burst into the room: plunge*, charge, barge, plough, hurtle, career, rush, dash, tear. **5** *she burst into tears: break out* in, erupt in, have a fit of.

• **noun** **1** *mortar bursts: explosion*, detonation, blast, eruption, bang. **2** *a burst of gunfire: volley*, salvo, fusillade, barrage, discharge; hail, rain. **3** *a burst of activity: outbreak*, eruption, flare-up, blaze, attack, fit, rush, gale, storm, surge, upsurge, spurt; informal spurt.

■ **burst out** *'I don't care!' she burst out:* exclaim, blurt, cry, shout, yell; dated ejaculate.

**bury** verb **1** *the dead were buried: inter*, lay to rest, entomb; informal plant; literary inhumate. **2** *she buried her face in her hands: hide*, conceal, cover, enfold, engulf, tuck, cup, sink. **3** *the bullet buried itself in the wood: embed*, sink, implant, submerge; drive into. **4** *he buried himself in his work: absorb*, engross, immerse, occupy, engage, busy, involve.

– **OPPOSITES** exhume.

**bush** noun **1** *a rose bush: shrub; (bushes)* undergrowth, shrubbery. **2** *it's easy to get lost in the bush: wilds*, wilderness; backwoods, hinterland(s); N. Amer. backcountry, backland(s); Austral./NZ outback, backblocks, booyay; N. Amer. informal boondocks, tall timbers; Austral./NZ informal Woop Woop, beyond the black stump.

**bushy** adjective *thick*, shaggy, fuzzy, bristly, fluffy, woolly; luxuriant; informal jungly.

– **OPPOSITES** sleek, wispy.

**busily** adverb *energetically*, vigorously, enthusiastically; industriously, purposefully, diligently.

**business** noun **1** *she has to smile in her business: work*, line (of work), occupation, profession, career, employment, job, position; vocation, calling; field, sphere, trade, craft; informal racket, game; old use employ. **2** *who do you do business with? trade*, trading, commerce, dealing, traffic, merchandising; dealings, transactions, negotiations. **3** *her own business: firm*, company, concern, enterprise, venture, organization, operation, undertaking; office, agency, franchise, practice; informal outfit, set-up. **4** *none of your business: concern*, affair, responsibility, duty, function, obligation; problem, worry; informal pigeon, bailiwick; Brit. informal lookout. **5** *an odd business: affair*, matter, thing, case, circumstance, situation, event, incident, happening, occurrence; episode.

#### WORD LINKS

corporate relating to a business corporation

**businesslike** adjective professional,

efficient, slick, competent, methodical, disciplined, systematic, orderly, organized, structured, practical, pragmatic.

**businessman, businesswoman**

noun *entrepreneur*, business person, industrialist, manufacturer, tycoon, magnate, employer; dealer, trader, broker, merchant, buyer, seller, marketer, merchandiser, vendor, tradesman, retailer, supplier.

**bust<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *her large bust: chest*, bosom; breasts, mammary glands, mammae; informal boobs, knockers, bobbies; Brit. informal bristols, charlies; N. Amer. informal bazooms. **2** *a bust of Caesar: sculpture*, carving, effigy, statue; head and shoulders.

**bust<sup>2</sup>** (informal) verb **1** *the lock has bust: break*, crack, snap, smash, fracture, shatter, disintegrate; split, burst. **2** *he promised to bust the mafia: overthrow*, destroy, topple, bring down, ruin, break, overturn, overcome, defeat, get rid of, oust, dislodge. **3** *they were busted for drugs*. See **ARREST** verb sense 1. **4** (N. Amer.) *my apartment got busted*. See **RAID** verb sense 3.

■ **go bust** fail, collapse, fold, go under, founder; go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up; informal crash, go broke, go to the wall, go belly up, flop.

**bustle** verb **1** *people bustled about: rush*, dash, hurry, scurry, scuttle, scamper, scramble; run, tear, charge; informal scoot, beetle, buzz, zoom. **2** *she bustled us into the kitchen: hustle*, bundle, sweep, push, whisk.

• **noun** *the bustle of the market: activity*, action, liveliness, hustle and bustle, excitement; tumult, hubbub, whirl; informal toing and froing, comings and goings.

**bustling** adjective *busy*, crowded, swarming, teeming, thronged; buzzing, hectic, lively.

– **OPPOSITES** deserted.

**busy** adjective **1** *they are busy raising money: occupied (in)*, engaged in, involved in, employed in, working at, hard at work (on); rushed off one's feet, hard-pressed; on the job, absorbed, engrossed, immersed, preoccupied; informal (as) busy as a bee, on the go, hard at it; Brit. informal on the hop. **2** *she is busy at the moment: unavailable*, engaged, occupied; working, on duty; informal tied up. **3** *a busy day: hectic*, active, lively, full, eventful; energetic, tiring. **4** *the town was busy: crowded*, bustling, hectic, swarming, teeming, full, thronged; informal buzzy. **5** *a busy design: ornate*, over-elaborate, overblown, overwrought, overdone, fussy, cluttered, overworked.

– **OPPOSITES** idle, free, quiet.

• **verb** *he busied himself with paperwork: occupy*, involve, engage, concern, absorb, engross, immerse, preoccupy; distract, divert.

**busybody** noun *meddler*, interferer, mischief-maker, troublemaker; gossip, scandalmonger; eavesdropper, gawker; informal nosy parker, snoop, snooper,



rubberneck; Brit. informal gawper; informal, dated Paul Pry.

**but** conjunction 1 *he stumbled but didn't fall*:

yet, nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, however, still, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, all the same, just the same; though, although.

2 *I am clean but you aren't*: whereas, conversely, but then, then again, on the other hand, by/in contrast, on the contrary.

3 *one cannot but sympathize*: (do) other than, (do) otherwise than; except.

• preposition *everyone but him*: except (for), apart from, other than, besides, aside from, with the exception of, bar, excepting, excluding, leaving out, save (for), saving.

• adverb *he is but a shadow of his former self*: only, just, simply, merely, no more than, nothing but; a mere; N. English nobbut.

■ **but for** except for, if it were not for, were it not for, barring, notwithstanding.

**butch** adjective (informal) masculine, manly; mannish, manlike, unfeminine, unladylike; informal macho.

– OPPOSITES effeminate.

**butcher** noun 1 *a butcher's shop*: meat seller, meat trader; slaughterer; Scottish flesher. 2 *a Nazi butcher*: murderer, slaughterer, killer, assassin; N. Amer. terminator; literary slayer; dated cut-throat, homicide.

• verb 1 *the goat was butchered*: slaughter, cut up, carve up, joint. 2 *they butchered 150 people*: massacre, murder, slaughter, kill, destroy, exterminate, assassinate; N. Amer. terminate; informal dispose of; literary slay. 3 *the studio butchered the film*: spoil, ruin, mutilate, mangle, mess up, wreck; informal make a hash of, screw up.

**butchery** noun 1 (Brit.) abattoir, slaughterhouse, meat market. 2 *the butchery in the war*: slaughter, massacre, mass murder; genocide; literary slaying.

**butt**<sup>1</sup> verb *she butted him*: ram, head-butt, bump; buffet, push, shove; N. English tup.

■ **butt in** interrupt, break in, cut in, chime in, interject, intervene, interfere; informal poke one's nose in, put one's oar in; Brit. informal chip in.

**butt**<sup>2</sup> noun *the butt of a joke*: target, victim, object, subject; laughing stock.

**butt**<sup>3</sup> noun 1 *the butt of a gun*: stock, end, handle, hilt, haft, helve. 2 *a cigarette butt*: stub, end, tail end, stump, remnant; informal fag end, dog end. 3 (N. Amer. informal) *sitting on his butt*. See **BOTTOM** noun sense 6.

• verb *the shop butts up against the house*: adjoin, abut, be next to, be adjacent to, border (on), neighbour, be connected to; join, touch.

**butt**<sup>4</sup> noun *a brandy butt*: barrel, cask, keg, vat, tun; tub, bin, drum, canister.

**butter** verb

■ **butter someone up** (informal) flatter, court, wheedle, persuade, blarney, coax, get round, prevail on; be obsequious towards, be sycophantic towards, toady to, fawn on, make up to, play up to, ingratiate oneself

with, curry favour with; informal suck up to, be all over, keep someone sweet, sweet-talk, soft-soap.

**butterfly** noun

#### WORD LINKS

lepidopterist a person who collects or studies butterflies

caterpillar the larva of a butterfly

chrysalis the pupa of a butterfly

**buttocks** plural noun cheeks; rear (end), rump, seat; Brit. bottom; Scottish bahookie; informal behind, backside, BTM, sit-upon, derrière; Brit. informal bum, botty, jacksie; N. Amer. informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heinie, bippy; humorous fundament, posterior, stern; Anatomy nates.

**button** noun 1 *shirt buttons*: fastener, stud, toggle; hook, catch, clasp. 2 *press the button*: switch, knob, control; lever, handle.

**buttonhole** verb (informal). See **ACOST**.

**buttress** noun 1 *stone buttresses*:

prop, support, abutment, shore, pier, reinforcement, stanchion. 2 *a buttress against social collapse*: safeguard, defence, protection, guard; support, prop; bulwark.

• verb *authority was buttressed by religion*: strengthen, reinforce, fortify, support, bolster, shore up, underpin, cement, uphold, defend, back up.

**buxom** adjective large-breasted, big-breasted, bosomy, big-bosomed; shapely, ample, plump, rounded, full-figured, voluptuous, curvaceous, Rubenesque; informal busty, chesty, well endowed, curvy.

**buy** verb 1 *they bought a new house*: purchase, acquire, obtain, get, pick up, snap up; take, procure, pay for; invest in; informal get hold of, score. 2 *he could not be bought*: bribe, buy off, suborn, corrupt; informal grease someone's palm, give a backhander to, get at, fix, square; Brit. informal nobble.

– OPPOSITES sell.

• noun (informal) *a good buy*: purchase, investment, acquisition, gain; deal, bargain.

**buyer** noun purchaser, customer, consumer, shopper, investor; (buyers) clientele, patronage, market; Law vendee.

**buzz** noun 1 *the buzz of the bees*: hum, humming, buzzing, murmur, drone; Brit. informal zizz. 2 *an insistent buzz from her control panel*: noise, beep, bleep, purr, ring, note, tone, warble, alarm. 3 (informal) *give me a buzz*. See **CALL** noun sense 3. 4 (informal) *the buzz is that he's gone*. See **RUMOUR**. 5 (informal) *I get a buzz out of flying*: thrill, stimulation, glow, tingle; informal kick, hit; N. Amer. informal charge.

• verb 1 *bees buzzed*: hum, drone, bumble, murmur; Brit. informal zizz. 2 *the intercom soon buzzed*: sound, beep, bleep, purr, warble, ring. 3 (informal) *he buzzed around*: bustle, scurry, scuttle, hurry, rush, race, dash, tear, chase; informal scoot, beetle, whizz, zoom, zip. 4 *the club is buzzing with excitement*: hum, throb, vibrate, pulse, bustle.

**by** preposition 1 *I broke it by forcing the lid through*, as a result of, because of, by dint

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of, by way of, via, by means of; with the help of, with the aid of, by virtue of. **2** *be there by midday*: **no later than**, in good time for, at, before. **3** *a house by the lake*: **next to**, beside, alongside, by/at the side of, adjacent to, side by side with; near, close to, neighbouring, adjoining, bordering, overlooking; connected to, contiguous with, attached to. **4** *go by the building*: **past**, in front of, beyond. **5** *all right by me*: **according to**, with, as far as — is concerned.

• **adverb** *people hurried by*: **past**, on, along.

■ **by and by** eventually, ultimately, finally, in the end, one day, some day, sooner or later, in time, in a while, in the long run, in the fullness of time, in time to come, at length, in the future, in due course.

■ **by oneself** alone, on one's own, singly, separately, solitarily, unaccompanied, companionless, unattended, unescorted, solo; unaided, unassisted, without help, by one's own efforts, under one's own steam, independently, single-handed(ly), off one's own bat, on one's own initiative; informal *by one's lonesome*; Brit. informal *on one's tod*, on one's Jack Jones.

**bygone** adjective **past**, former, olden, earlier, previous, one-time, long-ago, of old, ancient, antiquated; departed, dead, extinct, defunct,

out of date, outmoded; literary of yore.

— **OPPOSITES** present, recent.

**by-law** noun (Brit.) **local law**, regulation, rule.

**bypass** noun **ring road**, detour, diversion, alternative route; Brit. relief road.

• **verb** **1** *bypass the farm*: **go round**, go past, make a detour round; avoid. **2** *an attempt to bypass the problem*: **avoid**, evade, dodge, escape, elude, circumvent, get round, skirt, sidestep, steer clear of; informal *duck*. **3** *they bypassed the regulations*: **ignore**, pass over, omit, neglect; informal short-circuit.

**by-product** noun **side effect**, consequence, entailment, corollary; ramification, repercussion, spin-off, fallout; fruits; Brit. knock-on effect.

**bystander** noun **onlooker**, looker-on, passer-by, non-participant, observer, spectator, eyewitness, witness, watcher; informal gawper, rubberneck.

**byword** noun **1** *the office was a byword for delay*: **perfect example**, classic case, model, exemplar, embodiment, incarnation, personification, epitome, typification. **2** *reality was his byword*: **slogan**, motto, maxim, mantra, catchword, watchword, formula; middle name.

**cab** noun **1** *she hailed a cab*: taxi, taxi cab;

Brit. minicab, hackney carriage; N. Amer.

hack; historical fiacre. **2** *a truck driver's cab*: (driver's) compartment, cabin.

**cabal** noun clique, faction, coterie, cell, sect, camarilla; pressure group, ginger group.

**cabaret** noun **1** *the evening's cabaret*: entertainment, (floor) show, performance.

**2** *the cabarets of Montreal*: nightclub, club, boîte; N. Amer. cafe; informal nightspot, niterie, clip joint; N. Amer. informal honky-tonk.

**cabin** noun **1** *a first-class cabin*: berth, stateroom, deckhouse; historical roundhouse.

**2** *a cabin by the lake*: hut, log cabin, shanty, shack; chalet; Scottish bothy; N. Amer. cabana; Austral. mia-mia; old use cot; N. Amer. old use shebang. **3** *the driver's cabin*: cab, compartment.

**cabinet** noun **1** *a walnut cabinet*: cupboard, bureau, chest of drawers. **2** *a cabinet meeting*: senior ministers, ministry, council, executive.

**cable** noun **1** *a thick cable moored the ship*: rope, cord, line, guy; Nautical hawser, stay, bridle, topping lift; N. Amer. choker. **2** *electric cables*: wire, lead, cord; power line; Brit. flex. **3** (historical) *he immediately sent a cable*: telegram, telemessage, radiogram; informal wire; historical cablegram.

•verb *the secretariat cabled a reply*: radio, send, transmit; informal wire.

**cache** noun **1** *a cache of arms*: hoard, store, stockpile, stock, supply, reserve; arsenal; informal stash. **2** *a niche used as a cache*: hiding place, secret place; informal hidey-hole; informal, dated stash.

**cachet** noun prestige, prestigiousness, status, standing, kudos, snob value, stature, pre-eminence, eminence; street credibility.

**cackle** verb **1** *the geese cackled at him*: squawk, cluck. **2** *Noel cackled with glee*: laugh loudly, guffaw, crow, chortle, chuckle.

**cacophonous** adjective loud, noisy, ear-splitting, raucous, discordant, dissonant, inharmonious, unmelodious, unmusical, tuneless; old use absonant.

– OPPOSITES harmonious.

**cacophony** noun din, racket, noise, discord, dissonance, discordance.

**cad** noun (dated). See SCOUNDREL.

**cadaver** noun (Medicine) corpse, (dead) body,

remains, carcass; informal stiff; old use corse.

**cadaverous** adjective (deathly) pale, pallid, ashen, grey, whey-faced, etiolated, corpse-like; as thin as a rake, bony, skeletal, emaciated, skin and bone, haggard, gaunt, drawn, pinched, hollow-cheeked, hollow-eyed; informal like a bag of bones, anorexic; old use starveling.

– OPPOSITES rosy, plump.

**cadence** noun rhythm, tempo, metre, beat, pulse; intonation, modulation, lilt.

**cadge** verb (informal) borrow; informal scrounge, bum, touch someone for, sponge; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge.

**cadre** noun corps, body, team, group.

**cafe** noun snack bar, cafeteria, buffet; coffee bar/shop, tea room/shop; bistro, brasserie; N. Amer. diner; informal eatery, noshery; Brit. informal caff.

**cafeteria** noun self-service restaurant, canteen, cafe, buffet.

**cage** noun animals in cages: enclosure, pen, pound; coop, hutch; birdcage, aviary; N. Amer. corral.

•verb many animals are caged: confine, shut in/up, pen, coop up, immure, impound; N. Amer. corral.

**casey** adjective (informal) secretive, guarded, non-committal, tight-lipped, reticent, evasive; informal playing one's cards close to one's chest.

– OPPOSITES open.

**cahoots** plural noun

■ in cahoots (informal) in league, colluding, in collusion, conspiring, collaborating, hand in glove.

**cajole** verb persuade, wheedle, coax, talk into, prevail on, blarney; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, twist someone's arm; old use blandish.

**cajolery** noun persuasion, wheedling, coaxing, inveiglement, cajolement; blandishments, blarney; informal sweet talk, soft soap, arm-twisting; formal suasion.

**cake** noun **1** cream cakes: bun, pastry, gateau.

**2** *a cake of soap*: bar, tablet, block, slab, lump.

•verb **1** *boots caked with mud*: coat, encrust, plaster, cover. **2** *the blood was beginning to*



*cake*: clot, congeal, coagulate, solidify, set, inspissate.

**calamitous** adjective disastrous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, devastating, dire, tragic; literary direful.

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**calamity** noun disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, cataclysm, adversity, tribulation, affliction, misfortune, misadventure.

– OPPOSITES godsend.

**calculate** verb **1** *the interest is calculated on a daily basis*: compute, work out, reckon, figure; add up/together, count up, tally, total; Brit. tot up. **2** *his words were calculated to wound her*: intend, mean, design. **3** *we had calculated on a quiet Sunday*: expect, anticipate, reckon, bargain; N. Amer. informal figure on.

**calculated** adjective deliberate, premeditated, planned, pre-planned, preconceived, intentional, intended; Law, dated prepense.

– OPPOSITES unintentional.

**calculating** adjective cunning, crafty, wily, shrewd, scheming, devious, designing, Machiavellian; informal foxy; old use subtle.

– OPPOSITES ingenuous.

**calculation** noun **1** *the calculation of the overall cost*: computation, reckoning, adding up, counting up, working out, figuring; Brit. totting up. **2** *political calculations*: assessment, judgement; forecast, projection, prediction.

**calendar** noun **1** almanac. **2** *my social calendar*: schedule, programme, diary.

**calibre** noun **1** *a man of his calibre*: quality, merit, distinction, stature, excellence, pre-eminence; ability, expertise, talent, capability, capacity, proficiency. **2** *rugby of this calibre*: standard, level, quality. **3** *the calibre of a gun*: bore, diameter, gauge.

**call** verb **1** *'Wait for me!' she called*: cry (out), shout, yell, bellow, roar, bawl, scream, vociferate; informal holler. **2** *Mum called me in the morning*: wake (up), awaken, rouse; Brit. informal knock up; literary waken. **3** *I'll call you tomorrow*: phone, telephone, get someone on the phone, give someone a call; Brit. ring (up), give someone a ring; informal call up, give someone a buzz; Brit. informal give someone a bell/tinkle, get someone on the blower; N. Amer. informal get someone on the horn. **4** *Rose called a taxi*: summon, send for, order. **5** *he called at Ashgrove Cottage*: pay a (brief) visit to, visit, pay a call on, call/drop/look in on, drop/stop by, pop into. **6** *the prime minister called a meeting*: convene, summon, assemble; formal convoke. **7** *they called their daughter Hannah*: name, christen, baptize; designate, style, term, dub; formal denominate. **8** *I would call him a friend*: describe as, regard as, look on as, consider to be.

• noun **1** *I heard calls from the auditorium*: cry, shout, yell, roar, scream, exclamation, vociferation; informal holler. **2** *the call of the water rail*: cry, song, sound. **3** *I'll give you a call tomorrow*: phone call, telephone call; Brit. ring; informal buzz; Brit. informal bell, tinkle.

**4** *he paid a call on Harold*: visit, social call.

**5** *a call for party unity*: appeal, request, plea, entreaty. **6** *the last call for passengers on flight BA701*: summons, request. **7** *there's no call for that kind of language*: need, necessity, reason, justification, excuse.

**8** *there's no call for expensive wine here*:

demand, desire, market. **9** *the call of the Cairngorms*: attraction, appeal, lure, allure, spell, pull, draw.

■ **call for 1** *desperate times call for desperate measures*: require, need, necessitate; justify, warrant. **2** *I'll call for you around seven*: pick up, collect, fetch.

■ **call something off** cancel, abandon, scrap, drop, axe; informal scrub, nix; N. Amer. informal redline.

■ **call on 1** *I might call on her later*: visit, pay a call on, go and see, look/drop in on; N. Amer. visit with; informal look up, pop in on.

**2** *he called on the government to hold a plebiscite*: appeal to, ask, request, petition, urge. **3** *we are able to call on qualified staff*:

have recourse to, avail oneself of, draw on, make use of.

■ **call the shots** be in charge, be in control, be at the helm/wheel, be in the driving seat, pull the strings; informal run the show, be the boss.

■ **call to mind 1** *this calls to mind Cézanne's works*: evoke, bring to mind, call up, conjure up. **2** *I cannot call to mind where I have seen you*: remember, recall, recollect.

■ **call someone up 1** *they called up the reservists*: enlist, recruit, conscript; US draft.

**2** *he was called up for the England team*: select, pick, choose; Brit. cap.

■ **on call** on duty, on standby, available.

**call girl** noun prostitute, whore, sex worker, fille de joie; informal tart, pro, working girl; N. Amer. informal hooker, hustler; euphemistic escort, masseuse; dated woman of the streets; old use strumpet, harlot, trollop.

**calling** noun profession, occupation, vocation, career, work, employment, job, business, trade, craft, line (of work); old use employ.

**callous** adjective heartless, unfeeling, uncaring, cold, cold-hearted, hard, as hard as nails, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, insensitive, lacking compassion, hardbitten, unsympathetic.

– OPPOSITES kind, compassionate.

**callow** adjective immature, inexperienced, juvenile, adolescent, naive, green, raw, untried, unworldly, unsophisticated; informal wet behind the ears.

– OPPOSITES mature.

**calm** adjective **1** *she seemed very calm*: serene, tranquil, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, unflustered, untroubled; equable, even-tempered; placid, unexcitable, unemotional, phlegmatic; composed, {cool, calm, and collected}, cool-headed, self-possessed; informal unflappable, unfazed. **2** *the night was calm*: windless, still, tranquil, quiet.

**3** *the calm waters of the lake*: tranquil, still, smooth, glassy, like a millpond; literary stilly.

– OPPOSITES excited, nervous, stormy.

• **noun 1** *calm prevailed*: tranquillity, stillness, calmness, quiet, quietness, quietude, peace, peacefulness. **2** *his usual calm deserted him*: composure, coolness, calmness, self-possession, sangfroid; serenity, tranquillity, equanimity, equability, placidness, placidity; informal cool, unflappability.

• **verb 1** *I tried to calm him down*: soothe, pacify, placate, mollify, appease, conciliate; Brit. quieten (down); Austral. square off; literary dulcify. **2** *she forced herself to calm down*: compose oneself, recover/regain one's composure, control oneself, pull oneself together, simmer down, cool down/off, take it easy; Brit. quieten down; informal chill out, get a grip, keep one's shirt on, wind down; N. Amer. informal hang/stay loose, decompress.

– **OPPOSITES** excite, upset.

**calumny** **noun** slander, defamation (of character), character assassination, libel; vilification, traducement, obloquy, verbal abuse, revilement, scurrility; informal mud-slinging; formal calumny; old use contumely.

**camaraderie** **noun** friendship, comradeship, fellowship, companionship; mutual support, team spirit, esprit de corps.

**camouflage** **noun 1** *pieces of turf served for camouflage*: disguise, concealment. **2** *her indifference was merely camouflage*: facade, (false) front, smokescreen, cover-up, mask, blind, screen, masquerade, dissimulation, pretence.

• **verb** *the caravan was camouflaged with branches*: disguise, hide, conceal, keep hidden, mask, screen, cover (up).

**camp**<sup>1</sup> **noun 1** *an army camp*: bivouac, encampment; campsite, camping ground. **2** *the liberal and conservative camps*: faction, wing, group, lobby, caucus, bloc, coterie, sect, cabal.

• **verb** *they camped in a field*: pitch tents, set up camp, encamp, bivouac.

**camp**<sup>2</sup> (informal) **adjective 1** *a highly camp actor*: effeminate, effete, mincing; informal campy, limp-wristed; Brit. informal poncey. **2** *camp humour*: exaggerated, theatrical, affected; informal over the top, OTT, camped up.

– **OPPOSITES** macho.

■ **camp it up** posture, behave theatrically/affectedly, overact; informal ham it up.

**campaign** **noun 1** *Napoleon's Russian campaign*: military operation(s), manoeuvre(s); crusade, war, battle, offensive, attack. **2** *the campaign to reduce vehicle emissions*: crusade, drive, push, struggle; operation, strategy, battle plan. • **verb 1** *they are campaigning for political reform*: crusade, fight, battle, push, press, strive, struggle, lobby. **2** *she campaigned as a political outsider*: run/stand for office, canvass, electioneer; N. Amer. stump.

**campaigner** **noun** crusader, fighter, activist; champion, advocate, promoter.

**can** **noun** tin, canister; jerrycan, oilcan.

**canal** **noun 1** *barges chugged up the canal*:

inland waterway, watercourse. **2** *the ear canal*: duct, tube, passage.

**cancel** **verb 1** *the match was cancelled*: call off, abandon, scrap, drop, axe; informal scrub, nix; N. Amer. informal redline. **2** *his visa has been cancelled*: annul, invalidate, nullify, declare null and void, void; revoke, rescind, retract, countermand, withdraw; law vacate, discharge. **3** *rising unemployment cancelled out earlier economic gains*: neutralize, counterbalance, counteract, balance (out), countervail; negate, nullify, wipe out, negative.

**cancer** **noun 1** *most skin cancers are curable*: malignant growth, cancerous growth, tumour, malignancy; technical carcinoma, sarcoma, melanoma, lymphoma, myeloma. **2** *racism is a cancer*: evil, blight, scourge, poison, canker, plague; old use pestilence.

#### WORD LINKS

**carcinogen** a substance that can cause cancer

**oncology** the branch of medicine dealing with cancer

**metastasis** the development of secondary tumours elsewhere in the body from the primary cancer site

**candid** **adjective 1** *his responses were remarkably candid*: frank, outspoken, forthright, blunt, open, honest, truthful, sincere, direct, plain-spoken, bluff; informal upfront, on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up; old use round, free-spoken. **2** *candid shots*: unposed, informal, uncontrived, impromptu, natural.

– **OPPOSITES** guarded.

**candidate** **noun 1** *candidates should be computer-literate*: (job) applicant, job-seeker, interviewee; contender, nominee, possible; Brit. informal runner. **2** *A-level candidates*: examinee, entrant.

**candour** **noun** frankness, openness, honesty, candidness, truthfulness, sincerity, forthrightness, directness, plain-spokenness, bluntness, bluntness, outspokenness; informal telling it like it is.

**candy** **noun** (N. Amer.). See **CONFECTIONERY**.

**cane** **noun 1** *a silver-topped cane*: (walking) stick, staff; alpenstock; crook; Austral./NZ waddy. **2** *tie the shoot to a cane*: stick, stake, upright, pole. **3** *he was beaten with a cane*: stick, rod, birch; N. Amer. informal paddle; historical ferule.

• **verb** *Matthew was caned for bullying*: beat, strike, hit, flog, thrash, lash, birch, flagellate; informal give someone a hiding, larrup; N. Amer. informal whale.

**canker** **noun 1** *this plant is susceptible to canker*: fungal disease, plant rot; blight. **2** *ear cankers*: ulcer, ulceration, infection, sore, abscess. **3** *racism remains a canker*. See **CANCER** sense 2.

**cannabis** **noun** marijuana, hashish, bhang, hemp, kif, ganja, sinsemilla, skunkweed; informal hash, dope, grass, skunk, pot, blow, draw, the weed, reefer; Brit. informal wacky baccy; N. Amer. informal locoweed.

**cannibal** noun maneater, people-eater.

**cannon** noun mounted gun, field gun, piece of artillery; mortar, howitzer; historical carronade, bombard, culverin, falconet, serpentine; Brit. historical pom-pom.

C

• verb *the couple behind cannoned into us: collide with, hit, run into, crash into, plough into.*

**cannonade** noun bombardment, shelling, gunfire, artillery fire, barrage, pounding.

**canny** adjective shrewd, astute, smart, sharp, sharp-witted, discerning, penetrating, discriminating, perceptive, perspicacious, wise, sagacious; cunning, crafty, wily; N. Amer. as sharp as a tack; informal savvy; Brit. informal suss, sussed; N. Amer. informal heads-up; dated long-headed; rare argute.

– OPPOSITES foolish.

**canoe** noun kayak, dugout, outrigger, bidarka, pirogue, waka.

**canon**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the canons of fair play and equal opportunity: principle, rule, law, tenet, precept; standard, convention, criterion, measure.* **2** *a set of ecclesiastical canons: law, decree, edict, statute, dictate, decretal.* **3** *the Shakespeare canon: (list of) works, writings, oeuvre.*

**canon**<sup>2</sup> noun *a canon assists the bishop: prebendary, minor canon.*

**canonical** adjective **1** *the canonical method: recognized, authoritative, authorized, accepted, sanctioned, approved, established, orthodox.* **2** *canonical rites: according to ecclesiastical law, official, sanctioned.*

– OPPOSITES unorthodox.

**canopy** noun awning, shade, sunshade; baldachin, tester, chuppah, velarium.

**cant**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *religious cant: hypocrisy, sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, humbug, pietism.* **2** *thieves' cant: slang, jargon, idiom, argot, patois, speech, terminology, language; informal lingo, -speak, -ese.*

**cant**<sup>2</sup> verb *the deck canted some twenty degrees: tilt, lean, slant, slope, incline; tip, list, bank, heel.*

• noun *the cant of the walls: slope, slant, tilt, angle, inclination.*

**cantankerous** adjective bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, crabby, prickly, touchy; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery; Austral./NZ informal snaky; informal, dated miffy.

– OPPOSITES affable.

**canteen** noun **1** *the staff canteen: restaurant, cafeteria, refectory, mess hall; Brit. Military NAAFI; N. Amer. lunchroom.* **2** *a canteen of water: container, flask, bottle.*

**canvass** verb **1** *he's canvassing for the Green Party: campaign, electioneer; N. Amer. stump; Brit. informal doorstep.* **2** *they promised to canvass all members: poll, question, ask, survey, interview.* **3** *they're canvassing support: seek, try to obtain.* **4** *early*

*retirement was canvassed as a solution: propose, suggest, discuss, debate, consider.*

**canyon** noun ravine, gorge, gully, defile, couloir; chasm, abyss, gulf; N. Amer. gulch, coulee.

**cap** noun **1** *a white plastic cap: lid, top, stopper, cork, bung, spile; N. Amer. stopple.* **2** *cap and gown: mortar board, academic cap; Brit. square; dated trencher.* **3** *the cap on spending: (upper) limit, ceiling; curb, check.* • verb **1** *mountains capped with snow: top, crown, cover, coat.* **2** *his innings capped a great day: round off, crown, be a fitting climax to.* **3** *they tried to cap each other's stories: beat, better, improve on, surpass, outdo, outshine, top, upstage.* **4** (Brit.) *he was capped for England: choose, select, pick, give someone the nod.* **5** *budgets will be capped: set a limit on, limit, restrict; curb, control, peg.*

**capability** noun ability, capacity, power, potential; competence, proficiency, accomplishment, adeptness, aptitude, faculty, experience, skill, skilfulness, talent, flair; informal know-how.

**capable** adjective *a very capable young woman: competent, able, efficient, effective, proficient, accomplished, adept, handy, experienced, skilful, skilled, talented, gifted; informal useful; rare habile.*

– OPPOSITES incompetent.

■ **be capable of 1** *I'm quite capable of looking after myself: have the ability to, be equal to (the task of), be up to; informal have what it takes to.* **2** *the strange events are capable of rational explanation: be open/susceptible to, admit of, allow of.*

**capacious** adjective roomy, spacious, ample, big, large, sizeable, generous; formal commodious.

– OPPOSITES cramped, small.

**capacity** noun **1** *the capacity of the freezer: volume, size, magnitude, dimensions, measurements, proportions.* **2** *his capacity to inspire trust. See CAPABILITY.* **3** *in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief: position, post, job, office; role, function.*

**cape**<sup>1</sup> noun *a woollen cape: cloak, mantle, cope, wrap, stole, tippet, poncho; historical pelisse, pelerine, mantlet.*

**cape**<sup>2</sup> noun *the ship rounded the cape: headland, promontory, point, head, foreland; horn, hook, bill, ness, mull.*

**caper** verb *children were capering about: skip, dance, romp, frisk, gambol, cavort, prance, frolic, leap, hop, jump; rare curvet, rollick.*

• noun **1** *she did a little caper: dance, skip, hop, leap, jump, curvet, gambado.* **2** (informal) *I'm too old for this kind of caper: escapade, stunt, prank, trick, mischief, antics, high jinks, skylarking; informal lark, shenanigans.*

**capital** noun **1** *Warsaw is the capital of Poland: first city, seat of government, metropolis.* **2** *he had enough capital to pull off the deal: money, finance(s), funds, the wherewithal, the means, assets, wealth, resources, investment capital; informal dough, bread, loot; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly,*



spondulicks; US informal greenbacks; N. Amer. informal bucks; Austral./NZ informal Oscar. **3** *he wrote the name in capitals: capital letter*, upper-case letter, block capital; informal cap.  
 • **adjective 1 capital letters: upper-case, block.**  
**2** (informal, dated) *he's a really capital fellow*.  
 See **SPLENDID** sense 2.

**capitalism** noun private enterprise, free enterprise, the free market.

– **OPPOSITES** communism.

**capitalist** noun financier, investor, industrialist; magnate, tycoon.

**capitalize** verb *the capacity to capitalize new ventures: finance*, fund, underwrite, provide capital for, back; N. Amer. informal bankroll, stake.

■ **capitalize** on take advantage of, profit from, make the most of, exploit; informal cash in on.

**capitulate** verb surrender, give in, yield, concede defeat, give up the struggle, submit; lay down one's arms, raise/show the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge.

– **OPPOSITES** resist, hold out.

**caprice** noun **1** *his wife's caprices: whim*, whimsy, vagary, fancy, fad, quirk, eccentricity, foible. **2** *the staff tired of his caprice: fickleness*, changeableness, volatility, capriciousness, unpredictability.

**capricious** adjective fickle, inconstant, changeable, variable, mercurial, volatile, unpredictable, temperamental; whimsical, fanciful, flighty, quirky, faddish.

– **OPPOSITES** consistent.

**capsize** verb overturn, turn over, turn upside down, upend, flip/tip/keel over, turn turtle; Nautical pitchpole; old use overset.

– **OPPOSITES** right.

**capsule** noun **1** *he swallowed a capsule: pill*, tablet, lozenge, pastille, drop; informal tab. **2** *the bottle's capsule: cover*, seal, cap, top. **3** *a space capsule: module*, craft, probe.

**captain** noun **1** *the ship's captain: commander*, master; informal skipper. **2** *the team's captain: leader*, head; informal boss, skipper. **3** *a captain of industry: magnate*, tycoon, industrialist; chief, head, leader, principal; informal boss, number one, bigwig, big shot/gun, honcho, top dog; N. Amer. informal kahuna, top banana.

• **verb** *a vessel captained by a cut-throat: command*, run, be in charge of, control, manage, govern; informal skipper.

**caption** noun title, heading, wording, head, legend, rubric, slogan.

**captious** adjective critical, fault-finding, quibbling, cavilling; hypercritical, pedantic, hair-splitting; informal nit-picking, pernickety.

– **OPPOSITES** forgiving.

**captivate** verb enthrall, charm, enchant, bewitch, fascinate, beguile, entrance, enrapture, delight, attract, allure.

– **OPPOSITES** repel, bore.

**captive** noun *release the captives: prisoner*, convict, detainee, inmate; prisoner of war, POW; internee; informal jailbird, con; Brit. informal (old) lag; N. Amer. informal yardbird.

• **adjective** *captive wild animals: confined*, caged, incarcerated, locked up; jailed, imprisoned, in prison, interned, detained, in captivity, under lock and key, behind bars.

**captivity** noun imprisonment, confinement, internment, incarceration, detention; old use duress, durance.

– **OPPOSITES** freedom.

**captor** noun jailer, guard, incarcerator, keeper.

**capture** verb **1** *the spy was captured in Moscow: catch*, apprehend, seize, arrest; take prisoner/captive, imprison, detain, put/throw in jail, put behind bars, put under lock and key, incarcerate; informal nab, collar, lift, pick up, pull in; Brit. informal nick. **2** *guerrillas captured a strategic district: occupy*, invade, conquer, seize, take (possession of). **3** *the music captured the atmosphere of a summer morning: express*, reproduce, represent, encapsulate. **4** *the tales of pirates captured the children's imaginations: engage*, attract, catch, seize, hold.

– **OPPOSITES** free.

• **noun** *the capture of the gunmen: arrest*, apprehension, seizure, imprisonment.

**car** noun **1** *he drove up in his car: motor (car)*, automobile; informal wheels; N. Amer. informal auto. **2** *the dining car: carriage*, coach; Brit. saloon.

**carafe** noun flask, jug, pitcher, decanter, flagon.

**caravan** noun **1** *a fishing holiday in a caravan: mobile home*, camper, caravanette; N. Amer. trailer; Brit. trademark Dormobile. **2** *a Gypsy caravan: wagon*, covered cart. **3** *a refugee caravan: convoy*, procession, column, train.

**carbuncle** noun boil, sore, abscess, pustule, wen, whitlow; technical furuncle.

**carcass** noun **1** *a lamb carcass: corpse*, (dead) body, remains; Medicine cadaver; informal stiff; old use corse. **2** (informal) *shift your carcass: body*, self; informal backside; N. Amer. informal butt.

**card** noun **1** *a piece of stiff card: cardboard*, pasteboard, board. **2** *I'll send her a card: greetings card*, postcard. **3** *she produced her card: identification*, ID, credentials; business card. **4** *she paid with her card: credit card*, debit card, cash card, swipe card; informal plastic. **5** (informal, dated) *he said she was a card: eccentric*, character; *joker*, wit, wag, jester, clown; informal laugh, scream, hoot, riot; informal, dated caution.

■ **on the cards** (informal) likely, possible, probable, expected, in the wind, in the offing.

**cardinal** adjective fundamental, basic, main, chief, primary, prime, principal, paramount, pre-eminent, highest, key, essential.

– **OPPOSITES** unimportant.

**care** noun **1** *the care of the child: safe keeping*, supervision, custody, charge, protection, control, responsibility; guardianship, wardship. **2** *handle with care: caution*, carefulness, heedfulness, heed, attention, attentiveness. **3** *she chose her words with*

**care:** discretion, judiciousness, forethought, thought, regard, heed, mindfulness; accuracy, precision. **4** *the cares of the day:* worry, anxiety, trouble, concern, stress, pressure, strain; sorrow, woe, hardship.

**5** *constant care for others:* concern, consideration, thought, regard, solicitude.

– OPPOSITES neglect, carelessness.

• **verb** *the teachers didn't care about our work:* be concerned, worry (oneself), trouble/ concern oneself, bother, mind, be interested; informal give a damn/hoot/rap.

■ **care for 1** *he cares for his children:* love, be fond of, be devoted to, treasure, adore, dote on, think the world of, worship, idolize. **2** *would you care for a cup of coffee?* like, want, desire, fancy, feel like. **3** *the hospice cares for the terminally ill:* look after, take care of, tend, attend to, minister to, nurse; be responsible for, keep safe, keep an eye on.

**career** noun **1** *a business career:* profession, occupation, vocation, calling, employment, line (of work), walk of life, métier. **2** *a chequered career:* existence, life, course, passage, path.

• **adjective** *a career politician:* professional, permanent, full-time.

• **verb** *they careered down the hill:* rush, hurtle, streak, shoot, race, bolt, dash, speed, run, whizz, zoom, flash, blast, charge, hare, fly, pelt, go like the wind; informal belt, scoot, tear, zap, zip, whip, go like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal bomb, bucket; N. Amer. informal hightail, clip.

**carefree** adjective **unworried**, untroubled, blithe, airy, nonchalant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky, free and easy, easy-going, relaxed; informal laid-back.

– OPPOSITES careworn.

**careful** adjective **1** *be careful when you go up the stairs:* cautious, heedful, alert, attentive, watchful, vigilant, wary, on guard, circumspect. **2** *Roland was careful of his reputation:* mindful, heedful, protective.

**3** *careful with money:* prudent, thrifty, economical, sparing, frugal, scrimping, abstemious; informal stingy. **4** *careful consideration of the facts:* attentive, conscientious, painstaking, meticulous, diligent, assiduous, sedulous, scrupulous, punctilious, methodical; informal picknickety; old use nice.

– OPPOSITES careless, extravagant.

**careless** adjective **1** *careless motorists:* inattentive, incautious, negligent, remiss; heedless, irresponsible, impetuous, reckless. **2** *careless work:* shoddy, slapdash, slipshod, scrappy, slovenly, sloppy, negligent, lax, slack, disorganized, hasty, hurried; informal slap-happy. **3** *a careless remark:* thoughtless, insensitive, indiscreet, unguarded, incautious, inadvertent. **4** *she was very careless of investments:* negligent, heedless, improvident, unconcerned, indifferent, oblivious. **5** *careless masculine grace:* unstudied, artless, casual, effortless, nonchalant, insouciant, languid.

– OPPOSITES careful, meticulous.

**caress** verb stroke, touch, fondle, brush, skim, nuzzle.

**caretaker** noun janitor, attendant, porter, custodian, concierge; N. Amer. superintendent.

• **adjective** *the caretaker manager:* temporary, short-term, provisional, substitute, acting, interim, pro tem, stand-in, fill-in, stopgap; N. Amer. informal pinch-hitting.

– OPPOSITES permanent.

**careworn** adjective worried, anxious, harassed, strained, stressed; drained, drawn, gaunt, haggard; informal hassled.

– OPPOSITES carefree.

**cargo** noun freight, load, haul, consignment, delivery, shipment; goods, merchandise; old use lading.

**caricature** noun *a caricature of the Prime Minister:* cartoon, parody, satire, lampoon, burlesque; informal send-up, take-off.

• **verb** *she has turned to caricaturing her fellow actors:* parody, satirize, lampoon, make fun of, burlesque; informal send up, take off.

**caring** adjective kind, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, tender; concerned, attentive, thoughtful, solicitous, considerate; affectionate, loving, doting, fond; sympathetic, understanding, compassionate, feeling.

– OPPOSITES cruel.

**carnage** noun slaughter, massacre, mass murder, butchery, bloodbath, bloodletting; holocaust, pogrom, ethnic cleansing.

**carnal** adjective sexual, sensual, erotic, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, licentious; physical, bodily, corporeal, fleshly.

– OPPOSITES spiritual.

**carnival** noun **1** *the town's carnival:* festival, fiesta, fete, gala, jamboree, celebration.

**2** (N. Amer.) *he worked at a carnival:* funfair, circus, fair, amusement show.

**carnivorous** adjective meat-eating, predatory, of prey.

– OPPOSITES herbivorous.

**carol** noun *children sang carols:* Christmas song, hymn, canticle.

• **verb** *Boris carolled happily:* sing, trill, warble, chirp; old use wassail.

**carouse** verb drink and make merry, revel, celebrate, roister; informal booze, go boozing, go on a bender, paint the town red, party, rave, make whoopee, whoop it up; old use wassail.

**carp** verb complain, cavil, grumble, grouse, whine, bleat, nag; informal gripe, grouch, beef, bellyache, moan, bitch, whinge; Brit. informal be on at someone; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**carpenter** noun woodworker, joiner, cabinetmaker; Brit. informal chippy.

**carpet** noun **1** *a Turkish carpet:* rug, mat, matting, floor covering. **2** *a carpet of wild flowers:* covering, blanket, layer, cover, cloak, mantle.

• **verb 1** *the gravel was carpeted in moss:*

**cover**, coat, overlay, overspread, blanket.

**2** (Brit. informal) *an officer was carpeted for leaking information.* See **REPRIMAND** verb.

**carriage** **noun** **1** *a railway carriage: coach, car; Brit. saloon.* **2** *a horse and carriage: wagon, hackney, hansom, gig, landau, trap.* **3** *the carriage of bikes on trains: transport, transportation, conveyance, carrying, movement, shipment.* **4** *an erect carriage: posture, bearing, stance, gait; attitude, manner, demeanour; Brit. deportment.*

**carrier** **noun** bearer, conveyor, transporter; porter, courier, haulier.

**carry** **verb** **1** *she carried the box into the kitchen:* convey, transfer, move, take, bring, bear, lug, fetch; informal cart, hump. **2** *a coach operator carrying 12 million passengers a year:* transport, convey, move, handle. **3** *satellites carry the signal over the Atlantic:* transmit, conduct, relay, communicate, convey, dispatch, beam. **4** *the dinghy can carry the weight of the baggage:* support, sustain, stand; prop up, shore up, bolster. **5** *managers carry most responsibility:* undertake, accept, assume, bear, shoulder, take on (oneself). **6** *she was carrying his baby:* be pregnant with, bear, expect; technical be gravid with. **7** *she carried herself with assurance:* conduct, bear, hold; act, behave, acquit; formal comport; old use deport. **8** *a resolution was carried:* approve, vote for, accept, endorse, ratify; agree to, assent to, rubber-stamp; informal OK, give the thumbs up to. **9** *I carried the whole audience:* win over, sway, convince, persuade, influence; motivate, stimulate. **10** *today's paper carried an article on housing policy:* publish, print, communicate, distribute; broadcast, transmit. **11** *we carry a wide range:* sell, stock, keep (in stock), offer, have (for sale), retail, supply. **12** *most toxins carry warnings:* display, bear, exhibit, show, be marked with. **13** *it carries a penalty of two years' imprisonment:* entail, involve, result in, occasion, have as a consequence. **14** *his voice carried across the quay:* be audible, travel, reach.

■ **be/get carried away** lose self-control, get overexcited, go too far; informal flip, lose it.

■ **carry something off** **1** *she carried off four awards:* win, secure, gain, achieve, collect; informal land, net, bag, scoop. **2** *he has carried it off:* succeed, triumph, be victorious, be successful, do well, make good; informal crack it.

■ **carry on** **1** *they carried on arguing:* continue, keep (on), go on; persist in, persevere in; informal stick with/at. **2** (informal) *the English way of carrying on:* behave, act, conduct oneself, acquit oneself; formal comport oneself; old use deport oneself. **3** (informal) *she was carrying on with other men:* have an affair, commit adultery, have a fling; informal play around, mess about/around; Brit. informal play away; N. Amer. informal fool around. **4** (informal) *I was always carrying on:* misbehave, behave badly, get up to mischief, cause trouble, get up to no good, be naughty; clown about/around, fool about/

around, mess about/around; informal act up; Brit. informal muck about/around, play up.

■ **carry something on** engage in, conduct, undertake, be involved in, carry out, perform.

■ **carry something out** **1** *they carried out a Caesarean:* conduct, perform, implement, execute. **2** *I carried out my promise to her:* fulfil, carry through, honour, redeem, make good; keep, observe, abide by, comply with, adhere to, stick to, keep faith with.

**carry-on** **noun** (Brit. informal) fuss, commotion, trouble, bother, excitement, palaver; informal hoo-ha, ballyhoo, song and dance, performance, kerfuffle.

**cart** **noun** **1** *a horse-drawn cart:* wagon, carriage, dray; old use wain. **2** *a man with a cart took their luggage:* handcart, pushcart, trolley, barrow.

• **verb** (informal) *he had the wreckage carted away:* transport, convey, haul, move, shift, take; carry, lug, heft; informal hump.

**carton** **noun** box, package, cardboard box, container, pack, packet.

**cartoon** **noun** **1** *a cartoon of the Prime Minister:* caricature, parody, lampoon, satire; informal take-off, send-up. **2** *he was reading cartoons:* comic strip, comic, graphic novel. **3** *they watched cartoons on television:* animated film, animation. **4** *detailed cartoons for a full-size portrait:* sketch, rough, outline, preliminary drawing, underdrawing; Computing wireframe.

**cartridge** **noun** **1** *a toner cartridge:* cassette, magazine, canister, container. **2** *a rifle cartridge:* bullet, round, shell, charge, shot.

**carve** **verb** **1** *he carved horn handles:* sculpt, sculpture; cut, hew, whittle; form, shape, fashion. **2** *I carved my initials on the tree:* engrave, etch, incise, score. **3** *he carved the roast chicken:* slice, cut up, chop.

■ **carve something up** divide, partition, apportion, subdivide, split up, break up; share out, dole out; informal divvy up.

**carving** **noun** sculpture, model, statue, statuette, figure, figurine.

#### WORD LINKS

glyptic relating to carving

**cascade** **noun** waterfall, cataract, falls, rapids, white water.

• **verb** *rain cascaded from the roof:* pour, gush, surge, spill, stream, flow, issue, spurt, jet.

**case** **noun** **1** *a classic case of overreaction:* instance, occurrence, manifestation, demonstration, exposition, exhibition; example, illustration, specimen, sample, exemplification. **2** *if that is the case I will have to find somebody else:* situation, position, state of affairs, the lie of the land; circumstances, conditions, facts, how things stand; Brit. state of play; informal score. **3** *the officers on the case:* investigation, enquiry, examination, exploration, probe, search, inquest. **4** *urgent cases:* patient, sick person, invalid, sufferer, victim. **5** *he lost his case:* lawsuit, (legal) action, legal dispute, suit,



trial, legal/judicial proceedings, litigation.

**6 a strong case:** argument, contention, reasoning, logic, defence, justification, vindication, exposition, thesis.

**case**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a cigarette case:* container, box, canister, receptacle, holder; dated **etui**. **2** *a seed case:* casing, cover, covering, sheath, sheathing, envelope, sleeve, jacket, integument. **3** (Brit.) *she threw some clothes into a case:* suitcase, (travelling) bag, valise, portmanteau; (cases) luggage, baggage. **4** *a case of wine:* crate, box, pack. **5** *a glass display case:* cabinet, cupboard.

• **verb** **1** *the rifle is cased in wood:* cover, surround, encase, sheathe, envelop.

**2** (informal) *a thief casing the joint:*

**reconnoitre**, inspect, examine, survey, explore; informal **recce**, check out.

**cash** **noun** **1** *a wallet stuffed with cash:* money, currency, hard cash; (bank) notes, coins, change; N. Amer. bills; informal dough, bread, loot, moolah; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, readies, spondulicks; US informal greenbacks; N. Amer. informal bucks, dinero; Austral./NZ informal Oscar; Brit. dated I.S.d. **2** *a lack of cash:* finance, money, resources, funds, assets, the means, the wherewithal.

– **OPPOSITES** cheque, credit.

• **verb** *the bank cashed her cheque:* exchange, change, convert into cash/money; honour, pay, accept; Brit. encash.

■ **cash in on** take advantage of, exploit, milk; make money from, profit from; informal make a killing out of.

**cashier**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *the cashier took the cheque:* clerk, bank clerk, teller, banker, treasurer, bursar, purser.

**cashier**<sup>2</sup> **verb** (Military) *he was found guilty and cashiered:* dismiss, discharge, expel, throw/cast out, get rid of; informal sack, fire, kick/boot out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the bullet, give someone the elbow/push.

**casing** **noun** cover, case, shell, envelope, sheath, sheathing, sleeve, jacket, housing.

**casino** **noun** *gambling house*, gambling club, gambling den; dated gaming house.

**cask** **noun** barrel, keg, butt, tun, vat, drum, hogshead; historical puncheon, firkin.

**casket** **noun** **1** *a small casket:* box, chest, case, container, receptacle. **2** (N. Amer.) *the casket of a dead soldier:* coffin; informal box; humorous wooden overcoat.

**cast** **verb** **1** *he cast the stone into the stream:* throw, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, lob; informal chuck, sling, bung; dated shy. **2** *fishermen cast their nets:* spread, throw, open out. **3** *she cast a fearful glance over her shoulder:* direct, shoot, throw, send. **4** *each citizen cast a vote:* register, record, enter, file, vote. **5** *the fire cast a soft light:* emit, give off, send out, radiate. **6** *the figures cast shadows:* form, create, produce; project, throw. **7** *the stags' antlers are cast each year:* shed, lose, discard, slough off. **8** *a figure cast by hand:* mould, fashion, form, shape, model; sculpt, sculpture, forge. **9** *they were cast as extras:* choose, select, pick, name, nominate.

• **noun** **1** *a cast of the writer's hand:* mould, die, matrix, shape, casting, model. **2** *a cast of the dice:* throw, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, lob; informal chuck, sling, bung; dated shy. **3** *an enquiring cast of mind:* type, sort, kind, character, variety, class, style, stamp, nature. **4** *a cast in one eye:* squint, strabismus.

**5** *the cast of 'The Barber of Seville':* actors, performers, players, company; dramatic personae, characters.

■ **cast something aside** discard, reject, throw away/out, get rid of, dispose of, abandon.

■ **cast someone away** shipwreck, wreck; strand, leave stranded, maroon.

■ **cast down** depressed, downcast, unhappy, sad, miserable, gloomy, down, low; dejected, dispirited, discouraged, disheartened, downhearted, demoralized, disconsolate, crestfallen, despondent; informal blue.

**caste** **noun** (social) class, social order, rank, level, stratum, echelon, status; dated estate, station.

**castigate** **verb** (formal) **reprimand**, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task, lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, censure; informal tell off, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap someone on the knuckles, slap someone's wrist, dress down, bawl out, give someone hell, pitch into, lay into, blast; Brit. informal tick off, have a go at, carpet, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; dated give someone a rating; rare reprehend, oburgate.

– **OPPOSITES** praise, commend.

**castle** **noun** fortress, fort, stronghold, fortification, keep, citadel.

**castrate** **verb** neuter, geld, cut, desex, sterilize, fix; N. Amer. & Austral. alter; Brit. informal doctor; old use emasculate.

**casual** **adjective** **1** *a casual attitude to life:* indifferent, apathetic, uncaring, unconcerned; lackadaisical, blasé, nonchalant, insouciant, offhand, flippant; easy-going, free and easy, blithe, carefree, devil-may-care; informal laid-back. **2** *a casual remark:* offhand, spontaneous, unpremeditated, unthinking, unconsidered, impromptu, throwaway, unguarded; informal off-the-cuff. **3** *a casual glance:* cursory, perfunctory, superficial, passing, fleeting; hasty, brief, quick. **4** *a casual acquaintance:* slight, superficial. **5** *casual work:* temporary, part-time, freelance, impermanent, irregular, occasional. **6** *casual sex:* promiscuous, recreational, extramarital, free. **7** *a casual meeting changed his life:* chance, accidental, unplanned, unintended, unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, fortuitous, serendipitous, adventitious. **8** *a casual shirt:* informal, comfortable, leisure, sportif, everyday; informal sporty. **9** *the inn's casual atmosphere:* relaxed, friendly, informal, unceremonious, easy-going, free and easy; informal laid-back.

– **OPPOSITES** careful, planned, formal.

• **noun** *we employ ten casuals*: temporary worker, part-timer, freelance, freelancer; informal temp.

**casualty** **noun** victim, fatality, loss, MIA; (casualties) dead and injured, missing (in action).

**casuistry** **noun** sophistry, specious reasoning, speciousness.

**cat** **noun** feline, tomcat, tom, kitten, mouser; informal pussycat, pussy, puss, kitty; Brit. informal moggie, mog; old use grimalkin.

#### WORD LINKS

feline relating to cats  
ailurophobia fear of cats

**cataclysm** **noun** disaster, catastrophe, calamity, tragedy, devastation, holocaust, ruin, ruination, upheaval, convulsion.

**cataclysmic** **adjective** disastrous, catastrophic, calamitous, tragic, devastating, ruinous, terrible, violent, awful.

**catacombs** **plural noun** underground cemetery, crypt, vault, tomb, ossuary.

**catalogue** **noun** **1** a library catalogue: directory, register, index, list, listing, record, archive, inventory. **2** a mail-order catalogue: brochure, magalogue, mailer; N. Amer. informal wish book.

• **verb** *the collection is fully catalogued*: classify, categorize, systematize, index, list, archive, make an inventory of, inventory, record, itemize.

**catapult** **noun** a boy fired the catapult: sling, slingshot; Austral./NZ shanghai; historical ballista, trebuchet.

• **verb** *Sam was catapulted into the sea*: propel, launch, hurl, fling, send flying, fire, blast, shoot.

**cataract** **noun** waterfall, cascade, falls, rapids, white water.

**catastrophe** **noun** disaster, calamity, cataclysm, holocaust, ruin, ruination, tragedy; adversity, blight, trouble, trial, tribulation.

**catastrophic** **adjective** disastrous, calamitous, cataclysmic, ruinous, tragic, fatal, dire, awful, terrible, dreadful; literary direful.

**catcall** **noun** whistle, boo, hiss, jeer, raspberry, hoot, taunt; (catcalls) scoffing, abuse, taunting, derision.

**catch** **verb** **1** *he caught the ball*: seize, grab, snatch, seize/grab/take hold of, grasp, grip, clutch, clench; receive, get, intercept. **2** *we've caught the thief*: capture, seize; apprehend, arrest, take prisoner/captive, take into custody; trap, snare, ensnare; net, hook, land; informal nab, collar, run in, bust; Brit. informal nick. **3** *her heel caught in a hole*: become trapped, become entangled, snag. **4** *she caught the 7.45 bus*: be in time for, make, get; board, get on, step aboard. **5** *they were caught siphoning petrol*: discover, find, come upon/across, stumble on, chance on; surprise, catch red-handed, catch in the act. **6** *it caught his imagination*: engage, capture, attract, draw, grab, grip, seize; hold, absorb,

engross. **7** *she caught a trace of aftershave*: perceive, notice, observe, discern, detect, note, make out; Brit. informal clock. **8** *I couldn't catch what she was saying*: hear, perceive, discern, make out; understand, comprehend, grasp, apprehend; informal get, get the drift of, figure out; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **9** *it caught the flavour of the sixties*: evoke, conjure up, call to mind, recall, encapsulate, capture. **10** *the blow caught her on the side of her face*: hit, strike, slap, smack, bang. **11** *he caught malaria*: contract, get, become infected with, be taken ill with, develop, come down with, be struck down with; Brit. go down with; informal take ill with; N. Amer. informal take sick with. **12** *the kindling wouldn't catch*: ignite, start burning, catch fire, kindle. **13** *the generator caught immediately*: start (running), fire, begin working.

– OPPOSITES drop, release, miss.

• **noun** **1** *he inspected the catch*: haul, net, bag, yield. **2** (informal) *Giles is a good catch*: eligible man/woman, marriage prospect. **3** *he slipped the catch*: latch, lock, fastener, clasp, hasp. **4** *he is always looking for the catch*: snag, disadvantage, drawback, stumbling block, hitch, fly in the ointment, pitfall, complication, problem, hiccup, difficulty; trap, trick, snare; informal con. **5** *a catch in her voice*: tremor, unevenness, shake, quiver, wobble.

■ **catch on** **1** *radio soon caught on*: become popular/fashionable, take off, boom, flourish, thrive. **2** *I caught on fast*: understand, comprehend, learn, see the light; informal cotton on, latch on, get the picture/message, get wise.

■ **catch (someone) up** draw level (with), reach; gain on.

**catching** **adjective** (informal) infectious, contagious, communicable, transmittable, transmissible; dated infective.

**catchphrase** **noun** saying, quotation, quote, slogan, catchword; N. Amer. informal tag line.

**catchword** **noun** motto, watchword, slogan, byword, catchphrase; informal buzzword.

**catchy** **adjective** memorable, unforgettable; appealing, popular; singable, melodious, tuneful.

**categorical** **adjective** unqualified, unconditional, unequivocal, absolute, explicit, unambiguous, definite, direct, downright, outright, emphatic, positive, point-blank, conclusive, without reservations, out-and-out; formal apodictic.

– OPPOSITES qualified, equivocal.

**categorize** **verb** classify, class, group, grade, rate, designate; order, arrange, sort, rank; file, catalogue, list, index.

**category** **noun** class, classification, group, grouping, bracket, heading, set; type, sort, kind, variety, species, breed, brand, make, model; grade, order, rank.

**cater** **verb**

■ **cater for** **1** *we cater for vegetarians*: provide food for, feed, serve, cook for; dated victual. **2** *a resort catering for older*

**holidaymakers** serve, provide for, meet the needs of, accommodate. **3** *he seemed to cater for all tastes*: take into account/consideration, allow for, consider, bear in mind, make provision for, have regard for.

■ **cater** to satisfy, indulge, pander to, gratify, accommodate, minister to, give in to, fulfil.

**caterwaul** verb howl, wail, bawl, cry, yell, scream, screech, yowl, ululate.

**catharsis** noun purging, purgation, purification, cleansing, (emotional) release, relief; Psychoanalysis abreaction.

**catholic** adjective diverse, diversified, wide, broad, broad-based, eclectic, liberal; comprehensive, all-encompassing, all-embracing, all-inclusive.

– OPPOSITES narrow.

**cattle** plural noun cows, bovines, oxen, bulls; stock, livestock.

#### WORD LINKS

**bovine** relating to cattle

**ruminant** an animal of a type that chews the cud, such as cattle

**catty** adjective (informal) *a catty remark*. See SPITEFUL.

**caucus** noun **1** (in North America & NZ) *caucuses will be held in eleven states*: meeting, assembly, gathering, congress, conference, convention, rally, convocation. **2** (in the UK) *the right-wing caucus*: **faction**, camp, bloc, group, set, band, ring, cabal, coterie, pressure group, ginger group.

**cause** noun **1** *the cause of the fire*: source, root, origin, beginning(s), starting point; mainspring, base, basis, foundation, fountainhead; originator, author, creator, producer, agent; formal radix. **2** *there is no cause for alarm*: **reason**, grounds, justification, call, need, necessity, occasion, excuse, pretext. **3** *the cause of human rights* | *a good cause*: **principle**, ideal, belief, conviction; object, end, aim, objective, purpose; charity. **4** *he went to plead his cause*: case, suit, lawsuit, action, dispute.

– OPPOSITES effect, result.

• **verb** *this disease can cause blindness*: bring about, give rise to, lead to, result in, create, produce, generate, engender, spawn, bring on, precipitate, prompt, provoke, trigger, make happen, induce, inspire, promote, foster; literary beget, enkindle.

– OPPOSITES result from.

**caustic** adjective **1** *a caustic cleaner*: corrosive, corroding, mordant, acid. **2** *a caustic comment*: sarcastic, cutting, biting, mordant, sharp, bitter, scathing, derisive, sardonic, ironic, scornful, trenchant, acerbic, vitriolic, acidulous; Brit. informal sarky; formal mordacious.

**cauterize** verb (Medicine) burn, sear, singe, scorch; disinfect, sterilize.

**caution** noun **1** *proceed with caution*: care, carefulness, heedfulness, heed, attention, attentiveness, alertness, watchfulness, vigilance, circumspection, discretion, prudence. **2** *a first offender may receive*

*a caution*: warning, admonishment, injunction; reprimand, rebuke, reproof, scolding; informal telling-off, dressing-down, talking-to; Brit. informal ticking-off, carpeting.

**3** (informal, dated) *her uncle's a caution*. See CLOWN noun sense 2.

• **verb** **1** *advisers cautioned against tax increases*: advise, warn, counsel, urge. **2** *he was cautioned by the police*: warn, admonish; reprimand, rebuke, reprove, scold; informal tell off, give someone a dressing-down, give someone a talking-to; Brit. informal give someone a ticking-off, carpet.

**cautious** adjective careful, heedful, attentive, alert, watchful, vigilant, circumspect, prudent.

– OPPOSITES reckless.

**cavalcade** noun procession, parade, motorcade, cortège; Brit. march past.

**cavalier** noun **1** (historical) *Cavaliers dying for King Charles*: Royalist, king's man.

**2** (old use) *the lady and her cavalier*: escort, gentleman; dated beau. **3** (old use) *foot soldiers and cavaliers*: horseman, equestrian; cavalryman, trooper, knight.

– OPPOSITES Roundhead.

• **adjective** *a cavalier disregard for danger*: offhand, indifferent, casual, dismissive, insouciant, unconcerned; supercilious, patronizing, condescending, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous; informal couldn't-care-less.

**cavalry** plural noun (historical) mounted troops, cavalrymen, troopers, horse; historical dragoons, lancers, hussars.

**cave** noun cavern, grotto, pothole, underground chamber.

■ **cave in** **1** *the roof caved in*: collapse, fall in/down, give (way), crumble, subside. **2** *the manager caved in to their demands*: yield, surrender, capitulate, give in, back down, make concessions, throw in the towel/sponge.

#### WORD LINKS

**speleology** (Brit. **pot-holing**; N. Amer.

**spelunking**) the study or exploration of caves

**stalactite** a deposit of calcium salts hanging from the roof of a cave

**stalagmite** a deposit of calcium salts rising from the floor of a cave

**troglydite** a person who lives in a cave

**caveat** noun warning, caution, admonition; proviso, condition, stipulation, provision, clause, rider, qualification.

**caveman**, **cavewoman** noun

cave-dweller, troglodyte, primitive man/woman, prehistoric man/woman.

**cavern** noun large cave, grotto, underground chamber/gallery.

**cavernous** adjective vast, huge, large, immense, spacious, roomy, airy, capacious, voluminous, extensive, deep; hollow, gaping, yawning; formal commodious.

– OPPOSITES small.

**cavil** verb complain, carp, grumble, grouse,



whine, bleat, quibble, niggle; informal gripe, grouch, beef, bellyache, moan, bitch, whinge, kick up a fuss; Brit. informal chunter, create; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**cavity** noun *space*, chamber, hollow, hole, pocket, pouch; orifice, aperture; socket, gap, crater, pit.

**capvort** verb *skip*, dance, romp, jig, caper, frisk, gambol, prance, frolic, lark; bounce, trip, leap, jump, bound, spring, hop; rare rollick.

**cease** verb **1** *hostilities had ceased: come to an end*, come to a halt, end, halt, stop, conclude, terminate, finish, draw to a close, be over. **2** *they ceased all military activity: bring to an end*, bring to a halt, end, halt, stop, conclude, terminate, finish, wind up, discontinue, suspend, break off; informal leave off.

– OPPOSITES start, continue.

**ceaseless** adjective *continual*, constant, continuous; incessant, unceasing, unending, endless, never-ending, interminable, non-stop, uninterrupted, unremitting, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained, persistent, eternal, perpetual.

– OPPOSITES intermittent.

**cede** verb *surrender*, concede, relinquish, yield, part with, give up; hand over, deliver up, give over, make over, transfer; abandon, forgo, sacrifice; literary forsake.

**ceiling** noun *upper limit*, maximum, limitation.

**celebrate** verb **1** *they were celebrating their wedding anniversary: commemorate*, observe, mark, keep, honour, remember, memorialize. **2** *let's all celebrate! enjoy oneself*, make merry, have fun, have a good time, have a party, revel, roister, carouse; N. Amer. step out; informal party, go out on the town, paint the town red, whoop it up, make whoopee, live it up, have a ball. **3** *the priest celebrated mass: perform*, observe, officiate at. **4** *he was celebrated for his achievements: praise*, extol, glorify, eulogize, reverence, honour, pay tribute to; formal laud; old use emblazon.

**celebrated** adjective *acclaimed*, admired, highly rated, lionized, revered, honoured, esteemed, exalted, vaunted, well thought of; eminent, great, distinguished, prestigious, illustrious, pre-eminent, estimable, notable, of note, of repute; formal lauded.

– OPPOSITES unsung.

**celebration** noun **1** *the celebration of his 50th birthday: commemoration*, observance, marking, keeping. **2** *a cause for celebration: jollification*, merrymaking, enjoying oneself, carousing, revelry, revels, festivities; informal partying. **3** *a birthday celebration: party*, function, gathering, festivities, festival, fete, carnival, jamboree; informal do, bash, rave; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano. **4** *the celebration of the Eucharist: observance*, performance, officiation, solemnization.

**celebrity** noun **1** *his celebrity grew: fame*,

prominence, renown, eminence, pre-eminence, stardom, popularity, distinction, note, notability, prestige, stature, repute, reputation. **2** *a sporting celebrity: famous person*, VIP, very important person, personality, (big) name, famous/household name, star, superstar; informal celeb, somebody, someone, megastar.

– OPPOSITES obscurity.

**celestial** adjective **1** *a celestial body: (in) space*, heavenly, astronomical, extraterrestrial, stellar, planetary. **2** *celestial beings: heavenly*, holy, saintly, divine, godly, godlike, ethereal; immortal, angelic, seraphic, cherubic.

– OPPOSITES earthly, hellish.

**celibate** adjective *unmarried*, single, unwed, spouseless; chaste, virginal, virgin, maidenly, maiden, intact, abstinent, self-denying.

**cell** noun **1** *a prison cell: room*, cubicle, chamber; dungeon, oubliette, lock-up. **2** *each cell of the honeycomb: compartment*, cavity, hole, hollow, section. **3** *terrorist cells: unit*, faction, arm, section, coterie, group.

**cellar** noun *basement*, vault, underground room, lower ground floor; crypt, undercroft.

– OPPOSITES attic.

**cement** noun *polystyrene cement: adhesive*, glue, fixative, gum, paste; superglue, epoxy resin; N. Amer. mucilage; N. Amer. informal stickum.

• verb *he cemented the sample to a microscope slide: stick*, bond; fasten, fix, affix, attach, secure, bind, glue, gum, paste.

**cemetery** noun *graveyard*, churchyard, burial ground, necropolis; informal boneyard; historical potter's field; old use God's acre.

**censor** noun *the film censors: expurgator*, bowdlerizer; examiner, inspector, editor.

• verb *letters home were censored: cut*, delete parts of, make cuts in, blue-pencil; edit, expurgate, bowdlerize, sanitize; informal clean up.

**censorious** adjective *hypercritical*, overcritical, disapproving, condemnatory, denunciatory, deprecatory, disparaging, reproachful, reproving, censuring, captious; formal castigatory.

– OPPOSITES complimentary.

**censure** verb *he was censured for his conduct*. See REPRIMAND verb.

• noun *a note of censure: condemnation*, criticism, attack, abuse; reprimand, rebuke, admonishment, reproof, reproval, upbraiding, disapproval, reproach, reprehension, obloquy; formal excoriation, castigation; rare oburgation.

– OPPOSITES approval.

**central** adjective **1** *occupying a central position: middle*, centre, halfway, midway, mid, median, medial, mean; Anatomy mesial. **2** *central London: inner*, innermost, middle, mid. **3** *their central campaign issue: main*, chief, principal, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, key, crucial, vital, essential, basic, fundamental, core, prime, premier,

paramount, major, overriding; informal number-one.

– OPPOSITES side, outer, subordinate.

**centralize verb** **concentrate**, consolidate, amalgamate, condense, unify, streamline, focus, rationalize.

**C** – OPPOSITES devolve.

**centre noun** *the centre of the town*: middle, nucleus, heart, core, hub; middle point, midpoint, halfway point, mean, median.

– OPPOSITES edge.

• **verb** *the story centres on a doctor*: focus, concentrate, pivot, revolve, be based.

**centrepiece noun** **highlight**, main feature, high point/spot, best part, climax; focus of attention, focal point, centre of attention/interest, magnet, cynosure.

**ceremonial adjective** *a ceremonial occasion*: formal, official, state, public; ritual, ritualistic, prescribed, stately, courtly, solemn.

– OPPOSITES informal.

• **noun** *diplomatic ceremonial*: ritual, ceremony, rite, formality, pomp, protocol; formal praxis.

**ceremonious adjective** **dignified**, majestic, imposing, impressive, solemn, stately, formal, courtly; regal, imperial, elegant, grand, glorious, splendid, magnificent, resplendent, portentous; informal starchy.

**ceremony noun** **1** *a wedding ceremony*: rite, ritual, ceremonial, observance; service, sacrament, liturgy, worship, celebration. **2** *the new Queen was proclaimed with due ceremony*: **pomp**, protocol, formalities, niceties, decorum, etiquette, punctilio, politesse.

**certain adjective** **1** *I'm certain he's guilty*: **sure**, confident, positive, convinced, in no doubt, satisfied, assured, persuaded. **2** *it is certain that more changes are in the offing*: **unquestionable**, sure, definite, beyond question, not in doubt, indubitable, undeniable, irrefutable, indisputable; obvious, evident, recognized, confirmed, accepted, acknowledged, undisputed, undoubted, unquestioned, as sure as eggs is eggs. **3** *they are certain to win*: **sure**, very likely, bound, destined. **4** *certain defeat*: **inevitable**, assured, destined, predestined; unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable. **5** *there is no certain cure for this*: **reliable**, dependable, trustworthy, foolproof, tried and tested, effective, guaranteed, sure, unfailing, infallible; informal sure-fire; dated sovereign. **6** *a certain sum of money*: **determined**, definite, fixed, established, precise. **7** *a certain lady*: **particular**, specific, individual, special. **8** *to a certain extent that is true*: **moderate**, modest, medium, middling; limited, small.

– OPPOSITES doubtful, possible, unlikely.

**certainly adverb** **1** *this is certainly a late work*: **unquestionably**, surely, assuredly, definitely, beyond/without question, without doubt, indubitably, undeniably, irrefutably, indisputably; obviously, patently, evidently, plainly, clearly,

unmistakably, undisputedly, undoubtedly, as sure as eggs is eggs. **2** *our revenues are certainly lower*: **admittedly**, without question, definitely, undoubtedly, without a doubt.

– OPPOSITES possibly.

• **exclamation** *'Shall we eat now?'* **'Certainly.'**: yes, definitely, absolutely, sure, by all means, indeed, of course, naturally; affirmative; Brit. dated rather.

**certainly noun** **1** *she knew with certainty that he was telling the truth*: **confidence**, sureness, positiveness, conviction, certitude, assurance. **2** *he accepted defeat as a certainty*: **inevitability**, foregone conclusion; informal sure thing; Brit. informal cert, dead cert.

– OPPOSITES doubt, possibility.

**certificate noun** **guarantee**, certification, document, authorization, authentication, credentials, accreditation, licence, diploma.

**certify verb** **1** *the aircraft was certified as airworthy*: **verify**, guarantee, attest, validate, confirm, substantiate, endorse, vouch for, testify to; provide evidence, give proof, prove, demonstrate. **2** *a certified hospital*: **accredit**, recognize, license, authorize, approve, warrant.

**certitude noun** **certainty**, confidence, sureness, positiveness, conviction, assurance.

– OPPOSITES doubt.

**cessation noun** **end**, ending, termination, stopping, halting, ceasing, finish, finishing, stoppage, conclusion, winding up, discontinuation, abandonment, suspension, breaking off, cutting short.

– OPPOSITES start, resumption.

**cession noun** **surrender**, surrendering, ceding, concession, relinquishment, yielding, giving up; handing over, transfer; abandonment, sacrifice; literary forsaking.

**chafe verb** **1** *the collar chafed his neck*: **abrade**, graze, rub against, gall, scrape, scratch; Medicine **excoriate**. **2** *I chafed her feet*: **rub**, warm (up). **3** *material chafed by the rock*: **wear away/down**, erode, abrade, scour, scrape away. **4** *the bank chafed at the restrictions*: **be angry**, be annoyed, be irritated, fume, be exasperated, be frustrated.

**chaff<sup>1</sup> noun** **1** *separating the chaff from the grain*: husks, hulls, pods, shells, bran; N. Amer. shucks. **2** *the proposals were so much chaff*: **rubbish**, dross; N. Amer. garbage, trash; Austral./NZ mullock; informal junk.

**chaff<sup>2</sup> noun** **good-natured chaff**: **banter**, repartee, teasing, ragging, joking, jesting, raillery, badinage, wisecracks, witticism(s); informal kidding, ribbing; formal persiflage.

• **verb** *the pleasures of chaffing your mates*: **tease**, make fun of, poke fun at, rag; informal take the mickey out of, rib, josh, kid, have on, pull someone's leg; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal goof on, rag on, razz; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at, poke borak at; informal, dated twit; old use make sport of.

**chagrin noun** **annoyance**, irritation, vexation, exasperation, displeasure,

dissatisfaction, discontent; anger, rage, fury, wrath, indignation, resentment; embarrassment, mortification, humiliation, shame.

– OPPOSITES delight.

**chain** noun **1** *he was held in chains: fetters, shackles, irons, leg irons, manacles, handcuffs; informal cuffs, bracelets; historical bilboes; old use darbies, gyves.* **2** *a chain of events: series, succession, string, sequence, train, course.* **3** *a chain of shops: group, multiple shop/store, multiple.*

• **verb** *she chained her bicycle to the railings: secure, fasten, tie, tether, hitch; restrain, shackle, fetter, manacle, handcuff.*

**chair** noun **1** *he sat down on a chair: seat, armchair, stool; Brit. informal pew.* **2** *the chair of the committee* see **CHAIRMAN**. **3** *a university chair: professorship.*

• **verb** *she chairs the economic committee: preside over, take the chair of; lead, direct, run, manage, control, be in charge of.*

**chairman, chairwoman** noun **chair**, chairperson, president, leader, convener; spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman.

**chalk** verb

■ **chalk something up** **1** *he has chalked up another success: achieve, attain, accomplish, gain, earn, win, make, get, obtain, notch up, rack up.* **2** *I forgot completely—chalk it up to age: attribute, assign, ascribe, put down; blame on, pin on, lay at the door of.*

#### WORD LINKS

calcareous containing chalk

**chalky** adjective **1** *chalky skin: pale, bloodless, pallid, colourless, wan, ashen, white, pasty.* **2** *chalky bits at the bottom of the glass: powdery, gritty, granular; old use pulverulent.*

**challenge** noun **1** *he accepted the challenge: dare, provocation; summons.* **2** *a challenge to his leadership: test, questioning, dispute, stand, opposition, confrontation.* **3** *it was proving quite a challenge: problem, difficult task, test, trial.*

• **verb** **1** *we challenged their statistics: question, disagree with, dispute, take issue with, protest against, call into question, object to.* **2** *he challenged one of my men to a duel: dare, summon, throw down the gauntlet to.* **3** *changes that would challenge them: test, tax, strain, make demands on; stretch, stimulate, inspire, excite.*

**challenging** adjective **demanding**, testing, taxing, exacting; stretching, exciting, stimulating, inspiring; difficult, tough, hard, formidable, onerous, arduous, strenuous, gruelling; formal exigent.

– OPPOSITES easy, uninspiring.

**chamber** noun **1** *a debating chamber: room, hall, assembly room, auditorium.* **2** (old use) *we slept safely in our chamber: bedroom, room; literary bower; historical boudoir; old use bedchamber.* **3** *the left chamber of the heart: compartment, cavity; Anatomy auricle, ventricle.*

**champagne** noun sparkling wine; vin

mousseux, spumante, Sekt, cava; informal champers, bubbly, fizz.

**champion** noun **1** *the world champion: winner, title-holder, defending champion, gold medalist; prizewinner, victor (ludorum); informal champ, number one.* **2** *a champion of change: advocate, proponent, promoter, supporter, defender, upholder, backer, exponent; campaigner, lobbyist, crusader, apologist; N. Amer. booster.*

**3** (historical) *the king's champion: knight, man-at-arms, warrior.*

• **verb** *championing the rights of tribal peoples: advocate, promote, defend, uphold, support, back, stand up for, take someone's part; campaign for, lobby for, fight for, crusade for, stick up for.*

– OPPOSITES oppose.

**chance** noun **1** *there was a chance he might be released: possibility, prospect, probability, likelihood, likeliness, expectation, anticipation; risk, threat, danger.* **2** *I gave her a chance to answer: opportunity, opening, occasion, turn, time, window (of opportunity); N. Amer. & Austral./NZ show; informal shot, look-in.* **3** *Nigel took an awful chance: risk, gamble, venture, speculation, long shot, leap in the dark.* **4** *pure chance: accident, coincidence, serendipity, fate, destiny, fortuity, providence, happenstance; good fortune, (good) luck, fluke.*

• **adjective** *a chance discovery: accidental, fortuitous, adventitious, fluky, coincidental, serendipitous; unintentional, unintended, inadvertent, unplanned.*

– OPPOSITES intentional.

• **verb** **1** *I chanced to meet him: happen.*

**2** (informal) *she chanced another look: risk, hazard, venture, try; formal essay.*

■ **by chance** fortuitously, by accident, accidentally, coincidentally, serendipitously; unintentionally, inadvertently.

■ **chance** on come across/upon, run across/into, happen on, light on, stumble on, find by chance, meet (by chance); informal bump into; old use run against.

**chancy** adjective (informal) **risky**, unpredictable, uncertain, precarious; unsafe, insecure, tricky, high-risk, hazardous, perilous, parlous; informal dicey, hairy; Brit. informal dodgy.

– OPPOSITES predictable.

**change** verb **1** *this could change the face of Britain | things have changed: alter, make/become different, adjust, adapt, amend, modify, revise, refine; reshape, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, rework, remodel, reorganize, reorder; vary, transform, transfigure, transmute, transmogrify, metamorphose; informal tweak.* **2** *he's changed his job: exchange, substitute, swap, switch, replace, alternate, interchange.*

– OPPOSITES preserve, keep.

• **noun** **1** *a change of plan: alteration, modification, variation, revision, amendment, adjustment, adaptation; remodelling, reshaping, rearrangement, reordering, restyling, reworking; metamorphosis, transformation, evolution,*



mutation; humorous transmogrification.

**2** a change of government: **exchange**, substitution, swap, switch, replacement, alternation, interchange. **3** I've no change: coins, loose/small change, (hard) cash, silver, coppers, specie.

- C** **changeable** adjective **1** the weather will be changeable | changeable moods: **variable**, inconstant, varying, changing, fluctuating, irregular; erratic, inconsistent, unstable, unsettled, turbulent, changeful, protean; fickle, capricious, temperamental, volatile, mercurial, unpredictable, blowing hot and cold; informal up and down; literary fluctuant. **2** the colours are changeable: **alterable**, adjustable, modifiable, variable, mutable, exchangeable, interchangeable, replaceable. – OPPOSITES constant.

**changeless** adjective **unchanging**, unvarying, timeless, static, fixed, permanent, constant, unchanged, consistent, uniform, undeviating; stable, steady, unchangeable, unalterable, invariable, immutable. – OPPOSITES variable.

**channel** noun **1** the English Channel: strait(s), sound, narrows, (sea) passage. **2** the water ran down a channel: **duct**, gutter, conduit, trough, culvert, sluice, spillway, race, drain. **3** a channel for their extraordinary energy: **use**, medium, vehicle, way of harnessing; release (mechanism), safety valve, vent. **4** a channel of communication: **means**, medium, instrument, mechanism, agency, vehicle, route, avenue. • verb **1** she channelled out a groove: **hollow** out, gouge (out), cut (out). **2** many countries channel their aid through charities: **convey**, transmit, conduct, direct, guide, relay, pass on, transfer.

**chant** noun **1** the protesters' chants: **shout**, cry, (rallying) call, slogan. **2** the melodious chant of the monks: **incantation**, intonation, singing, song, recitative; rare cantillation. • verb **1** protesters were chanting slogans: **shout**, chorus, repeat. **2** the choir chanted Psalm 118: **sing**, intone, incant; rare cantillate.

**chaos** noun **disorder**, disarray, disorganization, confusion, mayhem, bedlam, pandemonium, havoc, turmoil, tumult, commotion, disruption, upheaval, uproar; a muddle, a mess, a shambles; anarchy, lawlessness; informal hullabaloo, all hell broken loose. – OPPOSITES order.

**chaotic** adjective **disorderly**, disordered, in disorder, in chaos, in disarray, disorganized, topsy-turvy, in pandemonium, in turmoil, in uproar; in a muddle, in a mess, messy, in a shambles; anarchic, lawless; Brit. informal shambolic.

**chap**<sup>1</sup> verb *my skin chapped in the wind*: **become raw**, become sore, become inflamed, chafe, crack.

**chap**<sup>2</sup> noun (Brit. informal) *he's a nice chap*: **man**, boy, character; informal fellow, guy, geezer; Brit. informal bloke, lad, bod; N. Amer. informal dude,

hombre; Brit. informal, dated cove.

**chaperone** noun *Aunt Millie went as chaperone*: **companion**, duenna, escort, protectress, protector, minder. • verb *she was chaperoned by her mother*: **accompany**, escort, attend, watch over, keep an eye on, protect, mind.

**chapter** noun **1** the first chapter of the book: **section**, division, part, portion. **2** a new chapter in our history: **period**, phase, page, stage, epoch, era. **3** (N. Amer.) a local chapter of the American Cancer Society: **branch**, division, subdivision, section, department, lodge, wing, arm. **4** the cathedral chapter: **governing body**, council, assembly, convocation, synod, consistory.

**char** verb **scorch**, burn, singe, sear, blacken; informal toast.

**character** noun **1** a forceful character | the character of a town: **personality**, nature, disposition, temperament, temper, mentality, make-up; features, qualities, properties, traits; spirit, essence, identity, ethos, complexion, tone, feel, feeling. **2** a woman of character: **integrity**, honour, moral strength/fibre, rectitude, uprightness; fortitude, strength, backbone, resolve, grit, will power; informal guts, gutsiness; Brit. informal bottle. **3** a stain on his character: **reputation**, (good) name, standing, stature, position, status. **4** (informal) a bit of a character: **eccentric**, oddity, madcap, crank, individualist, nonconformist, rare bird; informal oddball; Brit. informal odd bod; informal, dated card, caution. **5** a boorish character: **person**, man, woman, soul, creature, individual, figure, customer; informal cookie; Brit. informal bod, guy; informal, dated body, dog. **6** the characters develop throughout the play: **persona**, role, part; (characters) **dramatis personae**. **7** thirty characters: **letter**, figure, symbol, sign, mark.

**characteristic** noun **interesting characteristics**: **attribute**, feature, (essential) quality, property, trait, aspect, element, facet; mannerism, habit, custom, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, quirk, oddity, foible. • adjective *his characteristic eloquence*: **typical**, usual, normal, predictable, habitual; distinctive, particular, special, especial, peculiar, idiosyncratic, singular, unique.

**characterize** verb **1** the period was characterized by scientific advancement: **distinguish**, make distinctive, mark, typify, set apart. **2** the women are characterized as prophets of doom: **portray**, depict, present, represent, describe; categorize, class, style, brand.

**charade** noun **farce**, pantomime, travesty, mockery, parody, act, masquerade.

**charge** verb **1** he didn't charge much: **ask** (in payment), levy, demand, exact; bill, invoice. **2** the subscription will be charged to your account: **bill**, debit from, take from. **3** two men were charged with **affray**: **accuse**, indict, arraign; prosecute, try, put on trial; N. Amer. impeach; old use inculpate. **4** they charged him

with reforming the system: **entrust**, burden, encumber, saddle, tax. **5** *the cavalry charged the tanks*: **attack**, storm, assault, assail, fall on, swoop on, descend on; informal lay into, tear into. **6** *we charged into the crowd*: **rush**, storm, stampede, push, plough, launch oneself, go headlong; informal steam; N. Amer. informal barrel. **7** *charge your glasses!* | *the guns were charged*: **fill (up)**, top up; load (up), arm, prepare to fire. **8** *his work was charged with energy*: **suffuse**, pervade, permeate, saturate, infuse, imbue, fill. **9** *I charge you to stop*: **order**, command, direct, instruct, enjoin; formal adjure; literary bid.

• **noun 1** *all customers pay a charge*: **fee**, payment, price, tariff, amount, sum, fare, levy. **2** *he pleaded guilty to the charge*: **accusation**, allegation, indictment, arraignment; N. Amer. impeachment; old use inculpation. **3** *an infantry charge*: **attack**, assault, offensive, onslaught, drive, push, thrust. **4** *the child was in her charge*: **care**, protection, safe keeping, control; custody, guardianship, wardship; hands; old use ward. **5** *his charge was to save the business*: **duty**, responsibility, task, job, assignment, mission, function; Brit. informal pigeon. **6** *the safety of my charge*: **ward**, protégé, dependant. **7** *the judge gave a careful charge to the jury*: **instruction**, direction, directive, order, command, dictate, exhortation. **8** (N. Amer. informal) *I get a real charge out of working hard*: **thrill**, tingle, glow; excitement, stimulation, enjoyment, pleasure; informal kick, buzz.

■ **in charge of** responsible for, in control of, at the helm/wheel of; managing, running, administering, directing, supervising, overseeing, controlling; informal running the show.

**charisma** **noun** **charm**, presence, (force of) personality, strength of character; (animal) magnetism, attractiveness, appeal, allure.

**charismatic** **adjective** **charming**, fascinating, magnetic, captivating, beguiling, attractive, appealing, alluring.

**charitable** **adjective 1** *charitable activities*: **philanthropic**, humanitarian, altruistic, benevolent, public-spirited; non-profit-making; formal eleemosynary. **2** *charitable people*: **big-hearted**, generous, open-handed, free-handed, munificent, bountiful, beneficent; literary bounteous. **3** *he was charitable in his judgements*: **magnanimous**, generous, liberal, tolerant, easy-going, broad-minded, considerate, sympathetic, lenient, indulgent, forgiving.

**charity** **noun 1** *an Aids charity*: **non-profit-making organization**, voluntary organization, charitable institution; fund, trust, foundation. **2** *we don't need charity*: **financial assistance**, aid, welfare, (financial) relief; handouts, gifts, presents, largesse; historical alms. **3** *his actions are motivated by charity*: **philanthropy**, humanitarianism, humanity, altruism, public-spiritedness, social conscience, benevolence, beneficence, munificence. **4** *show a bit of charity*: **goodwill**, compassion, consideration,

concern, kindness, kind-heartedness, tender-heartedness, tenderness, sympathy, indulgence, tolerance, leniency, caritas; literary bounteousness.

**charlatan** **noun** **quack**, mountebank, sham, fraud, fake, impostor, hoodwinker, hoaxer, cheat, deceiver, double-dealer, (confidence) trickster, swindler, fraudster; informal phoney, shark, con man/artist, flimflammer; Brit. informal twister; N. Amer. informal bunco artist, gold brick, chiseller; Austral. informal magsman, illywhacker; dated confidence man/woman.

**charm** **noun 1** *people were captivated by her charm*: **attractiveness**, beauty, glamour, loveliness; appeal, allure, desirability, seductiveness, sexual/animal magnetism, charisma; informal pulling power. **2** *these traditions retain a lot of charm*: **appeal**, drawing power, attraction, allure, fascination. **3** *magical charms*: **spell**, incantation, conjuration, rune, magic formula/word; N. Amer. mojo, hex. **4** *a lucky charm*: **talisman**, fetish, amulet, mascot, totem, juju; old use periapt.

• **verb 1** *he charmed them with his singing*: **delight**, please, win (over), attract, captivate, allure, lure, dazzle, fascinate, enchant, enthrall, enrapture, seduce, spellbind. **2** *he charmed his mother into agreeing*: **coax**, cajole, wheedle; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap; old use blandish.

**charming** **adjective** **delightful**, pleasing, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, endearing, lovely, lovable, adorable, appealing, attractive, good-looking, prepossessing; alluring, delectable, ravishing, winning, winsome, fetching, captivating, enchanting, entrancing, fascinating, seductive; informal heavenly, divine, gorgeous, easy on the eye; Brit. informal smashing; literary beautiful; old use fair, comely.

– **OPPOSITES** repulsive.

**chart** **noun 1** *check your ideal weight on the chart*: **graph**, table, diagram, histogram, bar chart, pie chart, flow chart; Computing graphic. **2** *the pop charts*: **top twenty**, list, listing; dated hit parade.

• **verb 1** *the changes were charted accurately*: **tabulate**, plot, graph, record, register, represent; make a chart/diagram of. **2** *the book charted his progress*: **follow**, trace, outline, describe, detail, record, document, chronicle, log.

**charter** **noun 1** *a Royal charter*: **authority**, authorization, sanction, dispensation, consent, permission; permit, licence, warrant, franchise. **2** *the UN Charter*: **constitution**, code, canon; fundamental principles, rules, laws. **3** *the charter of a yacht*: **hire**, hiring, lease, leasing, rent, rental, renting; booking, reservation, reserving.

• **verb** *they chartered a bus*: **hire**, lease, rent; book, reserve.

**chary** **adjective** **wary**, cautious, circumspect, heedful, careful, on one's guard; distrustful, mistrustful, sceptical, suspicious, dubious, hesitant, reluctant, leery, nervous,

apprehensive, uneasy; informal cagey, iffy.

**chase**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *the dogs chased the fox*: pursue, run after, give chase to, follow; hunt, track, trail; informal tail. **2** *chasing young girls*: woo, pursue, run after, make advances to, flirt with, pay court to; informal chat up, come on to; dated court, romance, set one's cap at, make love to. **3** *she chased away the donkeys*: drive, send, scare; informal send packing. **4** *she chased away all thoughts of him*: dispel, banish, dismiss, drive away, shut out, put out of one's mind. **5** *photographers chased on to the runway*: rush, dash, race, speed, streak, shoot, charge, scramble, scurry, hurry, fly, pelt; informal scoot, belt, tear, zip, whip; N. Amer. informal boogie, hightail, clip; old use hie.

• **noun** *they gave up the chase*: pursuit, hunt, trail.

**chase**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *the figures are chased on the dish*: engrave, etch, carve, inscribe, cut, chisel.

**chasm** **noun** **1** *a deep chasm*: gorge, abyss, canyon, ravine, gully, gulch, defile, couloir, crevasse, fissure, crevice; N. Amer. gulch, coulee. **2** *the chasm between their views*: breach, gulf, rift; difference, separation, division, dissension, schism, scission.

**chassis** **noun** **framework**, frame, structure, substructure, shell, casing, bodywork, body.

**chaste** **adjective** **1** *chaste girlhood*: virginal, virgin, intact, maidenly, unmarried, unwed; celibate, abstinent, self-restrained, self-denying, continent; innocent, virtuous, pure (as the driven snow), sinless, undefiled, unsullied; Christianity immaculate; literary vestal. **2** *a chaste kiss on the cheek*: non-sexual, platonic, innocent. **3** *the dark, chaste interior*: plain, simple, bare, unadorned, undecorated, unornamented, unembellished, functional, no-frills, austere.

– OPPOSITES promiscuous, passionate.

**chasten** **verb** **1** *both men were chastened*: subdue, humble, cow, squash, deflate, flatten, take down a peg or two, put someone in their place; informal cut down to size, settle someone's hash. **2** (old use) *the Heaven that chastens us*. See **CHASTISE** sense 1.

**chastise** **verb** **1** *the staff were chastised for arriving late*: scold, upbraid, berate, reprimand, reprove, rebuke, admonish, chide, censure, lambaste, lecture, give someone a piece of one's mind, take to task, haul over the coals; informal tell off, dress down, bawl out, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, come down on someone like a ton of bricks, have someone's guts for garters, slap someone's wrist, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell; Brit. informal carpet, tick off, have a go at, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; dated give someone a rating; formal castigate; old use chasten; rare reprehend, objurgate. **2** (dated) *her mistress chastised her with a whip*. See **BEAT** verb sense 1.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**chastity** **noun** **celibacy**, chasteness, virginity,

abstinence, self-restraint, self-denial, continence; singleness, maidenhood; innocence, purity, virtue, morality; Christianity immaculateness.

**chat** **noun** **1** *popped in for a chat*: talk, conversation, gossip, chatter, heart-to-heart, tête-à-tête, blather; informal jaw, gas, confab; Brit. informal natter, chinwag, rabbit; N. Amer. informal rap, bull session; formal confabulation, colloquy.

• **verb** *they chatted with their guests*: talk, gossip, chatter, speak, converse, tittle-tattle, prattle, jabber, babble; informal gas, jaw, chew the rag/fat, yap, yak, yabber, yatter, yammer; Brit. informal natter, rabbit, chunter, have a chinwag; N. Amer. informal shoot the breeze/bull, visit; Austral./NZ informal mag; formal confabulate; old use clack.

■ **chat someone up** (informal) flirt with, make advances to; informal come on to; dated make love to, set one's cap at, romance.

**chatter** **noun** *she tired him with her chatter*: chat, talk, gossip, chit-chat, patter, jabbering, jabber, prattling, prattle, babbling, babble, tittle-tattle, blathering, blather; informal yabbering, yammering, yattering, yapping; Brit. informal nattering, chuntering, rabbiting on; formal confabulation, colloquy; old use clack.

• **verb** *they chattered excitedly*. See **CHAT** verb.

**chatterbox** **noun** (informal) **talker**, chatterer, prattler; N. Amer. blatherskite; informal windbag, gasbag, blabbermouth; Brit. informal natterer.

**chatty** **adjective** **1** *he was a chatty person*: talkative, communicative, expansive, unreserved, gossipy, gossiping, garrulous, loquacious, voluble, verbose; informal mouthy, gabby, gassy; Brit. informal able to talk the hind legs off a donkey. **2** *a chatty letter*: conversational, gossipy, informal, casual, familiar, friendly; informal newsy.

– OPPOSITES taciturn.

**chauvinist** **adjective** *chauvinist sentiments*: jingoistic, chauvinistic, excessively patriotic, excessively nationalistic, flag-waving, xenophobic, racist, racialist, ethnocentric; sexist, male chauvinist, anti-feminist, misogynist, woman-hating.

• **noun** *he's a chauvinist*: sexist, anti-feminist, misogynist, woman-hater; informal male chauvinist pig, MCP.

**cheap** **adjective** **1** *cheap tickets*: inexpensive, low-priced, low-cost, economical, competitive, affordable, reasonable, budget, economy, bargain, cut-price, reduced, discounted, discount, rock-bottom, giveaway, bargain-basement; informal dirt cheap. **2** *plain without looking cheap*: poor-quality, second-rate, third-rate, substandard, low-grade, inferior, vulgar, shoddy, trashy, tawdry, meretricious, cheapjack, gimcrack, Brummagem, pinchbeck; informal rubbishy, cheapo, junky, tacky, kitsch; Brit. informal naff, duff; N. Amer. informal two-bit, dime-store. **3** *the cheap exploitation of suffering*: despicable, contemptible, immoral, unscrupulous, unprincipled, unsavoury, distasteful,



vulgar, ignoble, shameful; old use scurvy. **4** *he made me feel cheap*: ashamed, humiliated, mortified, debased, degraded. **5** (N. Amer. informal) *he made the other guests look cheap*. See **MEAN**<sup>2</sup> sense 1.

– **OPPOSITES** expensive.

**cheaper** verb **1** *cheapening the cost of exports*: reduce, lower (in price), cut, mark down, discount; informal slash. **2** *Hetty never cheapened herself*: demean, debase, degrade, lower, humble, devalue, abase, discredit, disgrace, dishonour, shame, humiliate, mortify, prostitute.

**cheat** verb **1** *customers were cheated*: swindle, defraud, deceive, trick, dupe, hoodwink, double-cross, gull; informal diddle, rip off, con, fleece, shaft, sting, bilk, rook, gyp, finagle, flimflam, put one over on, pull a fast one on; N. Amer. informal sucker, gold-brick, stiff; Austral. informal pull a swift on; formal mulct; literary cozen; old use chicane. **2** *she cheated Ryan out of his fortune*: deprive of, deny; informal do out of. **3** *the boy cheated death*: avoid, escape, evade, elude; foil, frustrate, thwart. **4** *cheating husbands*: commit adultery, be unfaithful, stray; informal two-time, play about/around; Brit. informal play away.

• **noun 1** *a liar and a cheat*: swindler, cheater, fraudster, (confidence) trickster, deceiver, hoaxer, hoodwinker, double-dealer, double-crosser, sham, fraud, fake, charlatan, quack, mountebank; informal con man/artist, shark, sharper, phoney, flimflammer; Brit. informal twister; N. Amer. informal grifter, bunco artist, gold brick, chiseller; Austral. informal magsman, illywhacker; dated confidence man. **2** *a sure cheat for generating cash*: swindle, fraud, deception, deceit, hoax, sham, trick, ruse; informal con.

**check** verb **1** *troops checked all vehicles* | *I checked her background*: examine, inspect, look at/over, scrutinize, survey; study, investigate, research, probe, look into, enquire into; informal check out, give something a/the once-over. **2** *he checked that the gun was cocked*: make sure, confirm, verify. **3** *two defeats checked their progress*: halt, stop, arrest, cut short; bar, obstruct, hamper, impede, inhibit, frustrate, foil, thwart, curb, block, stall, hold up, retard, delay, slow down; literary stay. **4** *her tears could not be checked*: suppress, repress, restrain, control, curb, rein in, stifle, hold back, choke back; informal keep a lid on. • **noun 1** *a check of the records*: examination, inspection, scrutiny, scrutinization, perusal, study, investigation, probe, analysis; test, trial, monitoring; check-up; informal once-over, look-see. **2** *a check on the abuse of authority*: control, restraint, constraint, curb, limitation. **3** (N. Amer.) *the waitress arrived with the check*: bill, account, invoice, statement; N. Amer. informal tab; old use reckoning.

■ **check in** report (one's arrival), book in, register.

■ **check out** leave, vacate, depart; pay the bill, settle up.

■ **check something out** (informal) **1** *the police checked out dozens of leads*: investigate, look into, enquire into, probe, research, examine, go over; assess, weigh up, analyse, evaluate; follow up; informal give something a/the once-over; N. Amer. informal scope out. **2** *she checked herself out in the mirror*: look at, survey, regard, inspect, contemplate; informal have a gander/squint at; Brit. informal have a dekkos/butcher's at, clock; N. Amer. informal eyeball.

■ **keep something in check** curb, restrain, hold back, keep a tight rein on, rein in/back; control, govern, master, suppress, stifle; informal keep a lid on.

**check-up** noun examination, inspection, evaluation, analysis, survey, probe, test, appraisal; check, health check; informal once-over, going-over.

**cheek** noun *that's enough of your cheek!* impudence, impertinence, insolence, cheekiness, presumption, effrontery, gall, pertness, impoliteness, disrespect, bad manners, overfamiliarity, cockiness; answering back, talking back; informal brass (neck), lip, mouth, chutzpah; Brit. informal sauce, backchat; N. Amer. informal sass, sassiness, nerviness, back talk; old use assumption.

• **verb** *they were cheeking the dinner lady*: answer back, talk back, be cheeky, be impertinent; Brit. informal backchat; N. Amer. informal sass, be sassy.

#### WORD LINKS

buccal, malar relating to the cheeks

**cheeky** adjective impudent, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, forward, pert, bold (as brass), brazen, cocky, overfamiliar, discourteous, disrespectful, impolite, bad-mannered; informal brass-necked, lippy, mouthy, fresh, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy, nerry; old use assumptive.

– **OPPOSITES** respectful, polite.

**cheep** verb chirp, chirrup, twitter, tweet, peep, chitter, chirr, trill, warble, sing.

**cheer** noun **1** *the cheers of the crowd*: hurrah, huray, whoop, bravo, shout; hosanna, alleluia; (**cheers**) acclaim, acclamation, clamour, applause, ovation.

**2** *a time of cheer*: happiness, joy, joyousness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, gladness, merriment, gaiety, jubilation, jollity, jolliness, high spirits, joviality, jocularly, conviviality, light-heartedness; merrymaking, pleasure, rejoicing, revelry.

**3** *Christmas cheer*: fare, food, foodstuffs, eatables, provender; drink, beverages; informal eats, nibbles, nosh, grub, chow; Brit. informal scoff; dated victuals; formal comestibles; literary viands.

– **OPPOSITES** boo, sadness.

• **verb 1** *they cheered their team*: acclaim, hail, salute, shout for, hurrah, huray, applaud, clap, put one's hands together for; bring the house down; informal holler for, give someone a big hand; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo.

**2** *the bad weather did little to cheer me*: raise someone's spirits, make happier, brighten, buoy up, enliven, exhilarate, hearten,

gladden, uplift, perk up, encourage, inspire; informal buck up.

– OPPOSITES boo, depress.

■ **cheer someone** on encourage, urge on, spur on, drive on, motivate, inspire, fire (up), inspire; N. Amer. light a fire under.

**C** ■ **cheer up** perk up, brighten (up), become more cheerful, liven up, rally, revive, bounce back, take heart; informal buck up.

■ **cheer someone up**. See **CHEER** verb sense 2.

**cheerful** adjective **1** *he arrived looking cheerful*: happy, jolly, merry, bright, glad, sunny, joyful, joyous, light-hearted, in good/high spirits, full of the joys of spring, sparkling, bubbly, exuberant, buoyant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, elated, gleeful, breezy, cheery, jaunty, animated, radiant, smiling; jovial, genial, good-humoured; carefree, unworried, untroubled, without a care in the world; informal upbeat, chipper, chirpy, peppy, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans; dated gay; formal jocund; literary gladsome, blithe, blithesome. **2** *a cheerful room*: pleasant, attractive, agreeable, cheering, bright, sunny, happy, friendly, welcoming.

– OPPOSITES sad.

**cheerio** exclamation (Brit. informal) *goodbye*, farewell, adieu, au revoir, ciao, adios, auf Wiedersehen, sayonara; Austral./NZ hooray; informal bye, bye-bye, so long, see you (later), later(s); Brit. informal cheers, ta-ta, ta-ra; informal, dated pip pip, toodle-oo.

**cheerless** adjective *gloomy, dreary, dull, dismal, bleak, drab, sombre, dark, dim, dingy, funereal; austere, stark, bare, comfortless, unwelcoming, uninviting; miserable, wretched, joyless, depressing, disheartening, despairing.*

**cheers** exclamation (informal) *he raised his glass and said 'Cheers!': here's to you*, good health, your health, skol, prosit, salut; informal bottoms up, down the hatch; Brit. informal here's mud in your eye; Brit. informal, dated cheerio, chin-chin.

**cheery** adjective. See **CHEERFUL** sense 1.

**chef** noun *cook, cordon bleu cook, food preparer; chef de cuisine, chef de partie; pastry cook, saucier*; N. Amer. informal short-order cook.

**chef-d'œuvre** noun *masterpiece, masterpiece, finest work, magnum opus, pièce de résistance, tour de force.*

**chequered** adjective **1** *a chequered tablecloth*: checked, multicoloured, many-coloured. **2** *a chequered history*: varied, mixed, full of ups and downs, vicissitudinous; unstable, irregular, erratic, inconstant; informal up and down.

**cherish** verb **1** *a woman he could cherish*: adore, hold dear, love, dote on, be devoted to, revere, esteem, admire; think the world of, set great store by, hold in high esteem; care for, look after, protect, preserve, keep safe. **2** *I cherish her letters*: treasure, prize, value highly, hold dear. **3** *they cherished dreams of glory*: harbour, entertain, possess, hold (on to), cling to, foster, nurture.

**cherub** noun **1** *she was borne up to heaven by cherubs*: angel, seraph. **2** *a cherub of 18 months*: baby, infant, toddler; pretty/lovable child, innocent child, little angel; informal (tiny) tot, tiny; literary babe (in arms).

**cherubic** adjective *angelic, sweet, cute, adorable, appealing, lovable; innocent, seraphic, saintly.*

**chest** noun **1** *a bullet wound in the chest*: breast, upper body, torso, trunk, ribcage; technical thorax. **2** *the matron had a large chest*: bust, bosom; old use embonpoint. **3** *an oak chest*: box, case, casket, crate, trunk, coffer, strongbox.

■ **get something off one's chest** (informal) confess, disclose, divulge, reveal, make known, make public, make a clean breast of, bring into the open, get a load off one's mind.

#### WORD LINKS

pectoral, thoracic relating to the chest

**chew** verb *Carolyn chewed a mouthful of toast*: masticate, munch, champ, crunch, nibble, gnaw, eat, consume; formal manducate.

■ **chew something over** meditate on, ruminate on, think about/over/through, mull over, consider, weigh up, ponder on, deliberate on, reflect on, muse on, dwell on, give thought to, turn over in one's mind; brood over, puzzle over, rack one's brains about; N. Amer. think on; informal kick around/about, bat around/about; formal cogitate about; old use pore on.

**chic** adjective *stylish, smart, elegant, sophisticated, dressy, dapper, dashing, trim; fashionable, high-fashion, in vogue, up to date, up to the minute, contemporary, à la mode*; informal trendy, with it, snappy, snazzy, natty, swish; N. Amer. informal fly, spiffy, kicky, tony.

– OPPOSITES unfashionable.

**chicanery** noun *trickery, deception, deceit, deceitfulness, duplicity, dishonesty, deviousness, unscrupulousness, underhandedness, subterfuge, fraud, fraudulence, sharp practice, skulduggery, swindling, cheating, duping, hoodwinking*; informal crookedness, monkey business, hanky-panky, shenanigans; Brit. informal jiggery-pokery; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines; old use management, knavery.

**chicken** noun *fowl, hen, cock, chick.*

**chide** verb *scold, chastise, upbraid, berate, reprimand, reprove, rebuke, admonish, censure, lambaste, lecture, give someone a piece of one's mind, take to task, haul over the coals*; informal tell off, dress down, bawl out, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, come down on someone like a ton of bricks, have someone's guts for garters, slap someone's wrist, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell; Brit. informal carpet, tick off, have a go at, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate; dated

give someone a rating; old use chasten; rare reprehend, objugate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**chief** noun **1** *a Highland chief: leader, chieftain, head, headman, ruler, overlord, master, commander, seigneur, liege (lord), potentate.* **2** *the chief of the central bank: head, principal, chief executive, president, chair, chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, governor, director, manager, manageress; employer, proprietor; N. Amer. chief executive officer, CEO; informal skipper, numero uno, (head) honcho, boss; Brit. informal gaffer, guv'nor; N. Amer. informal padrone, sachem.* • **adjective** **1** *the chief rabbi: head, leading, principal, premier, highest, foremost, supreme, arch.* **2** *their chief aim: main, principal, most important, primary, prime, first, cardinal, central, key, crucial, essential, pre-eminent, predominant, paramount, overriding; informal number-one.*  
– OPPOSITES subordinate, minor.

**chiefly** adverb *mainly, in the main, primarily, principally, predominantly, mostly, for the most part; usually, habitually, typically, commonly, generally, on the whole, largely, by and large, as a rule, almost always.*

**child** noun *youngster, little one, boy, girl; baby, newborn, infant, toddler; schoolboy, schoolgirl, minor, junior; son, daughter, descendant; (children) offspring, progeny; Scottish & N. English bairn, laddie, lassie, lass; informal kid, kiddie, kiddiewink, nipper, tiny, (tiny) tot, shaver, young 'un, lad; Brit. informal sprog; N. Amer. informal rug rat; Austral./NZ informal ankle-biter; derogatory brat, guttersnipe; literary babe (in arms).*

#### WORD LINKS

**infantile** relating to babies and young children  
**crèche** a place where babies and young children are cared for during the working day  
**nursery** a room for children, or a school for very young children  
**paediatrics** the branch of medicine dealing with children  
**paedophile** a person who is sexually attracted to children  
**infanticide** the killing of a young child

**childbirth** noun *labour, delivery, giving birth, birthing; formal parturition; dated confinement; literary travail; old use lying-in, accouchement, childbed.*

**childhood** noun *youth, early years/life, infancy, babyhood, boyhood, girlhood, pre-teens, prepubescence, minority; the springtime of life, one's salad days; formal nonage, juvenescence.*  
– OPPOSITES adulthood.

**childish** adjective **1** *childish behaviour: immature, babyish, infantile, juvenile, puerile; silly, inane, jejune, foolish, irresponsible.* **2** *a round childish face: childlike, youthful, young, young-looking, girlish, boyish.*  
– OPPOSITES mature, adult.

**childlike** adjective **1** *grandmother looked almost childlike: youthful, young, young-looking, girlish, boyish.* **2** *geniuses tend to be rather childlike: innocent, artless, guileless, unworldly, unsophisticated, naive, ingenuous, trusting, unsuspecting, unwary, credulous, gullible; unaffected, without airs, uninhibited, natural, spontaneous; informal wet behind the ears.*

**chill** noun **1** *a chill in the air: coldness, chilliness, coolness, nip, iciness, rawness, bitterness.* **2** *he had a chill: cold, dose of flu; old use gripe.* **3** *the chill in their relations: unfriendliness, lack of warmth, chilliness, coldness, coolness.*

– OPPOSITES warmth.

• **verb** **1** *the dessert is best chilled: make cold, make colder, cool (down/off); refrigerate, ice.* **2** *his quiet tone chilled Ruth: scare, frighten, petrify, terrify, alarm; make someone's blood run cold, chill to the bone/marrow, make someone's flesh crawl; informal scare the pants off; Brit. informal put the wind up; old use affright.*

– OPPOSITES warm.

• **adjective** *a chill wind: cold, chilly, cool, fresh; wintry, frosty, icy, ice-cold, icy-cold, glacial, polar, arctic, raw, bitter, bitterly cold, biting, freezing, frigid, gelid; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky.*

■ **chill out** (informal). See RELAX sense 1.

**chilly** adjective **1** *the weather had turned chilly: cold, cool, crisp, fresh, wintry, frosty, icy, ice-cold, icy-cold, chill, glacial, polar, arctic, raw, bitter, bitterly cold, freezing, frigid, gelid; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky.* **2** *I woke up feeling chilly: cold, frozen (stiff), frozen to the core/marrow/bone, freezing (cold), bitterly cold, shivery, chilled.* **3** *a chilly reception: unfriendly, unwelcoming, cold, cool, frosty, gelid; informal stand-offish, offish.*

– OPPOSITES warm.

**chime** verb **1** *the bells began to chime: ring, peal, toll, sound; ding, dong, clang, boom; literary knell.* **2** *the clock chimed eight o'clock: strike, sound.*

• **noun** *the chimes of the bells: peal, pealing, ringing, carillon, toll, tolling; ding-dong, clanging, tintinnabulation; literary knell.*

■ **chime** in **1** *Yes, you do that, Doreen chimed in: interject, interpose, interrupt, butt in, cut in, join in; Brit. informal chip in.* **2** *his remarks chimed in with the ideas of Adam Smith: accord, correspond, be consistent, be compatible, agree, be in agreement, fit in, be in tune, be consonant; informal square.*

**chimera** noun *illusion, fantasy, delusion, dream, fancy.*

**chimney** noun *stack, smokestack; flue, funnel, vent.*

**china** noun **1** *a china cup: porcelain.* **2** *a table laid with the best china: dishes, plates, cups and saucers, crockery, tableware, dinner service, tea service.*

**chink** noun *a chink in the curtains: opening, gap, space, hole, aperture, crack, fissure, crevice, cranny, cleft, split, slit, slot.*



**chink**<sup>2</sup> verb *the glasses chinked*: jingle, jangle, clink, tinkle.

**chip** noun **1** *wood chips*: fragment, splinter, splinter, spell, shaving, paring, flake. **2** *a chip in the glass*: nick, crack, scratch; flaw, fault.

**3** *fish and chips*: chipped potatoes, potato chips; Brit. French fried potatoes; N. Amer. French fries. **4** *gambling chips*: counter, token, jetton; N. Amer. check.

• verb **1** *the teacup was chipped*: nick, crack, scratch; damage. **2** *the plaster had chipped*: break (off), crack, crumble. **3** *chip the flint to the required shape*: whittle, hew, chisel.

■ **chip in** **1** *'He's right,' Gloria chipped in*: interrupt, interject, interpose, cut in, chime in, butt in. **2** *parents and staff chipped in to raise the cash*: contribute, make a contribution/donation, club together, pay; informal fork out, shell out, cough up; Brit. informal stump up; N. Amer. informal kick in.

**chirp** verb tweet, twitter, chirrup, cheep, peep, chitter, chirr; sing, warble, trill.

**chirpy** adjective (informal). See **CHEERFUL** sense 1.

**chit-chat** noun (informal) small talk, chat, chatting, chatter, prattle; Brit. informal nattering, chuntering.

**chivalrous** adjective **1** *his chivalrous treatment of women*: gallant, gentlemanly, honourable, respectful, considerate; courteous, polite, gracious, well mannered, mannerly; old use gentle. **2** *chivalrous pursuits*: knightly, noble, chivalric; brave, courageous, bold, valiant, valorous, heroic, daring, intrepid.

– OPPOSITES rude, cowardly.

**chivalry** noun **1** *acts of chivalry*: gallantry, gentlemanliness, considerateness; courtesy, courteousness, politeness, graciousness, mannerliness, good manners. **2** *the values of chivalry*: knight errantry, courtly manners, knightliness, courtliness, nobility; bravery, courage, boldness, valour, heroism, daring, intrepidity.

– OPPOSITES rudeness.

**chivvy** verb nag, badger, hound, harass, harry, pester, keep on at, go on at; informal hassle, bug, breathe down someone's neck; N. Amer. informal ride.

**choice** noun **1** *their choice of candidate* | *freedom of choice*: selection, election, choosing, picking; decision, say, vote. **2** *you have no other choice*: option, alternative, possible course of action. **3** *an extensive choice of wines*: range, variety, selection, assortment. **4** *the perfect choice*: appointee, nominee, candidate, selection.

• adjective **1** *choice plums*: superior, first-class, first-rate, prime, premier, grade A, best, finest, excellent, select, quality, high-quality, top, top-quality, top-tier, high-grade, prize, fine, special; hand-picked, carefully chosen; informal tip-top, A1, top-notch. **2** *a few choice words*: rude, abusive, insulting, offensive.

– OPPOSITES inferior.

**choir** noun singers, chorus; US chorale.

#### WORD LINKS

choral relating to a choir

chorister a member of a church choir

**choke** verb **1** *Christopher started to choke*: gag, retch, cough, fight for breath. **2** *thick dust choked her*: suffocate, asphyxiate, smother, stifle. **3** *she had been choked to death*: strangle, throttle; asphyxiate, suffocate; informal strangulate. **4** *the guttering was choked with leaves*: clog (up), bung up, stop up, block, obstruct, plug; technical occlude.

■ **choke something back** suppress, hold back, fight back, bite back, swallow, check, restrain, control, repress, smother, stifle; informal keep a/the lid on.

**choleric** adjective bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, peevish, cross, fractious, crabbed, crabby, waspish, prickly, peppery, touchy, short-tempered; informal snappish, snappy, chippy, short-fused; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery, soreheaded; Austral./NZ informal snaky.

– OPPOSITES good-natured, affable.

**choose** verb **1** *we chose a quiet country hotel*: select, pick (out), opt for, plump for, settle on, decide on, fix on; appoint, name, nominate, vote for. **2** *I'll stay as long as I choose*: wish, want, desire, feel/be inclined, please, like, see fit.

**choosy** adjective (informal) fussy, finicky, fastidious, over-particular, difficult/hard to please, exacting, demanding; informal picky, pernickety; N. Amer. informal persnickety; old use nice.

**chop** verb **1** *chop the potatoes into pieces*: cut up, cut into pieces, chop up, cube, dice; N. Amer. hash. **2** *chopping wood*: chop up, cut up, cut into pieces, hew, split. **3** *four fingers were chopped off*: sever, cut off, hack off, slice off, lop off, saw off, shear off. **4** *they chopped down large areas of rainforest*: cut down, fell, hack down. **5** (informal) *their training courses were chopped*: reduce drastically, cut; abolish, axe, scrap; informal slash.

■ **the chop** (Brit. informal) notice; informal the sack, the boot, the elbow, the push, one's marching orders; Brit. informal one's cards.

**chopper** noun (Brit.) axe, cleaver, hatchet.

**choppy** adjective rough, turbulent, heavy, heaving, stormy, tempestuous, squally.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**chore** noun task, job, duty, errand; (chores) (domestic) work.

**chortle** verb chuckle, laugh, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snigger.

**chorus** noun **1** *the chorus sang powerfully*: choir, ensemble, choral group, choristers, (group of) singers. **2** *they sang the chorus*: refrain.

■ **in chorus** in unison, together, simultaneously, as one; in concert, in harmony.

**Christ** noun Jesus (Christ), the Messiah, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, the Nazarene, the Galilean.

**christen** verb 1 *she was christened Sara*: baptize, name, give the name of, call. 2 *a group who were christened 'The Magic Circle'*: call, name, dub, style, term, designate, label, nickname, give the name of; formal denominate.

**Christmas** noun Noel; informal Xmas; Brit. informal Chrimbo, Chrissie; old use Yule, Yuletide.

**chronic** adjective 1 *a chronic illness*: persistent, long-standing, long-term; incurable. 2 *chronic economic problems*: constant, continuing, ceaseless, unabating, unending, persistent, long-lasting; severe, serious, acute, grave, dire. 3 *a chronic liar*: inveterate, hardened, dyed-in-the-wool, incorrigible; compulsive; informal pathological. 4 (Brit. informal) *the film was chronic*. See **SUBSTANDARD**.

— **OPPOSITES** acute, temporary.

**chronicle** noun *a chronicle of the region's past*: record, written account, history, annals, archive(s); log, diary, journal. • *verb the events that followed have been chronicled*: record, put on record, write down, set down, document, register, report.

**chronicler** noun annalist, historian, archivist, diarist, recorder, reporter.

**chronological** adjective sequential, consecutive, in sequence, in order (of time).

**chubby** adjective plump, tubby, fat, rotund, portly, dumpy, chunky, well upholstered, well covered, well rounded; informal roly-poly, pudgy, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed; old use pursy.

— **OPPOSITES** skinny.

**chuck** verb (informal) 1 *he chucked the letter onto the table*: throw, toss, fling, hurl, pitch, cast, lob; informal sling, bung, buzz; Austral. informal hoy; NZ informal bish. 2 *I chucked the rubbish*: throw away/out, discard, dispose of, get rid of, dump, bin, scrap, jettison; informal ditch, junk; N. Amer. informal trash. 3 *I've chucked my job*: give up, leave, resign from; informal quit, pack in; Brit. informal jack in. 4 *Mary chucked him for another guy*: leave, throw over, finish with, break off with, jilt; informal dump, ditch, give someone the elbow; Brit. informal give someone the push, give someone the big E.

**chuckle** verb chortle, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snicker, snigger.

**chum** noun (informal) friend, companion, intimate; playmate, classmate, schoolmate, workmate; informal pal, spar, crony; Brit. informal mate, oppo, china, mucker; N. Amer. informal buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy.

— **OPPOSITES** enemy, stranger.

**chummy** adjective (informal) friendly, on good terms, close, familiar, intimate; informal thick, matey, pally, buddy-buddy, palsy-walsy.

**chunk** noun lump, hunk, wedge, block, slab, square, nugget, brick, cube, bar, cake; informal wodge; N. Amer. informal gob.

**chunky** adjective 1 *a chunky young man*: stocky, sturdy, thickset, heavily built, well built, burly, bulky, brawny, solid, heavy; Austral./NZ nuggetty; Brit. informal fubby. 2 *a chunky sweater*: thick, bulky, heavy-knit.

— **OPPOSITES** slight, light.

**church** noun 1 *a village church*: place of worship, house of God; cathedral, minster, abbey, chapel, basilica; Scottish & N. English kirk. 2 *the Methodist Church*: denomination, sect, creed; faith.

#### WORD LINKS

ecclesiastical relating to the Christian Church

liturgy a set form of public Christian worship

synod an official meeting of ministers etc. of a Christian Church

canon law the laws of the Christian Church

consistory (in the Church of England) a court presided over by a bishop

excommunicate officially bar someone from the sacraments of the Christian Church

**churchyard** noun graveyard, cemetery, necropolis, burial ground, garden of remembrance; Scottish kirkyard; N. Amer. memorial park; old use God's acre.

**churlish** adjective rude, ill-mannered, ill-bred, discourteous, impolite, unmannerly, uncivil, unchivalrous; inconsiderate, uncharitable, surly, sullen; informal ignorant.

— **OPPOSITES** polite.

**churn** verb 1 *village girls churned the milk*: stir, agitate, beat, whip, whisk. 2 *the sea churned*: heave, boil, swirl, toss, seethe; literary roil. 3 *the propellers churned up the water*: disturb, stir up, agitate; literary roil. ■ *churn something out* produce, make, turn out; informal crank out, bang out.

**chute** noun 1 *a refuse chute*: channel, slide, shaft, funnel, conduit. 2 *water chutes*: (water) slide, flume.

**cigarette** noun filter tip, king-size; informal ciggy, cig, smoke, cancer stick, coffin nail; Brit. informal fag, snout, roll-up.

**cinch** noun (informal) 1 *it's a cinch*: easy task, child's play, five-finger exercise, gift, walkover; informal doddle, piece of cake, walk in the park, picnic, breeze, kids' stuff, cakewalk, pushover; Brit. informal doss; N. Amer. informal duck soup, snap; Austral./NZ informal bludge, snack; dated snip. 2 *he was a cinch to take a prize*: certainty, sure thing; Brit. informal (dead) cert.

— **OPPOSITES** challenge.

**cinders** plural noun ashes, ash, embers.

**cinema** noun 1 *the local cinema*: multiplex, cinematheque; N. Amer. movie theatre/house; dated picture palace/theatre; historical nickelodeon. 2 *I hardly ever go to the cinema*: the pictures, the movies; informal the flicks. 3 *British cinema*: films, movies, pictures, motion pictures.

**cipher** noun 1 *information in cipher*: code, secret writing; cryptograph. 2 *working as a cipher*: nobody, nonentity, unimportant

person. **3** (dated) *a row of ciphers: zero, nought, nil, o.*

**circa** preposition approximately, (round) about, around, in the region of, roughly, of the order of, or so, or thereabouts, more or less; informal as near as dammit; N. Amer. informal in the ballpark of.

– OPPOSITES exactly.

**circle** noun **1** *a circle of gold stars: ring, band, hoop, circlet; halo, disc; technical annulus.*

**2** *her circle of friends: group, set, company, coterie, clique; crowd, band; informal gang, bunch, crew.* **3** *illustrious circles: sphere, world, milieu; society.*

• verb **1** *seagulls circled above: wheel, move round, revolve, rotate, whirl, spiral.*

**2** *satellites circling the earth: go round, travel round, circumnavigate; orbit, revolve round.* **3** *the abbey was circled by a wall: surround, encircle, ring, enclose, encompass; literary gird.*

**circuit** noun **1** *two circuits of the village green: lap, turn, round, circle.* **2** (Brit.) *a racing circuit: track, racetrack, running track, course.* **3** *the judge's circuit: tour (of duty), rounds.*

**circuitous** adjective **1** *a rather circuitous route: roundabout, indirect, winding, meandering, serpentine.* **2** *a circuitous discussion: indirect, oblique, roundabout, circumlocutory, periphrastic.*

– OPPOSITES direct.

**circular** adjective *a circular window: round, disc-shaped, ring-shaped, annular.*

• noun *a free circular: leaflet, pamphlet, handbill, flyer; N. Amer. mailer, folder, dodger.*

**circulate** verb **1** *the news was widely circulated: spread (about/around), communicate, disseminate, make known, make public, broadcast, publicize, advertise; distribute, give out, pass around.* **2** *fresh air circulates freely: flow, course, move round.* **3** *they circulated among their guests: socialize, mingle.*

**circumference** noun **1** *the circumference of the pit: perimeter, border, boundary; edge, rim, verge, margin, fringe; literary marge, bourn.* **2** *the circumference of his arm: girth, width.*

**circumlocution** noun periphrasis, discursiveness, long-windedness, verbosity, verbiage, wordiness, prolixity, redundancy, pleonasm, tautology, repetitiveness, repetitiousness.

**circumscribe** verb restrict, limit, keep within bounds, curb, confine, restrain; regulate, control.

**circumspect** adjective cautious, wary, careful, chary, guarded, on one's guard; watchful, alert, attentive, heedful, vigilant, leery; informal cagey, playing one's cards close to one's chest.

– OPPOSITES unguarded.

**circumstances** plural noun **1** *favourable economic circumstances: situation, conditions, state of affairs, position; (turn of) events, incidents, occurrences,*

*happenings; factors, context, background, environment; informal circs.* **2** *Jane explained the circumstances to him: the facts, the details, the particulars, how things stand, the lie of the land; Brit. the state of play; N. Amer. the lay of the land; informal what's what, the score.* **3** *reduced circumstances: financial position, lot, lifestyle; resources, means, finances, income; dated station in life.*

**circumstantial** adjective **1** *they have only circumstantial evidence: indirect, inferred, deduced, conjectural; inconclusive, unprovable.* **2** *the picture was so circumstantial that it began to be convincing: detailed, particularized, comprehensive, thorough, exhaustive; explicit, specific.*

**circumvent** verb avoid, get round/past, evade, bypass, sidestep, dodge; N. Amer. end-run; informal duck.

**cistern** noun tank, reservoir, container, butt.

**citadel** noun fortress, fort, stronghold, fortification, castle, burg; old use hold.

**citation** noun **1** *a citation from an eighteenth-century text: quotation, quote, extract, excerpt, passage, line; reference, allusion; N. Amer. cite.* **2** *a citation for gallantry: commendation, (honourable) mention.* **3** (Law) *a traffic citation: summons, subpoena, writ, court order.*

**cite** verb **1** *cite the passage in full: quote, reproduce.* **2** *he cited the case of Leigh v. Gladstone: refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to, adduce, instance; specify, name.* **3** *he has been cited many times: commend, pay tribute to, praise.*

**citizen** noun **1** *a British citizen: subject, national, passport holder, native.* **2** *the citizens of Edinburgh: inhabitant, resident, native, townsman, townswoman; formal denizen; old use burgher; Brit. old use burgess.*

**city** noun town, municipality, metropolis, megalopolis; conurbation, urban area, metropolitan area; Scottish burgh; informal big smoke; N. Amer. informal burg.

#### WORD LINKS

civic, metropolitan, urban relating to a city

**civic** adjective municipal, city, town, urban, metropolitan; public, civil, community.

**civil** adjective **1** *a civil marriage: secular, non-religious, lay; formal laic.* **2** *civil aviation: non-military, civilian.* **3** *a civil war: internal, domestic, interior, national.* **4** *he behaved in a civil manner: polite, courteous, well-mannered, well-bred, gentlemanly, chivalrous, gallant, ladylike; cordial, genial, pleasant, affable.*

– OPPOSITES religious, military, international, rude.

**civilian** noun non-military person, non-combatant, ordinary/private citizen; informal civvy.

**civility** noun **1** *he treated me with civility: courtesy, courteousness, politeness, good manners, graciousness, consideration, respect, politesse, comity.* **2** *she didn't waste time on civilities: polite remark, politeness,*



courtesy; formality.

– OPPOSITES rudeness.

**civilization** noun **1** *a higher stage of civilization*: human development, advancement, progress, enlightenment, culture, refinement, sophistication. **2** *ancient civilizations*: culture, society, nation, people.

**civilize** verb **enlighten**, improve, educate, instruct, refine, cultivate, polish, socialize, humanize; informal edify.

**civilized** adjective **polite**, courteous, well mannered, civil, gentlemanly, ladylike, mannerly; cultured, cultivated, refined, polished, sophisticated; enlightened, educated, advanced, developed.

– OPPOSITES rude, unsophisticated.

**civil servant** noun **public servant**, government official; bureaucrat, mandarin, official, administrator, intermediary.

**clad** adjective **dressed**, clothed, attired, got up, garbed, rigged out, costumed; wearing, sporting; old use apparelled.

**claim** verb **1** *Davies claimed that she was lying*: assert, declare, profess, maintain, state, hold, affirm, avow; argue, contend, allege; formal aver; old use avouch. **2** *no one claimed the items*: lay claim to, assert ownership of, formally request. **3** *you can claim compensation*: request, ask for, apply for; demand, exact. **4** *the fire claimed four lives*: take, cause/result in the loss of. • noun **1** *her claims that she was raped*: assertion, declaration, profession, affirmation, avowal, protestation; contention, allegation. **2** *a claim for damages*: request, application; demand, petition. **3** *we have first claim on their assets*: entitlement to, title to, right to.

**claimant** noun **applicant**, candidate, supplicant; petitioner, plaintiff, litigant, appellant.

**clairvoyance** noun **second sight**, psychic powers, ESP, extrasensory perception, sixth sense; telepathy.

**clairvoyant** noun **psychic**, fortune teller, crystal-gazer; medium, spiritualist; telepathist, telepath, mind-reader. • adjective *I'm not clairvoyant*: **psychic**, having second sight, having a sixth sense; telepathic.

**clamber** verb **scramble**, climb, scabble, claw one's way.

**clammy** adjective **1** *his clammy hands*: moist, damp, sweaty, sticky; slimy, slippery. **2** *the clammy atmosphere*: damp, dank, wet; humid, close, muggy, heavy.

– OPPOSITES dry.

**clamorous** adjective **noisy**, loud, vocal, vociferous, raucous, rowdy; importunate, demanding, insistent, vehement.

– OPPOSITES quiet.

**clamour** noun **1** *her voice rose above the clamour*: din, racket, rumpus, loud noise, uproar, tumult, shouting, yelling, screaming, baying, roaring; commotion, brouhaha, hue and cry, hubbub; informal hullabaloo; Brit.

informal row. **2** *the clamour for her resignation*: demand(s), call(s), urging. **3** *the clamour of protectionists*: protests, complaints, outcry.

• verb **1** *clamouring crowds*: yell, shout loudly, bay, scream, roar. **2** *scientists are clamouring for a ban*: demand, call, press, push, lobby.

**clamp** noun **1** *a clamp was holding the wood*: brace, vice, press, clasp; Music capo (tasto); Climbing jumar. **2** *clamps had been fitted to the car*: immobilizer, wheel clamp; N. Amer. boot.

• verb **1** *the sander is clamped on to the workbench*: fasten, secure, fix, attach; screw, bolt. **2** *a pipe was clamped between his teeth*: clench, grip, hold, press, clasp.

**3** *his car was clamped*: immobilize, wheel-clamp; N. Amer. boot.

■ **clamp down** on suppress, prevent, stop, put a stop/end to, stamp out; crack down on, limit, restrict, control, keep in check.

**clampdown** noun (informal) **suppression**, prevention, stamping out; crackdown, restriction, restraint, curb, check.

**clan** noun **1** *the Macleod clan*: group of families, sept; family, house, dynasty, tribe; Anthropology sib, kinship group. **2** *a clan of art collectors*: group, set, circle, clique, coterie; crowd, band; informal gang, bunch.

**clandestine** adjective **secret**, covert, furtive, surreptitious, stealthy, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, closet, backstairs, hugger-mugger; informal hush-hush.

**clang** noun *the clang of the church bells*: reverberation, ringing, ring, ding-dong, bong, peal, chime, toll. • verb *the huge bells clanged*: reverberate, resound, ring, bong, peal, chime, toll.

**clanger** noun (Brit. informal). See BLUNDER noun.

**clank** noun *the clank of rusty chains*: jangling, clanging, rattling, clinking, jingling; clang, jangle, rattle, clangour, clink, jingle. • verb *I could hear the chain clanking*: jangle, rattle, clink, clang, jingle.

**clannish** adjective **cliquey**, cliquish, insular, exclusive; unfriendly, unwelcoming.

**clap** verb **1** *the audience clapped*: applaud, clap one's hands, give someone a round of applause, put one's hands together; informal give someone a (big) hand; N. Amer. informal give it up. **2** *he clapped Owen on the back*: slap, strike, hit, smack, thump; pat; informal whack, thwack. **3** *the dove clapped its wings*: flap, beat, flutter.

• noun **1** *everybody gave him a clap*: round of applause, handclap; informal hand. **2** *a clap on the shoulder*: slap, blow, smack, thump; pat; informal whack, thwack. **3** *a clap of thunder*: crack, crash, bang, boom; thunderclap.

**claptrap** noun. See NONSENSE sense 1.

**clarify** verb **1** *their report clarified the situation*: make clear, shed/throw light on, elucidate, illuminate; explain, explicate, define, spell out, clear up. **2** *clarified butter*: purify, refine; filter, fine.

– OPPOSITES confuse.

**clarity** noun **1** *the clarity of his account*: lucidity, lucidness, clearness, coherence;

formal perspicuity. **2** *the clarity of the image: sharpness, clearness, crispness, definition.* **3** *the crystal clarity of the water: limpidity, limpidness, clearness, transparency, translucence, pellucidity.*

– OPPOSITES vagueness, blurriness, opacity.

**C** **clash** **noun** **1** *clashes between armed gangs: confrontation, skirmish, fight, battle, engagement, encounter, conflict.* **2** *an angry clash: argument, altercation, confrontation, shouting match; contretemps, quarrel, disagreement, dispute; informal run-in, slanging match.* **3** *a clash of tweeds and a striped shirt: mismatch, discordance, discord, lack of harmony.* **4** *a clash of dates: coincidence, concurrence; conflict.* **5** *the clash of cymbals: striking, bang, clang, crash.* • **verb** **1** *protesters clashed with police: fight, skirmish, contend, come to blows, come into conflict; do battle.* **2** *the prime minister clashed with union leaders: disagree, differ, wrangle, dispute, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads.* **3** *her red coat clashed with her hair: be incompatible, not match, not go, be discordant.* **4** *the dates clash: conflict, coincide, occur simultaneously.* **5** *she clashed the cymbals together: bang, strike, clang, crash.*

**clasp** **verb** **1** *Ruth clasped his hand: grasp, grip, clutch, hold tightly; take hold of, seize, grab.* **2** *he clasped Joanne in his arms: embrace, hug, enfold, fold, envelop; hold, squeeze.* • **noun** **1** *a gold clasp: fastener, fastening, catch, clip, pin; buckle, hasp.* **2** *his tight clasp: embrace, hug, cuddle; grip, grasp.*

**class** **noun** **1** *a hotel of the first class: category, grade, rating, classification, group, grouping.* **2** *a new class of heart drug: kind, sort, type, variety, genre, brand; species, genus, breed, strain; N. Amer. stripe.* **3** *the middle class: social division, social stratum, rank, level, echelon, group, grouping; social status; dated estate; old use condition.* **4** *there are 30 pupils in the class: form, study group, set, stream.* **5** *a maths class: lesson, period; seminar, tutorial, workshop.* **6** (informal) *a woman of class: style, stylishness, elegance, chic, sophistication, taste, refinement, quality, excellence.*

• **verb** *the 12-seater is classed as a commercial vehicle: classify, categorize, group, grade; order, sort, codify; bracket, designate, label, pigeonhole.*

• **adjective** (informal) *a class player.* See EXCELLENT.

**classic** **adjective** **1** *the classic work on the subject: definitive, authoritative; outstanding, first-rate, first-class, best, finest, excellent, superior, masterly.* **2** *a classic example of Norman design: typical, archetypal, quintessential, vintage; model, representative, perfect, prime, textbook.* **3** *a classic style: simple, elegant, understated; traditional, timeless, ageless.*

– OPPOSITES atypical.

• **noun** *a classic of the genre: definitive example, model, epitome, paradigm, exemplar; great work, masterpiece.*

**classical** **adjective** **1** *classical mythology: ancient Greek, Hellenic, Attic; Latin, ancient Roman.* **2** *classical music: traditional, long-established; serious, highbrow, heavyweight.* **3** *a classical style: simple, pure, restrained, plain, austere; well proportioned, harmonious, balanced, symmetrical, elegant.*

– OPPOSITES modern.

**classification** **noun** **1** *the classification of diseases: categorization, categorizing, classifying, grouping, grading, ranking, organization, sorting, codification, systematization.* **2** *a series of classifications: category, class, group, grouping, grade, grading, ranking, bracket.*

**classify** **verb** *categorize, group, grade, rank, rate, order, organize, range, sort, type, codify, bracket, systematize, systemize; catalogue, list, file, index; old use assort.*

**classy** **adjective** (informal) *stylish, high-class, superior, exclusive, chic, elegant, smart, sophisticated; Brit. upmarket; N. Amer. high-toned; informal posh, ritzy, plush, swanky; Brit. informal swish.*

**clatter** **verb** *rattle, clank, clink, clunk, clang.*

**clause** **noun** *section, paragraph, article, subsection; stipulation, condition, proviso, rider.*

**claw** **noun** **1** *a bird's claw: talon, nail; technical unguis.* **2** *a crab's claw: pincer, nipper; technical chela.*

• **verb** *her fingers clawed his shoulders: scratch, lacerate, tear, rip, scrape, graze, dig into.*

**clay** **noun** **1** *the soil is mainly clay: earth, soil, loam.* **2** *potter's clay: argil, china clay, kaolin, adobe, ball clay, pug, fireclay.*

**clean** **adjective** **1** *keep the wound clean: washed, scrubbed, cleansed, cleaned; spotless, unsoiled, unstained, unsullied, unblemished, immaculate, pristine, dirt-free, as clean as a whistle; hygienic, sanitary, disinfected, sterilized, sterile, aseptic, decontaminated; laundered; informal squeaky clean.* **2** *a clean sheet of paper: blank, empty, clear, plain; unused, new, pristine, fresh, unmarked.* **3** *clean air: pure, clear, fresh, crisp, refreshing; unpolluted, uncontaminated.* **4** *a clean life: virtuous, good, upright, upstanding; honourable, respectable, reputable, decent, righteous, moral, exemplary; innocent, pure, chaste; informal squeaky clean.* **5** *the firm is clean: innocent, guiltless, blameless, guilt-free, crime-free, above suspicion; informal squeaky clean.* **6** *a good clean fight: fair, honest, sporting, sportsmanlike, honourable, according to the rules; informal on the level.* **7** (informal) *they are trying to stay clean: sober, teetotal, dry, non-drinking; drug-free, off drugs; informal on the wagon.* **8** *a clean cut: neat, smooth, crisp, straight, precise.* **9** *a clean break: complete, thorough, total, absolute, conclusive, decisive, final, irrevocable.* **10** *clean lines: simple, elegant, graceful, streamlined, smooth.*

– OPPOSITES dirty, polluted.

• **adverb** (informal) *I clean forgot*: completely, entirely, totally, fully, quite, utterly, absolutely.

• **verb 1** *Dad cleaned the windows*: wash, cleanse, wipe, sponge, scrub, mop, rinse, scour, swab, hose down, sluice (down), disinfect; shampoo; literary lave. **2** *I got my clothes cleaned*: launder, dry-clean. **3** *she cleaned the fish*: gut, draw, dress; formal eviscerate.

– **OPPOSITES** dirty.

■ **come clean** (informal) tell the truth, tell all, make a clean breast of it; confess, own up, admit guilt, admit to one's crimes/sins; informal fess up.

**cleanse** **verb 1** *the wound was cleansed*: clean (up), wash, bathe, rinse, disinfect. **2** *cleansing the environment of traces of lead*: rid, clear, free, purify, purge. **3** *only God can cleanse us from sin*: purify, purge, absolve, free; deliver.

**clear** **adjective 1** *he gave clear instructions*: understandable, comprehensible, intelligible, plain, uncomplicated, explicit, lucid, coherent, simple, straightforward, unambiguous, clear-cut, crystal clear; formal perspicuous. **2** *a clear case of harassment*: obvious, evident, plain, crystal clear; sure, definite, unmistakable, manifest, indisputable, patent, incontrovertible, irrefutable, beyond doubt, beyond question; palpable, visible, discernible, conspicuous, overt, blatant, glaring; as plain as a pikestaff, as plain as day; informal as plain as the nose on one's face. **3** *clear water*: transparent, limpid, pellucid, translucent, crystal clear; unclouded. **4** *a clear blue sky*: bright, cloudless, unclouded, without a cloud in the sky. **5** *her clear complexion*: unblemished, spot-free. **6** *Rosa's clear voice*: distinct, bell-like, as clear as a bell. **7** *the road was clear* | *a clear view*: unobstructed, unblocked, passable, open; unrestricted, unhindered. **8** *the algae were clear of toxins*: free, devoid, without, unaffected by; rid, relieved. **9** *a clear conscience*: untroubled, undisturbed, unperturbed, unconcerned, having no qualms; peaceful, at peace, tranquil, serene, calm, easy. **10** *two clear days' notice*: whole, full, entire, complete.

– **OPPOSITES** vague, opaque, cloudy, obstructed.

• **adverb 1** *stand clear of the doors*: away from, apart from, at a (safe) distance from, out of contact with. **2** *Tommy's voice came loud and clear*: distinctly, clearly, as clear as a bell, plainly, audibly. **3** *he has time to get clear away*: completely, entirely, fully, wholly, totally, utterly; informal clean.

• **verb 1** *the sky cleared briefly*: brighten (up), lighten, clear up, become bright/brighter/lighter, become fine/sunny. **2** *the drizzle had cleared*: disappear, go away, end; peter out, fade, wear off, decrease, lessen, diminish. **3** *together they cleared the table*: empty, unload, unburden, strip. **4** *clearing drains*: unblock, unstop. **5** *staff cleared the building*: evacuate, empty; leave. **6** *Karen cleared the dirty plates*: remove, take away, carry away,

tidy away/up. **7** *I'm clearing my debts*: pay (off), repay, settle, discharge. **8** *I cleared the bar at my first attempt*: go over, pass over, sail over; jump (over), vault (over), leap (over), hurdle. **9** *he was cleared by an appeal court*: acquit, declare innocent, find not guilty; absolve, exonerate; informal let off (the hook); formal exculpate. **10** *I was cleared to work on the atomic project*: authorize, give permission, permit, allow, pass, accept, endorse, license, sanction, give approval/consent to; informal OK, give the OK, give the thumbs up, give the green light, give the go-ahead. **11** *I cleared £50,000 profit*: net, make/realize a profit of, take home, pocket; gain, earn, make, get, bring in, pull in.

■ **clear off** (informal) go away, get out, leave; be off with you, shoo, on your way; informal beat it, push off, shove off, scam, scoot, buzz off, clear out; Brit. informal hop it, sling your hook; Austral./NZ informal rack off; N. Amer. informal bug off, take a hike; literary begone.

■ **clear something out 1** *we cleared out the junk room*: empty (out); tidy (up), clear up. **2** *clear out the rubbish*: get rid of, throw out/away, discard, dispose of, dump, bin, scrap, jettison; informal chuck (out/away), ditch, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash.

■ **clear up**. See **CLEAR** verb sense 1.

■ **clear something up 1** *clear up the garden*: tidy (up), put in order, straighten up, clean up, spruce up. **2** *we've cleared up the problem*: solve, resolve, straighten out, find an/the answer to; get to the bottom of, explain; informal crack, figure out, suss out.

**clearance** **noun 1** *slum clearance*: removal, clearing, demolition. **2** *you must have Home Office clearance*: authorization, permission, consent, approval, blessing, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, agreement, endorsement; informal the green light, the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the say-so. **3** *the clearance of a debt*: repayment, payment, paying (off), settling, discharge. **4** *there is plenty of clearance*: space, room (to spare), margin, leeway.

**clear-cut** **adjective** definite, distinct, clear, well defined, precise, specific, explicit, unambiguous, unequivocal, black and white, cut and dried.

– **OPPOSITES** vague.

**clearing** **noun** glade, dell, gap, opening.

**clearly** **adverb 1** *write clearly*: intelligibly, plainly, distinctly, comprehensibly, with clarity; legibly, audibly; formal perspicuously. **2** *clearly, substantial changes are needed*: obviously, evidently, patently, unquestionably, undoubtedly, without doubt, indubitably, plainly, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably, doubtless, it goes without saying, needless to say.

**cleave**<sup>1</sup> **verb 1** *cleaving wood for the fire*: split (open), cut (up), hew, hack, chop up; literary sunder; old use rive. **2** *cleaving a path through the traffic*: plough, drive, bulldoze, carve.

**cleave**<sup>2</sup> **verb**

■ **cleave to** (literary) **1** *her tongue clove to the*



roof of her mouth: stick (fast) to, adhere to, be attached to. **2** *cleaving too closely to Moscow's line*: adhere to, hold to, abide by, be loyal/faithful to.

**cleaver** noun **chopper**, hatchet, axe, knife; butcher's knife, kitchen knife.

**C** **cleft** noun **1** *a deep cleft in the rocks*: split, slit, crack, fissure, crevice, rift, break, fracture, rent, breach. **2** *a cleft in his chin*: dimple. • adjective *a cleft tail*: split, divided, cloven.

**clemency** noun **mercy**, mercifulness, leniency, lenience, mildness, indulgence, quarter; compassion, humanity, pity, sympathy.

– OPPOSITES ruthlessness.

**clench** verb **1** *he stood there clenching his hands*: squeeze together, clasp together, close/shut tightly; make into a fist. **2** *he clenched the back of the chair*: grip, grasp, grab, clutch, clasp, hold tightly, seize, press, squeeze.

**clergy** noun **clergymen**, clergywomen, churchmen, churchwomen, clerics, priests, ecclesiastics, men/women of God; ministry, priesthood, holy orders, the church, the cloth.

– OPPOSITES laity.

#### WORD LINKS

clerical relating to the clergy  
ordain make someone a priest or minister  
ordinand a person preparing for ordination

**clergyman, clergywoman** noun **priest**, churchman, churchwoman, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God; cleric, minister, preacher, chaplain, father, ecclesiastic, bishop, pastor, vicar, rector, parson, curate, deacon, deaconess; Scottish kirkman; N. Amer. dominie; informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot; Austral. informal josses.

**clerical** adjective **1** *clerical jobs*: office, desk, back-room; administrative, secretarial; white-collar. **2** *a clerical collar*: ecclesiastical, church, priestly, religious, spiritual, sacerdotal; holy, divine.

– OPPOSITES secular.

**clerk** noun **office worker**, clerical worker, administrator; bookkeeper; cashier, teller; informal pen-pusher; historical scrivener.

**clever** adjective **1** *a clever young woman*: intelligent, bright, smart, astute, quick-witted, shrewd; talented, gifted, brilliant, capable, able, competent, apt; educated, learned, knowledgeable, wise; informal brainy, savvy. **2** *a clever scheme*: ingenious, canny, cunning, crafty, artful, slick, neat. **3** *she was clever with her hands*: skilful, dexterous, adroit, adept, deft, nimble, handy; skilled, talented, gifted. **4** *a clever remark*: witty, amusing, droll, humorous, funny.

– OPPOSITES stupid.

**cliché** noun **platitude**, hackneyed phrase, commonplace, banality, truism, stock phrase, trite phrase; informal old chestnut; dated bromide.

**click** noun **clack**, snick, snap, pop, tick; clink.

• verb **1** *cameras clicked*: clack, snap, snick, tick, pop; clink. **2** (informal) *that night it clicked*: become clear, fall into place, come home, make sense, dawn, register, get through, sink in. **3** (informal) *we just clicked*: take to each other, get along, be compatible, be like-minded, feel a rapport, be on the same wavelength, see eye to eye; informal hit it off, get on like a house on fire. **4** (informal) *this issue hasn't clicked with the voters*: go down well, prove popular, be a hit, succeed.

**client** noun **customer**, buyer, purchaser, shopper, consumer, user; patient; patron, regular; (clients) clientele, patronage, public, market; Brit. informal punter; Law vendee.

**clientele** noun **clients**. See **CLIENT**.

**cliff** noun **precipice**, rock face, crag, bluff, ridge, escarpment, scar, scarp, overhang.

**climactic** adjective **final**, ending, closing, concluding, ultimate; exciting, thrilling, gripping, riveting, dramatic, hair-raising; crucial, decisive, critical.

**climate** noun **1** *a mild climate*: weather conditions, weather; atmospheric conditions. **2** *they come from colder climates*: region, area, zone, country, place; literary clime. **3** *the political climate*: atmosphere, mood, feeling, ambience, tenor; tendency, ethos, attitude; milieu; informal vibe(s).

**climax** noun **1** *the climax of his career*: peak, pinnacle, height, high(est) point, top; acme, zenith; culmination, crowning point, crown, crest; highlight, high spot, high water mark. **2** **orgasm**; ejaculation.

– OPPOSITES nadir.

• verb *the event will climax with a concert*: culminate, peak, reach a pinnacle, come to a crescendo, come to a head.

**climb** verb **1** *we climbed the hill*: ascend, mount, scale, scramble up, clamber up, shin up; go up, walk up; conquer, gain. **2** *the plane climbed*: rise, ascend, go up, gain altitude. **3** *the road climbs steeply*: slope upwards, rise, go uphill, incline upwards. **4** *the shares climbed to 550 pence*: increase, rise, go up; shoot up, soar, rocket. **5** *he climbed through the ranks*: advance, rise, move up, progress, work one's way. **6** *he climbed out of his car*: clamber, scramble; step.

– OPPOSITES descend, drop, fall.

• noun *a steep climb*: ascent, clamber.

– OPPOSITES descent.

■ **climb down** **1** *Sandy climbed down the ladder*: descend, go/come down, move down, shin down. **2** *the Government had to climb down*: back down, admit defeat, surrender, capitulate, yield, give in, give way, submit; retreat, backtrack; eat one's words, eat humble pie; do a U-turn; Brit. do an about-turn; N. Amer. informal eat crow.

**clinch** verb **1** *he clinched the deal*: secure, settle, conclude, close, pull off, bring off, complete, confirm, seal, finalize; informal sew up, wrap up. **2** *these findings clinched the matter*: settle, decide, determine; resolve; informal sort out. **3** *they clinched the title*: win, secure; be victorious, come first, triumph,

prevail. **4** *they clinch every nail: secure, fasten, fix, pinion.* **5** *the boxers clinched: grapple, wrestle, struggle, scuffle.*

– **OPPOSITES** lose.

• **noun** *a passionate clinch: embrace, hug, cuddle, squeeze, hold, clasp.*

**cling** **verb** *rice grains tend to cling together: stick, adhere, hold, cohere, bond, bind.*

■ **cling (on) to 1** *she clung to him: hold on, clutch, grip, grasp, clasp, attach oneself to, hang on; embrace, hug.* **2** *they clung to their beliefs: adhere to, hold to, stick to, stand by, abide by, cherish, remain true to, have faith in; informal swear by, stick with.*

**clinic** **noun** *medical centre, health centre, outpatients' department, surgery, doctor's.*

**clinical** **adjective 1** *he seemed so clinical: detached, impersonal, dispassionate,*

*objective, uninvolved, distant, remote, aloof, removed, cold, indifferent, neutral, unsympathetic, unfeeling, unemotional.*

**2** *the room was clinical: plain, simple, unadorned, unembellished, stark, austere, spartan, bleak, bare; clean; functional, basic, institutional, impersonal, characterless.*

– **OPPOSITES** emotional, luxurious.

**clip**<sup>1</sup> **noun 1** *a briefcase clip: fastener, clasp, hasp, catch, hook, buckle, lock.* **2** *a diamanté clip: brooch, pin, badge.* **3** *his clip was empty: magazine, cartridge, cylinder.*

• **verb** *he clipped the pages together: fasten, attach, fix, join; pin, staple, tack.*

**clip**<sup>2</sup> **verb 1** *I clipped the hedge: trim, prune, cut, snip, shorten, crop, shear, pare; lop; neaten, shape.* **2** *clip the coupon below: remove, cut out, snip out, tear out, detach.*

**3** *his lorry clipped a van: hit, strike, touch, graze, glance off, run into.* **4** *Mum clipped his ear: hit, cuff, strike, smack, slap, box; informal clout, whack, wallop, clobber, biff, sock.*

• **noun 1** *I gave the dog a clip: trim, cut, crop, haircut; shear.* **2** *a film clip: extract, excerpt, snippet, cutting, fragment; trailer.* **3** (informal) *a clip round the ear: smack, cuff, slap, box; informal clout, whack, wallop, biff, sock.*

**4** (informal) *the truck went at a good clip: speed, rate, pace, velocity; informal lick.*

**clipping** **noun** *cutting, snippet, extract, excerpt.*

**clique** **noun** *coterie, set, circle, ring, in-crowd, group; club, society, fraternity, sorority; cabal, caucus; informal gang.*

**cloak** **noun 1** *the cloak over his shoulders:*

*cape, robe, mantle, shawl, pashmina, wrap, stole, tippet; poncho, serape, djellaba; cope.*

**2** *a cloak of secrecy: cover, veil, mantle, shroud, screen, mask, shield, blanket.*

• **verb** *a peak cloaked in mist: conceal, hide, cover, veil, shroud, mask, obscure, cloud; envelop, swathe, surround.*

**clobber**<sup>1</sup> **noun** (Brit. informal) *get your clobber on.* See **CLOTHES**.

**clobber**<sup>2</sup> **verb** (informal) *I'll clobber him.* See **HIT** verb sense 1.

**clock** **noun 1** *a grandfather clock: timepiece, timekeeper, timer; chronometer, chronograph.* **2** (informal) *the car had 50,000*

*miles on the clock: milometer, counter; taximeter.*

• **verb** (informal) **1** *the UK clocked up record exports: register, record, log, notch up; achieve, attain, accomplish, make; informal chalk up, bag.* **2** (Brit.) *Liz soon clocked the change* see **NOTICE** verb.

**clod** **noun 1** *clods of earth: lump, clump, chunk, hunk, wedge.* **2** (informal) *an insensitive clod.* See **IDIOT**.

**clog** **noun** *a wooden clog: sabot.*

• **verb** *the pipes were clogged: block, obstruct, congest, jam, choke, bung up, plug, stop up, fill up; Brit. informal gunge up.*

**cloister** **noun 1** *the convent cloisters:*

*walkway, covered walk, arcade, loggia, gallery.* **2** *I was educated in the cloister:*

*abbey, monastery, friary, convent, priory, nunnery.*

• **verb** *they were cloistered at home: confine, isolate, shut away, sequester, seclude, closet.*

**cloistered** **adjective** *secluded, sequestered, sheltered, protected, insulated; shut off, isolated, confined; solitary, monastic, reclusive.*

**close**<sup>1</sup> **adjective 1** *the town is close to*

*Leeds: near, adjacent; in the vicinity of, in the neighbourhood of, within reach of; neighbouring, adjoining, abutting, alongside, on the doorstep, a stone's throw away; nearby, at hand, at close quarters; informal within spitting distance; old use nigh.*

**2** *flying in close formation: dense, compact, tight, close-packed, packed, solid; crowded, cramped, congested.* **3** *I was close to tears:*

*near, on the verge of, on the brink of, on the point of.* **4** *a very close match: evenly matched, even, with nothing to choose between them, neck and neck, nip and tuck;*

*informal fifty-fifty, even-steven(s).* **5** *close relatives: immediate, direct, near.* **6** *close friends: intimate, dear, bosom; close-knit,*

*inseparable, attached, devoted, faithful; special, good, best, fast, firm; informal (as) thick as thieves.* **7** *a close resemblance:*

*strong, marked, distinct, pronounced.*

**8** *a close examination: careful, detailed, thorough, minute, searching, painstaking, meticulous, rigorous, scrupulous,*

*conscientious; attentive, focused.* **9** *keep a close eye on them: vigilant, watchful,*

*keen, alert.* **10** *a close translation: strict, faithful, exact, precise, literal; word for word, verbatim.* **11** *he's close about his deals:*

*reticent, secretive, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, tight-lipped, guarded,*

*evasive.* **12** *Sylvie was close with money:*

*mean, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, penny-pinching; informal tight-fisted, stingy, tight.* **13** *the weather was close: humid, muggy, stuffy, airless, heavy, sticky, sultry, oppressive, stifling.*

– **OPPOSITES** far, distant, one-sided, slight, loose, generous, fresh.

• **noun** (Brit.) *a small close of houses: cul-de-sac, street, road; courtyard, quadrangle, enclosure.*

**close**<sup>2</sup> **verb 1** *she closed the door: shut, pull*

to, push to, slam; fasten, secure. **2** *close the hole*: **block** (up/off), stop up, plug, seal (up/off), shut up/off, cork, stopper, bung (up); clog (up), choke, obstruct. **3** *the enemy were closing fast*: **catch up**, creep up, near, approach, gain ground. **4** *the gap is closing*: **narrow**, reduce, shrink, lessen, get smaller, diminish, contract. **5** *his arms closed around her*: **meet**, join, connect; form a circle. **6** *he closed the meeting*: **end**, conclude, finish, terminate, wind up, break off, halt, discontinue, dissolve; adjourn, suspend. **7** *the factory is to close*: **shut down**, close down, cease production, cease trading, be wound up, go out of business, go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation; informal fold, go to the wall, go bust. **8** *he closed a deal*: **clinch**, settle, secure, seal, confirm, establish; transact, pull off; complete, conclude, fix, agree, finalize; informal wrap up.

– **OPPOSITES** open, widen, begin.

• **noun** *the close of the talks*: **end**, finish, conclusion, termination, cessation, completion, resolution; climax, denouement.

– **OPPOSITES** beginning.

**closet** **noun** *a clothes closet*: **cupboard**, wardrobe, cabinet, locker.

• **adjective** *a closet gay*: **secret**, covert, private; surreptitious, clandestine, underground, furtive.

• **verb** *David was closeted in his den*: **shut away**, sequester, seclude, cloister, confine, isolate.

**closure** **noun** *closing down*, shutdown, winding up; termination, discontinuation, cessation, finish, conclusion; failure; informal folding.

**clot** **noun** **1** *blood clots*: **lump**, clump, mass; thrombus, thrombosis, embolus; informal glob; Brit. informal gob. **2** (Brit. informal) *a clumsy clot*. See **fool** noun sense 1.

• **verb** *the blood is likely to clot*: **coagulate**, set, congeal, curdle, thicken, solidify.

**WORD LINKS**

**coronary** a blockage of the blood flow to the heart, caused by a clot in an artery  
**embolectomy**, **thrombectomy** the surgical removal of a blood clot

**cloth** **noun** **1** *a maker of cloth*: **fabric**, material, textile(s). **2** *a cloth to wipe the table*: **rag**, wipe, duster, sponge; flannel, towel; Austral. washer; UK trademark J-cloth.

**3** *a gentleman of the cloth*: **the clergy**, the church, the priesthood, the ministry; clergymen, clerics, priests.

**WORD LINKS**

**draper**, **mercier** a person who sells cloth

**clothe** **verb** **1** *they were clothed in silk*: **dress**, attire, robe, garb, array, costume, swathe, deck (out), turn out, fit out, rig (out); informal get up; old use apparel, habit, invest. **2** *a valley clothed in conifers*: **cover**, blanket, carpet; envelop, swathe.

**clothes** **plural noun** *clothing*, garments, attire, garb, dress, wear, costume; informal gear, togs,

duds, get-up, garms; Brit. informal clobber; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel; old use raiment, habiliments, vestments.

**WORD LINKS**

**sartorial** relating to clothes

**clothier** a maker or seller of clothes

**couturier** a person who designs and sells fashionable clothes

**tailor** a person who makes men's clothes for individual customers

**mannequin** a dummy used to display clothes in a shop window

**clothing** **noun**. See **CLOTHES**.

**cloud** **noun** **1** *dark clouds*: storm cloud, cloudbank; mackerel sky. **2** *a cloud of exhaust smoke*: **mass**, billow; pall, mantle, blanket. **3** *a cloud of rooks*: **flock**, swarm, mass, multitude, host, throng, crowd.

• **verb** **1** *the sky clouded*: **become overcast**, cloud over, lour, blacken, darken. **2** *the sand is churned up*, *clouding the water*: **make cloudy**, make murky, dirty, darken, blacken.

**3** *anger clouded my judgement*: **confuse**, muddle, obscure, fog, muddy, mar.

■ **on cloud nine** ecstatic, rapturous, joyful, elated, blissful, euphoric, in seventh heaven, walking on air, transported, in raptures, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, very happy; informal over the moon, on top of the world; Austral. informal wrapped.

**cloudy** **adjective** **1** *a cloudy sky*: **overcast**, clouded; dark, grey, black, leaden, murky; sombre, dismal, heavy, gloomy; sunless, starless; hazy, misty, foggy. **2** *cloudy water*: **murky**, muddy, milky, dirty, opaque, turbid. **3** *his eyes grew cloudy*: **tearful**, moist, watery; misty, blurred; informal teary, weepy; formal lachrymose. **4** *avoid cloudy phrases*: **vague**, imprecise, foggy, hazy, confused, muddled, nebulous, obscure.

– **OPPOSITES** clear.

**clout** (informal) **noun** **1** *a clout on the ear*: **smack**, slap, thump, punch, blow, hit, cuff, box, clip; informal whack, wallop. **2** *his clout in the business world*: **influence**, power, weight, sway, leverage, control, say; dominance, authority; informal teeth, muscle.

• **verb** *he clouted me*: **hit**, strike, punch, smack, slap, cuff, thump, buffet; informal wallop, belt, whack, clobber, sock, bop, biff.

**cloven** **adjective** *split*, divided, cleft.

**clown** **noun** **1** *a circus clown*: **comic entertainer**, comedian; historical jester, fool, zany; old use merry andrew. **2** *the class clown*: **joker**, comedian, comic, humorist, wag, wit, prankster, jester, buffoon; informal laugh, kiddie, wisecracker; Austral./NZ informal hard case. **3** *bureaucratic clowns*: **fool**, idiot, dolt, ass, simpleton, ignoramus; bungler, blunderer; informal moron, jackass, chump, numbskull, nincompoop, halfwit, bonehead, fathead, birdbrain; Brit. informal prat, berk, twit, nitwit, twerp.

• **verb** *Harvey clowned around*: **fool around/about**, play the fool, play about/around, monkey about/around; joke, jest; informal mess about/around, lark (about/around),



horse about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around; dated play the giddy goat.

**cloy** *verb* **sicken**, disgust; become sickening, become nauseating, pall; be excessive.

**cloying** *adjective* **sickly**, syrupy, saccharine, oversweet; sickening, nauseating; mushy, slushy, sloppy; mawkish, sentimental; Brit. twee; informal over the top, OTT, gooey, cheesy, corny; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy.

**club**<sup>1</sup> *noun* **1** *a canoeing club*: **society**, association, organization, institution, group, circle, band, body, ring, crew; alliance, league, union. **2** *the city has great clubs*: **nightclub**, disco, discotheque, bar; informal niterie. **3** *the top club in the league*: **team**, squad, side, line-up.

■ **club together** pool resources, join forces, team up, band together, get together, pull together, collaborate, ally; informal have a whip-round.

**club**<sup>2</sup> *noun* *a wooden club*: **cudgel**, truncheon, bludgeon, baton, stick, mace, bat; N. Amer. blackjack, nightstick; Brit. informal cosh.

● *verb* *he was clubbed with an iron bar*: **cudgel**, bludgeon, bash, beat, hit, strike, batter, belabour; informal clout, clobber; Brit. informal cosh.

**clue** *noun* **1** *police are searching for clues*:

**hint**, indication, sign, signal, pointer, trace, indicator; lead, tip, tip-off; evidence, information. **2** *a crossword clue*: **question**, problem, puzzle, riddle, poser, conundrum.

■ **clue someone in/up** (informal) inform, notify, make aware, prime; keep up to date, keep posted; informal tip off, give the low-down, fill in on, gen up on, put in the picture, put wise, keep up to speed.

■ **not have a clue** (informal) have no idea, be ignorant, not have an inkling; be baffled, be mystified, be at a loss; informal be clueless, not have the faintest.

**clump** *noun* **1** *a clump of trees*: **cluster**, thicket, group, bunch, assemblage. **2** *a clump of earth*: **lump**, clod, mass, gobbet, wad; informal glob; Brit. informal gob.

● *verb* **1** *galaxies clump together*: **cluster**, group, collect, gather, assemble, congregate, mass. **2** *they were clumping around upstairs*: **stamp**, stomp, clomp, tramp, lumber; thump, thud, bang; informal galumph.

**clumsy** *adjective* **1** *she was terribly clumsy*:

**awkward**, uncoordinated, ungainly, graceless, inelegant; inept, maladroit, unskilful, unhandy, accident-prone, like a bull in a china shop, all fingers and thumbs; informal cack-handed, ham-fisted, butterfingers, having two left feet; N. Amer. informal klutzy. **2** *a clumsy contraption*: **unwieldy**, cumbersome, bulky, awkward. **3** *a clumsy remark*: **gauche**, awkward, graceless; unsubtle, uncouth, boorish, crass; tactless, insensitive, thoughtless, undiplomatic, indelicate, ill-judged.

– OPPOSITES graceful, elegant, tactful.

**cluster** *noun* **1** *clusters of berries*: **bunch**, clump, mass, knot, group, clutch, bundle, truss. **2** *a cluster of spectators*: **crowd**, group, knot, huddle, bunch, throng, flock, pack,

band; informal gang, gaggle.

● *verb* *they clustered around the television*: **congregate**, gather, collect, group, assemble; huddle, crowd, flock.

**clutch**<sup>1</sup> *verb* *she clutched his arm*: **grip**, grasp, clasp, cling to, hang on to, clench, hold.

■ **clutch at** reach for, snatch at, make a grab for, catch at, claw at.

**clutch**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **1** *a clutch of eggs*: **group**, batch.

**2** *a clutch of awards*: **group**, collection; raft, armful; informal load, bunch.

**clutches** *plural noun* **power**, control, domination, command, rule, tyranny; hands, hold, grip, grasp, claws, jaws; custody.

**clutter** *noun* **1** *a clutter of toys*: **mess**, jumble, litter, heap, tangle, muddle, hotchpotch. **2** *a desk full of clutter*: **disorder**, chaos, disarray, untidiness, mess, confusion; litter, rubbish.

● *verb* *the garden was cluttered with tools*:

**litter**, mess up, disarrange; be strewn, be scattered; literary bestrew.

**coach**<sup>1</sup> *noun* **1** *a journey by coach*: **bus**, minibus; dated omnibus, charabanc.

**2** *a railway coach*: **carriage**, wagon, compartment, van, Pullman; N. Amer. car. **3** *a coach and horses*: **horse-drawn carriage**, trap, hansom (cab), gig.

**coach**<sup>2</sup> *noun* *a football coach*: **instructor**, trainer; teacher, tutor, mentor, guru.

● *verb* *he coached Richard in maths*:

**instruct**, teach, tutor, school, educate; drill, cram; train.

**coagulate** *verb* **congeal**, clot, thicken, gel; solidify, harden, set, dry.

**coalesce** *verb* **merge**, unite, join together, combine, fuse, mingle, blend; amalgamate, consolidate, integrate, homogenize, converge.

**coalition** *noun* **alliance**, union, partnership, bloc, caucus; federation, league, association, confederation, consortium, syndicate, combine; amalgamation, merger.

**coarse** *adjective* **1** *coarse blankets*: **rough**, scratchy, prickly, wiry. **2** *his coarse features*: **large**, rough, rough-hewn, heavy; ugly. **3** *a coarse boy*: **oafish**, loutish, boorish, uncouth, rude, impolite, ill-mannered, uncivil; vulgar, common, rough, uncultured, crass. **4** *a coarse innuendo*: **vulgar**, crude, rude, off colour, dirty, filthy, smutty, indelicate, improper, unseemly, crass, tasteless, lewd, prurient; informal blue, farmyard.

– OPPOSITES soft, delicate, refined.

**coarsen** *verb* **1** *hands coarsened by work*:

**roughen**, toughen, harden. **2** *I had been coarsened by the army*: **desensitize**, dehumanize; dull, deaden.

– OPPOSITES soften, refine.

**coast** *noun* *the west coast*: **seaboard**, coastal region, coastline, seashore, shore, foreshore, shoreline, seaside, waterfront, littoral; literary strand.

● *verb* *the car coasted down a hill*: **freewheel**, cruise, taxi, drift, glide, sail.

**coat** *noun* **1** *a winter coat*: **overcoat**, jacket.

**2** *a dog's coat*: **fur**, hair, wool, fleece; hide, pelt, skin. **3** *a coat of paint*: **layer**, covering,

coating, skin, film, wash; plating, glaze, varnish, veneer, patina; deposit.

• **verb** *the tube was coated with wax*: cover, paint, glaze, varnish, wash; surface, veneer, laminate, plate, face; daub, smear, cake, plaster.

**C coating** noun. See **COAT** noun sense 3.

**coax** verb persuade, wheedle, cajole, get round; beguile, seduce, inveigle, manoeuvre; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, twist someone's arm.

**cobble** verb

■ **cobble something together** prepare roughly/hastily, make roughly/hastily, throw together; improvise, contrive, rig (up), whip up; informal rustle up; Brit. informal knock up.

**cock** noun rooster, cockerel, capon.

• **verb 1** *he cocked his head*: tilt, tip, angle, incline, dip. **2** *she cocked her little finger*: bend, flex, crook, curve. **3** *the dog cocked its leg*: lift, raise, hold up.

**cockeyed** adjective (informal) **1** *that picture is cockeyed*: crooked, awry, askew, lopsided,

tilted, off-centre, skewed, skew, squint, misaligned; Brit. informal skew-whiff, wonky. **2** *a cockeyed scheme*: absurd, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, risible, idiotic, stupid, foolish, silly, inane, imbecilic, half-baked, hare-brained; impractical, unfeasible; irrational, illogical, nonsensical; informal crazy; Brit. informal barmy, daft.

**cocksure** adjective arrogant, conceited, overweening, overconfident, cocky, proud, vain, self-important, swollen-headed, egotistical, presumptuous; smug, patronizing, pompous; informal high and mighty.

– **OPPOSITES** modest.

**cocky** adjective arrogant, conceited, overweening, overconfident, coxsure, swollen-headed, self-important, egotistical, presumptuous, boastful, self-assertive; bold, forward, insolent, cheeky.

– **OPPOSITES** modest.

**cocoon** verb **1** *he cocooned her in a towel*:

wrap, swathe, swaddle, muffle, cloak, enfold, envelop, cover, fold. **2** *he was cocooned in the upper classes*: protect, shield, shelter, screen, cushion, insulate, isolate, cloister.

**coddle** verb pamper, cosset, mollycoddle; spoil, indulge, overindulge, pander to; wrap in cotton wool; baby, mother, wait on hand and foot.

– **OPPOSITES** neglect.

**code** noun **1** *a secret code*: cipher, key; hieroglyphics; cryptogram. **2** *a strict social code*: morality, convention, etiquette, protocol. **3** *the penal code*: law(s), rules, regulations; constitution, system.

#### WORD LINKS

**cryptography** the art of writing or solving codes

**encrypt, encode, encipher** convert something into code

**decrypt, decipher, crack** make a coded message intelligible

**codify** verb systematize, systemize, organize, arrange, order, structure; tabulate, catalogue, list, sort, index, classify, categorize, file, log.

**coerce** verb pressure, pressurize, press, push, constrain; force, compel, oblige, browbeat, bludgeon, bully, threaten, intimidate, dragoon, twist someone's arm; informal railroad, squeeze, lean on.

**coercion** noun force, compulsion, constraint, duress, oppression, enforcement, harassment, intimidation, threats, arm-twisting, pressure.

**coffee** noun N. Amer. informal joe, java.

**coffer** noun **1** *every church had a coffer*: strongbox, money box, cash box, money chest, treasure chest, safe; casket, box. **2** *the imperial coffers*: fund(s), reserves, resources, money, finances, wealth, cash, capital, purse; treasury, exchequer.

**coffin** noun sarcophagus; N. Amer. casket; informal box; humorous wooden overcoat.

#### WORD LINKS

**bier, catafalque** a platform on which a coffin is placed before burial  
**pal-bearer** a person helping to carry a coffin at a funeral

**cogent** adjective convincing, compelling, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, weighty, effective; valid, sound, plausible, telling; impressive, persuasive, eloquent, credible, influential; conclusive, authoritative; logical, reasoned, rational, reasonable, lucid, coherent, clear.

**cogitate** verb (formal) think (about), contemplate, consider, mull over, meditate, muse, ponder, reflect, deliberate, ruminate; dwell on, brood on, chew over, weigh up; informal put on one's thinking cap.

**cognate** adjective (formal) associated, related, connected, allied, linked; similar, like, alike, akin, kindred, comparable, parallel, corresponding, analogous.

**cognition** noun perception, discernment, apprehension, learning, understanding, comprehension, insight; reasoning, thinking, thought.

**cognizance** noun (formal). See **AWARENESS**.

**cognizant** adjective (formal). See **AWARE** sense 1.

**cohabit** verb live together, live with; informal shack up (with); informal, dated live in sin.

**cohere** verb **1** *the stories cohere into a convincing whole*: stick together, hold together, be united, bind, fuse. **2** *this view does not cohere with others*: be consistent, hang together.

**coherent** adjective logical, reasoned, reasonable, rational, sound, cogent, consistent; clear, lucid, articulate; intelligible, comprehensible.

– **OPPOSITES** muddled.

**cohesion** noun **unity**, togetherness, solidarity, bond, coherence; connection, linkage.

**cohort** noun **1** *a Roman army cohort*: unit, force, corps, division, brigade, battalion, regiment, squadron, company, troop, contingent, legion. **2** *the 1940–4 birth cohort of women*: group, grouping, category, class, set, division, batch, list; age group, generation.

**coil** noun *coils of rope*: loop, twist, turn, curl, convolution; spiral, helix, corkscrew.  
• verb *he coiled her hair around his finger*: wind, loop, twist, curl, curve, bend, twine, entwine; spiral, corkscrew.

**coin** noun **1** *a gold coin*: piece. **2** *large amounts of coin*: coinage, coins, specie; (loose) change, small change, silver, copper(s), gold.  
• verb *1 guineas were coined*: mint, stamp, strike, cast, punch, die, mould, forge, make. **2** *he coined the term*: invent, create, make up, conceive, originate, think up, dream up.

#### WORD LINKS

numismatic relating to coins  
numismatics the collecting of coins

**coincide** verb **1** *the events coincided*: occur simultaneously, happen together, be concurrent, concur, coexist. **2** *their interests do not always coincide*: tally, correspond, agree, accord, concur, match, fit, be consistent, equate, harmonize, be compatible, dovetail, correlate; informal square.

– OPPOSITES differ.

**coincidence** noun **1** *too close to be mere coincidence*: accident, chance, serendipity, fortuity, providence, happenstance, fate; a fluke. **2** *the coincidence of inflation and unemployment*: co-occurrence, coexistence, conjunction, simultaneity, contemporaneity, concomitance. **3** *a coincidence of interests*: correspondence, agreement, accord, concurrence, consistency, conformity, harmony, compatibility.

**coincident** adjective **1** *algae blooms coincident with dolphin deaths*: concurrent, coinciding, simultaneous, contemporaneous, concomitant, coexistent. **2** *their aims are coincident*: in agreement, in harmony, in accord, consistent, compatible, congruent, in step, in tune; the same.

**coincidental** adjective **1** *a coincidental resemblance*: accidental, chance, fluky, random; fortuitous, adventitious, serendipitous; unexpected, unforeseen, unintentional, inadvertent, unplanned. **2** *the coincidental disappearance of the two men*: simultaneous, concurrent, coincident, contemporaneous, concomitant.

**coitus** noun (technical). See **sex** noun sense 1.

**cold** adjective **1** *a cold day*: chilly, chill, cool, freezing, icy, snowy, wintry, frosty, frigid, gelid; bitter, biting, raw; informal nippy, brass monkeys, arctic; Brit. informal parky. **2** *I'm very cold*: chilly, chilled, cool, freezing, frozen, shivery, numb, benumbed; hypothermic. **3** *a cold reception*: unfriendly, inhospitable,

unwelcoming, forbidding, cool, frigid, frosty, glacial, lukewarm, indifferent, unfeeling, unemotional, formal, stiff.

– OPPOSITES hot, warm.

#### WORD LINKS

hypothermia a condition caused by extreme cold

**cold-blooded** adjective cruel, callous, sadistic, inhuman, inhumane, pitiless, merciless, ruthless, unforgiving, unfeeling, uncaring, heartless; savage, brutal, barbaric, barbarous; cold, cold-hearted, unemotional.

**cold-hearted** adjective unfeeling, unloving, uncaring, unsympathetic, unemotional, unfriendly, uncharitable, unkind, insensitive; hard-hearted, stony-hearted, heartless, hard, cold.

**collaborate** verb **1** *they collaborated on the project*: cooperate, join forces, team up, band together, work together, participate, combine, ally; pool resources, club together. **2** *they collaborated with the enemy*: fraternize, conspire, collude, cooperate, consort, sympathize.

**collaborator** noun **1** *his collaborator on the book*: co-worker, partner, associate, colleague, confederate; assistant. **2** *a wartime collaborator*: quisling, fraternizer, collaborationist, colluder, (enemy) sympathizer; traitor, fifth columnist.

**collapse** verb **1** *the roof collapsed*: cave in, fall in, subside, fall down, give (way), crumple, sag, slump. **2** *he collapsed last night*: faint, pass out, black out, lose consciousness, keel over, swoon; informal flake out, conk out. **3** *she collapsed in tears*: break down, go to pieces, lose control, be overcome, crumble; informal crack up. **4** *peace talks collapsed*: break down, fail, fall through, fold, founder, miscarry, come to grief, be unsuccessful; end; informal flop, fizzle out.

• noun **1** *the collapse of the roof*: cave-in, subsidence. **2** *her collapse on stage*: fainting fit, faint, blackout, loss of consciousness, swoon; Medicine syncope. **3** *the collapse of the talks*: breakdown, failure, disintegration; end. **4** *he suffered a collapse*: (nervous) breakdown, personal crisis, psychological trauma; informal crack-up.

**collar** noun **1** *a shirt collar*: neckband, choker; historical ruff, gorget, bertha. **2** *a collar round the pipe*: ring, band, collet, sleeve, flange.  
• verb (informal) **1** *he collared a thief*: apprehend, arrest, catch, capture, seize; take prisoner, take into custody, detain; informal nab, pinch, bust, pick up, pull in, feel someone's collar; Brit. informal nick. **2** *she collared me in the street*: accost, waylay, hail, approach, detain, stop, halt, catch, confront, importune; informal buttonhole; Brit. informal nobble.

**collate** verb **1** *the system is used to collate information*: collect, gather, accumulate, assemble; combine, aggregate, put together; arrange, organize. **2** *we must collate these two sources*: compare, contrast, set side by side, juxtapose, weigh against.



**collateral** noun security, surety, guarantee, guaranty, insurance, indemnity, indemnification; backing.

**colleague** noun co-worker, fellow worker, workmate, teammate, associate, partner, collaborator, ally, confederate; Brit. informal oppo.

C

**collect** verb **1** *he collected the rubbish:* gather, accumulate, assemble; amass, stockpile, pile up, heap up, store (up), hoard, save; mass, accrue. **2** *a crowd soon collected:* gather, assemble, meet, muster, congregate, convene, converge, flock together. **3** *I must collect the children:* fetch, go/come to get, call for, meet. **4** *they collect money for charity:* raise, appeal for, ask for, solicit; obtain, acquire, gather. **5** *he paused to collect himself:* recover, regain one's composure, pull oneself together, steady oneself; informal get a grip (on oneself). **6** *she collected her thoughts:* muster, summon (up), gather, get together, marshal.

– OPPOSITES disperse, distribute.

**collected** adjective calm, cool, self-possessed, self-controlled, composed, poised; serene, tranquil, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, untroubled; placid, quiet, sedate, phlegmatic; informal unfazed, together, laid-back.

– OPPOSITES excited, hysterical.

**collection** noun **1** *a collection of stolen items:* hoard, pile, heap, stack, stock, store, stockpile; accumulation, reserve, supply, bank, pool, fund, mine, reservoir. **2** *a collection of shoppers:* group, crowd, body, assemblage, gathering, throng; knot, cluster; multitude, bevy, party, band, horde, pack, flock, swarm, mob; informal gang, load, gaggle. **3** *a collection of Victorian dolls:* set, series; array, assortment. **4** *a collection of short stories:* anthology, selection, compendium, treasury, compilation, miscellany, potpourri. **5** *a collection for the poor:* donations, contributions, gifts, subscription(s); informal whip-round; historical alms. **6** *a church collection:* offering, offertory, tithe.

**collective** adjective common, shared, joint, combined, mutual, communal, pooled; united, allied, cooperative, collaborative.

– OPPOSITES individual.

**college** noun **1** *a college of technology:* school, academy, university, polytechnic, institute, seminary, conservatoire, conservatory. **2** *the College of Heraldry:* association, society, club, institute, body, fellowship, guild, lodge, order, fraternity, league, union, alliance.

**collide** verb **1** *the trains collided with each other:* crash, impact; hit, strike, run into, bump into, meet head-on, cannon into, plough into; N. Amer. informal barrel into. **2** *politics and metaphysics collide:* conflict, clash; differ, diverge, disagree, be at odds, be incompatible.

**collision** noun **1** *a collision on the ring road:* crash, accident, impact, smash, bump, hit; Brit. RTA (road traffic accident); N. Amer. wreck; informal pile-up; Brit. informal prang, shunt. **2** *a collision between two*

*ideas:* conflict, clash; disagreement, incompatibility, contradiction.

**colloquial** adjective informal, conversational, everyday, non-literary; unofficial, idiomatic, slangy, vernacular, popular, demotic.

– OPPOSITES formal.

**collude** verb conspire, connive, collaborate, plot, scheme; informal be in cahoots.

**colonist** noun settler, colonizer, colonial, pioneer; immigrant, incomer, newcomer; N. Amer. historical homesteader.

– OPPOSITES native.

**colonize** verb settle (in), people, populate; occupy, take over, seize, capture, subjugate.

**colonnade** noun row of columns; portico, stoa, peristyle.

**colony** noun **1** *a French colony:* territory, dependency, protectorate, satellite, settlement, outpost, province. **2** *the British colony in New York:* population, community. **3** *an artists' colony:* community, commune; quarter, district, ghetto.

**colossal** adjective huge, massive, enormous, gigantic, very big, giant, mammoth, vast, immense, monumental, prodigious, mountainous, titanic, towering, king-size(d); informal monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**colour** noun **1** *the lights changed colour:* hue, shade, tint, tone, coloration. **2** *oil colour:* paint, pigment, colourant, dye, stain, tint, wash. **3** *the colour in her cheeks:* redness, pinkness, rosiness, ruddiness, blush, flush, bloom. **4** *people of every colour:* skin colouring, skin tone, colouring; race, ethnic group. **5** *anecdotes add colour to the text:* vividness, life, liveliness, vitality, excitement, interest, richness, zest, spice, piquancy, impact, force; informal oomph, pizzazz, punch, kick; literary salt. **6** *the colours of the Oxford City club:* strip, kit, uniform, costume, livery, regalia. **7** *the regimental colours.* See FLAG<sup>1</sup> noun.

• verb **1** *the wood was coloured blue:* tint, dye, stain, paint, pigment, wash. **2** *she coloured up:* blush, redden, go pink, go red, flush. **3** *the experience coloured her outlook:* influence, affect, taint, warp, skew, distort, bias, prejudice. **4** *they colour evidence to make a story saleable:* exaggerate, overstate, embroider, embellish, dramatize, enhance, varnish; falsify, misreport, manipulate.

#### WORD LINKS

chromatic relating to colour  
chromogenic producing colour  
deuteranopia, protanopia, tritanopia  
different forms of colour blindness  
monochromatism complete colour blindness  
spectrum a band of colours produced by separating light into parts with different wavelengths

**colourful** adjective **1** *a colourful picture:* brightly coloured, vivid, vibrant, brilliant, radiant, rich; gaudy, glaring, garish; multicoloured, multicolour, rainbow,

varicoloured, harlequin, polychromatic, psychedelic; informal jazzy. **2** a *colourful account*: **vivid**, graphic, lively, animated, dramatic, fascinating, interesting, stimulating, scintillating, evocative.

**colourless** adjective **1** a *colourless liquid*: **uncoloured**, white, bleached; literary **achromatic**. **2** her *colourless face*: **pale**, pallid, wan, anaemic, bloodless, ashen, white, waxen, pasty, peaky, sickly, drained, drawn, ghostly, deathly. **3** a *colourless personality*: **uninteresting**, dull, boring, tedious, dry, dreary; unexciting, bland, weak, insipid, vapid, vacuous, feeble, wishy-washy, lame, lifeless, spiritless, anaemic, bloodless; nondescript, characterless.

– **OPPOSITES** colourful, rosy.

**column** noun **1** *arches supported by massive columns*: **pillar**, post, support, upright, baluster, pier, pile, pilaster, stanchion; obelisk, monolith. **2** a *column in the paper*: **article**, piece, item, story, report, account, write-up, feature, review, notice, editorial, leader. **3** *we walked in a column*: **line**, file, queue, procession, train, cavalcade, convoy; informal **crocodile**.

**columnist** noun **writer**, contributor, journalist, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newsman, newswoman; wordsmith, penman; critic, reviewer, commentator; informal **scribbler**, **pen-pusher**, **hack(ette)**, **journo**.

**coma** noun **state of unconsciousness**; Medicine persistent vegetative state, **PVS**.

**comatose** adjective **1** *he was comatose after the accident*: **unconscious**, in a coma, insensible, insensate. **2** (informal) *she lay comatose in the sun*: **inert**, inactive, lethargic, sluggish, torpid, languid; somnolent, sleeping, dormant.

**comb** verb **1** *she combed her hair*: **groom**, brush, untangle, smooth, straighten, neaten, tidy, arrange; **curry**. **2** *the wool was combed*: **separate**, dress, card, tease, hackle, heckle. **3** *police combed the area*: **search**, scour, explore, sweep, probe, hunt through, forage through, poke about/around in, go over, go over with a fine-tooth comb; leave no stone unturned.

**combat** noun *he was killed in combat*: **battle**, fighting, action, hostilities, conflict, war, warfare.

• **verb** *they tried to combat the disease*: **fight**, battle, tackle, attack, counter, resist, withstand; impede, block, thwart, inhibit; stop, halt, prevent, check, curb.

**combatant** noun **1** a *combatant in the war*: **fighter**, soldier, serviceman/woman, warrior, trooper. **2** *combatants in the computer market*: **contender**, adversary, opponent, competitor, challenger, rival.

• **adjective** *combatant armies*: **warring**, at war, opposing, belligerent, fighting, battling.

**combative** adjective **pugnacious**, aggressive, antagonistic, quarrelsome, argumentative, contentious, hostile, truculent, belligerent, bellicose, militant; informal **spoiling for a fight**.

– **OPPOSITES** conciliatory.

**combination** noun **1** a *combination of ancient and modern*: **amalgamation**, amalgam, merge, blend, mixture, mix, fusion, marriage, coalition, integration, incorporation, synthesis, composite. **2** *he acted in combination with his brother*: **cooperation**, collaboration, association, union, partnership, league.

**combine** verb **1** *he combines comedy with tragedy*: **amalgamate**, integrate, incorporate, merge, mix, fuse, blend; bind, join, marry, unify. **2** *teachers combined to tackle the problem*: **cooperate**, collaborate, join forces, get together, club together, unite, team up, throw in one's lot; informal **gang up**.

**combustible** adjective **inflammable**, flammable, incendiary, ignitable.

**combustion** noun **burning**; kindling, ignition.

**come** verb **1** *come and listen*: **move nearer**, move closer, approach, advance, draw close/closer, draw near/nearer; proceed; old use draw nigh. **2** *they came last night*: **arrive**, get here/there, make it, appear, come on the scene; approach, enter, turn up, come along, materialize; informal show (up), roll in/up, blow in, show one's face. **3** *they came to a stream*: **reach**, arrive at, get to, make it to, make, gain; come across, run across, happen on, chance on, come upon, stumble on; end up at; informal wind up at. **4** *the dress comes to her ankles*: **extend**, stretch, reach, come as far as. **5** *she comes from Belgium*: **be from**, be a native of, hail from, originate in; live in, reside in. **6** *attacks came without warning*: **happen**, occur, take place, come about, transpire, fall, present itself, crop up, materialize, arise, arrive, appear; ensue, follow; literary come to pass, befall. **7** *the car does not come in red*: **be available**, be for sale; be made, be produced. **8** (informal) **climax**, orgasm.

– **OPPOSITES** go, leave.

■ **come about** happen, occur, take place, transpire, fall; crop up, materialize, arise, arrive, appear, surface; ensue, follow; literary come to pass, befall.

■ **come across** **1** *they came across his friends*: meet/find by chance, meet, run into, run across, come upon, chance on, stumble on, happen on; discover, encounter, find, locate; informal bump into. **2** *the emotion comes across*: be communicated, be perceived, get across, be clear, be understood, register, sink in, strike home. **3** *she came across as cool*: seem, appear, look, sound; Brit. come over; N. Amer. come off.

■ **come along** **1** *the puppies are coming along nicely*: progress, develop, shape up; come on, turn out; improve, get better, pick up, rally, recover. **2** *Come along!* hurry (up), be quick, get a move on, come along, look lively, speed up, move faster; informal get moving, get cracking, step on it, move it, buck up, shake a leg, make it snappy, get a wiggle on; Brit. informal get your skates on; dated make haste.

■ **come apart** break up, fall to bits, fall to

pieces, disintegrate, come unstuck, separate, split, tear.

■ **come between** alienate, estrange, separate, divide, split up, break up, disunite, set at odds.

■ **come by** obtain, acquire, gain, get, find, pick up, procure, secure; buy, purchase; informal get one's hands on, get hold of, bag, score, swing.

■ **come down to** amount to, add up to, constitute, boil down to, be equivalent to.

■ **come down with** fall ill with, fall sick with, be taken ill with, show symptoms of, become infected with, get, catch, develop, contract, fall victim to; Brit. go down with.

■ **come forward** volunteer, offer one's services, make oneself available.

■ **come into** inherit, be left, be willed, be bequeathed.

■ **come in for** receive, experience, sustain, undergo, go through, encounter, face, be subjected to, bear, suffer.

■ **come off** **1** *this soufflé rarely comes off*: succeed, work, turn out well, work out, go as planned, get results. **2** *she always came off worse*: end up, finish up.

■ **come on** progress, develop, shape up, take shape, come along, turn out; improve.

■ **come out** **1** *it came out that he'd been to Rome*: become known, become apparent, come to light, emerge, transpire; get out, be discovered, be uncovered, be revealed, leak out, be disclosed. **2** *my book is coming out*: be published, be issued, be released, be brought out, be printed, go on sale. **3** *the flowers have come out*: bloom, flower, open. **4** *it will come out all right*: end, finish, conclude, work out, turn out; informal pan out.

■ **come out with** utter, say, let out, blurt out, burst out with.

■ **come round** **1** *he has just come round from anaesthetic*: regain consciousness, come to, come to one's senses, recover, revive, awake, wake up. **2** *I came round to her view*: be converted, be won over (by), agree (with), change one's mind, be persuaded (by); give way, yield, relent. **3** *Friday the 13th comes round every few months*: occur, take place, happen, come up, crop up, arise; recur, reoccur, return, reappear. **4** *come round for a drink*: visit, call (in/round), look in, stop by, drop by/in/round/over, come over; informal pop in/round/over.

■ **come through** survive, get through, ride out, weather, live through, pull through; withstand, stand up to, endure, surmount, overcome; informal stick out.

■ **come to** **1** *the bill came to £17.50*: amount to, add up to, run to, total, equal; Brit. tot up to. **2** *I came to in the hospital*: regain consciousness, come round, come to one's senses, recover, revive, awake, wake up.

■ **come up** arise, occur, happen, come about, transpire, emerge, surface, crop up, turn up, pop up.

■ **come up to** *he never came up to her expectations*: measure up to, match up to, live up to, fulfil, satisfy, meet, equal, compare with; be good enough; informal hold a candle to.

■ **come up with** produce, devise, think up; propose, put forward, submit, suggest, recommend, advocate, introduce, moot.

**comeback** noun **1** *he made a determined comeback*: resurgence, recovery, return, rally, upturn; Brit. fightback. **2** (informal) *one of my best comebacks*: retort, riposte, return, rejoinder; answer, reply, response.

**comedian** noun **1** *a famous comedian*: comic, comedienne, funny man/woman, humorist, gagster, stand-up; N. Amer. tumbler. **2** *Dad was such a comedian*: joker, jester, wit, wag, comic, wisecracker, jokester; prankster, clown, fool, buffoon; informal laugh, hoot, case; informal, dated card, caution.

**comedienne** noun. See **COMEDIAN** sense 1.

**comedown** noun (informal) **1** *a bit of a comedown for a sergeant*: loss of status, loss of face, humiliation, belittlement, demotion, degradation, disgrace. **2** *it's such a comedown after Christmas*: anticlimax, let-down, disappointment, disillusionment, deflation, decline.

**comedy** noun **1** *he excels in comedy*: light entertainment, comic play, comic film, farce, situation comedy, satire, pantomime, comic opera; burlesque, slapstick; informal sitcom. **2** *the comedy in their work*: humour, fun, funny side, comical aspect, absurdity, drollness, farce.

– OPPOSITES tragedy, gravity.

**comely** adjective (old use). See **ATTRACTIVE** sense 2.

**come-on** noun (informal) inducement, incentive, attraction, lure, pull, draw, enticement, bait, carrot, temptation; fascination, charm, appeal, allure.

**comeuppance** noun (informal) just deserts, just punishment, due, retribution, requital.

**comfort** noun **1** *travel in comfort*: ease, relaxation, repose, serenity, tranquillity, contentment, cosiness; luxury, opulence, prosperity; bed of roses. **2** *words of comfort*: consolation, solace, condolence, sympathy, commiseration; support, reassurance, cheer.

• *verb* *a friend tried to comfort her*: console, solace, condole with, commiserate with, sympathize with; support, succour, ease, reassure, soothe, calm; cheer, hearten, uplift; informal buck up.

– OPPOSITES distress, depress.

**comfortable** adjective **1** *a comfortable lifestyle*: pleasant, free from hardship; affluent, well-to-do, luxurious, opulent. **2** *a comfortable room*: cosy, snug, warm, pleasant, agreeable; restful, homelike, homely; informal comfy. **3** *comfortable clothes*: loose, loose-fitting, casual; informal comfy. **4** *a comfortable pace*: leisurely, unhurried, relaxed, easy, gentle, sedate, undemanding, slow; informal laid-back. **5** *they feel comfortable with each other*: at ease, relaxed, secure, safe, unworried, contented, happy.

– OPPOSITES hard, spartan, tense.

**comforting** adjective consoling, sympathetic, compassionate, solicitous, tender, warm, caring, loving; supportive,



reassuring, soothing, calming; cheering, heartening, encouraging.

**comfortless** adjective **1** *a comfortless house:* gloomy, dreary, dismal, bleak, grim, sombre; joyless, cheerless, depressing, disheartening, dispiriting, unwelcoming, uninviting; austere, spartan, institutional. **2** *he left her comfortless:* miserable, heartbroken, grief-stricken, unhappy, sad, distressed, desolate, devastated, inconsolable, disconsolate, downcast, downhearted, dejected, cheerless, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.

– OPPOSITES cosy, happy.

**comic** adjective *a comic play:* humorous, funny, droll, amusing, hilarious, uproarious; comical, farcical, silly, slapstick, zany; witty, jocular, chucklesome; informal priceless, side-splitting, rib-tickling; informal, dated killing.

– OPPOSITES serious.

• **noun 1** *a music hall comic:* comedian, comedienne, funny man/woman, comedy actor/actress, humorist, wit; joker, clown; informal kiddie, wisecracker. **2** *Tony read his comic:* cartoon paper, comic paper, comic book, graphic novel; informal funny.

**comical** adjective **1** *he could be quite comical:* funny, comic, humorous, droll, witty, jocular, hilarious, amusing, diverting, entertaining, chucklesome; informal jokey, wacky, waggish, side-splitting, rib-tickling, priceless, a scream, a laugh; informal, dated killing, a card, a caution. **2** *they look comical in those suits:* silly, absurd, ridiculous, laughable, risible, ludicrous, preposterous, foolish; informal wacky, crazy.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**coming** adjective *the coming election:* forthcoming, imminent, impending, approaching; future, expected, anticipated; close, at hand, in store, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, on the way; informal on the cards.

• **noun** *the coming of spring:* approach, advance, advent, arrival, appearance, emergence, onset.

**command** verb **1** *he commanded his men to retreat:* order, tell, direct, instruct, call on, require; literary bid. **2** *Jones commanded a tank squadron:* be in charge of, be in command of, be the leader of; head, lead, control, direct, manage, supervise, oversee; informal head up. **3** *they command great respect:* receive, get, gain, secure.

• **noun 1** *officers shouted commands:* order, instruction, directive, direction, commandment, injunction, demand, stipulation, requirement, exhortation, bidding, request. **2** *he had 160 men under his command:* authority, control, charge, power, direction, dominion, guidance; leadership, rule, government, management, supervision, jurisdiction. **3** *a brilliant command of English:* knowledge, mastery, grasp, comprehension, understanding.

**commandeer** verb seize, take, requisition, appropriate, expropriate, sequester,

sequester, confiscate, annex, take over, claim, pre-empt; hijack, arrogate, help oneself to; informal walk off with; Law distraint; Scottish Law poind.

**commander** noun leader, head, chief, overseer, controller; commander-in-chief, commanding officer, CO, officer; informal boss, boss man, skipper, numero uno, number one, top dog, kingpin, head honcho; Brit. informal gaffer, guv'nor.

**commanding** adjective **1** *a commanding position:* dominant, dominating, controlling, superior, powerful, prominent, advantageous, favourable. **2** *a commanding voice:* authoritative, masterful, assertive, firm, emphatic, insistent, imperative; peremptory, imperious, dictatorial; informal bossy.

**commemorate** verb celebrate, pay tribute to, pay homage to, honour, salute, toast; remember, recognize, acknowledge, observe, mark.

**commemorative** adjective memorial, remembrance; celebratory.

**commence** verb begin, start; get the ball rolling, get going, get under way, get off the ground, set about, embark on, launch into, lead off; open, initiate, inaugurate; informal kick off, get the show on the road.

– OPPOSITES conclude.

**commencement** noun beginning, start, opening, outset, onset, launch, initiation, inception, origin; informal kick-off.

**commend** verb **1** *we should commend him:* praise, compliment, congratulate, applaud, salute, honour; sing the praises of, pay tribute to, take one's hat off to, pat on the back; formal laud. **2** *I commend her to you without reservation:* recommend, suggest, propose; endorse, advocate, vouch for, speak for, support, back. **3** (formal) *I commend them to your care:* entrust, trust, deliver, commit, hand over, give, turn over, consign, assign.

– OPPOSITES criticize.

**commendable** adjective admirable, praiseworthy, creditable, laudable, estimable, meritorious, exemplary, noteworthy, honourable, respectable, fine, excellent.

– OPPOSITES reprehensible.

**commendation** noun **1** *letters of commendation:* praise, congratulation, appreciation; acclaim, credit, recognition, respect, esteem, admiration, homage, tribute. **2** *a commendation for bravery:* award, accolade, prize, honour, (honourable) mention, citation.

**commensurate** adjective **1** *they had privileges but commensurate duties:* equivalent, equal, corresponding, correspondent, comparable, proportionate, proportional. **2** *a salary commensurate with your qualifications:* appropriate to, in keeping with, in line with, consistent with, corresponding to, according to, relative to; dependent on, based on.

**comment** noun **1** *their comments on her*

**appearance:** remark, observation, statement, utterance; pronouncement, judgement, reflection, opinion, view; criticism. **2** a great deal of comment: discussion, debate; interest. **3** a comment in the margin: note, annotation, footnote, gloss, commentary, explanation.

• **verb 1** they commented on the food: remark on, speak about, talk about, discuss, mention. **2** 'It will soon be night,' he commented: remark, observe, reflect, say, state, declare, announce; interpose, interject.

**commentary** noun **1** the test match commentary: narration, description, account, report, review. **2** textual commentary: explanation, elucidation, interpretation, exegesis, analysis; assessment, appraisal, criticism; notes, comments.

**commentator** noun **1** a television commentator: narrator, announcer, presenter, anchor, anchorman, anchorwoman; reporter, journalist, newscaster, sportscaster; informal talking head. **2** a political commentator: analyst, pundit, monitor, observer; writer, speaker.

**commerce** noun **1** eastern commerce: trade, trading, buying and selling, business, dealing, traffic; (financial) transactions, dealings. **2** (dated) human commerce: relations, dealings, socializing, communication, association, contact, intercourse.

**commercial** adjective **1** a vessel built for commercial purposes: trade, trading, business, private enterprise, mercantile, sales. **2** we turn good ideas into commercial products: lucrative, moneymaking, money-spinning, profitable, remunerative, fruitful, gainful; viable, successful. **3** public opinion was commercial: profit-orientated, money-orientated, materialistic, mercenary. • **noun** a TV commercial: advertisement, promotion, display; informal ad, plug; Brit. informal advert.

**commercialized** adjective profit-orientated, money-orientated, commercial, materialistic, mercenary.

**commiserate** verb (commiserate with) offer sympathy to, be sympathetic to, offer condolences to, condole with, sympathize with, empathize with, feel pity for, feel sorry for, feel for; comfort, console.

**commiseration** noun condolence(s), sympathy, pity, comfort, solace, consolation; compassion, understanding.

**commission** noun **1** the dealer's commission: percentage, brokerage, share, portion, dividend, premium, fee, consideration, bonus; informal cut, take, rake-off, slice; Brit. informal whack, divvy. **2** the commission of building a palace: task, employment, job, project, mission, assignment, undertaking; duty, charge, responsibility. **3** items made under royal commission: warrant, licence, sanction, authority. **4** an independent commission: committee, board, council,

panel, directorate, delegation. **5** the commission of an offence: perpetration, committing, committal, execution.

• **verb 1** he was commissioned to paint a portrait: engage, contract, charge, employ, hire, recruit, retain, appoint, enlist, co-opt, book, sign up. **2** they commissioned a sculpture: order; authorize; formal bespeak.

■ **in commission** in service, in use; working, functional, operative, up and running, in operation, in working order.

■ **out of commission** not in service, not in use, unserviceable; not working, inoperative, out of order; down.

**commit** verb **1** he committed a murder: carry out, do, perpetrate, engage in, enact, execute, effect, accomplish; be responsible for; informal pull off. **2** she was committed to their care: entrust, consign, assign, deliver, give, hand over, relinquish; formal commend. **3** they committed themselves to the project: pledge, devote, apply, give, dedicate. **4** the judge committed him to prison: consign, send, deliver, confine. **5** her husband had her committed: hospitalize, confine, institutionalize, put away; certify.

**commitment** noun **1** the pressure of his commitments: responsibility, obligation, duty, tie, liability; task; engagement, arrangement. **2** her commitment to her students: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity. **3** he made a commitment: vow, promise, pledge, oath; contract, pact, deal; decision, resolution.

**committed** adjective devout, devoted, dedicated, loyal, faithful, staunch, firm, steadfast, unwavering, wholehearted, keen, passionate, ardent, fervent, sworn, pledged; dutiful, diligent; informal card-carrying, true blue, deep-dyed.

– OPPOSITES apathetic.

**commodious** adjective (formal) roomy, capacious, spacious, ample, generous, sizeable, large, big, extensive.

– OPPOSITES cramped.

**commodity** noun item, material, product, article, object; import, export.

**common** adjective **1** the common folk: ordinary, normal, average, unexceptional; simple. **2** a very common art form: usual, ordinary, familiar, regular, frequent, recurrent, everyday; standard, typical, conventional, stock, commonplace, run-of-the-mill. **3** a common belief: widespread, general, universal, popular, mainstream, prevalent, prevailing, rife, established, conventional, traditional, orthodox, accepted. **4** the common good: collective, communal, community, public, popular, general; shared, combined. **5** they are far too common: uncouth, vulgar, coarse, rough, boorish, unladylike, ungentelemanly, ill-bred, uncivilized, unsophisticated, unrefined; lowly, low-born, low-class, inferior, proletarian, plebeian; informal plebby; Brit. informal common as muck.

– OPPOSITES unusual, rare, individual, refined.

• **noun** (Brit. informal) *use your common!* See **COMMON SENSE**.

**commonly** **adverb** often, frequently, regularly, repeatedly, time and (time) again, all the time, routinely, habitually, customarily; N. Amer. oftentimes; informal lots.

**commonplace** **adjective** **1** *a commonplace writing style: ordinary, run-of-the-mill, unremarkable, unexceptional, average, mediocre, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, dull, bland, uninteresting, mundane; hackneyed, trite, banal, clichéd, predictable, stale, tired, unoriginal; informal (plain) vanilla, bog-standard, a dime a dozen; Brit. informal common or garden; N. Amer. informal bush-league.* **2** *a commonplace occurrence: common, normal, usual, ordinary, familiar, routine, standard, everyday, daily, regular, frequent, habitual, typical.*

– **OPPOSITES** original, unusual.

• **noun** **1** *early death was a commonplace: everyday event, routine.* **2** *a great store of commonplaces: platitude, cliché, truism, hackneyed phrase, trite phrase, old chestnut, banality; dated bromide.*

**common sense** **noun** sensibleness, (good) sense, (native) wit, judgement, level-headedness, prudence, discernment, caninness, astuteness, shrewdness, wisdom, insight, perception, perspicacity; practicality, capability, resourcefulness, enterprise; informal horse sense, gumption, nous, savvy; Brit. informal common; N. Amer. informal smarts.

– **OPPOSITES** folly.

**commotion** **noun** disturbance, uproar, tumult, rumpus, ruckus, brouhaha, furore, hue and cry, fuss, stir, storm; turmoil, disorder, confusion, chaos, mayhem, havoc, pandemonium; unrest, fracas, riot, breach of the peace; Irish, N. Amer., & Austral. donnybrook; informal ruction(s), ballyhoo, kerfuffle, hoo-ha, to-do, hullabaloo; Brit. informal carry-on, row, aggro, argy-bargy; Law, dated affray.

**communal** **adjective** **1** *the kitchen was communal: shared, joint, common.* **2** *they farm on a communal basis: collective, cooperative, community, communalist, combined.*

– **OPPOSITES** private, individual.

**commune** **noun** *she lives in a commune: collective, cooperative, communal settlement, kibbutz.*

• **verb** **1** *we pray to commune with God: communicate, speak, talk, converse, interface.* **2** *she likes to commune with nature: empathize, identify, have a rapport, feel at one; relate to, feel close to.*

**communicable** **adjective** contagious, infectious, transmittable, transmissible, transferable, spreadable; informal catching; dated infective.

**communicate** **verb** **1** *he communicated the news to his boss: convey, tell, impart, relay, transmit, pass on, announce, report, recount, relate, present; divulge, disclose, mention; spread, disseminate, promulgate, broadcast.* **2** *they communicate daily: liaison, be in touch,*

*be in contact, have dealings, interface, commune, meet; talk, speak, converse; informal have a confab, powwow.* **3** *learn how to communicate better: get one's message across, explain oneself, be understood, get through to someone.* **4** *the disease is communicated easily: transmit, transfer, spread, carry, pass on.* **5** *each bedroom communicates with a bathroom: connect with, join up with, open on to, lead into.*

**communication** **noun** **1** *the communication of news: transmission, conveyance, divulgence, divulgation, disclosure; dissemination, promulgation, broadcasting.* **2** *there was no communication between them: contact, dealings, relations, connection, association, socializing, intercourse; correspondence, dialogue, talk, conversation, discussion; dated commerce.* **3** *an official communication: message, statement, announcement, report, dispatch, communiqué, letter, bulletin, correspondence.* **4** *road and rail communications: links, connections; services, routes.*

**communicative** **adjective** forthcoming, expansive, expressive, unreserved, uninhibited, vocal, outgoing, frank, open, candid; talkative, chatty, loquacious; informal gabby.

**communion** **noun** **1** *a sense of communion with others: affinity, fellowship, kinship, friendship, fellow feeling, togetherness, closeness, harmony, understanding, rapport, connection, communication, empathy, accord, unity.* **2** *Christ's presence at Communion: Eucharist, Holy Communion, Lord's Supper, Mass.*

**communiqué** **noun** official communication, press release, bulletin, message, missive, dispatch, statement, report, announcement, declaration, proclamation; N. Amer. advisory; informal memo.

**communism** **noun** collectivism, state ownership, (radical) socialism; Sovietism, Bolshevism, Marxism, Leninism, Trotskyism, Maoism.

**communist** **noun & adjective** collectivist, leftist, (radical) socialist; Soviet, Bolshevik, Bolshevik, Marxist, Leninist, Trotskyist, Trotskyite, Maoist; informal, derogatory Commie, Bolshie, red, lefty.

**community** **noun** **1** *work done for the community: population, populace, people, citizenry, (general) public, collective; residents, inhabitants, citizens.* **2** *a rural community: district, region, zone, area, locality, locale, neighbourhood; informal neck of the woods, turf; Brit. informal manor; N. Amer. informal hood, nabe.* **3** *gays are not one homogeneous community: group, body, set, circle, clique, faction; informal gang, bunch.* **4** *a monastic community: brotherhood, sisterhood, fraternity, sorority, sodality; colony, order.* **5** *community of interests: similarity, likeness, comparability, correspondence, agreement, closeness, affinity.* **6** *the community of goods: joint*



ownership, common ownership, shared possession.

**commute** verb **1** *they commute on a train: travel to and from work*, travel back and forth. **2** *his sentence was commuted: reduce*, lessen, lighten, shorten, cut, attenuate, moderate. **3** *knight service was commuted for a payment: exchange*, change, substitute, swap, trade, switch.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**commuter** noun (daily) traveller, passenger; informal straphanger.

**compact**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *a compact rug: dense*, close-packed, tightly packed; thick, tight, firm. **2** *a compact camera: small*, little, petite, miniature, mini, small-scale; Scottish wee; informal teeny, teeny-weeny; Brit. informal dinky; N. Amer. little-bitty. **3** *her tale is compact: concise*, succinct, condensed, brief, pithy; short and sweet; informal snappy; formal compendious.

– OPPOSITES loose, large, rambling.

• verb *the snow has been compacted: compress*, condense, pack down, press down, tamp (down), flatten.

**compact**<sup>2</sup> noun *the warring states signed a compact: treaty*, pact, accord, agreement, contract, bargain, deal, settlement, covenant, concordat; pledge, promise, bond.

**companion** noun **1** *Harry and his companion: associate*, partner, escort, compatriot, confederate; friend, intimate, confidant(e), comrade; informal pal, chum, crony, sidekick; Brit. informal mate, oppo, china, mucker; N. Amer. informal buddy, amigo, compadre; Austral./NZ informal offsider. **2** *a lady's companion: attendant*, aide, helper, assistant, valet, equerry, lady-in-waiting; chaperone; carer, minder. **3** *the tape is a companion to the book: complement*, counterpart, twin, match; accompaniment, supplement, addition, adjunct, accessory. **4** *The Gardener's Companion: handbook*, manual, guide, reference book, ABC, primer, vade mecum; informal bible.

**companionable** adjective friendly, affable, cordial, genial, congenial, amiable, easy-going, good-natured, comradely; sociable, convivial, outgoing, gregarious; informal chummy, pally; Brit. informal matey; N. Amer. informal buddy-buddy, clubby.

**companionship** noun friendship, fellowship, closeness, togetherness, amity, intimacy, rapport, camaraderie, brotherhood, sisterhood; company, society, social contact.

**company** noun **1** *an oil company: firm*, business, corporation, establishment, agency, office, bureau, institution, organization, concern, enterprise; conglomerate, consortium, syndicate, multinational; informal outfit. **2** *I enjoy his company: companionship*, friendship, fellowship, amity, camaraderie; society, association. **3** *I'm expecting company: guests*, visitors, callers, people; someone. **4** *a company of poets: group*, crowd, party, band, assembly, cluster, flock, herd, troupe,

throng, congregation; informal bunch, gang.

**5** *a company of infantry: unit*, section, detachment, troop, corps, squad, squadron, platoon, battalion, division.

#### WORD LINKS

corporate relating to a business company

**comparable** adjective **1** *comparable incomes: similar*, close, near, approximate, akin, equivalent, commensurate, proportional, proportionate; like, matching. **2** *nobody is comparable with him: equal to*, as good as, in the same league as, able to hold a candle to, on a par with, on a level with; a match for.

**comparative** adjective relative; in/by comparison.

**compare** verb **1** *we compared the data sets: contrast*, juxtapose, collate, differentiate, weigh up. **2** *he was compared to Wagner: liken*, equate, analogize; class with, bracket with, set side by side with. **3** *the porcelain compares with Dresden's fine china: be as good as*, be comparable to, bear comparison with, be the equal of, match up to, be on a par with, be in the same league as, come close to, hold a candle to, be not unlike; match, resemble, emulate, rival, approach. ■ **beyond compare** without equal, second to none, in a class of one's own; peerless, matchless, unmatched, incomparable, inimitable, supreme, outstanding, consummate, unique, singular, perfect.

**comparison** noun **1** *a comparison of the results: juxtaposition*, collation, differentiation. **2** *there's no comparison between them: resemblance*, likeness, similarity, correspondence, correlation, parallel, parity, comparability.

**compartment** noun **1** *a secret compartment: section*, part, bay, recess, chamber, cavity; pocket. **2** *they put science and religion in separate compartments: domain*, field, sphere, department; category, pigeonhole, bracket, group, set.

**compartmentalize** verb categorize, pigeonhole, bracket, group, classify, characterize, stereotype, label, brand; sort, rank, rate.

**compass** noun **scope**, range, extent, reach, span, breadth, ambit, limits, parameters, bounds.

**compassion** noun pity, sympathy, empathy, fellow feeling, care, concern, solicitude, sensitivity, warmth, love, tenderness, mercy, leniency, tolerance, kindness, humanity, charity.

– OPPOSITES indifference, cruelty.

**compassionate** adjective sympathetic, empathetic, understanding, caring, solicitous, sensitive, warm, loving; merciful, lenient, tolerant, considerate, kind, humane, charitable, big-hearted.

**compatibility** noun like-mindedness, similarity, affinity, closeness, fellow feeling, harmony, rapport, empathy, sympathy.

**compatible** adjective **1** *they were never compatible: (well) suited*, well matched,

like-minded, in tune, in harmony; reconcilable. **2** *her bruising is compatible with a fall*: consistent, congruous, congruent; in keeping.

**compatriot** *noun* fellow countryman/woman, countryman, countrywoman, fellow citizen.

**compel** *verb* **1** *he compelled them to leave their land*: force, pressurize, pressure, press, push, urge; dragoon, browbeat, bully, intimidate; oblige, require, make; informal lean on, put the screws on. **2** *they can compel compliance*: exact, extort, demand, insist on, force, necessitate.

**compelling** *adjective* **1** *a compelling performance*: enthralling, captivating, gripping, riveting, spellbinding, mesmerizing, absorbing, irresistible.

**2** *a compelling argument*: convincing, persuasive, cogent, irresistible, powerful, strong, weighty, plausible, credible, sound, valid, telling, conclusive, irrefutable, unanswerable.

– OPPOSITES boring, weak.

**compendious** *adjective* (formal) succinct, pithy, short and to the point, concise, compact, condensed, compressed, abridged, summarized, synoptic; informal snappy.

– OPPOSITES expanded.

**compendium** *noun* collection, compilation, anthology, treasury, digest; summary, synopsis, precis, outline.

**compensate** *verb* **1** *you must compensate for what you did*: make amends, make up, make reparation, recompense, atone, requite, pay; expiate, make good, rectify.

**2** *we agreed to compensate him for his loss*: recompense, repay, pay back, reimburse, remunerate, recoup, requite, indemnify.

**3** *his flair compensated for his faults*: balance (out), counterbalance, counteract, offset, make up for, cancel out, neutralize, negative.

**compensation** *noun* recompense, repayment, reimbursement, remuneration, requital, indemnification, indemnity, redress; damages; N. Amer. informal comp.

**compère** *noun* host, presenter, anchor, anchorman/woman, master of ceremonies, MC, announcer; N. Amer. informal emcee.

**compete** *verb* **1** *they competed in a tennis tournament*: take part, participate, play, be a competitor, be involved; enter, go in for. **2** *they had to compete with other firms*: contend, vie, battle, wrangle, jockey, go head-to-head; strive against, pit oneself against; challenge, take on. **3** *no one can compete with him*: rival, challenge, keep up with, keep pace with, compare with, match, be in the same league as, come near to, come close to, touch; informal hold a candle to.

**competence** *noun* **1** *my technical competence*: capability, ability, competency, proficiency, accomplishment, expertise, adeptness, skill, prowess, mastery, talent; informal savvy, know-how. **2** *the competence of the system*: adequacy, appropriateness, suitability, fitness; effectiveness; formal efficacy. **3** *matters within the competence*

*of the courts*: authority, power, control, jurisdiction, ambit, scope, remit.

**competent** *adjective* **1** *a competent carpenter*: capable, able, proficient, adept, adroit, accomplished, complete, skilful, skilled, gifted, talented, expert; good, excellent; informal great, mean, wicked, nifty, ace. **2** *she spoke competent French*: adequate, acceptable, satisfactory, reasonable, fair, decent, not bad, all right, average, tolerable, passable, moderate, middling; informal OK, okay, so-so. **3** *the court was not competent to hear the case*: fit, suitable, suited, appropriate; qualified, empowered, authorized.

– OPPOSITES inadequate, unfit.

**competition** *noun* **1** *Stephanie won the competition*: contest, tournament, match, game, heat, fixture, event; trials, stakes. **2** *I'm not interested in competition*: rivalry, competitiveness, vying; conflict, feuding, fighting; informal keeping up with the Joneses. **3** *we must stay ahead of the competition*: opposition, other side, field; enemy; challengers, opponents, rivals, adversaries; literary foe.

**competitive** *adjective* **1** *a competitive player*: ambitious, zealous, keen, pushy, combative, aggressive; informal go-ahead. **2** *a highly competitive industry*: ruthless, aggressive, fierce; informal dog-eat-dog, cut-throat. **3** *competitive prices*: reasonable, moderate, keen; low, inexpensive, cheap, budget, bargain, reduced, discount; rock-bottom, bargain-basement.

– OPPOSITES apathetic, exorbitant.

**competitor** *noun* **1** *the competitors in the race*: contestant, contender, challenger, participant, entrant; runner, player. **2** *our European competitors*: rival, challenger, opponent, adversary; competition, opposition.

– OPPOSITES ally.

**compilation** *noun* collection, selection, anthology, treasury, compendium, album, corpus, collectanea; potpourri.

**compile** *verb* assemble, put together, make up, collate, compose, organize, arrange; gather, collect.

**complacency** *noun* smugness, self-satisfaction, self-congratulation, self-regard; gloating, triumph, pride; satisfaction, contentment.

**complacent** *adjective* smug, self-satisfied, self-congratulatory, self-regarding; gloating, triumphant, proud; pleased, satisfied, content, contented; informal like the cat that got the cream, I'm-all-right-Jack; N. Amer. informal wisenheimer.

**complain** *verb* protest, grumble, whine, bleat, carp, cavil, grouse, make a fuss; object, speak out, oppose, criticize, find fault; informal whinge, kick up a fuss, bellyache, moan, gripe, beef, bitch, sound off; Brit. informal chunter, create; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**complaint** *noun* **1** *they lodged a complaint*: protest, objection, grievance, grouse, cavil, quibble, grumble; charge, accusation,

criticism; informal beef, gripe, whinge; Law, Brit. plaint. **2** *little cause for complaint*: **protestation**, objection, exception, grievance, grumbling; criticism, fault-finding, condemnation, disapproval, dissatisfaction; informal whingeing, grouching, bellyaching, nit-picking. **3** *a kidney complaint*: **disorder**, disease, infection, affliction, illness, ailment, sickness; condition, problem, upset, trouble; informal bug, virus.

**complaisant** adjective willing, acquiescent, agreeable, amenable, cooperative, accommodating, obliging; biddable, compliant, docile, obedient.

**complement** noun **1** *the perfect complement to the food*: **accompaniment**, companion, addition, supplement, accessory, trimming.

**2** *a full complement of lifeboats*: **amount**, total, contingent, capacity, allowance, quota. **• verb** *this sauce complements the dessert*: **accompany**, go with, round off, set off, suit, harmonize with; enhance, complete.

**complementary** adjective harmonious, compatible, corresponding, matching, twin, complementary; supportive, reciprocal, interdependent.

– OPPOSITES incompatible.

**complete** adjective **1** *the complete interview*: **entire**, whole, full, total; uncut, unabridged.

**2** *their research was complete*: **finished**, ended, concluded, completed, finalized; accomplished, achieved, discharged, settled, done; informal wrapped up, sewn up, polished off. **3** *a complete fool*: **absolute**, out-and-out, utter, total, real, downright, thoroughgoing, veritable, prize, perfect, unqualified, unmitigated, sheer, arrant; N. Amer. full-bore; Brit. informal right.

– OPPOSITES partial, unfinished.

**• verb** **1** *he had to complete his training*: **finish**, end, conclude, finalize, wind up; informal wrap up, sew up, polish off. **2** *the outfit was completed with a veil*: **finish off**, round off, top off, crown, cap, complement. **3** *complete the application form*: **fill in/out**, answer.

**completely** adverb totally, entirely, wholly, thoroughly, fully, utterly, absolutely, perfectly, unreservedly, unconditionally, quite, altogether, downright; in every way, in every respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt; informal dead, deadly.

**completion** noun realization, accomplishment, achievement, fulfilment, consummation, finalization, resolution; finish, end, conclusion, close, cessation.

**complex** adjective **1** *a complex situation*: **complicated**, involved, intricate, convoluted, elaborate, impenetrable, Gordian; difficult, knotty, tricky, thorny; Brit. informal fiddly. **2** *a complex structure*: **compound**, composite, multiplex.

– OPPOSITES simple.

**• noun** **1** *a complex of roads*: **network**, system, nexus, web, tissue; combination, aggregation. **2** (informal) *he had a complex about losing his hair*: **obsession**, fixation,

preoccupation; neurosis; informal hang-up, thing.

**complexion** noun **1** *a pale complexion*: **skin**, skin colour, skin tone; pigmentation. **2** *this puts an entirely new complexion on things*: **perspective**, angle, slant, interpretation; appearance, light, look. **3** *governments of all complexions*: **type**, kind, sort; nature, character, stamp, ilk, kidney.

**complexity** noun complication, problem, difficulty; twist, turn, intricacy.

**compliance** noun **1** *compliance with international law*: **obedience to**, observance of, adherence to, conformity to, respect for. **2** *he mistook her silence for compliance*: **acquiescence**, agreement, assent, consent, acceptance; complaisance, pliability, docility, meekness, submission.

– OPPOSITES violation, defiance.

**compliant** adjective acquiescent, amenable, biddable, tractable, complaisant, accommodating, cooperative; obedient, docile, malleable, pliable, submissive, tame, yielding, controllable, unresisting, persuadable, persuasive.

– OPPOSITES recalcitrant.

**complicate** verb make (more) difficult, make complicated, mix up, confuse, muddle; informal mess up, screw up, snarl up.

– OPPOSITES simplify.

**complicated** adjective complex, intricate, involved, convoluted, tangled, impenetrable, knotty, tricky, thorny, labyrinthine, tortuous, Gordian; confusing, bewildering, perplexing; Brit. informal fiddly.

– OPPOSITES straightforward.

**complication** noun **1** *a complication concerning ownership*: **difficulty**, problem, obstacle, hurdle, stumbling block; drawback, snag, catch, hitch, fly in the ointment; Brit. spanner in the works; informal hiccup, prob, headache, facer. **2** *the complication of life in our society*: **complexity**, complicatedness, intricacy, convolutedness.

– OPPOSITES straightforwardness.

**complicity** noun collusion, involvement, collaboration, connivance; conspiracy.

**compliment** noun **1** *an unexpected compliment*: **flattering remark**, tribute, accolade, commendation, bouquet, pat on the back; (**compliments**) praise, acclaim, admiration, flattery, blandishments, honeyed words. **2** *my compliments on your cooking*: **congratulations**, commendations, praise. **3** *Margaret sends her compliments*: **greetings**, regards, respects, good wishes, best wishes, salutations, felicitations.

– OPPOSITES insult.

**• verb** *they complimented his performance*: **praise**, pay tribute to, speak highly/well of, flatter, wax lyrical about, make much of, commend, acclaim, applaud, salute, honour; congratulate, pat on the back.

– OPPOSITES criticize.

**complimentary** adjective **1** *complimentary remarks*: **flattering**, appreciative, congratulatory, admiring, approving, commendatory, favourable, glowing,



adulatory; informal rave. **2 complimentary tickets: free (of charge)**, gratis, for nothing; courtesy; informal on the house.

— OPPOSITES derogatory.

**comply** verb *Myra complied with his wishes: abide by*, observe, obey, adhere to, conform to, follow, respect; agree to, assent to, go along with, yield to, submit to, defer to; satisfy, fulfil.

— OPPOSITES ignore, disobey.

**component** noun *the components of electronic devices: part*, piece, bit, element, constituent, ingredient; unit, module, section.  
• adjective *the molecule's component elements: constituent*, integral; basic, essential.

**comport** verb

■ **comport oneself** (formal) behave, conduct oneself, act, acquit oneself; old use deport oneself.

**compose** verb **1** *a poem composed by Shelley: write*, formulate, devise, make up, think up, produce, invent, concoct; pen, author, draft; literary rhyme. **2** *compose a still life: organize*, arrange, set out. **3** *the congress is composed of ten senators: make up*, constitute, form, comprise.

■ **compose oneself** calm down, control oneself, regain one's composure, pull oneself together, collect oneself, steady oneself, keep one's head; informal get a grip, keep one's cool; N. Amer. informal decompress.

**composed** adjective *calm*, collected, cool (as a cucumber), self-controlled, self-possessed; serene, tranquil, relaxed, at ease, unruffled, unperturbed, untroubled; equable, even-tempered, imperturbable; informal unflappable, together, laid-back.

— OPPOSITES excited.

**composer** noun melodist, symphonist, songwriter, songster, writer; informal tunesmith, songsmith.

**composite** adjective *a composite structure: compound*, complex; combined, blended, mixed.

• noun *a composite of plastic and metal: amalgamation*, amalgam, combination, compound, fusion, synthesis, mixture, blend; alloy.

**composition** noun **1** *the composition of the council: make-up*, constitution, configuration, structure, formation, form, framework, fabric, anatomy, organization; informal set-up. **2** *a literary composition: work (of art)*, creation, opus, oeuvre, piece, arrangement. **3** *the composition of a poem: writing*, creation, formulation, invention, concoction, compilation. **4** *a school composition: essay*, paper, study, piece of writing; N. Amer. theme. **5** *the composition of the painting: arrangement*, disposition, layout; proportions, balance, symmetry. **6** *an adhesive composition: mixture*, compound, amalgam, blend, mix.

**compost** noun fertilizer, mulch, manure, bonemeal, fishmeal, guano; humus, peat; plant food, top-dressing.

**composure** noun self-control, self-

possession, calm, equanimity, equilibrium, serenity, tranquillity; aplomb, poise, presence of mind, sangfroid; imperturbability, placidness, impassivity; informal cool.

**compound** noun *a compound of two elements: amalgam*, amalgamation, combination, composite, blend, mixture, mix, fusion, synthesis; alloy.

• adjective *a compound substance: composite*, complex; blended, fused, combined.

— OPPOSITES simple.

• verb **1** *a smell compounded of dust and mould: be composed of*, be made up of, be formed from. **2** *soap compounded with disinfectant: mix*, combine, blend, amalgamate, fuse, synthesize. **3** *his illness compounds their problems: aggravate*, exacerbate, worsen, add to, augment, intensify, heighten, increase, magnify; complicate.

— OPPOSITES alleviate.

**comprehend** verb **1** *Katie couldn't comprehend his message: understand*, grasp, take in, see, apprehend, follow, make sense of, fathom, get to the bottom of; unravel, decipher, interpret; informal work out, figure out, make head or tail of, get one's head around, take on board, get the drift of, catch on to, get; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **2** (formal) *a divine order comprehending all men: comprise*, include, encompass, embrace, involve, contain.

— OPPOSITES exclude.

**comprehensible** adjective intelligible, understandable, accessible; lucid, coherent, clear, plain, explicit, unambiguous, straightforward, fathomable.

— OPPOSITES opaque.

**comprehension** noun understanding, grasp, conception, apprehension, cognition, ken, knowledge, awareness, perception; interpretation.

— OPPOSITES ignorance.

**comprehensive** adjective inclusive, all-inclusive, complete; thorough, full, extensive, all-embracing, exhaustive, detailed, in-depth, encyclopedic, universal, catholic; far-reaching, radical, sweeping, across the board, wholesale; broad, wide-ranging; informal wall-to-wall.

— OPPOSITES limited.

**compress** verb **1** *the skirt can be compressed into a bag: squeeze*, press, squash, crush, cram, jam, stuff; tamp, pack, compact; constrict; informal scrunch. **2** *Polly compressed her lips: purse*, press together, pucker. **3** *the text was compressed: abridge*, condense, shorten, cut, abbreviate, truncate; summarize, precis.

— OPPOSITES expand.

**comprise** verb **1** *the country comprises twenty states: consist of*, be made up of, be composed of, contain, encompass, incorporate; include; formal comprehend. **2** *this breed comprises half the herd: make up*, constitute, form, compose; account for.

**compromise** noun **1** *they reached a compromise: agreement, understanding, settlement, terms, deal, trade-off, bargain; middle ground, happy medium, balance.* **2** *a happy marriage needs compromise: give and take, concession, cooperation.*

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•verb **1** *we compromised: meet each other halfway, come to an understanding, make a deal, make concessions, find a happy medium, strike a balance; give and take.* **2** *his actions could compromise his reputation: undermine, weaken, damage, harm; jeopardize, prejudice; discredit, dishonour, shame, embarrass.*

**compulsion** noun **1** *he is under no compulsion to go: obligation, constraint, coercion, duress, pressure, intimidation.* **2** *a compulsion to tell the truth: urge, impulse, need, desire, drive; obsession, fixation, addiction; temptation.*

**compulsive** adjective **1** *a compulsive desire: irresistible, uncontrollable, compelling, overwhelming, urgent; obsessive.*

**2** *compulsive eating: obsessive, obsessional, addictive, uncontrollable.* **3** *a compulsive liar: inveterate, chronic, incorrigible, incurable, hardened, hopeless, persistent; obsessive, addicted, habitual; informal pathological, hooked.* **4** *it's compulsive viewing: fascinating, compelling, gripping, riveting, engrossing, enthralling, captivating.*

**compulsory** adjective obligatory, mandatory, required, requisite, necessary, essential; imperative, unavoidable, enforced, demanded, prescribed.

– OPPOSITES optional.

**compunction** noun scruples, misgivings, qualms, worries, unease, uneasiness, doubts, reluctance, reservations; guilt, regret, contrition, self-reproach.

**compute** verb calculate, work out, reckon, determine, evaluate, quantify; add up, count up, tally, total, totalize; Brit. tot up.

**comrade** noun companion, friend; colleague, associate, partner, co-worker, workmate; informal pal, chum, crony; Brit. informal mate, oppo; N. Amer. informal buddy.

**con** (informal) verb & noun. See **SWINDLE**.

**concatenation** noun series, sequence, succession, chain.

**concave** adjective incurved, curved inwards, hollow, depressed, sunken; indented, recessed.

– OPPOSITES convex.

**conceal** verb **1** *clouds concealed the sun: hide, screen, cover, obscure, block out, blot out, mask, shroud, secrete.* **2** *he concealed his true feelings: hide, cover up, disguise, mask, veil; keep secret, keep dark, draw a veil over; suppress, repress, bottle up; informal keep a/the lid on, keep under one's hat.*

– OPPOSITES reveal, confess.

**concealed** adjective hidden, not visible, out of sight, invisible, covered, disguised, camouflaged, obscured; private, secret.

**concealment** noun **1** *the concealment of his*

*weapon: hiding, secretion.* **2** *the concealment of the bushes: cover, shelter, protection, screen; privacy, seclusion; secrecy.* **3** *the deliberate concealment of facts: suppression, hiding, cover-up, hushing up; whitewash.*

**concede** verb **1** *I had to concede that I'd overreacted: admit, acknowledge, accept, allow, grant, recognize, own, confess; agree.* **2** *he conceded the Auvergne to the king: surrender, yield, give up, relinquish, cede, hand over.*

– OPPOSITES deny, retain.

■ **concede defeat** capitulate, give in, surrender, yield, give up, submit, raise the white flag; back down, climb down, throw in the towel.

**conceit** noun **1** *his extraordinary conceit: vanity, narcissism, conceitedness, swollen-headedness, egotism, self-admiration, self-regard; pride, arrogance, hubris, self-importance; self-satisfaction, smugness; informal big-headedness; literary vainglory.*

**2** *the conceits of Shakespeare's verse: image, imagery, metaphor, simile, trope.* **3** *the conceit of time travel: idea, notion, fancy.*

– OPPOSITES humility.

**conceited** adjective vain, narcissistic, self-centred, egotistic, egotistical, egocentric; proud, arrogant, boastful, full of oneself, self-important, immodest, swaggering; self-satisfied, smug; supercilious, haughty, snobbish; informal big-headed, too big for one's boots, stuck-up, high and mighty, uppity, snotty; Brit. informal toffee-nosed; N. Amer. informal chesty; literary vainglorious.

**conceivable** adjective imaginable, possible; plausible, tenable, credible, believable, thinkable, feasible; understandable, comprehensible.

**conceive** verb **1** *she was unable to conceive: become pregnant, become impregnated.*

**2** *the project was conceived in 1977: think up, think of, dream up, devise, formulate, design, originate, create, develop; hatch; informal cook up.* **3** *I could hardly conceive what it must be like: imagine, envisage, visualize, picture, think, envision; grasp, appreciate, apprehend.*

**concentrate** verb **1** *the government concentrated its efforts: focus, direct, centre, centralize.* **2** *she concentrated on the film: focus on, pay attention to, keep one's mind on, devote oneself to; be absorbed in, be engrossed in, be immersed in; informal get stuck into.* **3** *troops concentrated on the horizon: collect, gather, congregate, converge, mass, cluster, rally.* **4** *the liquid is filtered and concentrated: condense, boil down, reduce, thicken.*

– OPPOSITES disperse, dilute.

•noun **a fruit concentrate: extract, decoction, distillation.**

**concentrated** adjective **1** *a concentrated effort: strenuous, concerted, intensive, intense, all-out.* **2** *a concentrated solution: condensed, reduced, evaporated, thickened; undiluted, strong.*

– OPPOSITES half-hearted, diluted.

**concentration** noun **1** *a task which requires concentration: close attention, attentiveness, application, single-mindedness, absorption.* **2** *the concentration of effort: focusing, centralization.* **3** *large concentrations of barnacle geese: gathering, cluster, mass, flock, congregation, assemblage.*

– OPPOSITES inattention.

**concept** noun *idea, notion, conception, abstraction; theory, hypothesis; belief, conviction, opinion; image, impression, picture.*

**conception** noun **1** *bleeding can occur seven to ten days after conception: fertilization, impregnation, insemination.* **2** *the product's conception: inception, genesis, origination, creation, invention; beginning, origin.* **3** *his original conception: plan, scheme, project, proposal; intention, aim, idea.* **4** *my conception of democracy: idea, concept, notion, understanding, abstraction; theory, hypothesis; perception, image, impression.* **5** *they had no conception of our problems: understanding, comprehension, appreciation, grasp, knowledge; idea, inkling; informal clue.*

**concern** verb **1** *the report concerns the war: be about, deal with, cover; discuss, go into, examine, study, review, analyse; relate to, pertain to.* **2** *that doesn't concern you: affect, involve, be relevant to, apply to, have a bearing on, impact on; be important to, interest.* **3** *I won't concern myself with your affairs: involve oneself in, take an interest in, busy oneself with, devote one's time to, bother oneself with.* **4** *one thing still concerns me: worry, disturb, trouble, bother, perturb, unsettle, make anxious.*

• noun **1** *a voice full of concern: anxiety, worry, disquiet, apprehensiveness, unease, consternation.* **2** *his concern for others: solicitude, solicitousness, consideration, care, sympathy, regard.* **3** *housing is the concern of the council: responsibility, business, affair, charge, duty, job; province, preserve; problem, worry; informal pigeon, bag, bailiwick; Brit. informal lookout.* **4** *issues that are of concern to women: interest, importance, relevance, significance.* **5** *Aboriginal concerns: affair, issue, matter, question, consideration.* **6** *a publishing concern: company, business, firm, organization, operation, corporation, establishment, house, office, agency; informal outfit, set-up.*

– OPPOSITES indifference.

**concerned** adjective **1** *her mother looked concerned: worried, anxious, upset, perturbed, troubled, distressed, uneasy, apprehensive, agitated.* **2** *he is concerned about your welfare: solicitous, caring; attentive to, considerate of.* **3** *all concerned parties: interested, involved, affected; connected, related, implicated.*

**concerning** preposition *about, regarding, relating to, with reference to, referring to, with regard to, as regards, with respect to,*

*respecting, dealing with, on the subject of, in connection with, re, apropos of.*

**concert** noun *musical performance, show, production, presentation; recital; informal gig.*

■ *in concert* together, jointly, in combination, in collaboration, in cooperation, in league, side by side; in unison.

**concerted** adjective **1** *make a concerted effort: strenuous, vigorous, intensive, intense, concentrated, all-out.* **2** *concerted action: joint, united, collaborative, collective, combined, cooperative.*

– OPPOSITES half-hearted, individual.

**concession** noun **1** *the government made several concessions: compromise, allowance, exception, sop.* **2** *a concession of failure: admission, acknowledgement, acceptance, recognition, confession.* **3** *the concession of territory: surrender, relinquishment, sacrifice, handover.* **4** *tax concessions: reduction, cut, discount, deduction, decrease; rebate; informal break.* **5** *a logging concession: right, privilege; licence, permit, franchise, warrant, authorization.*

– OPPOSITES denial, acquisition.

**conciliate** verb **1** *he tried to conciliate the peasantry: appease, placate, pacify, mollify, assuage, soothe, humour, reconcile, win over, make peace with.* **2** *he conciliated in the dispute: mediate, act as peacemaker, arbitrate; pour oil on troubled waters.*

– OPPOSITES provoke.

**conciliator** noun *peacemaker, mediator, go-between, middleman, intermediary, intercessor; dove.*

– OPPOSITES troublemaker.

**conciliatory** adjective *propitiatory, placatory, appeasing, pacifying, pacific, mollifying, peacemaking.*

**concise** adjective *succinct, pithy, incisive, brief, short and to the point, short and sweet; abridged, condensed, compressed, abbreviated, compact, potted; informal snappy.*

– OPPOSITES lengthy, wordy.

**conclave** noun (private) *meeting, gathering, assembly, conference, council, summit; informal parley, powwow, get-together.*

**conclude** verb **1** *the meeting concluded at ten: finish, end, draw to a close, be over, stop, cease.* **2** *he concluded the press conference: bring to an end, close, wind up, terminate, dissolve; round off; informal wrap up.* **3** *an attempt to conclude a ceasefire: negotiate, broker, agree, settle, clinch, finalize, tie up; bring about, arrange, effect, engineer; informal sew up.* **4** *I concluded that he was rather unpleasant: deduce, infer, gather, judge, decide, conjecture, surmise; N. Amer. figure; informal reckon.*

– OPPOSITES commence.

**conclusion** noun **1** *the conclusion of his speech: end, ending, finish, close, termination, wind-up, cessation; culmination, denouement, coda.* **2** *the conclusion of a trade agreement: negotiation, brokering, settlement, completion, arrangement, resolution.* **3** *his*



*conclusions have been verified:* **deduction**, inference, interpretation, reasoning; opinion, judgement, verdict; assumption, presumption, supposition.

– OPPOSITES beginning.

■ **in conclusion** finally, in closing, to conclude, last but not least; to sum up, in short.

**conclusive** adjective **1** *conclusive proof:* **incontrovertible**, undeniable, indisputable, irrefutable, unquestionable, unassailable, convincing, certain, decisive, definitive, definite, positive, categorical, unequivocal; airtight, watertight. **2** *a conclusive win:* **emphatic**, resounding, convincing.

– OPPOSITES unconvincing.

**concoct** verb **1** *she began to concoct her dinner:* **prepare**, make, assemble; informal fix, rustle up; Brit. informal knock up. **2** *this story she has concocted:* **make up**, dream up, fabricate, invent, trump up; formulate, hatch, brew; informal cook up.

**concoction** noun **1** *a concoction containing gin and vodka:* **mixture**, brew, preparation, potion. **2** *a strange concoction of styles:* **blend**, mixture, mix, combination, hybrid. **3** *her story is an improbable concoction:* **fabrication**, invention, falsification; informal fairy story, fairy tale.

**concomitant** adjective (formal) **attendant**, accompanying, associated, related, connected; resultant, consequent.

– OPPOSITES unrelated.

**concord** noun (formal) **1** *council meetings rarely ended in concord:* **agreement**, harmony, accord, consensus, concurrence, unity. **2** *a concord was to be drawn up:* **treaty**, agreement, accord, pact, compact, settlement.

– OPPOSITES discord.

**concourse** noun **1** *the station concourse:* entrance, foyer, lobby, hall. **2** (formal) *a vast concourse of onlookers:* **crowd**, group, gathering, assembly, body, company, throng, flock, mass.

**concrete** adjective **1** *concrete objects:* solid, material, real, physical, tangible, palpable, substantial, visible, existing. **2** *concrete proof:* **definite**, firm, positive, conclusive, definitive; real, genuine, bona fide.

– OPPOSITES abstract, imaginary.

**concubine** noun (old use) **mistress**, kept woman; lover; informal fancy woman, bit on the side; old use paramour.

**concupiscence** noun (formal). See **LUST** noun sense 1.

**concur** verb **1** *we concur with this view:* agree, be in agreement, go along, fall in, be in sympathy; see eye to eye, be of the same mind, be of the same opinion. **2** *the two events concurred:* **coincide**, be simultaneous, be concurrent, coexist.

– OPPOSITES disagree.

**concurrent** adjective **1** *nine concurrent life sentences:* **simultaneous**, coincident, contemporaneous, parallel. **2** *concurrent*

*lines:* **convergent**, converging, meeting, intersecting.

**concussion** noun **1** *he suffered concussion:* temporary unconsciousness; brain injury. **2** *the concussion of the blast:* **force**, impact, shock, jolt.

**condemn** verb **1** *he condemned the suspended players:* **censure**, criticize, denounce, revile, blame, chastise, berate, reprimand, rebuke, reprove, take to task, find fault with; informal slam, blast, lay into; Brit. informal slate, slag off, have a go at; formal castigate. **2** *he was condemned to death:* **sentence**; convict, find guilty. **3** *the house has been condemned:* **declare unfit**, declare unsafe. **4** *her mistake had condemned her:* **incriminate**, implicate; old use inculpate. **5** *his illness condemned him to a lonely life:* **doom**, destine, damn; consign, assign.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**condemnation** noun **censure**, criticism, strictures, denunciation, vilification; reproof, disapproval; informal flak, a bad press; formal castigation.

**condemnatory** adjective **ensorious**, critical, damning; reproving, reproachful, deprecatory, disapproving, unfavourable; formal castigatory.

**condensation** noun **1** *windows misty with condensation:* **moisture**, water droplets, steam. **2** *the condensation of the vapour:* **precipitation**, liquefaction, deliquescence. **3** *a condensation of recent literature:* **abridgement**, summary, synopsis, precis, digest. **4** *the condensation of the report:* **shortening**, abridgement, abbreviation, summarization.

**condense** verb **1** *the water vapour condenses:* **precipitate**, liquefy, become liquid, deliquesce. **2** *he condensed the play:* **abridge**, shorten, cut, abbreviate, compact; summarize, synopsis, precis; truncate, curtail.

– OPPOSITES vaporize, expand.

**condensed** adjective **1** *a condensed text:* **abridged**, shortened, cut, compressed, abbreviated, reduced, truncated, concise; outline, thumbnail; informal potted. **2** *condensed soup:* **concentrated**, evaporated, reduced; strong, undiluted.

– OPPOSITES diluted.

**condescend** verb **1** *don't condescend to your reader:* **patronize**, talk down to, look down one's nose at, look down on, put down. **2** *he condescended to see us:* **deign**, stoop, descend, lower oneself, demean oneself; vouchsafe, see fit, consent.

**condescending** adjective **patronizing**, supercilious, superior, snobbish, snobby, disdainful, lofty, haughty; informal snooty, stuck-up; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

**condition** noun **1** *check the condition of your wiring:* **state**, shape, order; Brit. informal nick. **2** *they lived in appalling conditions:* **circumstances**, surroundings, environment, situation, setting, habitat; informal circe, set-up. **3** *she was in tip-top condition:* **fitness**, health, form, shape, trim, fettle. **4** *a liver*

**condition:** disorder, problem, complaint, illness, disease, ailment, sickness, affliction, infection, upset; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy. **5 a condition of employment:** stipulation, constraint, prerequisite, precondition, requirement, rule, term, specification, provision, proviso.

• **verb 1** *their choices are conditioned by the economy:* constrain, control, govern, determine, decide; affect, touch, impact on; form, shape, guide, sway, bias. **2** *our minds are conditioned by habit:* train, teach, educate, guide; accustom, adapt, habituate, mould, inure. **3** *condition the boards with water:* treat, prepare, prime, temper, process, acclimatize, acclimate, season. **4 a product to condition your skin: improve, nourish, tone (up), moisturize.**

**conditional adjective 1** *their approval is conditional on success:* subject to, dependent on, contingent on, based on, determined by, controlled by, tied to. **2 a conditional offer:** contingent, dependent, qualified, with reservations, limited, provisional, provisory.

**condolences** plural noun sympathy, commiseration(s), compassion, pity, support, comfort, consolation, understanding.

**condom** noun contraceptive, sheath; N. Amer. prophylactic; Brit. trademark Durex, Femidom; Brit. informal johnny; N. Amer. informal rubber, safe; Brit. informal, dated French letter; dated protective.

**condone** verb disregard, accept, allow, let pass, turn a blind eye to, overlook, forget; forgive, pardon, excuse, let go.

– OPPOSITES condemn.

**conductive** adjective favourable, beneficial, advantageous, opportune, propitious, encouraging, promising, convenient, good, helpful, instrumental, productive, useful.

– OPPOSITES unfavourable.

**conduct** noun **1** *they complained about her conduct:* behaviour, performance, demeanour; actions, activities, deeds, doings, exploits; habits, manners; formal comportment. **2** *the conduct of the elections:* management, running, direction, control, supervision, regulation, administration, organization, coordination, orchestration, handling.

• **verb 1** *the election was conducted lawfully:* manage, direct, run, administer, organize, coordinate, orchestrate, handle, control, oversee, supervise, regulate, carry out/on. **2** *he was conducted through the corridors:* escort, guide, lead, usher, show; shepherd, see, bring, take, help. **3** *aluminium conducts heat:* transmit, convey, carry, transfer, impart, channel, relay; disseminate, diffuse, radiate.

■ **conduct oneself** behave, act, acquit oneself, bear oneself; formal comport oneself; old use deport oneself.

**conduit** noun channel, duct, pipe, tube, gutter, trench, culvert, cut, sluice, spillway, flume, chute.

**confectionery** noun sweets, chocolates,

bonbons; N. Amer. candy; informal sweeties; old use sweetmeats.

**confederacy** noun federation, confederation, alliance, league, association, coalition, consortium, syndicate, group, circle; bloc, axis.

**confederate** adjective *confederate councils:* federal, confederated, federated, allied, associated, united.

– OPPOSITES split.

• **noun** *he met his confederate in the street:* associate, partner, accomplice, helper, assistant, ally, collaborator, colleague; Brit. informal oppo; Austral./NZ informal offside.

**confederation** noun alliance, league, confederacy, federation, association, coalition, consortium, conglomerate, cooperative, syndicate, group, circle; society, union.

**confer** verb **1** *she conferred a knighthood on him:* bestow on, present to, grant to, award to, decorate with, honour with, give to, endow with, extend to, vouchsafe to. **2** *she went to confer with her colleagues:* consult, talk, speak, converse, have a chat, have a tête-à-tête, parley; informal have a confab, powwow.

**conference** noun **1** *an international conference:* congress, meeting, convention, seminar, colloquium, symposium, forum, summit. **2** *he gathered them for a conference:* discussion, consultation, debate, talk, conversation, dialogue, chat, tête-à-tête, parley; informal confab; formal confabulation.

**confess** verb **1** *he confessed that he had done it:* admit, acknowledge, reveal, disclose, divulge, avow, declare, profess; own up, tell all; informal fess up. **2** *they could not make him confess:* own up, plead guilty, accept the blame; tell the truth, tell all, make a clean breast of it; informal come clean, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, get something off one's chest, let on; Brit. informal cough. **3** *I confess I don't know:* acknowledge, admit, concede, grant, allow, own, declare, affirm.

– OPPOSITES deny.

**confession** noun admission, acknowledgement, profession; revelation, disclosure, divulgence, avowal; guilty plea.

**confidant, confidante** noun close friend, bosom friend, best friend; intimate, familiar; informal chum, pal, crony; Brit. informal mate, oppo, mucker; N. Amer. informal buddy.

**confide** verb **1** *he confided his fears to his mother:* reveal, disclose, divulge, lay bare, betray, impart, declare, intimate, uncover, expose, vouchsafe, tell; confess, admit, give away; informal blab, spill. **2** *I need him to confide in:* open one's heart to, unburden oneself to, confess to, tell all to.

**confidence** noun **1** *I have little confidence in these figures:* trust, belief, faith, credence, conviction. **2** *she's brimming with confidence:* self-assurance, self-confidence, self-possession, assertiveness; poise, aplomb, phlegm; courage, boldness, mettle, nerve. **3** *the girls exchanged confidences:* secret,

confidentiality, intimacy.

– OPPOSITES scepticism, doubt.

**confident adjective 1** *we are confident that business will improve:* optimistic, hopeful, sanguine; sure, certain, positive, convinced, in no doubt, satisfied, assured, persuaded.

**2** *a confident girl:* self-assured, assured, self-confident, positive, assertive, self-possessed, self-reliant, poised; cool-headed, phlegmatic, level-headed, unperturbed, imperturbable, unruffled, at ease; informal together.

**confidential adjective 1** *a confidential chat:* private, personal, intimate, quiet; secret, sensitive, classified, restricted, unofficial, unrevealed, undisclosed, unpublished; informal hush-hush, mum; formal sub rosa; old use privy. **2** *a confidential friend:* trusted, trustworthy, trusty, faithful, reliable, dependable; close, bosom, intimate.

**confidentially adverb** privately, in private, in confidence, between ourselves/ themselves, off the record, quietly, secretly, in secret, behind closed doors; formal sub rosa.

**configuration noun** arrangement, layout, geography, design, organization, order, grouping, positioning, disposition, alignment; shape, form, appearance, formation, structure, format.

**confine verb 1** *they were confined in the house:* enclose, incarcerate, imprison, intern, impound, hold captive, trap; shut in/up, keep, lock in/up, coop (up); fence in, hedge in, wall in/up. **2** *he confined his remarks to the weather:* restrict, limit.

**confined adjective** cramped, constricted, restricted, limited, small, narrow, compact, tight, poky, uncomfortable, inadequate.

– OPPOSITES roomy.

**confinement noun 1** *solitary confinement:* imprisonment, internment, incarceration, custody, captivity, detention, restraint; house arrest. **2** *the confinement of an animal:* caging, enclosure; quarantine. **3** (dated) *she went to hospital for her confinement:* labour, delivery, birthing; birth, childbirth; formal parturition; old use lying-in, childbirth.

**confines plural noun** limits, margins, extremities, edges, borders, boundaries, fringes, marches; periphery, perimeter.

**confirm verb 1** *records confirm the latest evidence:* corroborate, verify, prove, validate, authenticate, substantiate, justify, vindicate; support, uphold, back up. **2** *he confirmed that help was on the way:* affirm, reaffirm, assert, assure someone, repeat; promise, guarantee. **3** *his appointment was confirmed by the President:* ratify, validate, sanction, endorse, formalize, authorize, warrant, accredit, approve, accept.

– OPPOSITES contradict, deny.

**confirmation noun 1** *independent confirmation of the deaths:* corroboration, verification, proof, testimony, endorsement, authentication, substantiation, evidence. **2** *confirmation of your appointment:* ratification, approval, authorization, validation, sanction, endorsement,

formalization, accreditation, acceptance.

**confirmed adjective** established, long-standing, committed, dyed-in-the-wool, through and through; staunch, loyal, faithful, devoted, dedicated, steadfast; habitual, compulsive, persistent; unapologetic, unashamed, inveterate, chronic, incurable; informal deep-dyed, card-carrying.

**confiscate verb** impound, seize, commandeer, requisition, appropriate, expropriate, sequester, sequestrate, take (away); Law distraint; Scottish Law poind.

– OPPOSITES return.

**confiscation noun** seizure, requisition, appropriation, expropriation, sequestration; Law distraint, distraintment; Scottish Law poind.

**conflagration noun** fire, blaze, flames, inferno, firestorm.

**conflict noun 1** *industrial conflicts:* dispute, quarrel, squabble, disagreement, dissension, clash; discord, friction, strife, antagonism, hostility, disputation, contention; feud, schism. **2** *the Vietnam conflict:* war, campaign, battle, fighting, (armed) confrontation, engagement, encounter, struggle, hostilities; warfare, combat. **3** *a conflict between his business and domestic life:* clash, incompatibility, incongruity, friction; mismatch, variance, difference, divergence, contradiction, inconsistency.

– OPPOSITES agreement, peace, harmony.

• **verb** *their interests sometimes conflict:* clash, be incompatible, vary, be at odds, be in conflict, differ, diverge, disagree, contrast, collide.

**conflicting adjective** contradictory, incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable, incongruous, contrary, opposite, opposing, antithetical, clashing, discordant, divergent; at odds.

**confluence noun** convergence, meeting, junction, conflux, watersmeet.

**conform verb 1** *visitors have to conform to our rules:* comply with, abide by, obey, observe, follow, keep to, stick to, adhere to, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, fall in with, respect, defer to; satisfy, meet, fulfil.

**2** *they refuse to conform:* follow convention, be conventional, fit in, adapt, adjust, follow the crowd; comply, acquiesce, toe the line, follow the rules; submit, yield; informal play it by the book, play by the rules. **3** *goods must conform to their description:* match, fit, suit, answer, agree with, be like, correspond to, be consistent with, measure up to, tally with, square with.

– OPPOSITES flout, rebel.

**conformist noun** conventionalist, traditionalist, conservative, stickler, formalist, diehard, reactionary; informal stick-in-the-mud, stuffed shirt.

– OPPOSITES eccentric, rebel.

**confound verb 1** *the figures confounded analysts:* amaze, astonish, dumbfound, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, nonplus; throw, shake, discompose, bewilder, baffle, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confuse;



take aback, shake up, catch off balance; informal flabbergast, blow someone's mind, blow away, flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** *he has always confounded expectations*: **contradict**, counter, invalidate, negate, go against, drive a coach and horses through; quash, explode, demolish, shoot down, destroy, disprove; informal shoot full of holes.

**confront** verb **1** *Jones confronted the burglar*: **challenge**, square up to, face (up to), come face to face with, meet, accost, waylay; stand up to, brave, beard, tackle; informal collar; Brit. informal noble. **2** *the problems that confront us*: **trouble**, bother, burden, distress, worry, oppress, annoy, strain, stress, tax, torment, plague, blight, curse; face, beset. **3** *they must confront their problems*: **tackle**, address, face, get to grips with, grapple with, take on, attend to, see to, deal with, take care of, handle, manage; informal get stuck into. **4** *she confronted him with the evidence*: **present**, face.  
– OPPOSITES avoid.

**confrontation** noun **conflict**, clash, fight, battle, encounter, head-to-head, face-off, engagement, skirmish; hostilities, fighting; informal set-to, run-in, dust-up, showdown.

**confuse** verb **1** *don't confuse students with too much detail*: **bewilder**, baffle, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confound, nonplus; informal flummox, faze, stump, fox; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** *the authors have confused the issue*: **complicate**, muddle, jumble, garble, blur, obscure, cloud. **3** *some confuse strokes with heart attacks*: **mix up**, muddle up, confound; mistake for.  
– OPPOSITES enlighten, simplify.

**confused** adjective **1** *they are confused about what is going on*: **bewildered**, bemused, puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified, nonplussed, muddled, dumbfounded, at sea, at a loss, taken aback, disoriented, disconcerted; informal flummoxed, bamboozled, clueless, fazed; N. Amer. informal discombobulated. **2** *her confused elderly mother*: **demented**, bewildered, muddled, addled, befuddled, disoriented, disorientated; unbalanced, unhinged; senile. **3** *a confused recollection*: **vague**, unclear, indistinct, imprecise, blurred, hazy, woolly, shadowy, dim; imperfect, sketchy. **4** *a confused mass of bones*: **disorderly**, disordered, disorganized, disarranged, out of order, untidy, muddled, jumbled, mixed up, chaotic, topsy-turvy; informal higgledy-piggledy; Brit. informal shambolic.  
– OPPOSITES lucid, clear, precise, neat.

**confusing** adjective **bewildering**, baffling, unclear, perplexing, puzzling, mystifying, disconcerting; ambiguous, misleading, inconsistent, contradictory; unaccountable, inexplicable, impenetrable, unfathomable; complex, complicated.

**confusion** noun **1** *there is confusion about the new system*: **uncertainty**, incertitude, unsureness, doubt, ignorance; formal dubiety. **2** *she stared in confusion*:

**bewilderment**, bafflement, perplexity, puzzlement, mystification, befuddlement; shock, daze, wonder, wonderment, astonishment; informal bamboozlement; N. Amer. informal discombobulation. **3** *her life was in utter confusion*: **disorder**, disarray, disorganization, untidiness, chaos, mayhem; turmoil, tumult, disruption, upheaval, uproar, hurly-burly, muddle, mess; informal shambles. **4** *a confusion of boxes*: **jumble**, muddle, mess, heap, tangle; informal shambles.  
– OPPOSITES certainty, order.

**confute** verb (formal) **disprove**, contradict, controvert, refute, deny, rebut, belie, negate, invalidate, explode, discredit, debunk, quash, drive a coach and horses through; informal shoot full of holes; formal gainsay.  
– OPPOSITES prove.

**congeal** verb **coagulate**, clot, thicken, gel, inspissate, cake, set, curdle.

**congenial** adjective **1** *very congenial people*: **like-minded**, compatible, kindred, well suited; companionable, sociable, sympathetic, comradely, convivial, hospitable, genial, personable, agreeable, friendly, pleasant, likeable, amiable, nice. **2** *a congenial environment*: **pleasant**, pleasing, agreeable, enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, appealing, satisfying, gratifying, delightful, relaxing, welcoming, hospitable; suitable, well suited, favourable.  
– OPPOSITES unpleasant.

**congenital** adjective **1** *congenital defects*: **inborn**, inherited, hereditary, innate, inbred, constitutional, inbuilt, natural, inherent. **2** *a congenital liar*: **inveterate**, compulsive, persistent, chronic, regular, habitual, obsessive, confirmed; incurable, incorrigible, irredeemable, hopeless; unashamed, shameless; informal pathological.  
– OPPOSITES acquired.

**congested** adjective **crowded**, overcrowded, full, overflowing, packed, jammed, thronged, teeming, swarming; obstructed, blocked, clogged, choked; informal snarled up, gridlocked, jam-packed; Brit. informal like Piccadilly Circus.  
– OPPOSITES clear.

**congestion** noun **crowding**, overcrowding; obstruction, blockage; traffic jam, bottleneck; informal snarl-up, gridlock.

**conglomerate** noun **1** *the conglomerate was broken up*: **corporation**, combine, group, consortium, partnership; firm, company, business, multinational. **2** *a conglomerate of disparate peoples*: **mixture**, mix, combination, amalgamation, union, marriage, fusion, composite, synthesis; miscellany, hotchpotch.

• adjective *a conglomerate mass*: **aggregate**, agglomerate, amassed, combined.

• verb *the debris conglomerated into planets*: **coalesce**, unite, join, combine, merge, fuse, consolidate, amalgamate, integrate, mingle, intermingle.

**congratulate** verb **1** *she congratulated him on his marriage*: **send one's best wishes**, wish someone good luck; drink someone's

health, toast. **2** *they are to be congratulated:* praise, commend, applaud, salute, honour; pay tribute to, regard highly, pat on the back, take one's hat off to.

– OPPOSITES criticize.

**C** ■ **congratulate oneself** take pride, feel proud, flatter oneself, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back; feel satisfaction, take pleasure, glory, bask, delight.

**congratulations** plural noun **1** *her congratulations on their wedding:* good wishes, best wishes, compliments, felicitations. **2** *you all deserve congratulations:* praise, commendation, applause, salutes, honour, acclaim, cheers, bouquets; approval, admiration, compliments, kudos, adulation; a pat on the back.

**congregate** verb assemble, gather, collect, come together, convene, rally, rendezvous, muster, meet, cluster, group.

– OPPOSITES disperse.

**congregation** noun **1** *the chapel congregation:* parishioners, parish, churchgoers, flock, faithful, followers, believers, fellowship, communicants, laity, brethren; throng, company, assemblage, audience. **2** *congregations of birds:* gathering, assembly, flock, swarm, bevy, pack, group, body, crowd, mass, multitude, horde, host, mob, throng.

**congress** noun **1** *an annual congress of mathematicians:* conference, convention, seminar, colloquium, symposium, forum, meeting, assembly, gathering, rally, summit. **2** *elections for the new Congress:* legislature, legislative assembly, parliament, convocation, diet, council, senate, chamber, house.

**congruence** noun compatibility, consistency, conformity, match, balance, consonance, congruity; agreement, accord, consensus, harmony, unity; formal concord.

– OPPOSITES conflict.

**conical** adjective cone-shaped, tapered, tapering, pointed, funnel-shaped; informal pointy; Zoology conoid.

**conjectural** adjective speculative, suppositional, suppositious, theoretical, hypothetical, putative, notional; postulated, inferred, presumed, assumed, presupposed, tentative.

**conjecture** noun *the information is merely conjecture:* speculation, guesswork, surmise, fancy, presumption, assumption, theory, postulation, supposition; inference, extrapolation; estimate; informal guesstimate, a shot in the dark.

– OPPOSITES fact.

• verb *I conjectured that the game was over:* guess, speculate, surmise, infer, fancy, imagine, believe, think, suspect, presume, assume, hypothesize, suppose.

– OPPOSITES know.

**conjugal** adjective marital, matrimonial, nuptial, marriage, bridal; Law spousal; literary connubial.

**conjunction** noun co-occurrence,

concurrence, coincidence, coexistence, simultaneity, contemporaneity, concomitance, synchronicity, synchrony.

**conjure** verb **1** *he conjured a cigarette out of the air:* produce, make something appear, materialize, magic, summon. **2** *the picture that his words conjured up:* bring to mind, call to mind, evoke, summon up, recall, recreate; echo, allude to, suggest, awaken.

**conjuring** noun magic, illusion, sleight of hand, legerdemain; formal prestidigitation.

**conjuror** noun magician, illusionist; formal prestidigitator.

**connect** verb **1** *electrodes were connected to the device:* attach, join, fasten, fix, affix, couple, link, secure, hitch; stick, adhere, fuse, pin, screw, bolt, clamp, clip, hook (up); add, append. **2** *customs connected with Easter:* associate, link, couple; identify, equate, bracket, relate to.

**connection** noun **1** *the connection between commerce and art:* link, relationship, relation, interconnection, interdependence, association; bond, tie, tie-in, correspondence, parallel, analogy. **2** *a poor connection in the plug:* attachment, joint, fastening, coupling. **3** *he has the right connections:* contact, friend, acquaintance, ally, colleague, associate; relation, relative, kin.

■ **in connection with** regarding, concerning, with reference to, with regard to, with respect to, respecting, relating to, in relation to, on, connected with, on the subject of, in the matter of, apropos, re, in re.

**connivance** noun collusion, complicity, collaboration, involvement, assistance; tacit consent, conspiracy, intrigue.

**connive** verb **1** *wardens connived at offences:* deliberately ignore, overlook, disregard, pass over, take no notice of, make allowances for, turn a blind eye to, wink at, excuse, condone, let go; look the other way. **2** *the government connived with security forces:* conspire, collude, collaborate, intrigue, be hand in glove, plot, scheme; informal be in cahoots.

**conniving** adjective scheming, cunning, crafty, calculating, devious, wily, sly, tricky, artful, guileful; manipulative, Machiavellian, disingenuous, deceitful, underhand, treacherous; informal foxy.

**connoisseur** noun expert, authority, specialist, pundit, savant; arbiter of taste, aesthete; gourmet, epicure, gastronome; informal buff; N. Amer. informal maven.

**connotation** noun overtone, undertone, undercurrent, implication, hidden meaning, nuance, hint, echo, vibrations, association, intimation, suggestion, suspicion, insinuation.

**connote** verb imply, suggest, indicate, signify, hint at, give the impression of, smack of, be associated with, allude to.

**conquer** verb **1** *the Franks conquered the Visigoths:* defeat, beat, vanquish, trounce, triumph over, be victorious over, get the

better of, worst; overcome, overwhelm, overpower, overthrow, subdue, subjugate, quell, quash, crush, rout; informal lick, best, hammer, clobber, thrash, paste, demolish, annihilate, wipe the floor with, walk all over, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal cream, shellac, skunk. **2** *Peru was conquered by Spain*: seize, take (over), appropriate, subjugate, capture, occupy, invade, annex, overrun. **3** *the first men to conquer Mount Everest*: climb, ascend, mount, scale, top, crest. **4** *the way to conquer fear*: overcome, get the better of, control, master, get a grip on, deal with, cope with, surmount, rise above, get over; quell, quash, beat, triumph over; informal lick.

– OPPOSITES lose.

**conqueror** noun *vanquisher*, conquistador; victor, winner, champion, conquering hero.

**conquest** noun **1** *the conquest of the Aztecs*: defeat, vanquishment, annihilation, overthrow, subjugation, rout, mastery, crushing; victory over, triumph over. **2** *their conquest of the valley*: seizure, takeover, capture, occupation, invasion, acquisition, appropriation, subjugation, subjection. **3** *the conquest of Everest*: ascent. **4** *she's his latest conquest*: catch, acquisition, prize, slave; admirer, fan, worshipper; lover, boyfriend, girlfriend; informal fancy man, fancy woman.

– OPPOSITES surrender.

**conscience** noun *sense of right and wrong*, moral sense, inner voice; morals, standards, values, principles, ethics, beliefs; compunction, scruples, qualms.

**conscience-stricken** adjective *guilt-ridden*, remorseful, ashamed, shamefaced, apologetic, sorry; chastened, contrite, guilty, regretful, rueful, repentant, penitent, self-reproachful, abashed, sheepish, compunctious.

– OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**conscientious** adjective *diligent*, industrious, punctilious, painstaking, sedulous, assiduous, dedicated, careful, meticulous, thorough, attentive, hard-working, studious, rigorous, particular; religious, strict.

– OPPOSITES casual.

**conscious** adjective **1** *the patient was conscious*: aware, awake, alert, responsive, sentient, compos mentis. **2** *he became conscious of people talking*: aware of, alert to, mindful of, sensible of; formal cognizant of; old use ware of. **3** *a conscious effort*: deliberate, intentional, intended, purposeful, purposive, knowing, considered, calculated, wilful, premeditated, planned, volitional; Law, dated prepenze.

– OPPOSITES unaware.

**conscript** verb *they were conscripted into the army*: call up, enlist, recruit; US draft; historical press, impress.

• noun *an army conscript*: recruit; US draftee.

– OPPOSITES volunteer.

**consecrate** verb *sanctify*, bless, make holy, make sacred; dedicate to God, devote,

reserve, set apart; anoint, ordain; formal hallow.

**consecutive** adjective *successive*, succeeding, following, in succession, running, in a row, one after the other, back-to-back, continuous, straight, uninterrupted; informal on the trot.

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**consensus** noun **1** *there was consensus among delegates*: agreement, harmony, concurrence, accord, unity, unanimity, solidarity; formal concord. **2** *the consensus was that they should act*: general opinion, majority opinion, common view.

– OPPOSITES dissent.

**consent** noun *the consent of all members*: agreement, assent, acceptance, approval, approbation; permission, authorization, sanction, leave; backing, endorsement, support; informal go-ahead, thumbs up, green light, OK.

– OPPOSITES dissent.

• verb *she consented to surgery*: agree, assent, yield, give in, submit; allow, give permission for, sanction, accept, approve, go along with.

– OPPOSITES forbid.

**consequence** noun **1** *a consequence of inflation*: result, upshot, outcome, outturn, effect, repercussion, ramification, corollary, concomitant, aftermath; fruit(s), product, by-product, end result; informal pay-off; Medicine sequela. **2** *the past is of no consequence*: importance, import, significance, account, substance, note, mark, prominence, value, concern, interest; formal moment.

– OPPOSITES cause.

**consequent** adjective *resulting*, resultant, ensuing, consequential; following, subsequent, successive; attendant, accompanying, concomitant; collateral, associated, related.

**consequential** adjective **1** *a fire and the consequential smoke damage*: resulting, resultant, ensuing, consequent; following, subsequent; attendant, accompanying, concomitant; collateral, associated, related.

**2** *one of his more consequential initiatives*: important, significant, major, momentous, weighty, material, appreciable, memorable, far-reaching, serious.

– OPPOSITES insignificant.

**consequently** adverb *as a result*, as a consequence, so, thus, therefore, ergo, accordingly, hence, for this/that reason, because of this/that, on this/that account; inevitably, necessarily.

**conservation** noun *preservation*, protection, safeguarding, safe keeping; care, guardianship, husbandry, supervision; upkeep, maintenance, repair, restoration; ecology, environmentalism.

**conservative** adjective **1** *the conservative wing of the party*: right-wing, reactionary, traditionalist; Brit. Tory, blimpish; US Republican; informal true blue. **2** *the conservative trade-union movement*: traditionalist, traditional, conventional,



orthodox, old-fashioned, dyed-in-the-wool, hidebound, unadventurous, set in one's ways; moderate, middle-of-the-road; informal stick-in-the-mud. **3** *a conservative suit*: **conventional**, sober, modest, plain, unobtrusive, restrained, subtle, low-key, demure; informal square, straight. **4** *a conservative estimate*: **low**, cautious, understated, moderate, reasonable.

— **OPPOSITES** socialist, radical, ostentatious.  
 • **noun** *liberals and conservatives have found common ground*: **right-winger**, reactionary, rightist, diehard; Brit. Tory, blimp; US Republican.

**conservatory** **noun** **1** *a frost-free conservatory*: **summer house**, belvedere; glasshouse, greenhouse, hothouse.  
**2** *a teaching job at the conservatory*: **conservatoire**, music school, drama school.

**conserve** **verb** *fossil fuel should be conserved*: **preserve**, protect, save, safeguard, keep, look after; sustain, prolong, perpetuate; store, reserve, husband.

— **OPPOSITES** squander.  
 • **noun** *cherry conserve*: **jam**, preserve, jelly, marmalade, confiture.

**consider** **verb** **1** *Isabel considered her choices*: **think about**, contemplate, reflect on, examine, review; mull over, ponder, deliberate on, chew over, meditate on, ruminate on; assess, evaluate, weigh up, appraise; informal size up. **2** *I consider him irresponsible*: **deem**, think, believe, judge, adjudge, rate, count, find; regard as, hold to be, reckon to be, view as, see as. **3** *he considered the ceiling*: **look at**, contemplate, observe, regard, survey, view, scrutinize, scan, examine, inspect; informal check out; N. Amer. informal eyeball. **4** *the inquiry will consider those issues*: **take into consideration**, take account of, make allowances for, bear in mind, be mindful of, remember, mind, mark, respect, heed, note, make provision for.

— **OPPOSITES** ignore.

**considerable** **adjective** **1** *a considerable amount of money*: **sizeable**, substantial, appreciable, significant; goodly, fair, hefty, handsome, decent, worthwhile; ample, plentiful, abundant, great, large, generous; informal tidy, not to be sneezed at. **2** *considerable success*: **much**, great, a lot of, lots of, a great deal of, plenty of, a fair amount of. **3** *a considerable cricketer*: **distinguished**, noteworthy, important, significant, prominent, eminent, influential, illustrious; renowned, celebrated, acclaimed.

— **OPPOSITES** paltry, minor.

**considerably** **adverb** greatly, (very) much, a great deal, a lot, lots; significantly, substantially, appreciably, markedly, noticeably; informal plenty, seriously.

**considerate** **adjective** attentive, thoughtful, solicitous, mindful, heedful; obliging, accommodating, helpful, cooperative, patient; kind, unselfish, compassionate, sympathetic, caring, charitable, altruistic, generous; polite, sensitive, tactful.

**consideration** **noun** **1** *your case needs careful consideration*: **thought**, deliberation, reflection, contemplation, rumination, meditation; examination, inspection, scrutiny, analysis, discussion; attention, regard; formal cogitation.

**2** *his health is the prime consideration*: **factor**, issue, matter, concern, detail, aspect, feature. **3** *firms should show more consideration*: **attentiveness**, concern, care, thoughtfulness, solicitude; kindness, understanding, respect, sensitivity, tact, discretion; compassion, charity, benevolence. **4** *I might do it, for a consideration*: **payment**, fee, premium, remuneration, compensation; commission, percentage, dividend; informal cut, slice, piece of the action; formal emolument.

— **OPPOSITES** disregard.

■ **take something into consideration** consider, give thought to, take into account, allow for, provide for, plan for, make provision for, accommodate, bargain for, reckon with; foresee, anticipate.

**considering** **preposition** *considering his size he was speedy*: **bearing in mind**, taking into consideration, taking into account, keeping in mind, in view of, in the light of.

• **adverb** (informal) *he'd been lucky, considering*: **all things considered**, all in all, on the whole, at the end of the day, when all's said and done.

**consign** **verb** **1** *he was consigned to prison*: **send**, deliver, hand over, turn over, sentence; confine in, imprison in, incarcerate in, lock up in; informal put away, put behind bars; Brit. informal bang up. **2** *the picture was consigned for sale*: **assign**, allocate, place, put, remit, hand down. **3** *the package was consigned by a local company*: **send (off)**, dispatch, transmit, convey, post, mail, ship. **4** *I consigned her picture to the bin*: **deposit**, commit, banish, relegate.

**consignment** **noun** delivery, shipment, load, boatload, lorryload, truckload, cargo; batch; goods.

**consist** **verb** **1** *the exhibition consists of 180 drawings*: **be composed**, be made up, be formed; comprise, contain, include, incorporate. **2** *style consists in the choices that writers make*: **be inherent**, lie, reside, be present, be contained; be expressed by.

**consistency** **noun** **1** *the trend shows a degree of consistency*: **uniformity**, constancy, regularity, evenness, steadiness, stability, equilibrium; dependability, reliability. **2** *cream of pouring consistency*: **thickness**, density, viscosity, heaviness, texture; firmness, solidity.

**consistent** **adjective** **1** *consistent opinion-poll evidence*: **constant**, regular, uniform, steady, stable, even, unchanging, undeviating, unfluctuating; dependable, reliable, predictable. **2** *her injuries were consistent with a knife attack*: **compatible**, congruous, consonant, in tune, in line, reconcilable; corresponding to, conforming to.

— **OPPOSITES** irregular, incompatible.

**consolation** noun comfort, solace, sympathy, compassion, pity, commiseration; relief, help, (moral) support, encouragement, reassurance.

**console**<sup>1</sup> verb *she tried to console him:* comfort, solace, condole with, sympathize with, commiserate with, show compassion for; help, support, cheer (up), hearten, encourage, reassure, soothe.

– OPPOSITES upset.

**console**<sup>2</sup> noun *a digital console:* control panel, instrument panel, dashboard, keyboard, keypad; informal dash.

**consolidate** verb **1** *we consolidated our position in the market:* strengthen, secure, stabilize, reinforce, fortify; enhance, improve. **2** *consolidate the results into an action plan:* combine, unite, merge, integrate, amalgamate, fuse, synthesize, bring together, unify.

**consonance** noun agreement, accord, harmony, unison; compatibility, congruity, congruence; formal concord.

**consonant** adjective

■ **consonant with** in agreement with, consistent with, in accordance with, in harmony with, compatible with, congruous with, in tune with.

**consort** noun *the queen and her consort:*

partner, companion, mate; spouse, husband, wife.

● **verb** *he consorted with other women:* associate, keep company, mix, go around, spend time, socialize, fraternize, have dealings; informal run around, hang around/round, hang out, be thick; Brit. informal hang about.

**conspicuous** adjective easily seen, clear, visible, noticeable, discernible, perceptible, detectable; obvious, manifest, evident, apparent, marked, pronounced, prominent, patent, crystal clear; striking, eye-catching, overt, blatant, writ large; distinct, recognizable, unmistakable, inescapable; informal as plain as the nose on one's face, standing out like a sore thumb, standing out a mile.

**conspiracy** noun **1** *a conspiracy to manipulate the race results:* plot, scheme, plan, machination, ploy, trick, ruse, subterfuge; informal racket. **2** *conspiracy to murder:* plotting, collusion, intrigue, connivance, machination, collaboration; treason.

**conspirator** noun plotter, schemer, intriguer, colluder, collaborator, conniver, machinator.

**conspire** verb **1** *they admitted conspiring to steal cars:* plot, scheme, plan, intrigue, machinate, collude, connive, collaborate, work hand in glove; informal be in cahoots. **2** *circumstances conspired against them:* act together, work together, combine, unite, join forces; informal gang up.

**constancy** noun **1** *constancy between lovers:* fidelity, faithfulness, loyalty, commitment, dedication, devotion; dependability,

reliability, trustworthiness. **2** *the constancy of Henry's views:* steadfastness, resolution, resolve, firmness, fixedness; determination, perseverance, tenacity, doggedness, staunchness, staying power, obstinacy. **3** *a constancy of human motive:* consistency, permanence, persistence, durability, endurance; uniformity, immutability, regularity, stability, steadiness.

**constant** adjective **1** *the constant background noise:* continual, continuous, persistent, sustained, round-the-clock; ceaseless, unceasing, perpetual, incessant, never-ending, eternal, endless, unabating, non-stop, unrelieved; interminable, unremitting, relentless. **2** *a constant speed:* consistent, regular, steady, uniform, even, invariable, unvarying, unchanging, undeviating, unfluctuating. **3** *a constant friend:* faithful, loyal, devoted, true, fast, firm, unswerving; steadfast, staunch, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, reliable, dedicated, committed. **4** *constant vigilance:* steadfast, steady, resolute, determined, tenacious, dogged, unwavering, unflagging.

– OPPOSITES fitful, variable, fickle.

● **noun** *dread of cancer has been a constant: unchanging factor, given.*

**constantly** adverb always, all the time, continually, continuously, persistently; round-the-clock, night and day, (morning, noon, and night); endlessly, non-stop, incessantly, unceasingly, perpetually, eternally, forever; interminably, unremittingly, relentlessly; Scottish aye; informal 24-7.

– OPPOSITES occasionally.

**consteration** noun dismay, perturbation, distress, disquiet, discomposure; surprise, amazement, astonishment; alarm, panic, fear, fright, shock.

– OPPOSITES satisfaction.

**constituent** adjective *constituent parts:*

**component**, integral; elemental, basic, essential, inherent.

● **noun** **1** *MPs must listen to their constituents:*

voter, elector. **2** *the constituents of tobacco:* component, ingredient, element; part, piece, bit, unit; section, portion.

**constitute** verb **1** *farmers constituted 10 per cent of the population:* amount to, add up to, account for, form, make up, compose, comprise. **2** *this constitutes a breach of copyright:* be equivalent to, be, embody, be tantamount to, be regarded as. **3** *the courts were constituted in 1875:* inaugurate, establish, initiate, found, create, set up, start, form, organize, develop; commission, charter, invest, appoint, install, empower.

**constitution** noun **1** *the constitution guarantees our rights:* charter, social code, law; bill of rights; rules, regulations, fundamental principles. **2** *the chemical constitution of the dye:* composition, make-up, structure, construction, arrangement, configuration, formation, anatomy; informal set-up. **3** *she has the constitution of an ox:*

health, physique, physical condition, shape, fettle.

**constitutional** adjective **1** *constitutional powers*: legal, lawful, legitimate, authorized, permitted; sanctioned, ratified, warranted, constituted, statutory, chartered, vested, official; by law. **2** *a constitutional weakness*: inherent, intrinsic, innate, fundamental, essential, organic; congenital, inborn, inbred.

• **noun** (dated) *she went out for a constitutional*. See **WALK** noun sense 1.

**constrain** verb **1** *he felt constrained to explain*: compel, force, drive, impel, oblige, coerce, prevail on, require; press, push, pressure, pressurize. **2** *prices were constrained by state controls*: restrict, limit, curb, check, restrain, contain, straitjacket, rein in, hold back, keep down.

**constrained** adjective *his constrained manner*: unnatural, awkward, self-conscious, forced, stilted, strained; restrained, reserved, reticent, guarded. – **OPPOSITES** relaxed.

**constraint** noun **1** *financial constraints*: restriction, limitation, curb, check, restraint, control, damper, rein, straitjacket; hindrance, impediment, obstruction, handicap. **2** *they were able to talk without constraint*: inhibition, uneasiness, embarrassment; restraint, reticence, guardedness, formality; self-consciousness, forcedness, awkwardness, stiltedness.

**constrict** verb **1** *fat constricts the blood vessels*: narrow, make narrower, tighten, compress, contract, squeeze, strangle, strangulate; old use straiten. **2** *fear of crime constricts many people's lives*: restrict, impede, limit, inhibit, obstruct, interfere with, hinder, hamper. – **OPPOSITES** expand, dilate.

**constriction** noun tightness, pressure, compression, contraction; obstruction, blockage, impediment; Medicine stricture, stenosis.

**construct** verb **1** *a new motorway was being constructed*: build, erect, put up, set up, raise, establish, assemble, manufacture, fabricate, create, make. **2** *he constructed a faultless argument*: formulate, form, put together, create, devise, design, compose, work out; fashion, mould, shape, frame. – **OPPOSITES** demolish.

**construction** noun **1** *the construction of a new airport*: building, erection, putting up, setting up, establishment; assembly, manufacture, fabrication, creation. **2** *the station was a spectacular construction*: structure, building, pile; formal edifice. **3** *you could put an honest construction on their conduct*: interpretation, reading, meaning, explanation, explication, construal; informal take.

**constructive** adjective useful, helpful, productive, positive, encouraging; practical, valuable, profitable, worthwhile.

**construe** verb interpret, understand, read, see, take, take to mean, regard.

**consul** noun ambassador, diplomat, chargé d'affaires, attaché, envoy, emissary, plenipotentiary; old use legate.

**consult** verb **1** *you need to consult a solicitor*: seek advice from, ask, take counsel from, call on, speak to, turn to, have recourse to; informal pick someone's brains. **2** *the government must consult with interested parties*: confer, have discussions, talk things over, exchange views, communicate, parley, deliberate; informal put their heads together. **3** *she consulted her diary*: refer to, turn to, look at.

**consultant** noun **1** *an engineering consultant*: adviser, expert, specialist, authority, pundit. **2** *a consultant at Guy's hospital*: senior doctor, specialist.

**consultation** noun **1** *the need for further consultation with industry*: discussion, dialogue, discourse, debate, negotiation, deliberation. **2** *a 30-minute consultation*: meeting, talk, discussion, interview, audience, hearing; appointment, session; formal confabulation, colloquy.

**consume** verb **1** *vast amounts of food and drink were consumed*: eat, devour, ingest, swallow, gobble up, wolf down, guzzle, feast on, snack on; drink, gulp down, imbibe, sup; informal tuck into, put away, polish off, scoff, Hoover up, dispose of, pig oneself on, trough, down, neck, sink, swill; Brit. informal gollop, shift; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up). **2** *natural resources are being consumed at an alarming rate*: use (up), utilize, expend; deplete, exhaust; waste, squander, drain, dissipate, fritter away. **3** *the fire consumed fifty houses*: destroy, demolish, lay waste, wipe out, annihilate, devastate, gut, ruin, wreck. **4** *Carolyn was consumed with guilt*: eat up, devour, obsess, grip, overwhelm; absorb, preoccupy.

**consumer** noun purchaser, buyer, customer, shopper; user, end-user; client; (the consumer or consumers) the public, the market.

**consuming** adjective absorbing, compelling, compulsive, besetting, obsessive, overwhelming; intense, ardent, strong, powerful, burning, raging, fervid, profound, deep-seated.

**consummate** verb *the deal was finally consummated*: complete, conclude, finish, accomplish, achieve; execute, carry out, perform; informal sew up, wrap up; formal effectuate.

• **adjective** *his consummate skill* | *a consummate politician*: supreme, superb, superlative, superior, accomplished, expert, proficient, skilful, skilled, masterly, master, first-class, talented, gifted, polished, practised, perfect, ultimate; complete, total, utter, absolute, pure.

**consumption** noun **1** *food unfit for human consumption*: eating, drinking, ingestion. **2** *the consumption of fossil fuels*: use, using up, utilization, expending, depletion; waste, squandering, dissipation.

**contact** noun **1** *a disease transmitted through*



*direct contact with rats: touch*, touching; proximity, exposure. **2** *foreign diplomats were asked to avoid all contact with him: communication*, correspondence, touch; association, connection, intercourse, relations, dealings; old use traffic. **3** *he had many contacts in Germany: connection*, acquaintance, associate, friend.

• **verb** *anyone with information should contact the police: get in touch with*, communicate with, make contact with, approach, notify; telephone, phone, call, ring up, speak to, talk to, write to; informal get hold of.

**contagion** *noun* (dated) *disease*, infection, illness, plague, blight; informal bug, virus; old use pestilence.

**contagious** *adjective* *infectious*, communicable, transmittable, transmissible, spreadable; informal catching; dated infective.

**contain** *verb* **1** *the archive contains much unpublished material: include*, comprise, take in, incorporate, involve, encompass, embrace; consist of, be made up of, be composed of. **2** *the boat contained four people: hold*, carry, accommodate, seat. **3** *he must contain his anger: restrain*, curb, rein in, suppress, repress, stifle, subdue, quell, swallow, bottle up, hold in, keep in check; control, master.

**container** *noun* *receptacle*, vessel, holder, repository.

**contaminate** *verb* *pollute*, adulterate; defile, debase, corrupt, taint, infect, foul, spoil, soil, stain, sully; poison; literary befoul.  
– **OPPOSITES** purify.

**contemplate** *verb* **1** *she contemplated her image in the mirror: look at*, view, regard, examine, inspect, observe, survey, study, scrutinize, scan, stare at, gaze at, eye. **2** *he contemplated his fate: think about*, ponder, reflect on, consider, mull over, muse on, dwell on, deliberate over, meditate on, ruminate on, chew over, brood on/about, turn over in one's mind; formal cogitate. **3** *he was contemplating action for damages: consider*, think about, have in mind, intend, plan, propose; envisage, foresee.

**contemplation** *noun* **1** *the contemplation of beautiful objects: viewing*, examination, inspection, observation, survey, study, scrutiny. **2** *the monks sat in quiet contemplation: thought*, reflection, meditation, consideration, rumination, deliberation, reverie, introspection, brown study; formal cogitation, cerebration.

**contemplative** *adjective* *thoughtful*, pensive, reflective, meditative, musing, ruminative, introspective, brooding, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study.

**contemporary** *adjective* **1** *contemporary sources: of the time*, of the day, contemporaneous, concurrent, coeval, coexisting, coexistent. **2** *contemporary society: modern*, present-day, present, current, present-time. **3** *a very contemporary design: modern*, up to date, up to the minute, fashionable; modish, latest, recent;

informal trendy, with it.

– **OPPOSITES** old-fashioned, out of date.

• **noun** *Chaucer's contemporaries: peer*, fellow; formal compeer.

**contempt** *noun* **1** *she regarded him with contempt: scorn*, disdain, disrespect, scornfulness, contemptuousness, derision; disgust, loathing, hatred, abhorrence; old use despite. **2** *he is guilty of contempt of court: disrespect*, disregard, slighting.

– **OPPOSITES** respect.

**contemptible** *adjective* *despicable*, detestable, hateful, reprehensible, deplorable, unspeakable, disgraceful, shameful, ignominious, abject, low, mean, cowardly, unworthy, discreditable, petty, worthless, shabby, cheap, beyond contempt, beyond the pale, sordid; old use scurvy.

– **OPPOSITES** admirable.

**contemptuous** *adjective* *scornful*, disdainful, disrespectful, insulting, insolent, derisive, mocking, sneering, scoffing, withering, scathing, snide; condescending, supercilious, proud, haughty, superior, arrogant, dismissive, aloof; informal high and mighty, snotty, sniffy; old use contumelious.  
– **OPPOSITES** respectful.

**contend** *verb* **1** *the pilot had to contend with torrential rain: cope with*, face, grapple with, deal with, take on, pit oneself against. **2** *three main groups were contending for power: compete*, vie, contest, fight, battle, tussle, go head-to-head; strive, struggle. **3** *he contends that the judge was wrong: assert*, maintain, hold, claim, argue, insist, state, declare, profess, affirm; allege; formal aver.

**content**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* *she seemed content with life: contented*, satisfied, pleased, gratified, fulfilled, happy, cheerful, glad; untroubled, untroubled, at ease, at peace, tranquil, serene.

– **OPPOSITES** discontented, dissatisfied.

• **verb** *her reply seemed to content him: satisfy*, please; soothe, pacify, placate, appease, mollify.

• **noun** *a time of content*. See **CONTENTMENT**.

**content**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **1** *foods with a high fibre content: amount*, proportion, quantity. **2** *(contents) the contents of a vegetarian sausage: constituents*, ingredients, components, elements. **3** *(contents) the book's list of contents: chapters*, sections, divisions. **4** *the content of the essay: subject matter*, subject, theme, argument, thesis, message, thrust, substance, matter, material, text, ideas.

**contented** *adjective* *a contented man*. See **CONTENT**<sup>1</sup> *adjective*.

**contention** *noun* **1** *a point of contention: disagreement*, dispute, disputation, argument, discord, conflict, friction, strife, dissension, disharmony. **2** *the Marxist contention that capitalism equals exploitation: argument*, claim, plea, submission, allegation, assertion, declaration; opinion, stand, position, view, belief, thesis, case.

– **OPPOSITES** agreement.

■ **in contention** in competition, competing, contesting, contending, vying; striving, struggling.

**contentious** adjective **1** *a contentious issue*: controversial, disputable, debatable, disputed, open to debate, moot, vexed.

**2** *a contentious debate*: heated, vehement, fierce, violent, intense, impassioned.

**3** *contentious people*. See **QUARRELSOME**.

**contentment** noun **contentedness**, content, satisfaction, gratification, fulfilment, happiness, pleasure, cheerfulness; ease, comfort, well-being, peace, equanimity, serenity, tranquillity.

**contest** noun **1** *a boxing contest*: competition, match, tournament, game, meet, event, trial, bout, heat, fixture, tie, race. **2** *the contest for the party leadership*: fight, battle, tussle, struggle, competition, race.

• **verb 1** *he intended to contest the seat*:

**compete for**, contend for, vie for, fight for, try to win, go for, throw one's hat in the ring. **2** *we contested the decision*: oppose, object to, challenge, take a stand against, take issue with, question, call into question.

**3** *the issues have been hotly contested*: debate, argue about, dispute, quarrel over.

**contestant** noun competitor, participant, player, contender, candidate, aspirant, entrant; rival, opponent, adversary, antagonist.

**context** noun **1** *the wider historical context*: circumstances, conditions, factors, state of affairs, situation, background, scene, setting. **2** *a quote taken out of context*: **frame of reference**, contextual relationship; text, subject, theme, topic.

**contiguous** adjective adjacent, neighbouring, adjoining, bordering, next-door; abutting, connecting, touching, in contact, proximate.

**continent** adjective self-restrained, self-disciplined, abstemious, abstinent, self-denying, ascetic; chaste, celibate, monkish, monastic, virginal.

**contingency** noun eventuality, (chance) event, incident, happening, occurrence, juncture, possibility, fortuity, accident, chance, emergency.

**contingent** adjective **1** *the merger is contingent on government approval*: dependent on, conditional on, subject to, determined by, hinging on, resting on.

**2** *contingent events*: chance, accidental, fortuitous, possible, unforeseeable, unpredictable, random, haphazard.

• **noun 1** *a contingent of Japanese businessmen*: group, party, body, band, company, cohort, deputation, delegation; informal bunch, gang. **2** *a contingent of marines*: detachment, unit, group.

**continual** adjective **1** *a service disrupted by continual breakdowns*: frequent, repeated, constant, recurrent, recurring, regular. **2** *she was in continual pain*: constant, continuous, unending, never-ending, unremitting, unabating, relentless, unrelenting, round-the-clock, unrelieved, chronic,

uninterrupted, unbroken.

– **OPPOSITES** occasional, temporary.

**continance** noun. See **CONTINUATION**.

**continuation** noun carrying on, continuance, extension, prolongation, protraction, perpetuation.

– **OPPOSITES** end.

**continue** verb **1** *he was unable to continue with his job*: carry on, proceed, pursue, go on, keep on, persist, press on, persevere, keep at; informal stick at, soldier on.

**2** *discussions continued throughout the year*: go on, carry on, last, extend, be prolonged, run on, drag on. **3** *we are keen to continue this relationship*: maintain, keep up, sustain, keep going, keep alive, preserve. **4** *his willingness to continue in office*: remain, stay, carry on, keep going. **5** *we continued our conversation after supper*: resume, pick up, take up, carry on with, return to, recommence.

– **OPPOSITES** stop, break off.

**continuing** adjective ongoing, continuous, sustained, persistent, steady, relentless, uninterrupted, unabating, unremitting, unrelieved, unceasing.

– **OPPOSITES** sporadic.

**continuity** noun continuousness, uninterruptedness, flow, progression.

**continuous** adjective continual, uninterrupted, unbroken, constant, ceaseless, incessant, steady, sustained, solid, continuing, ongoing, unceasing, without a break, non-stop, round-the-clock, persistent, unremitting, relentless, unrelenting, unabating, unrelieved, without respite, endless, unending, never-ending, perpetual, everlasting, eternal, interminable; consecutive, running; N. Amer. without surcease.

– **OPPOSITES** intermittent.

**contort** verb twist, bend out of shape, distort, misshape, warp, buckle, deform.

**contour** noun outline, shape, form; lines, curves, figure; silhouette, profile.

**contraband** noun *contraband was suspected*: smuggling, illegal traffic, black-marketeering, bootlegging; the black market.

• **adjective** *contraband goods*: smuggled, black-market, bootleg, under the counter, illegal, illicit, unlawful; prohibited, banned, proscribed, forbidden; informal hot.

**contract** noun *a legally binding contract*: agreement, commitment, arrangement, settlement, understanding, compact, covenant, bond; deal, bargain; law indenture.

• **verb 1** *the market for such goods began to contract*: shrink, get smaller, decrease, diminish, reduce, dwindle, decline. **2** *her stomach muscles contracted*: tighten, tense, flex, constrict, draw in, narrow.

**3** *she contracted her brow*: wrinkle, knit, crease, purse, pucker. **4** *his name was soon contracted to 'Jack'*: shorten, abbreviate, cut, reduce; elide. **5** *the company contracted to rebuild the stadium*: undertake, pledge, promise, covenant, commit oneself, engage,

agree, enter an agreement, make a deal.

**6** *she contracted German measles: develop, catch, get, pick up, come down with, be struck down by, be stricken with, succumb to; Brit. go down with.* **7** *he contracted a debt of £3,300: incur, run up.*

– OPPOSITES expand, relax, lengthen.

■ **contract something out** subcontract, outsource, farm out.

**contraction** noun **1** *the contraction of the industry: shrinking, shrinkage, decline, decrease, diminution, dwindling.* **2** *the contraction of muscles: tightening, tensing, flexing.* **3** *my contractions started at midnight: labour pains, labour; cramps; literary travail.* **4** *'goodbye' is a contraction of 'God be with you': abbreviation, short form, shortened form, elision, diminutive.*

**contradict** verb **1** *he contradicted the government's account of the affair: deny, refute, rebut, dispute, challenge, counter, controvert; formal gainsay.* **2** *nobody dared to contradict him: argue against, go against, challenge, oppose; formal gainsay.* **3** *this research contradicts previous computer models: conflict with, be at odds with, be at variance with, be inconsistent with, run counter to, disagree with.*

– OPPOSITES confirm, agree with.

**contradiction** noun **1** *the contradiction between his faith and his lifestyle: conflict, clash, disagreement, opposition, inconsistency, mismatch, variance.* **2** *a contradiction of his statement: denial, refutation, rebuttal, countering, counterstatement.*

– OPPOSITES confirmation, agreement.

**contradictory** adjective **opposed**, in opposition, opposite, antithetical, contrary, contrasting, conflicting, at variance, at odds, opposing, clashing, divergent, discrepant, different; inconsistent, incompatible, irreconcilable.

**contraption** noun device, gadget, apparatus, machine, appliance, mechanism, invention, contrivance; informal gizmo, widget; Brit. informal gubbins; Austral. informal bitzer.

**contrary** adjective **1** *contrary views: opposite, opposing, opposed, contradictory, clashing, conflicting, antithetical, incompatible, irreconcilable.* **2** *she was sulky and contrary: perverse, awkward, difficult, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, recalcitrant, wilful, self-willed, stubborn, obstinate, mulish, pig-headed, intractable; informal cussed; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie, stropky; N. Amer. informal balky; formal refractory; old use froward.*

– OPPOSITES compatible, accommodating.

• **noun in fact, the contrary is true: opposite, reverse, converse, antithesis.**

■ **contrary to** in conflict with, against, at variance with, at odds with, in opposition to, counter to, incompatible with.

**contrast** noun **1** *the contrast between rural and urban trends: difference, dissimilarity, disparity, distinction, contradistinction, divergence, variance, variation,*

*differentiation; contradiction, incongruity, opposition, polarity; formal dissimilitude.*

**2** *Jane was a complete contrast to Sarah: opposite, antithesis; foil, complement.*

– OPPOSITES similarity.

• **verb 1** *a view which contrasts with his earlier opinion: differ from, be at variance with, be contrary to, conflict with, go against, be at odds with, be in opposition to, disagree with, clash with.* **2** *people contrasted her with her sister: compare, set side by side, juxtapose; measure against; distinguish from, differentiate from.*

– OPPOSITES resemble, liken.

**contravene** verb **1** *he contravened the Official Secrets Act: break, breach, violate, infringe; defy, disobey, flout.* **2** *the prosecution contravened the rights of the individual: conflict with, be in conflict with, be at odds with, be at variance with, run counter to.*

– OPPOSITES comply with.

**contravention** noun breach, violation, infringement, neglect, dereliction.

**contretemps** noun argument, quarrel, squabble, disagreement, difference of opinion, dispute; informal tiff, set-to, run-in, spat; Brit. informal row, barney; Scottish informal rammy.

**contribute** verb **1** *the government contributed a million pounds: give, donate, put up, subscribe, hand out, grant, bestow, present, provide, supply, furnish; informal chip in, pitch in, fork out, shell out, cough up; Brit. informal stump up; N. Amer. informal kick in, ante up, pony up.* **2** *an article contributed by Dr Clouston: supply, provide, submit.* **3** *numerous factors contribute to job satisfaction: play a part in, be instrumental in, be a factor in, have a hand in, be conducive to, make for, lead to, cause; formal conduce to.*

**contribution** noun **1** *voluntary financial contributions: donation, gift, offering, present, handout, grant, subsidy, allowance, endowment, subscription; formal benefaction; historical alms.* **2** *contributions from local authors: article, piece, story, item, chapter, paper, essay.*

**contributor** noun **1** *the magazine's regular contributors: writer, columnist, correspondent.* **2** *campaign contributors: donor, benefactor, subscriber, supporter, backer, subsidizer, patron, sponsor.*

**contrite** adjective remorseful, repentant, penitent, regretful, sorry, apologetic, rueful, sheepish, hangdog, ashamed, chastened, shamefaced, conscience-stricken, guilt-ridden, in sackcloth and ashes.

**contrition** noun remorse, remorsefulness, repentance, penitence, sorrow, sorrowfulness, regret, ruefulness, pangs of conscience; shame, guilt, compunction; old use rue.

**contrivance** noun **1** *a mechanical contrivance: device, gadget, machine, appliance, contraption, apparatus, mechanism, implement, tool, invention;*



informal gizmo, widget; Austral. informal bitzter.

**2** *her matchmaking contrivances: scheme, stratagem, tactic, manoeuvre, move, plan, ploy, gambit, wile, trick, ruse, plot, machination.*

C

**contrive** verb bring about, engineer, manufacture, orchestrate, stage-manage, create, devise, concoct, construct, plan, fabricate, plot, hatch; informal wangle, set up.

**contrived** adjective forced, strained, studied, artificial, affected, put-on, pretended, false, feigned, manufactured, unnatural; laboured, overdone, elaborate.

– OPPOSITES natural.

**control** noun **1** *China retained control over the region: jurisdiction, sway, power, authority, command, dominance, government, mastery, leadership, rule, sovereignty, supremacy, ascendancy; charge, management, direction, supervision, superintendence.* **2** *strict import controls: restraint, constraint, limitation, restriction, check, curb, brake, rein; regulation.* **3** *her control deserted her: self-control, self-restraint, self-possession, composure, calmness; informal cool.* **4** *easy-to-use controls: switch, knob, button, dial, handle, lever.*

**5** *mission control: headquarters, HQ, base, centre of operations, command post.*

• verb **1** *one family had controlled the company since its formation: be in charge of, run, manage, direct, administer, head, preside over, supervise, superintend, steer; command, rule, govern, lead, dominate, hold sway over, be at the helm; informal head up, be in the driving seat, run the show.* **2** *she struggled to control her temper: restrain, keep in check, curb, check, contain, hold back, bridle, rein in, suppress, repress, master.* **3** *public spending was controlled: limit, restrict, curb, cap, constrain; informal put the brakes on.*

**controversial** adjective contentious, disputed, at issue, moot, disputable, debatable, arguable, vexed, tendentious.

**controversy** noun disagreement, dispute, argument, debate, dissension, contention, disputation, altercation, wrangle, wrangling, quarrel, quarrelling, war of words, storm; cause célèbre; Brit. informal row.

**contusion** noun bruise, discoloration, black-and-blue mark, injury; Medicine ecchymosis.

**conundrum** noun **1** *the conundrums facing policy-makers in the 1980s: problem, difficult question, vexed question, difficulty, quandary, dilemma; informal poser, facer.* **2** *Roderick enjoyed conundrums and crosswords: riddle, puzzle, word game; informal brain-teaser.*

**convalesce** verb recuperate, get better, recover, get well, get back on one's feet.

**convalescence** noun recuperation, recovery, return to health, rehabilitation, improvement.

**convalescent** adjective recuperating, recovering, getting better, on the road to recovery, improving, on the mend.

**convene** verb **1** *he convened a secret meeting: summon, call, call together, order; formal convoke.* **2** *the committee convened for its final session: assemble, gather, meet, come together, congregate; formal foregather.*

**convenience** noun **1** *the convenience of the arrangement: expedience, advantageousness, advantage, opportuneness, propitiousness, timeliness; suitability, appropriateness.* **2** *for convenience, the handset is wall-mounted: ease of use, usability, usefulness, utility, serviceability, practicality.* **3** *the kitchen has all the modern conveniences: appliance, (labour-saving) device, gadget; amenity, facility; informal gizmo, mod con.*

**convenient** adjective **1** *a convenient time: suitable, appropriate, fitting, fit, suited, opportune, timely, well timed, favourable, advantageous, seasonable, expedient.* **2** *a hotel that's convenient for the beach: near (to), close to, within easy reach of, well situated for, handy for, not far from, just round the corner from; informal a stone's throw from, within spitting distance of.*

**convent** noun nunnery, priory, abbey, religious community.

**convention** noun **1** *social conventions: custom, usage, practice, tradition, way, habit, norm; rule, code, canon, punctilio; propriety, etiquette, protocol; formal praxis; (conventions) mores.* **2** *a convention signed by 74 countries: agreement, accord, protocol, compact, pact, treaty, concordat, entente; contract, bargain, deal.* **3** *the party's biennial convention: conference, meeting, congress, assembly, gathering, summit, convocation, synod, conclave.*

**conventional** adjective **1** *the conventional wisdom of the day: orthodox, traditional, established, accepted, received, mainstream, prevailing, prevalent, accustomed, customary.* **2** *a conventional railway: normal, standard, regular, ordinary, usual, traditional, typical, common.* **3** *a very conventional woman: conservative, traditional, traditionalist, conformist, bourgeois, old-fashioned, of the old school, small-town, suburban; informal straight, square, stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy.* **4** *a conventional piece of work: unoriginal, formulaic, predictable, stock, unadventurous, unremarkable.*

– OPPOSITES unorthodox, original.

**converge** verb **1** *Oxford Circus, a station where three lines converge: meet, intersect, cross, connect, link up, coincide, join, unite, merge.* **2** *90,000 fans converged on Wembley: close in on, bear down on, approach, move towards.*

– OPPOSITES diverge, leave.

**conversant** adjective familiar, acquainted, au fait, au courant, at home, well versed, well informed, knowledgeable, informed, abreast, up to date; informal up to speed, clued-up, genned-up; formal cognizant.

**conversation** noun discussion, talk, chat, gossip, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, head-to-

head, exchange, dialogue; informal confab, jaw, chit-chat; Brit. informal chinwag, natter; N. Amer. informal gabfest, schmooze; Austral./NZ informal yarn; formal confabulation, colloquy.

**conversational** adjective **1** *conversational English*: informal, chatty, relaxed, friendly; colloquial, idiomatic. **2** *a conversational man*: talkative, chatty, communicative, forthcoming, expansive, loquacious, garrulous.

**converse**<sup>1</sup> verb *they conversed in low voices*: talk, speak, chat, have a conversation, discourse, communicate; informal chew the fat/rag, jaw; Brit. informal natter; N. Amer. informal visit, shoot the breeze/bull; Austral./NZ informal mag; formal confabulate.

**converse**<sup>2</sup> noun *the converse is also true*: opposite, reverse, obverse, contrary, antithesis, other side of the coin; informal flip side.

**conversion** noun **1** *the conversion of waste into energy*: change, changing, transformation, metamorphosis, transfiguration, transmutation, sea change; humorous transmogrification. **2** *the conversion of the building*: adaptation, alteration, modification, reconstruction, rebuilding, redevelopment, redesign, renovation, rehabilitation. **3** *his religious conversion*: rebirth, regeneration, reformation.

**convert** verb **1** *plants convert the sun's energy into chemical energy*: change, turn, transform, metamorphose, transfigure, transmute; humorous transmogrify; technical permute. **2** *the factory was converted into flats*: adapt, turn, change, alter, modify, rebuild, reconstruct, redevelop, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, renovate, rehabilitate; N. Amer. bring up to code; informal do up; N. Amer. informal rehab. **3** *they sought to convert sinners*: proselytize, evangelize, bring to God, redeem, save, reform, re-educate, cause to see the light.  
• noun *Christian converts*: proselyte, neophyte, new believer; Christianity catechumen.

**convey** verb **1** *taxi conveyed guests to the station*: transport, carry, bring, take, fetch, bear, move, ferry, shuttle, shift, transfer. **2** *he conveyed the information to me*: communicate, pass on, make known, impart, relay, transmit, send, hand on, relate, tell, reveal, disclose. **3** *it's impossible to convey how I felt*: express, communicate, get across/over, put across/over, indicate, say. **4** *he conveys an air of competence*: project, exude, emit, emanate.

**conveyance** noun **1** *the conveyance of agricultural produce*: transportation, transport, carriage, carrying, transfer, movement, delivery; haulage, portage, cartage, shipment, freightage. **2** (formal) *three-wheeled conveyances*: vehicle, means/method of transport; car, bus, coach, van, lorry, truck, bicycle, motorbike, motorcycle.

**convict** verb *he was convicted of indecent assault*: find guilty, sentence; Brit. informal be done for.

– OPPOSITES acquit.

• noun *two escaped convicts*: prisoner, inmate; trusty; criminal, offender, lawbreaker, felon; informal jailbird, con, (old) lag, crook; N. Amer. informal yardbird.

**conviction** noun **1** *his conviction for murder*: declaration of guilt, sentence, judgement.

**2** *his political convictions*: belief, opinion, view, thought, persuasion, idea, position, stance, article of faith. **3** *she spoke with conviction*: certainty, certitude, assurance, confidence, sureness, no shadow of a doubt.

– OPPOSITES acquittal, uncertainty.

**convince** verb **1** *he convinced me that I was wrong*: make certain, persuade, satisfy, prove to; assure, put/set someone's mind at rest. **2** *I convinced her to marry me*: persuade, induce, prevail on, get, talk into, win over, cajole, inveigle.

**convincing** adjective **1** *a convincing argument*: cogent, persuasive, plausible, powerful, potent, strong, forceful, compelling, irresistible, telling, conclusive. **2** *a convincing 5–0 win*: resounding, emphatic, decisive, conclusive.

**convivial** adjective friendly, genial, affable, amiable, congenial, agreeable, good-humoured, cordial, warm, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, clubbable, companionable, hail-fellow-well-met, cheerful, jolly, jovial, lively; enjoyable, festive; Scottish couthy.

**conviviality** noun friendliness, geniality, affability, amiability, bonhomie, congeniality, cordiality, warmth, good nature, sociability, gregariousness, cheerfulness, good cheer, joviality, jollity, gaiety, liveliness.

**convocation** noun assembly, gathering, meeting, conference, convention, congress, council, symposium, colloquium, conclave, synod.

**convoke** verb (formal) convene, summon, call together, call.

**convoluted** adjective complicated, complex, involved, elaborate, serpentine, labyrinthine, tortuous, tangled, Byzantine; confused, confusing, bewildering, baffling.

– OPPOSITES straightforward.

**convolution** noun **1** *crosses adorned with elaborate convolutions*: twist, turn, coil, spiral, twirl, curl, helix, whorl, loop, curlicue; Architecture volute. **2** *the convolutions of the plot*: complexity, intricacy, complication, twist, turn, entanglement.

**convoy** noun *a convoy of vehicles*: group, fleet, cavalcade, motorcade, cortège, caravan, line, train.

• verb *the ship was convoyed by army gunboats*: escort, accompany, attend, flank; protect, defend, guard.

**convulse** verb shake uncontrollably, fit, go into spasms, thrash about.

**convulsion** noun **1** *she had convulsions*: fit, seizure, paroxysm, spasm, attack; throes; Medicine ictus. **2** (convulsions) *the audience collapsed in convulsions*: fits of laughter,

paroxysms of laughter, uncontrollable laughter; informal hysterics. **3** *the political convulsions of the period*: upheaval, eruption, cataclysm, turmoil, turbulence, tumult, disruption, agitation, disturbance, unrest, disorder.

**C convulsive** adjective spasmodic, jerky, paroxysmal, violent, uncontrollable.

**cook** verb **1** *Iris had cooked dinner*: prepare, make, put together; informal fix, rustle up; Brit. informal knock up. **2** (informal) *he'd been cooking the books*: falsify, alter, doctor, tamper with, interfere with, massage, manipulate; Brit. informal fiddle. **3** (informal) *what's cooking?* See **HAPPEN** sense 1.

■ **cook something up** (informal) concoct, devise, contrive, fabricate, trump up, hatch, plot, plan, invent, make up, think up, dream up.

**cooking** noun cuisine, cookery, baking; food.

#### WORD LINKS

culinary relating to cooking  
gastronomy the practice of cooking and eating good food  
haute cuisine high-quality cooking

**cool** adjective **1** *a cool breeze*: chilly, chill, cold, bracing, brisk, crisp, fresh, refreshing, invigorating; draughty; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **2** *a cool response*: unenthusiastic, lukewarm, tepid, indifferent, uninterested, apathetic, half-hearted; unfriendly, distant, remote, aloof, cold, chilly, frosty, unwelcoming, unresponsive, offhand, uncommunicative, sodemonstrative; informal stand-offish. **3** *his ability to keep cool in a crisis*: calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, composed, as cool as a cucumber, collected, cool-headed, level-headed, self-possessed, controlled, self-controlled, poised, serene, tranquil, unruffled, unperturbed, unmoved, untroubled, imperturbable, placid, phlegmatic; informal unflappable, together, laid-back. **4** *a cool lack of morality*: bold, audacious, nerveless; brazen, shameless, unabashed. **5** (informal) *she thinks she's so cool*: fashionable, stylish, chic, up to the minute, sophisticated; informal trendy, funky, with it, hip, big, happening, groovy; N. Amer. informal kicky, tony, fly. **6** (informal) *a cool song*. See **EXCELLENT**.

– **OPPOSITES** warm, enthusiastic, agitated.

• **noun 1** *the cool of the evening*: chill, chilliness, coldness, coolness. **2** *Ken lost his cool*: self-control, control, composure, self-possession, calmness, equilibrium, calm; aplomb, poise, sangfroid, presence of mind.

– **OPPOSITES** warmth.

• **verb 1** *cool the sauce in the fridge*: chill, refrigerate. **2** *her reluctance did nothing to cool his interest*: lessen, moderate, diminish, reduce, dampen. **3** *Simpson's ardour had cooled*: subside, lessen, diminish, decrease, abate, moderate, die down, fade, dwindle, wane. **4** *after a while, she cooled off*: calm down, recover/regain one's composure, compose oneself, control oneself, pull oneself together, simmer down.

– **OPPOSITES** heat, inflame, intensify.

**coop** noun *a hen coop*: pen, run, cage, hutch, enclosure.

• **verb** *he hates being cooped up at home*:

confine, shut in/up, cage (in), pen up/in, keep, detain, trap, incarcerate, immure.

**cooperate** verb **1** *police and social services cooperated in the operation*: collaborate, work together, work side by side, pull together, band together, join forces, team up, unite, combine, pool resources, make common cause, liaise. **2** *he was happy to cooperate*: be of assistance, assist, help, lend a hand, be of service, do one's bit; informal play ball.

**cooperation** noun **1** *cooperation between management and workers*: collaboration, joint action, combined effort, teamwork, partnership, coordination, liaison, association, synergy, give and take, compromise. **2** *thank you for your cooperation*: assistance, helpfulness, help, helping hand, aid.

**cooperative** adjective **1** *a cooperative effort*: collaborative, collective, combined, common, joint, shared, mutual, united, concerted, coordinated. **2** *pleasant and cooperative staff*: helpful, eager to help, obliging, accommodating, willing, amenable, adaptable.

**coordinate** verb **1** *exhibitions coordinated by a team of international scholars*: organize, arrange, order, systematize, harmonize, correlate, synchronize, bring together, fit together, dovetail. **2** *care workers coordinate at a local level*: cooperate, liaise, collaborate, work together, negotiate, communicate, be in contact. **3** *floral designs coordinate with the decor*: match, complement, set off; harmonize, blend, fit in, go.

**cop** (informal) noun *a traffic cop*. See **POLICE OFFICER**.

• **verb** *he tried to cop out of his responsibilities*. See **AVOID** sense 2.

**cope** verb **1** *she couldn't cope on her own*: manage, survive, subsist, look after oneself, fend for oneself, shift for oneself, carry on, get by/through, bear up, hold one's own, keep one's end up, keep one's head above water; informal make it, hack it. **2** *his inability to cope with the situation*: deal with, handle, manage, address, face (up to), confront, tackle, get to grips with, get through, weather, come to terms with.

**copious** adjective abundant, superabundant, plentiful, ample, profuse, full, extensive, generous, bumper, lavish, fulsome, liberal, overflowing, in abundance, many, numerous; informal a gogo, galore; literary plenteous.

– **OPPOSITES** sparse.

**copse** noun thicket, grove, wood, coppice, stand, clump, brake; Brit. spinney; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ brush; old use hurst,holt, bosque.

**copulate** verb. See **HAVE SEX** at **SEX**.

**copulation** noun. See **SEX** sense 1.

**copy** noun **1** *a copy of the report*: duplicate, facsimile, photocopy, carbon (copy),



mimeograph, mimeo; transcript; reprint; trademark Xerox, photostat. **2** a copy of a sketch by Leonardo da Vinci: replica, reproduction, replication, print, imitation, likeness; counterfeit, forgery, fake; informal knock-off.

• **verb 1** each form had to be copied: duplicate, photocopy, xerox, photostat, mimeograph, run off, reproduce. **2** portraits copied from original paintings by Reynolds: reproduce, replicate; forge, fake, counterfeit. **3** their sound was copied by a lot of jazz players: imitate, reproduce, emulate, follow, echo, mirror, parrot, mimic, ape; plagiarize, steal; informal rip off.

**coquettish** adjective flirtatious, flirty, provocative, seductive, inviting, kittenish, coy, arch, teasing, playful; informal come-hither, vampish.

**cord** noun string, thread, thong, lace, ribbon, strap, tape, tie, line, rope, cable, wire, ligature; twine, yarn, elastic, braid, braiding.

**cordial** adjective a cordial welcome: friendly, warm, genial, affable, amiable, pleasant, fond, affectionate, warm-hearted, good-natured, gracious, hospitable, welcoming, hearty.  
• **noun fruit cordial**: squash, crush, concentrate.

**cordon** noun a cordon of 500 police: barrier, line, row, chain, ring, circle; picket line.

• **verb troops cordoned off the area**: close off, shut off, seal off, fence off, separate off, isolate, enclose, surround.

**core** noun **1** the earth's core: centre, interior, middle, nucleus; recesses, bowels, depths; informal innards; literary midst. **2** the core of the argument: heart, heart of the matter, nucleus, nub, kernel, marrow, meat, essence, quintessence, crux, gist, pith, substance, basis, fundamentals; informal nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts.

• **adjective the core issue**: central, key, basic, fundamental, principal, primary, main, chief, crucial, vital, essential; informal number-one.

– OPPOSITES peripheral.

**cork** noun stopper, stop, plug, bung, peg, spigot, spile; N. Amer. stopple.

**corner** noun **1** the cart lurched round the corner: bend, curve, crook, dog-leg; turn, turning, junction, fork, intersection; Brit. hairpin bend. **2** a charming corner of Italy: district, region, area, section, quarter, part; informal neck of the woods. **3** he found himself in a tight corner: predicament, plight, tight spot, mess, muddle, difficulty, problem, dilemma, quandary; informal pickle, jam, stew, fix, hole, hot water, bind.  
• **verb 1** he was eventually cornered by police dogs: drive into a corner, run to earth, bring to bay, cut off, block off, trap, hem in, pen in, surround, enclose; capture, catch. **2** crime syndicates have cornered the stolen car market: gain control of, take over, control, dominate, monopolize; capture; informal sew up.

**cornerstone** noun foundation, basis, keystone, mainspring, mainstay, linchpin, bedrock, base, backbone, key, centrepiece,

core, heart, centre, crux.

**corny** adjective (informal) banal, trite, hackneyed, commonplace, clichéd, predictable, stereotyped, platitudinous, tired, stale, overworked, overused, well worn; mawkish, sentimental, cloying, syrupy, sugary, saccharine; mushy, slushy, sloppy; Brit. twee; informal cheesy, schmaltzy, cutesy, toe-curling; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, hokey.

**corollary** noun consequence, (end) result, upshot, effect, repercussion, product, by-product; Brit. knock-on effect.

**coronet** noun. See **CROWN** noun sense 1.

**corporeal** adjective bodily, fleshly, corporeal, somatic, carnal, physical, material.  
– OPPOSITES spiritual.

**corporation** noun **1** the chairman of the corporation: company, firm, business, concern, operation, house, organization, agency, trust, partnership; conglomerate, group, chain, multinational; informal outfit, set-up. **2** (Brit.) the corporation refused two planning applications: council, town council, municipal authority.

**corporeal** adjective bodily, fleshly, carnal, corporal, human, mortal, earthly, physical, material, tangible, concrete, real, actual.

**corps** noun **1** an army corps: unit, division, detachment, section, company, contingent, squad, squadron, regiment, battalion, brigade, platoon. **2** a corps of trained engineers: group, body, band, cohort, party, gang, pack; team, crew.

**corpse** noun dead body, body, carcass, skeleton, remains; informal stiff; Medicine cadaver; old use corpse.

#### WORD LINKS

**autopsy, post-mortem** an examination of a dead body to find out the cause of death  
**embalm** preserve a corpse from decay  
**mortuary, morgue** a place where corpses are kept until burial or cremation  
**winding sheet, shroud** a length of cloth in which a corpse is wrapped for burial  
**necrophilia** sexual intercourse with corpses

**corpulent** adjective fat, obese, overweight, plump, portly, stout, chubby, paunchy, beer-bellied, heavy, bulky, chunky, well upholstered, well padded, well covered, meaty, fleshy, rotund, broad in the beam; informal tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy, fubby; N. Amer. informal corn-fed; rare abdomenous.  
– OPPOSITES thin.

**correct** adjective **1** the correct answer: right, accurate, true, exact, precise, unerring, faithful, strict, faultless, flawless, error-free, perfect, word-perfect; informal on the mark, on the nail; Brit. informal spot on, bang on; N. Amer. informal on the money, on the button. **2** correct behaviour: proper, seemly, decorous, decent, respectable, right, suitable, fit, fitting, befitting, appropriate, apt; approved, accepted, conventional,

customary, traditional, orthodox, comme il faut.

– OPPOSITES wrong, improper.

• **verb 1** *proof-read your work and correct any mistakes*: rectify, put right, set right, right, amend, emend, remedy, repair. **2** *an attempt to correct the trade imbalance*: counteract, offset, counterbalance, compensate for, make up for, neutralize. **3** *the brakes need correcting*: adjust, regulate, fix, set, standardize, normalize, calibrate, fine-tune.

**correction** noun rectification, rectifying, righting, amendment, emendation, repair, remedy; old use reparation.

**corrective** adjective remedial, therapeutic, restorative, curative, reparatory, reparative, rehabilitative.

**correctly** adverb **1** *the questions were answered correctly*: accurately, right, unerringly, precisely, faultlessly, flawlessly, perfectly, without error; dated aright. **2** *she behaved correctly at all times*: properly, decorously, with decorum, decently, suitably, fittingly, appropriately, well.

**correlate** verb **1** *socio-economic status often correlates with educational achievement*: correspond, match, parallel, agree, tally, tie in, be consistent, be compatible, be consonant, coordinate, dovetail, relate, conform; informal square; N. Amer. informal jibe. **2** *consumption of such foods was correlated with a decreased risk for certain cancers*: connect, establish a connection between, associate, relate.

– OPPOSITES contrast.

**correlation** noun connection, association, link, tie-in, tie-up, relation, relationship, interrelationship, interdependence, interconnection, interaction; parallel, correspondence.

**correspond** verb **1** *their policies do not correspond with their statements*: correlate, agree, be in agreement, be consistent, be compatible, be consonant, accord, be in tune, concur, coincide, tally, tie in, dovetail, fit in; match, parallel; informal square; N. Amer. informal jibe. **2** *a rank corresponding to the British rank of sergeant*: be equivalent, be analogous, be comparable, equate. **3** *Debbie and I corresponded for years*: exchange letters, write, communicate, keep in touch/ contact.

**correspondence** noun **1** *there is some correspondence between the two variables*: correlation, agreement, consistency, compatibility, consonance, conformity, similarity, resemblance, parallel, comparability, accord, concurrence, coincidence. **2** *his private correspondence*: letters, messages, missives, mail, post; communication.

**correspondent** noun *the paper's foreign correspondent*: reporter, journalist, columnist, writer, contributor, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, commentator; Brit. pressman; informal stringer, news hound, journo.

• adjective *a correspondent improvement in*

*quality*: corresponding, parallel, matching, equivalent, comparable, similar, analogous, commensurate.

**corresponding** adjective commensurate, parallel, correspondent, matching, correlated, relative, proportional, proportionate, comparable, equivalent, analogous.

**corridor** noun passage, passageway, aisle, gangway, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade.

**corroborate** verb confirm, verify, endorse, ratify, authenticate, validate, certify; support, back up, uphold, bear out, bear witness to, attest to, testify to, vouch for, give credence to, substantiate, sustain.

– OPPOSITES contradict.

**corrode** verb **1** *the iron had corroded*: rust, become rusty, tarnish; wear away, disintegrate, crumble, perish, spoil; oxidize. **2** *acid rain corrodes buildings*: wear away, eat away (at), gnaw away (at), erode, abrade, consume, destroy.

**corrosive** adjective caustic, corroding, erosive, abrasive, burning, stinging; destructive, damaging, harmful, harsh.

**corrugated** adjective ridged, fluted, grooved, furrowed, crinkled, crinkly, puckered, creased, wrinkled, wrinkly, crumpled; technical striate, striated.

**corrupt** adjective **1** *a corrupt official* | *corrupt practices*: dishonest, unscrupulous, dishonourable, unprincipled, unethical, amoral, untrustworthy, venal, underhand, double-dealing, fraudulent, bribable, buyable; criminal, illegal, unlawful, nefarious; informal crooked, shady, dirty, mucky, sleazy; Brit. informal bent, dodgy. **2** *the earth was corrupt in God's sight*: immoral, depraved, degenerate, reprobate, vice-ridden, perverted, debauched, dissolute, dissipated, bad, wicked, evil, base, sinful, ungodly, unholy, irreligious, profane, impious, impure; informal warped. **3** *a corrupt text*: impure, bastardized, debased, adulterated.

– OPPOSITES honest, ethical, pure.

• **verb 1** *the fear of firms corrupting politicians in the search for contracts*: bribe, suborn, buy (off), pay off; informal grease someone's palm, give someone a backhander/sweetener, get at, square; Brit. informal nobble. **2** *a book that might corrupt its readers*: deprave, pervert, debauch, degrade, warp, lead astray, defile, pollute, sully; old use demoralize. **3** *the apostolic writings had been corrupted*: alter, tamper with, interfere with, bastardize, debase, adulterate.

**corruption** noun **1** *political corruption*: dishonesty, unscrupulousness, double-dealing, fraud, fraudulence, misconduct, crime, criminality, wrongdoing; bribery, subornation, venality, extortion, profiteering, jobbery; N. Amer. payola; informal graft, crookedness, sleaze; formal malversation. **2** *his fall into corruption*: immorality, depravity, vice, degeneracy, perversion, pervertedness, debauchery, dissoluteness, decadence, wickedness,

evil, sin, sinfulness, ungodliness; formal turpitude. **3** *these figures have been subject to corruption:* alteration, bastardization, debasement, adulteration.

– OPPOSITES honesty, morality, purity.

**corsair** **noun** (old use). See **PIRATE** noun sense 1.

**corset** **noun** *girdle, panty girdle, motorcade* (garment), corselette; Brit. roll-on; informal, dated waspie; historical stays.

**cortège** **noun** **1** *the funeral cortège:*

procession, parade, cavalcade, motorcade, convoy, caravan, train, column, file, line.

**2** *the prince's cortège:* **entourage**, retinue, train, suite; attendants, companions, followers, retainers.

**cosmetic** **adjective** *most of the changes were merely cosmetic:* **superficial**, surface, skin-deep, outward, exterior, external.

– OPPOSITES fundamental.

• **noun** (**cosmetics**) *a new range of cosmetics:* **make-up**, beauty products, maquillage, face paint; informal warpaint, paint, slap.

**cosmic** **adjective** **1** *cosmic bodies:*

extraterrestrial, in space, from space.

**2** *an epic of cosmic dimensions:* **vast**, huge, immense, enormous, massive, colossal, prodigious, immeasurable, incalculable, unfathomable, fathomless, measureless, infinite, limitless, boundless.

**cosmonaut** **noun** *astronaut, spaceman/woman, taikonaut, space traveller, space cadet; N. Amer. informal jock.*

**cosmopolitan** **adjective** **1** *the student body has a cosmopolitan character:* **multicultural**, multiracial, international, worldwide, global. **2** *a cosmopolitan audience:* **worldly**, worldly-wise, well travelled, experienced, unprovincial, cultivated, cultured, sophisticated, suave, urbane, glamorous, fashionable; informal jet-setting, cool.

**cosset** **verb** *pamper, indulge, overindulge, mollycoddle, coddle, baby, pet, mother, nanny, nursemaid, pander to, feather-bed, spoil; wrap in cotton wool, wait on someone hand and foot.*

**cost** **noun** **1** *the cost of the equipment:* **price**, asking price, market price, selling price, fee, tariff, fare, toll, levy, charge, rental; value, valuation, quotation, rate, worth; humorous damage. **2** *the human cost of the conflict:* **sacrifice**, loss, expense, penalty, toll, price. **3** (**costs**) *we need to make £10,000 to cover our costs:* **expenses**, outgoings, disbursements, overheads, running costs, operating costs, fixed costs; expenditure, spending, outlay.

• **verb** **1** *the chair costs £186:* **be priced at**, sell for, be valued at, fetch, come to, amount to; informal set someone back, go for; Brit. informal knock someone back. **2** *the proposal has not yet been costed:* **put a price on**, price, value, put a value on, put a figure on.

**costly** **adjective** **1** *costly machinery:*

**expensive**, dear, high-cost, highly priced, overpriced; Brit. over the odds; informal steep, pricey. **2** *a costly mistake:* **catastrophic**, disastrous, calamitous, ruinous; damaging, harmful, injurious, deleterious, woeful,

awful, terrible, dreadful; formal grievous.

– OPPOSITES cheap.

**costume** **noun** **1** *Elizabethan costumes:*

(set of) **clothes**, garments, robes, outfit, ensemble; dress, clothing, attire, garb, uniform, livery; informal get-up, gear, togs; Brit. informal clobber, kit; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel; old use habit, habiliments, raiment. **2** (Brit.) *if you'd like a dip, we can lend you a costume.* See **SWIMSUIT**.

**cosy** **adjective** **1** *a cosy country cottage:* **snug**,

comfortable, warm, homelike, homey, homely, welcoming; safe, sheltered, secure; N. Amer. down-home, homestyle; informal comfy, snug as a bug (in a rug). **2** *a cosy chat:* **intimate**, relaxed, informal, friendly.

**coterie** **noun** *clique, set, circle, inner*

circle, crowd, in-crowd, band, community; informal gang.

**cottage** **noun** *small house, lodge, chalet,*

cabin; shack, shanty; (in Russia) *dacha*; Scottish bothy, but and ben; Austral. informal weekender; literary bower; old use *cut*.

**couch** **noun** *she seated herself on the*

*couch:* **settee**, sofa, divan, chaise longue, chesterfield, love seat, settle, ottoman; Brit. put-you-up; N. Amer. daybed, davenport, studio couch.

• **verb** *his reply was couched in deferential terms:* **express**, phrase, word, frame, put, formulate, style, convey, say, state, utter.

**cough** **verb** *he coughed loudly:* **hack**, hawk,

bark, clear one's throat, hem.

• **noun** *a loud cough:* **hack**, bark; informal frog in one's throat.

■ **cough something up** *pay (up), come up with, hand over, dish out, part with; informal fork out, shell out, lay out; Brit. informal stump up; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up.*

#### WORD LINKS

**tussive** relating to coughing

**expectorant** a medicine used to treat coughs

**council** **noun** **1** *the town council:* **local authority**, local government, municipal authority, administration, executive, chamber, assembly; Brit. corporation. **2** *the Schools Council:* **advisory body**, board, committee, commission, assembly, panel; synod, convocation. **3** *that evening, she held a family council:* meeting, gathering, conference, conclave, assembly.

**counsel** **noun** **1** *his wise counsel:* **advice**, guidance, counselling, direction, information; recommendations, suggestions, guidelines, hints, tips, pointers, warnings.

**2** *the counsel for the defence:* **barrister**, lawyer; Scottish advocate; N. Amer. attorney, counselor(-at-law); informal brief.

• **verb** *he counselled the team to withdraw from the deal:* **advise**, recommend, direct, advocate, encourage, urge, warn, caution; guide, give guidance.

**counsellor** **noun** *adviser, consultant, guide, mentor; expert, specialist.*

**count** **verb** **1** *she counted the money again:*

**add up**, add together, reckon up, figure



up, total, tally, calculate, compute; Brit. tot up; formal enumerate; dated cast up. **2** *a company with 250 employees, not counting overseas staff: include*, take into account, take account of, take into consideration, allow for. **3** *I count it a privilege to be asked: consider*, think, feel, regard, look on as, view as, hold to be, judge, deem, account. **4** *it's your mother's feelings that count: matter*, be of consequence, be of account, be significant, signify, be important, carry weight; informal cut any ice.

• **noun 1** *at the last count, the committee had 579 members: calculation*, computation, reckoning, tally; formal enumeration.

**2** *her white blood cell count: amount*, number, total.

■ **count on 1** *you can count on me: rely on*, depend on, bank on, trust (in), be sure of, have (every) confidence in, believe in, put one's faith in, take for granted, take as read. **2** *they hadn't counted on Rangers' indomitable spirit: expect*, reckon on, anticipate, envisage, allow for, be prepared for, bargain for/on; N. Amer. informal figure on.

■ **out for the count** (informal). See **UNCONSCIOUS** adjective sense 1.

**countenance** **noun** *his strikingly handsome countenance: face*, features, physiognomy, profile; (facial) expression, look, appearance, aspect, mien; informal mug; Brit. informal mush, phizog, phiz, clock, boat race; N. Amer. informal puss; literary visage, lineaments.

• **verb** *he would not countenance the use of force: tolerate*, permit, allow, agree to, consent to, give one's blessing to, go along with, hold with, put up with, endure, stomach, swallow; Scottish thole; informal stand for; formal brook.

**counter**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *a pile of counters: token*, chip, disc, jetton, plaque; piece, man, marker; N. Amer. check.

**counter**<sup>2</sup> **verb 1** *workers countered accusations of dishonesty with claims of oppression: respond to*, parry, hit back at, answer, retort to. **2** *the second argument is more difficult to counter: oppose*, dispute, argue against/with, contradict, controvert, negate, counteract; challenge, contest; formal gainsay, confute.

– **OPPOSITES** support.

• **adjective** *a counter bid: opposing*, opposed, opposite.

■ **counter to** against, in opposition to, contrary to, at variance with, in defiance of, in contravention of, in conflict with, at odds with.

**counteract** **verb 1** *new measures to counteract drug trafficking: prevent*, thwart, frustrate, foil, impede, curb, hinder, hamper, check, put a stop/end to, defeat. **2** *a drug to counteract the possible effect on her heart: offset*, counterbalance, balance (out), cancel out, even out, counterpoise, countervail, compensate for, make up for, remedy; neutralize, nullify, negate, invalidate.

– **OPPOSITES** encourage, exacerbate.

**counterbalance** **verb** *compensate for*, make up for, offset, balance (out), even

out, counterpoise, counteract, equalize, neutralize; nullify, negate, undo.

**counterfeit** **adjective** *counterfeit cassettes: fake*, faked, bogus, forged, imitation, spurious, substitute, ersatz; informal phoney.

– **OPPOSITES** genuine.

• **noun** *the notes were counterfeits: fake*, forgery, copy, reproduction, imitation; fraud, sham; informal phoney, knock-off.

– **OPPOSITES** original.

• **verb 1** *his signature was hard to counterfeit: fake*, forge, copy, reproduce, imitate. **2** *he grew tired of counterfeiting interest: feign*, simulate, pretend, fake, sham.

**countermand** **verb** *revoke*, rescind, reverse, undo, repeal, retract, withdraw, quash, overturn, overrule, cancel, annul, invalidate, nullify, negate; Law disaffirm, discharge, vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

– **OPPOSITES** uphold.

**counterpane** **noun** (dated). See **BEDSPREAD**.

**counterpart** **noun** *equivalent*, opposite number, peer, equal, coequal, parallel, complement, analogue, match, twin, mate, fellow, brother, sister; formal compeer.

**countless** **adjective** *innumerable*, numerous, untold, legion, without number, numberless, unnumbered, limitless, multitudinous, incalculable; informal umpteen, no end of, a slew of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, zillions of; N. Amer. informal gazillions of; literary myriad.

– **OPPOSITES** few.

**countrified** **adjective** *rural*, rustic, pastoral, bucolic, country; idyllic, unspoilt; literary Arcadian, sylvan, georgic.

– **OPPOSITES** urban.

**country** **noun 1** *foreign countries: nation*, (sovereign) state, kingdom, realm, territory, province, principality, palatinate, duchy. **2** *he risked his life for his country: homeland*, native land, fatherland, motherland, the land of one's fathers. **3** *the whole country took to the streets: people*, public, population, populace, citizenry, nation, body politic; electors, voters, taxpayers, grass roots; Brit. informal Joe Public. **4** *thickly forested country: terrain*, land, territory, parts; landscape, scenery, setting, surroundings, environment. **5** *she hated living in the country: countryside*, green belt, great outdoors; provinces, rural areas, backwoods, back of beyond, hinterland; Austral./NZ outback, bush, back country, backblocks, booay; informal sticks, middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal boondocks, boonies, tall timbers; Austral. informal beyond the black stump.

• **adjective** *country pursuits: rural*, countryside, outdoor, rustic, pastoral, bucolic; literary sylvan, Arcadian, georgic.

– **OPPOSITES** urban.

**countryman, countrywoman** **noun 1** *the traditions of his countrymen: compatriot*, fellow citizen. **2** *the countryman takes a great interest in the weather: country dweller*, country cousin, son/daughter of

the soil, farmer; rustic, yokel, bumpkin, peasant, provincial; Irish informal culchie; N. Amer. informal hayseed, hick, hillbilly, rube; Austral. informal bushy; old use swain, hind, kern, carl, cottier.

**countryside** noun 1 *beautiful unspoilt countryside: landscape, scenery, surroundings, setting, environment; country, terrain, land.* 2 *I was brought up in the countryside.* See **COUNTRY** noun sense 5.

**county** noun the northern counties: shire, province, territory, administrative unit, region, district, area.

• **adjective** (Brit.) *a county lady: upper-class, aristocratic, landed, landowning; informal upper-crust, top-drawer, {huntin', shootin', and fishin'}, tweedy.*

**coup** noun 1 *a violent military coup: seizure of power, coup d'état, putsch, overthrow, takeover, deposition; (palace) revolution, rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, insurgence, uprising.* 2 *a major publishing coup: success, triumph, feat, accomplishment, achievement, scoop, master stroke, stroke of genius.*

**coup de grâce** noun death blow, finishing blow, kiss of death; informal KO, kayo.

**coup d'état** noun. See **COUP** sense 1.

**couple** noun 1 *a couple of girls: pair, duo, twosome, two, brace, span, yoke; old use twain.* 2 *a honeymoon couple: husband and wife, twosome, partners, lovers; informal item.*

• **verb** 1 *a sense of hope is coupled with a sense of loss: combine, accompany, mix, incorporate, link, associate, connect, ally; add to, join to; formal conjoin.* 2 *a cable is coupled to one of the wheels: connect, attach, join, fasten, fix, link, secure, tie, bind, strap, rope, tether, truss, lash, hitch, yoke, chain, hook (up).*

– OPPOSITES detach.

**coupon** noun 1 *money-off coupons: voucher, token, ticket, slip; N. Amer. informal ducat, comp, rain check.* 2 *fill in the coupon below: form, tear-off slip.*

**courage** noun bravery, courageousness, pluck, pluckiness, valour, fearlessness, intrepidity, nerve, daring, audacity, boldness, grit, hardihood, heroism, gallantry; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie, cojones, sand.

– OPPOSITES cowardice.

**courageous** adjective brave, plucky, fearless, valiant, valorous, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, bold, daring, daredevil, audacious, undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, indomitable, doughty, mettlesome, venturesome, stout-hearted, gallant, death-or-glory; N. Amer. rock-ribbed; informal game, gutsy, spunky, ballsy, have-a-go.

– OPPOSITES cowardly.

**courier** noun 1 *the documents were sent by courier: messenger, dispatch rider, runner.* 2 *a courier for a package holiday company: representative, (tour) guide; dragoman; N. Amer. tour director; informal rep.*

**course** noun 1 *the island was not far off our course: route, way, track, direction, tack, path, line, trail, trajectory, bearing, heading, orbit.* 2 *the course of history: progression, development, progress, advance, evolution, flow, movement, sequence, order, succession, rise, march, passage, passing.* 3 *what is the best course to adopt? procedure, plan (of action), course/line of action, MO, modus operandi, practice, approach, technique, way, means, policy, strategy, programme; formal praxis.* 4 *a waterlogged course: racecourse, racetrack, track, ground.* 5 *a French course: programme/course of study, curriculum, syllabus; classes, lectures, studies.* 6 *a course of antibiotics: programme, series, sequence, system, schedule, regimen.*

• **verb** *tears coursed down her cheeks: flow, pour, stream, run, rush, gush, cascade, flood, roll.*

■ **in due course** at the appropriate time, when the time is ripe, in time, in the fullness of time, in the course of time, at a later date, by and by, sooner or later, in the end, eventually.

■ **of course** naturally, as might be expected, as you/one would expect, needless to say, certainly, to be sure, as a matter of course, obviously, it goes without saying; informal natch.

**court** noun 1 *the court found him guilty: court of law, law court, bench, bar, judicature, tribunal, chancery, assizes; Military court martial.* 2 *walking in the castle court: courtyard, quadrangle, square, close, enclosure, plaza, piazza, cloister; informal quad.* 3 *the King's court: royal household, retinue, entourage, train, suite, courtiers, attendants.* 4 *she made her way to the queen's court: royal residence, palace, castle, chateau.*

• **verb** 1 *a newspaper editor who was courted by senior politicians: curry favour with, cultivate, try to win over, make up to, ingratiate oneself with; informal suck up to, butter up; N. Amer. informal shine up to; old use blandish.* 2 *he was busily courting public attention: seek, pursue, go after, strive for, solicit.* 3 *he's often courted controversy: risk, invite, attract, bring on oneself.* 4 (dated) *he's courting her sister: woo, go out with, pursue, run after, chase, pay court to; informal date, see, go steady with; Austral. informal track (square) with; dated set one's cap at, romance, seek the hand of, make love to.*

#### WORD LINKS

**judicial, juridical** relating to a court of law  
**defendant** a person sued or accused in a court of law  
**plaintiff** a person who brings a case in a court of law  
**litigate** take a dispute or claim to a court of law  
**summons, subpoena** an order instructing someone to attend a court of law  
**perjury** the offence of deliberately lying in a court of law when under oath

sub judge being considered by a court of law and not permitted to be publicly discussed.

See also **LAW**.

**courteous** adjective polite, well mannered, civil, respectful, well behaved, well bred, well spoken, mannerly; gentlemanly, chivalrous, gallant; gracious, obliging, considerate, pleasant, cordial, urbane, polished, refined, courtly, civilized; old use fair-spoken.

— OPPOSITES rude.

**courtesan** noun (old use). See **PROSTITUTE** noun.

**courtesy** noun politeness, courteousness, good manners, civility, respect, respectfulness; chivalry, gallantry; graciousness, consideration, thought, thoughtfulness, cordiality, urbanity, courtliness.

**courtier** noun attendant, lord, lady, lady-in-waiting, steward, equerry, page, squire; historical liegeman.

**courtly** adjective refined, polished, suave, cultivated, civilized, elegant, urbane, debonair; polite, civil, courteous, gracious, well mannered, well bred, chivalrous, gallant, gentlemanly, ladylike, aristocratic, dignified, decorous, formal, ceremonious, stately.

— OPPOSITES uncouth.

**courtship** noun **1** a whirlwind courtship: romance, (love) affair; engagement. **2** his courtship of Emma: wooing, courting, suit, pursuit; old use addresses.

**courtyard** noun quadrangle, cloister, square, plaza, piazza, close, enclosure; informal quad.

**cove**<sup>1</sup> noun a small sandy cove: bay, inlet, fjord, anchorage; Scottish (sea) loch; Irish lough.

**cove**<sup>2</sup> noun (informal, dated) he's a funny cove. See **FELLOW** sense 1.

**covenant** noun a breach of the covenant: contract, agreement, undertaking, commitment, guarantee, warrant, pledge, promise, bond, indenture; pact, deal, settlement, arrangement, understanding. • verb the landlord covenants to repair the property: undertake, contract, guarantee, pledge, promise, agree, engage, warrant, commit oneself, bind oneself.

**cover** verb **1** she covered her face with a towel: protect, shield, shelter; hide, conceal, veil. **2** his car was covered in mud: cake, coat, encrust, plaster, smother, daub, bedaub. **3** snow covered the fields: blanket, overlay, overspread, carpet, coat; literary mantle. **4** a course covering all aspects of the business: deal with, consider, take in, include, involve, comprise, incorporate, embrace. **5** the trial was covered by a range of newspapers: report on, write about, describe, commentate on, publish/broadcast details of. **6** he turned on the radio to cover their conversation: mask, disguise, hide, camouflage, muffle, stifle, smother. **7** I'm covering for Jill: stand in for, fill in for, deputize for, take over from, relieve, take the place of, sit in for,

understudy, hold the fort; informal sub for; N. Amer. informal pinch-hit for. **8** can you make enough to cover your costs? pay (for), be enough for, fund, finance; pay back, make up for, offset. **9** your home is covered against damage and loss: insure, protect, secure, underwrite, assure, indemnify. **10** we covered ten miles each day: travel, journey, go, do, traverse.

— OPPOSITES expose.

• noun **1** a protective cover: covering, sleeve, wrapping, wrapper, envelope, sheath, housing, jacket, casing, cowl; awning, canopy, tarpaulin. **2** a manhole cover: lid, top, cap. **3** a book cover: binding, jacket, dust jacket, dust cover, wrapper. **4** (covers) she pulled the covers over her head: bedclothes, bedding, sheets, blankets. **5** a thick cover of snow: coating, coat, covering, layer, carpet, blanket, overlay, dusting, film, sheet, veneer, crust, skin, cloak, mantle, veil, pall, shroud. **6** panicking onlookers ran for cover: shelter, protection, refuge, sanctuary, haven, hiding place. **7** there is considerable game cover around the lake: undergrowth, vegetation, greenery, woodland, trees, bushes, brush, scrub, plants; covert, thicket, copse, coppice. **8** the company was a cover for an international swindle: front, facade, smokescreen, screen, blind, camouflage, disguise, mask, cloak. **9** (Brit.) your policy provides cover against damage by subsidence: insurance, protection, security, assurance, indemnification, indemnity, compensation. • cover something up conceal, hide, keep secret/dark, hush up, draw a veil over, suppress, sweep under the carpet, gloss over; informal whitewash, keep a/the lid on.

**coverage** noun reportage, reporting, description, treatment, handling, presentation, investigation, commentary; reports, articles, pieces, stories.

**covering** noun **1** a canvas covering: awning, canopy, tarpaulin, cowl, casing, housing; wrapping, wrapper, cover, envelope, sheath, sleeve, jacket, lid, top, cap. **2** a covering of snow: layer, coating, coat, carpet, blanket, overlay, topping, dusting, film, sheet, veneer, crust, skin, cloak, mantle, veil. • adjective a covering letter: accompanying, explanatory, introductory, prefatory.

**coverlet** noun bedspread, bedcover, cover, throw, duvet, quilt; Brit. eiderdown; N. Amer. spread, comforter; dated counterpane.

**covert** adjective secret, furtive, clandestine, surreptitious, stealthy, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, backstairs, under-the-table, hugger-mugger, concealed, hidden, private, undercover, underground; informal hush-hush.

— OPPOSITES overt.

**cover-up** noun whitewash, concealment, false front, facade, camouflage, disguise, mask.

— OPPOSITES exposé.

**covet** verb desire, yearn for, crave, have one's heart set on, want, wish for, long for, hanker after/for, hunger after/for, thirst for.



**covetous** adjective grasping, greedy, acquisitive, desirous, possessive, envious, green with envy, green-eyed.

**covey** noun group, gang, troop, troupe, party, company, band, bevy, flock; knot, cluster; informal bunch, gaggle, posse, crew.

**cow** verb intimidate, daunt, browbeat, bully, tyrannize, scare, terrorize, frighten, dishearten, unnerve, subdue; informal psych out, bulldoze.

**coward** noun weakling, milksop, namby-pamby, mouse; informal chicken, scaredy-cat, yellow-belly, sissy, baby; Brit. informal big girl's blouse; N. Amer. informal pantywaist, pussy; Austral./NZ informal dingo, sook; old use poltroon, caitiff.

— OPPOSITES hero.

**cowardly** adjective faint-hearted, lily-livered, spineless, chicken-hearted, craven, timid, timorous, fearful, pusillanimous; informal yellow, chicken, weak-kneed, gutless, yellow-bellied, wimpish, wimpy; Brit. informal wet; old use recreant.

— OPPOSITES brave.

**cowboy** noun **1** *cowboys on horseback*: **cattleman**, cowhand, cowman, cowherd, herder, herdsman, drover, stockman, rancher, gaucho, vaquero; N. Amer. informal cowpuncher, cowpoke, broncobuster; N. Amer. dated buckaroo. **2** (informal) *the builders were complete cowboys*: **rogue**, rascal, scoundrel, cheat, swindler, fraudster, fly-by-night.

**cow** verb cringe, shrink, crouch, recoil, flinch, pull back, draw back, tremble, shake, quake, blench, quail, grovel.

**coy** adjective arch, simpering, coquettish, flirtatious, kittenish, skittish; demure, shy, modest, bashful, reticent, diffident, self-effacing, shrinking, timid.

— OPPOSITES brazen.

**cozen** verb (literary). See **TRICK** verb.

**crabbed** adjective **1** *her crabbed handwriting*: **cramped**, ill-formed, bad, illegible, unreadable, indecipherable; shaky, spidery. **2** *a crabbed old man*. See **CRABBY**.

**crabby** adjective irritable, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit. informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery; Austral./NZ informal snaky.

— OPPOSITES affable.

**crack** noun **1** *a crack in the glass*: **split**, break, chip, fracture, rupture; crazing. **2** *a crack between two rocks*: **space**, gap, crevice, fissure, cleft, breach, rift, cranny, chink, interstice. **3** *the crack of a rifle*: **bang**, report, explosion, detonation, pop; clap, crash. **4** *a crack on the head*: **blow**, bang, hit, knock, rap, punch, thump, bump, smack, slap; informal bash, whack, thwack, clout, wallop, clip, biff, bop. **5** (informal) *we'll have a crack at it*: **attempt**, try; informal go, shot, stab, whack;

formal essay. **6** (informal) *cheap cracks about her clothes*: **joke**, witticism, quip; jibe, barb, taunt, sneer, insult; informal gag, wisecrack, funny, dig.

• **verb 1** *the glass cracked in the heat*: **break**, split, fracture, rupture, snap. **2** *she cracked him across the forehead*: **hit**, strike, smack, slap, beat, thump, knock, rap, punch; informal bash, whack, thwack, clobber, clout, clip, wallop, belt, biff, bop, sock; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, bust, slug. **3** *the witnesses cracked*: **break down**, give way, cave in, go to pieces, crumble, lose control, yield, succumb. **4** (informal) *the naval code proved harder to crack*: **decipher**, interpret, decode, break, solve, resolve, work out, find the key to; informal figure out, suss out.

• **adjective** *a crack shot*: **expert**, skilled, skilful, formidable, virtuoso, masterly, consummate, excellent, first-rate, first-class, marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, outstanding, superlative; deadly; informal great, superb, fantastic, ace, hotshot, mean, demon; Brit. informal brilliant; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

— OPPOSITES incompetent.

■ **crack down** on suppress, prevent, stop, put a stop to, put an end to, stamp out, eliminate, eradicate; clamp down on, get tough on, come down hard on, limit, restrain, restrict, check, keep in check, control, keep under control.

■ **crack up** (informal) break down, have a breakdown, lose control, go to pieces, go out of one's mind, go mad; informal lose it, fall/come apart at the seams, go crazy, freak out.

**cracked** adjective **1** *a cracked cup*: chipped, broken, crazed, fractured, splintered, split; damaged, defective, flawed, imperfect.

**2** (informal) *you're cracked!* See **MAD** sense 1.

**crackle** verb sizzle, fizz, hiss, crack, snap, sputter, crepitate; technical decrepitate.

**cradle** noun **1** *the baby's cradle*: **crib**, bassinet, Moses basket, cot, carrycot. **2** *the cradle of democracy*: **birthplace**, fount, fountainhead, source, spring, fountain, origin, place of origin, seat; literary wellspring.

• **verb** *she cradled his head in her arms*: **hold**, support, pillow, cushion, shelter, protect; rest, prop (up).

**craft** noun **1** *a player with plenty of craft*: skill, skilfulness, ability, capability, competence, art, talent, flair, artistry, dexterity, craftsmanship, expertise, proficiency, adroitness, adeptness, deftness, virtuosity. **2** *the historian's craft*: **activity**, occupation, profession, work, line of work, pursuit. **3** *she used craft and diplomacy*: **cunning**, craftiness, guile, williness, artfulness, deviousness, slyness, trickery, duplicity, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness, deception, intrigue, subterfuge; wiles, ploys, ruses, schemes, stratagems, tricks. **4** *a sailing craft*: **vessel**, ship, boat; literary barque.

**craftsman, craftswoman** noun artisan, artist, skilled worker; expert, master; old use artificer, mechanic.

**craftsmanship** noun workmanship,

artistry, craft, art, handiwork, work; skill, skilfulness, expertise, technique.

**crafty** adjective **cunning**, wily, guileful, artful, devious, sly, tricky, scheming, calculating, designing, sharp, shrewd, astute, canny; duplicitous, dishonest, deceitful; informal foxy; old use subtle.

– OPPOSITES honest.

**crag** noun cliff, bluff, ridge, precipice, height, peak, tor, escarpment, scarp.

**craggy** adjective **1** *the craggy cliffs*: steep, precipitous, sheer, perpendicular; rocky, rugged, ragged. **2** *his craggy face*: rugged, rough-hewn, strong, manly; weather-beaten, weathered.

**cram** verb **1** *wardrobes crammed with clothes*: fill, stuff, pack, jam, fill to overflowing, fill to the brim, overload; crowd, throng, overcrowd. **2** *they all crammed into the car*: crowd, pack, pile, squash, wedge oneself, force one's way. **3** *he crammed his clothes into a suitcase*: thrust, push, shove, force, ram, jam, stuff, pack, pile, squash, compress, squeeze, wedge. **4** *most of the students are cramming for exams*: revise; informal swot, mug up, bone up.

**cramp** noun *stomach cramps*: muscle spasm, pain, shooting pain, pang, stitch; Medicine clonus, hyperkinesia.

• verb *tighter rules will cramp economic growth*: hinder, impede, inhibit, hamper, constrain, hamstring, interfere with, restrict, limit, shackle; slow down, check, arrest, curb, retard.

**cramped** adjective **1** *dark, cramped accommodation*: poky, uncomfortable, confined, restricted, constricted, small, tiny, narrow; crowded, packed, congested; old use strait. **2** *cramped handwriting*: small, crabbed, illegible, unreadable, indecipherable.

– OPPOSITES spacious.

**crane** noun derrick, winch, hoist, davit, windlass; block and tackle.

**cranium** noun skull, head; N. Amer. informal brainpan.

**crank**<sup>1</sup> verb *you crank the engine by hand*: start, turn (over), get going.

■ **crank something up** (informal) increase, intensify, amplify, heighten, escalate, add to, augment, build up, expand, extend, raise; speed up, accelerate; informal up, jack up, hike up, step up, bump up, pump up.

**crank**<sup>2</sup> noun *they're nothing but a bunch of cranks*: eccentric, oddity, madman/madwoman, lunatic; informal oddball, freak, weirdo, crackpot, loony, nut, nutcase, head case, maniac; Brit. informal nutter; N. Amer. informal screwball, kook.

**cranky** adjective **1** (informal) *a cranky diet*: eccentric, bizarre, weird, peculiar, odd, strange, unconventional, left-field, unorthodox, outlandish; silly, stupid, mad, crazy, idiotic; informal wacky, crackpot, nutty; Brit. informal daft, potty; N. Amer. informal wacko. **2** (N. Amer. informal) *the children were tired and cranky*. See IRRITABLE.

**cranny** noun chink, crack, crevice, slit, split, fissure, rift, cleft, opening, gap, aperture, cavity, hole, hollow, niche, corner, nook, interstice.

**crash** verb **1** *the car crashed into a tree*: smash into, collide with, be in collision with, hit, strike, ram, cannon into, plough into, meet head-on, run into; N. Amer. impact.

**2** *he crashed his car*: smash, wreck; Brit. write off; Brit. informal prang; N. Amer. informal total. **3** *waves crashed against the shore*:

dash, batter, pound, lash, slam, be hurled.

**4** *thunder crashed overhead*: boom, crack, roll, clap, explode, bang, blast, blare, resound, reverberate, rumble, thunder, echo. **5** (informal) *his clothing company crashed*:

collapse, fold, fail, go under, go bankrupt, become insolvent, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up; informal go broke, go bust, go to the wall, go belly up.

• noun **1** *a crash on the motorway*: accident, collision, smash, road traffic accident, RTA; derailment; N. Amer. wreck; informal pile-up; Brit. informal prang, shunt. **2** *a loud crash*: bang, smash, smack, crack, bump, thud, clatter, clunk, clonk, clang; report, detonation, explosion; noise, racket, clangour, din. **3** *the crash of her company*: collapse, failure, bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation. • adjective *a crash course*: intensive, concentrated, rapid, short; accelerated-learning, total-immersion.

**crass** adjective stupid, insensitive, mindless, thoughtless, witless, oafish, boorish, asinine, coarse, gross, graceless, tasteless, tactless, clumsy, heavy-handed, blundering; informal ignorant, pig-ignorant.

– OPPOSITES intelligent.

**crate** noun case, packing case, chest, tea chest, box; container, receptacle.

**crater** noun hollow, bowl, basin, hole, cavity, depression; Geology caldera, maar, solfatara.

**crave** verb long for, yearn for, desire, want, wish for, hunger for, thirst for, sigh for, pine for, hanker after, covet, lust after, ache for, set one's heart on, dream of, be bent on; informal have a yen for, itch for, be dying for; old use desiderate.

**craven** adjective cowardly, lily-livered, faint-hearted, chicken-hearted, spineless, timid, timorous, fearful, pusillanimous, weak, feeble; informal yellow, chicken, weak-kneed, gutless, yellow-bellied, wimpish; contemptible, abject, ignominious; Brit. informal wet; old use recreant.

– OPPOSITES brave.

**craving** noun longing, yearning, desire, want, wish, hankering, hunger, thirst, appetite, greed, lust, ache, need, urge; informal yen, itch.

**crawl** verb **1** *they crawled under the table*:

creep, worm one's way, go on all fours, go on hands and knees, wriggle, slither, squirm, scabble. **2** (informal) *I'm not going to go crawling to him*: grovel to, ingratiate oneself with, be obsequious to, kowtow to, pander to, toady to, truckle to, bow and

scrape to, dance attendance on, curry favour with, make up to, fawn on/over; informal suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up. **3** *the place was crawling with soldiers: be full of*, overflow with, teem with, be packed with, be crowded with, be alive with, be overrun with, swarm with, be bristling with, be infested with, be thick with; informal be lousy with, be stuffed with, be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full of.

**craze** noun *fad*, fashion, trend, vogue, enthusiasm, mania, passion, rage, obsession, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fancy, taste, fascination, preoccupation; informal thing.

**crazed** adjective *mad*, insane, out of one's mind, deranged, demented, certifiable, lunatic, psychopathic; wild, raving, berserk, manic, maniac, frenzied; informal crazy, mental, off one's head, out of one's head, raving mad. See also **CRAZY** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES sane.

**crazy** adjective (informal) **1** *a crazy old man: mad*, insane, out of one's mind, deranged, demented, not in one's right mind, crazed, lunatic, non compos mentis, unhinged, mad as a hatter, mad as a March hare; informal mental, off one's head, nutty (as a fruitcake), off one's rocker, not right in the head, round the bend, raving mad, bats, batty, bonkers, cuckoo, loopy, loony, bananas, loco, with a screw loose, touched, gaga, doolally, not all there, out to lunch, away with the fairies; Brit. informal barmy, crackers, barking, potty, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling; N. Amer. informal nutso, out of one's tree, meshuga, wacko, gonzo; ; Canadian informal spinny; Austral./NZ informal bushed. **2** *a crazy idea: stupid*, foolish, idiotic, silly, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous, farcical, laughable, risible, nonsensical, imbecilic, hare-brained, half-baked, impracticable, unworkable, ill-conceived, senseless; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal barmy, daft. **3** *he's crazy about her: passionate about*, very keen on, enamoured of, infatuated with, smitten with, devoted to; very enthusiastic about, fanatical about; informal wild/mad/nuts about, gone on; Brit. informal potty about.

– OPPOSITES sane, sensible, apathetic.

**creak** verb *squeak*, grate, rasp; groan, complain.

**cream** noun **1** *skin creams: lotion*, ointment, moisturizer, emollient, unguent, cosmetic; salve, rub, embrocation, balm, liniment.

**2** *the cream of the world's photographers: best*, finest, pick, flower, crème de la crème, elite.

– OPPOSITES dregs.

• adjective *a cream dress: off-white*, whitish, cream-coloured, creamy, ivory, yellowish-white.

**creamy** adjective **1** *a creamy paste: smooth*, thick, velvety, whipped; rich, buttery. **2** *cream flowers: off-white*, whitish, cream-coloured, cream, ivory, yellowish-white.

– OPPOSITES lumpy.

**crease** noun **1** *trousers with knife-edge*

*creases: fold*, line, ridge; pleat, tuck; furrow, groove, corrugation. **2** *the creases at the corners of her eyes: wrinkle*, line, crinkle, pucker; (creases) crow's feet.

• verb *her skirt was creased and stained: crumple*, wrinkle, crinkle, line, scrunch up, rumple, ruck up.

**create** verb **1** *she has created a work of stunning originality: produce*, generate, bring into being, make, fabricate, fashion, build, construct; design, devise, originate, frame, develop, shape, form, forge. **2** *regular socializing creates a good team spirit: bring about*, give rise to, lead to, result in, cause, breed, generate, engender, produce, make for, promote, foster, sow the seeds of, contribute to. **3** *the governments planned to create a free-trade zone: establish*, found, initiate, institute, constitute, inaugurate, launch, set up, form, organize, develop. **4** *she was created a life peer in 2004: appoint*, make; invest as, install as.

– OPPOSITES destroy.

**creation** noun **1** *the creation of a coalition government: establishment*, formation, foundation, initiation, institution, inauguration, constitution; production, generation, fabrication, fashioning, building, construction, origination, development. **2** *the whole of creation: the world*, the universe, the cosmos; the living world, the natural world, nature, life, living things. **3** *Dickens's literary creations: work*, work of art, production, opus, oeuvre; achievement.

– OPPOSITES destruction.

**creative** adjective *inventive*, imaginative, innovative, innovatory, experimental, original; artistic, expressive, inspired, visionary; enterprising, resourceful; informal blue-sky.

**creativity** noun *inventiveness*, imagination, imaginativeness, innovation, innovativeness, originality, individuality; artistry, inspiration, vision; enterprise, initiative, resourcefulness.

**creator** noun *author*, writer, designer, deviser, maker, producer; originator, inventor, architect, mastermind, prime mover; literary beguetter.

**creature** noun **1** *the earth and its creatures: animal*, beast, brute; living thing, living being; N. Amer. informal critter. **2** *you're such a lazy creature! person*, individual, human being, character, soul, wretch, customer; informal devil, beggar, sort, type; Brit. informal bod; old use wight. **3** *she was denounced as a creature of the liberals: lackey*, minion, hireling, servant, puppet, tool, cat's paw, pawn; informal stooge, yes-man; Brit. informal poodle.

**credence** noun **1** *the government placed little credence in the scheme: belief*, faith, trust, confidence, reliance. **2** *later reports lent credence to this view: credibility*, plausibility; old use credit.

**credentials** plural noun *documents*, documentation, papers, identity papers,



bona fides, ID, ID card, identity card, passport, proof of identity; certificates, diplomas, certification.

**credibility** noun **1** *the whole tale lacks credibility*: **plausibility**, believability, tenability, probability, feasibility, likelihood, credence; authority, cogency; old use credit. **2** *the party lacked moral credibility*: **trustworthiness**, reliability, dependability, integrity.

**credible** adjective **believable**, plausible, tenable, able to hold water, conceivable, likely, probable, possible, feasible, reasonable, with a ring of truth, persuasive.

**credit** noun **1** *he never got much credit for the show's success*: **praise**, commendation, acclaim, acknowledgement, recognition, kudos, glory, esteem, respect, admiration, tributes, bouquets, thanks, gratitude, appreciation; informal brownie points. **2** *the speech did his credit no good in the House of Commons*: **reputation**, repute, image, (good) name, character, prestige, standing, status, estimation, credibility. **3** (old use) *his theory has been given very little credit*: **credence**, belief, faith, trust, reliance, confidence.

• **verb 1** *the wise will seldom credit all they hear*: **believe**, accept, give credence to, trust, have faith in; informal buy, swallow, fall for, take something as gospel. **2** *the scheme's success can be credited to the team's frugality*: **ascribe**, attribute, assign, accredit, chalk up, put down.

■ **on credit** on hire purchase, on (the) HP, by instalments, on account; informal on tick, on the slate; Brit. informal on the never-never.

**creditable** adjective **commendable**, praise-worthy, laudable, admirable, honourable, estimable, meritorious, worthy, deserving, respectable.

– OPPOSITES deplorable.

**credulous** adjective **gullible**, naive, over-trusting, over-trustful, easily taken in, impressionable, unsuspecting, unsuspicious, unwary, unquestioning; innocent, ingenuous, inexperienced, unsophisticated, unworldly, wide-eyed; informal born yesterday, wet behind the ears.

– OPPOSITES suspicious.

**creed** noun **1** *people of many creeds and cultures*: **faith**, religion, religious belief, religious persuasion, Church, denomination, sect. **2** *his political creed*: **system of belief**, (set of) beliefs, principles, articles of faith, ideology, credo, doctrine, teaching, dogma, tenets, canons.

**creek** noun **inlet**, bay, estuary, bight, fjord, sound; Scottish firth, frith; (in Orkney & Shetland) voe.

**creep** verb **1** *Tim crept out of the house*: **tiptoe**, steal, sneak, slip, slink, sidle, pad, edge, inch; skulk, prowl. **2** (informal) *they're always creeping to the boss*: **grovel to**, ingratiate oneself with, curry favour with, toady to, truckle to, kowtow to, bow and scrape to, pander to, fawn on/over, make up to; informal crawl to, suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up.

**creeper** noun **climbing plant**, trailing plant; vine, climber, Rambler.

**creepy** adjective (informal) **frightening**, eerie, disturbing, sinister, weird, hair-raising, menacing, threatening; Scottish eldritch; informal spooky, scary.

**crepuscent** noun **half-moon**, sickle-shape, demilune, lunula, lunette; arc, curve, bow.

**crest** noun **1** *the bird's crest*: **comb**, plume, tuft of feathers. **2** *the crest of the hill*: **summit**, peak, top, tip, pinnacle, brow, crown, apex. **3** *the Duke of Wellington's crest*: **insignia**, regalia, badge, emblem, heraldic device, coat of arms, arms; Heraldry bearing, charge.

**crestfallen** adjective **downhearted**, downcast, despondent, disappointed, disconsolate, disheartened, discouraged, despondent, dejected, depressed, desolate, in the doldrums, sad, glum, gloomy, dismayed, doleful, miserable, unhappy, woebegone, forlorn; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**crevasse** noun **chasm**, abyss, fissure, cleft, crack, split, breach, rift, hole, cavity.

**crevice** noun **crack**, fissure, cleft, chink, interstice, cranny, nook, slit, split, rift, fracture, breach; opening, gap, hole.

**crew** noun **1** *the ship's crew*: **sailors**, mariners, hands, ship's company, ship's complement.

**2** *a crew of cameramen and sound engineers*:

**team**, group, company, unit, corps, party,

gang. **3** (informal) *a crew of inebriated locals*:

**crowd**, group, band, gang, mob, pack, troop, swarm, herd, posse; informal bunch, gaggle.

**crib** noun **1** *the baby's crib*: **cot**, cradle, bassinet, Moses basket, carrycot. **2** *the oxen's cribs*: **manger**, stall, feeding trough, fodder rack.

• **verb** (informal) *she cribbed the plot from a Shakespeare play*: **copy**, plagiarize, poach, appropriate, steal, 'borrow'; informal rip off, lift; Brit. informal nick, pinch.

**crick** verb **strain**, twist, rick, sprain, pull, wrench; injure, hurt, damage.

**crime** noun **1** *kidnapping is a very serious crime*: **offence**, unlawful act, illegal act, felony, misdemeanour, misdeed, wrong; Law tort. **2** *the increase in crime*: **lawbreaking**, delinquency, wrongdoing, criminality, misconduct, illegality, villainy; informal crookedness; Law malfeasance. **3** *a crime against humanity*: **sin**, evil, immoral act, wrong, atrocity, abomination, disgrace, outrage.

#### WORD LINKS

**felonious** relating to or involved in crime

**forensic** relating to the use of scientific methods to investigate crime

**criminology** the scientific study of crime

**alibi** evidence that one was elsewhere when a crime took place

**accessory** a person who helps someone to commit a crime without taking part in it

**principal** a person directly responsible for a crime

**agent provocateur** a person employed to tempt others to commit a crime and so be prosecuted

**entrap** trick someone into committing a crime and so be prosecuted

**criminal** noun *a convicted criminal:*

lawbreaker, offender, villain, delinquent, felon, convict, malefactor, wrongdoer, culprit, miscreant; thief, burglar, robber, armed robber, gunman, gangster, terrorist; informal crook, con, jailbird, (old) lag; N. Amer. informal hood, yardbird; Austral./NZ informal crim; Law malfeasant.

• **adjective 1** *criminal conduct:* unlawful, illegal, illicit, lawless, felonious, delinquent, fraudulent, actionable, culpable; villainous, nefarious, corrupt, wrong, bad, evil, wicked, iniquitous; informal crooked; Brit. informal bent; Law malfeasant. **2** (informal) *a criminal waste of taxpayer's money:* deplorable, shameful, reprehensible, disgraceful, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, outrageous, monstrous, shocking, scandalous, wicked.

— OPPOSITES lawful.

**crimp** verb *pleat, flute, corrugate, ruffle, fold, crease, crinkle, pucker, gather; pinch, compress, press together, squeeze together.*

**crimped** adjective *crimped blonde hair:* curly, wavy, curled, frizzy, ringlety.

**cringe** verb **1** *she cringed as he bellowed in her ear:* cower, shrink, recoil, shy away, flinch, blench, draw back; shake, tremble, quiver, quail, quake. **2** *it makes me cringe when I think of it:* wince, shudder, squirm, feel embarrassed/mortified.

**crinkle** verb *wrinkle, crease, pucker, furrow, corrugate, line; rumple, scrunch up, ruck up.*

**crinkly** adjective *wrinkled, wrinkly, crinkled, creased, crumpled, rumpled, crimped, corrugated, fluted, puckered, furrowed; wavy.*

**cripple** verb **1** *the accident crippled her:* disable, paralyse, immobilize, lame, incapacitate, handicap. **2** *the company had been crippled by the recession:* devastate, ruin, destroy, wipe out; paralyse, hamstring, bring to a standstill, put out of action, put out of business, bankrupt, break, bring someone to their knees.

**crippled** adjective *disabled, paralysed, incapacitated, physically handicapped, lame, immobilized, bedridden, confined to a wheelchair; euphemistic physically challenged; old use halt.*

**crisis** noun **1** *the situation had reached a crisis:* critical point, turning point, crossroads, climacteric, head, moment of truth, zero hour, point of no return, Rubicon, doomsday; informal crunch. **2** *the current economic crisis:* emergency, disaster, catastrophe, calamity; predicament, plight, mess, trouble, dire straits, difficulty, extremity.

**crisp** adjective **1** *crisp bacon:* crunchy, crispy, brittle, crumbly, friable, breakable; firm, dry. **2** *a crisp autumn day:* invigorating, bracing, brisk, fresh, refreshing, exhilarating, tonic,

energizing; cool, chill, chilly, cold; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **3** *her answer was crisp:* brisk, decisive, businesslike, no-nonsense, incisive, to the point, matter-of-fact, brusque; terse, succinct, concise, brief, short, short and sweet, laconic; informal snappy. **4** *crisp white bedlinen:* smooth, uncreased, ironed; starched.

— OPPOSITES soft, sultry, rambling.

**criterion** noun *standard, specification, measure, gauge, test, scale, benchmark, yardstick, touchstone, barometer; principle, rule, law, canon.*

**critic** noun **1** *a literary critic:* reviewer, commentator, evaluator, analyst, judge, pundit. **2** *critics of the government:* detractor, attacker, fault-finder.

**critical** adjective **1** *a highly critical report:* censorious, condemnatory, condemning, denunciatory, disparaging, disapproving, scathing, fault-finding, judgemental, negative, unfavourable; informal nit-picking, picky. **2** *a critical essay:* evaluative, analytical, interpretative, expository, explanatory. **3** *the situation is critical:* grave, serious, dangerous, risky, perilous, hazardous, precarious, touch-and-go, in the balance, uncertain, parlous, desperate, dire, acute, life-and-death. **4** *the choice of materials is critical for product safety:* crucial, vital, essential, of the essence, all-important, paramount, fundamental, key, pivotal, decisive, deciding, climacteric.

— OPPOSITES complimentary, unimportant.

**criticism** noun **1** *she was stung by his criticism:* censure, condemnation, denunciation, disapproval, disparagement, opprobrium, fault-finding, attack, broadside, brickbats, stricture, recrimination; informal flak, a bad press, panning; Brit. informal stick, slating; formal excoriation. **2** *literary criticism:* evaluation, assessment, appraisal, analysis, judgement; commentary, interpretation, explanation, explication, elucidation.

**criticize** verb *find fault with, censure, denounce, condemn, attack, lambaste, pillory, rail against, inveigh against, arraign, cast aspersions on, pour scorn on, disparage, denigrate, give a bad press to, run down; informal knock, pan, slam, hammer, lay into, pull to pieces, pick holes in; Brit. informal slag off, slate, rubbish; N. Amer. informal pummel, trash; Austral./NZ informal bag, monster; formal excoriate.*

— OPPOSITES praise.

**critique** noun *analysis, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, appreciation, criticism, review, study, commentary, exposition, exegesis.*

**crock** noun **1** *a crock of honey:* pot, jar, jug, pitcher, ewer; container, receptacle, vessel. **2** (crock) *a pile of dirty crocks.* See CROCKERY. **3** (informal) *he's a bit of an old crock:* invalid, valetudinarian; geriatric, dotard; informal crumbly, wrinkly.

**crockery** noun *dishes, crocks, china, tableware; plates, bowls, cups, saucers.*

**crony** noun (informal) **friend**, companion, bosom friend, intimate, confidant(e), familiar, associate, comrade; informal pal, chum, sidekick; Brit. informal mate; N. Amer. informal buddy, amigo, compadre; old use compeer.

**C** **crook** noun **1** (informal) *a small-time crook: criminal, lawbreaker, offender, villain, delinquent, felon, convict, malefactor, culprit, wrongdoer; rogue, scoundrel, cheat, swindler, racketeer, confidence trickster; thief, robber, burglar; informal (old) lag, shark, con man, con, jailbird; N. Amer. informal hood, yardbird; Austral./NZ informal crim; Law malfeasant.* **2** *the crook of a tree branch: bend, fork, curve, angle.*

•verb *he crooked his finger and called the waiter: cock, flex, bend, curve, curl.*

**crooked** adjective **1** *narrow, crooked streets: winding, twisting, zigzag, meandering, tortuous, serpentine.* **2** *a crooked spine: bent, twisted, misshapen, deformed, malformed, contorted, out of shape, wry, warped, bowed, distorted; Scottish thrawn.* **3** *the picture over the bed looked crooked: lopsided, askew, awry, off-centre, uneven, out of true, out of line, asymmetrical, tilted, at an angle, aslant, slanting, squint; Scottish aogley; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal skew-whiff, wonky.*

**4** (informal) *a crooked cop | crooked deals: dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled, untrustworthy, corrupt, corruptible, buyable, venal; criminal, illegal, unlawful, nefarious, fraudulent; Brit. informal bent, doggy.*

– OPPOSITES straight, honest.

**croon** verb sing softly, hum, warble, trill.

**crop** noun **1** *some farmers lost their entire crop: harvest, year's growth, yield; fruits, produce.* **2** *a bumper crop of mail: batch, lot, assortment, selection, collection, supply, intake.* **3** *the bird's crop: craw; gullet, throat.* **4** *a rider's crop: whip, switch, cane, stick.* •verb **1** *she's had her hair cropped: cut short, cut, clip, shear, shave, lop off, chop off, hack off; dock.* **2** *a flock of sheep were cropping the turf: graze on, browse on, feed on, nibble, eat.* **3** *the hay was cropped several times this summer: harvest, reap, mow; gather (in), collect, pick, bring home.*

■ **crop up** happen, occur, arise, turn up, spring up, pop up, emerge, materialize, surface, appear, come to light, present itself; literary come to pass, befall; old use hap.

#### WORD LINKS

**agronomy** the science of crop production  
**arable** referring to land used for growing crops

**monoculture** the cultivation of a single crop in a particular area

**rotate** grow different crops one after the other on an area of land

**tilth** the condition of soil prepared for growing crops

**cross** noun **1** *a bronze cross: crucifix, rood.* **2** *we all have our crosses to bear: burden, trouble, worry, trial, tribulation, affliction,*

*curse, bane, misfortune, adversity, hardship, vicissitude; millstone, albatross, thorn in one's flesh/side; misery, woe, pain, sorrow, suffering; informal hassle, headache.* **3** *a cross between a yak and a cow: hybrid, hybridization, cross-breed, half-breed, mongrel; mixture, amalgam, blend, combination.*

•verb **1** *they crossed the hills on foot: travel across, traverse, range over; negotiate, navigate, cover.* **2** *a lake crossed by a fine stone bridge: span, bridge; extend/stretch across, pass over.* **3** *the point where the two roads cross: intersect, meet, join, connect, criss-cross.* **4** *no one dared cross him: oppose, resist, defy, obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper; contradict, argue with, quarrel with, stand up to, take a stand against, take issue with; formal gainsay.* **5** *the breed was crossed with the similarly coloured Friesian: hybridize, cross-breed, interbreed, cross-fertilize, cross-pollinate.*

•adjective *Jane was getting cross: angry, annoyed, irate, irritated, in a bad mood, vexed, irked, piqued, out of humour, put out, displeased; irritable, short-tempered, bad-tempered, snappish, crotchety, grouchy, grumpy, fractious, testy, tetchy, crabby; informal mad, hot under the collar, peeved, riled, snappy, on the warpath, up in arms, steamed up, in a paddy; Brit. informal aerated, shirty, stroppy, ratty; N. Amer. informal sore, bent out of shape, teed off, ticked off; Austral./NZ informal ropeable, snaky, crook.*

– OPPOSITES pleased.

■ **cross something out** delete, strike out, ink out, score out, edit out, blue-pencil, cancel, obliterate; Printing dele.

**cross-examine** verb interrogate, question, cross-question, quiz, catechize, give someone the third degree; informal grill, pump, put someone through the wringer/mangle.

**cross-grained** adjective bad-tempered, cantankerous, irascible, grumpy, grouchy; awkward, perverse, contrary, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, recalcitrant, stubborn, obstinate, mulish, pig-headed, intractable; informal cussed; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie, stroppy; N. Amer. informal balky; formal refractory.

– OPPOSITES good-humoured.

**crossing** noun **1** *a busy road crossing: junction, crossroads, intersection, interchange; level crossing.* **2** *a short ferry crossing: journey, passage, voyage.*

**crosswise, crossways** adverb diagonally, obliquely, transversely, aslant, cornerwise, at an angle, on the bias; N. Amer. cater-cornered, kitty-corner.

**crotch** noun groin, crutch; lap.

**crotchet** noun whim, whimsy, fancy, notion, vagary, caprice; foible, quirk, eccentricity; old use megrim.

**crotchety** adjective bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, cantankerous, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross,



fractious, pettish, waspish, crabbed, crabby, crusty, prickly, touchy; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery; Austral./NZ informal snaky.

– **OPPOSITES** good-humoured.

**crouch** verb **squat**, bend (down), hunker down, hunch over, stoop, kneel (down); duck, cower; N. Amer. informal scooch.

**crow** verb **1** a cock **crowed**: cry, squawk, screech, caw. **2** try to avoid crowing about your success: **boast**, brag, trumpet, swagger, swank, gloat, show off, preen oneself, sing one's own praises, blow one's own trumpet; informal talk big, lay it on thick; Austral./NZ informal skate.

**crowd** noun **1** a crowd of people: **throng**, horde, mass, multitude, host, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, sea, troupe, pack, press, crush, mob, rabble; collection, company, gathering, assembly, assemblage, congregation; informal gaggle, bunch, gang, posse; old use rout. **2** she wanted to stand out from the crowd: **majority**, multitude, common people, populace, general public, masses, rank and file; Brit. informal Joe Public. **3** he's been hanging round with Hurley's crowd: **set**, group, circle, clique, coterie; camp; informal gang, crew, lot. **4** the final attracted a capacity crowd: **audience**, spectators, listeners, viewers; house, turnout, attendance, gate; congregation; Brit. informal punters.

• verb **1** reporters crowded round her: **cluster**, flock, swarm, mill, throng, huddle, gather, assemble, congregate, converge. **2** the guests all crowded into the dining room: **surge**, push one's way, jostle, elbow one's way; squeeze, pile, cram. **3** the quayside was crowded with holidaymakers: **throng**, pack, jam, cram, fill. **4** stop crowding me: **pressurize**, pressure; harass, hound, pester, harry, badger, nag; informal hassle, lean on.

**crowded** adjective **packed**, full, filled to capacity, full to bursting, congested, overcrowded, overflowing, teeming, swarming, thronged, populous, overpopulated; busy; informal jam-packed, stuffed, chock-a-block, chock-full, bursting at the seams, full to the gunwales, wall-to-wall; Austral./NZ informal chocker.

– **OPPOSITES** deserted.

**crown** noun **1** a jewelled crown: **coronet**, diadem, circlet; literary coronal; historical taj. **2** the world heavyweight crown: **title**, award, accolade, distinction; trophy, cup, medal, plate, shield, belt, prize; laurels, bays, palm. **3** his family were loyal servants of the Crown: **monarch**, sovereign, king, queen, emperor, empress; monarchy, royalty; informal royals. **4** the crown of the hill: **top**, crest, summit, peak, pinnacle, tip, head, brow, apex. • verb **1** David II was crowned in 1331: **enthroned**, install; invest, induct. **2** a teaching post at Harvard crowned his career: **round off**, cap, be the climax of, be the culmination of, top off, consummate, perfect, complete, put the finishing touch(es) to. **3** a steeple crowned by a gilded weathercock: **top**, cap,

tip, head, surmount. **4** (informal) someone crowned him with a poker. See **hit** verb sense 1.

**crucial** adjective **1** negotiations were at a crucial stage: **pivotal**, critical, key, climacteric, decisive, deciding; life-and-death. **2** confidentiality is crucial in this case: **all-important**, of the utmost importance, of the essence, critical, pre-eminent, paramount, essential, vital.

– **OPPOSITES** unimportant.

**crude** adjective **1** crude oil: **unrefined**, unpurified, unprocessed, untreated; unmilled, unpolished; coarse, raw, natural. **2** a crude barricade: **primitive**, simple, basic, homespun, rudimentary, rough, rough and ready, rough-hewn, make-do, makeshift, improvised, unfinished; dated rude. **3** crude jokes: **vulgar**, rude, naughty, suggestive, bawdy, off colour, indecent, obscene, offensive, lewd, salacious, licentious, ribald, coarse, uncouth, indelicate, tasteless, crass, smutty, dirty, filthy, scatological; informal blue.

– **OPPOSITES** refined, sophisticated.

**cruel** adjective **1** a cruel man: **brutal**, savage, inhuman, barbaric, barbarous, brutish, bloodthirsty, murderous, vicious, sadistic, wicked, evil, fiendish, diabolical, monstrous, abominable; callous, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless, uncaring, heartless, stony-hearted, hard-hearted, cold-blooded, cold-hearted, unfeeling, unkind, inhumane; dated dastardly; literary fell. **2** her death was a cruel blow: **harsh**, severe, bitter, harrowing, heartbreaking, heart-rending, painful, agonizing, traumatic; formal grievous.

– **OPPOSITES** compassionate.

**cruelty** noun **brutality**, savagery, inhumanity, barbarity, barbarousness, brutishness, bloodthirstiness, viciousness, sadism, wickedness; callousness, ruthlessness.

**cruise** noun a cruise down the Nile: **boat trip**, sea trip; voyage, journey.

• verb **1** she cruised across the Atlantic: **sail**, voyage, journey. **2** a taxi cruised past: **drive slowly**, drift; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle.

**crumb** noun **fragment**, bit, morsel, particle, speck, scrap, shred, sliver, atom, grain, trace, tinge, mite, iota, jot, whit, ounce, scintilla, soupçon; informal smidgen, tad.

**crumble** verb **disintegrate**, fall apart, fall to pieces, fall down, break up, collapse, fragment; decay, fall into decay, deteriorate, degenerate, go to rack and ruin, decompose, rot, moulder, perish.

**crumbly** adjective **brittle**, breakable, friable, powdery, granular; short; crisp, crispy.

**crumple** verb **1** she crumpled the note in her fist: **crush**, scrunch up, screw up, squash, squeeze; Brit. scrumple. **2** his trousers were dirty and crumpled: **crease**, wrinkle, crinkle, rumple, ruck up. **3** her resistance crumpled: **collapse**, give way, cave in, go to pieces, break down, crumble, be overcome.

**crunch** verb *she crunched the biscuit with relish:* **munch**, chomp, champ, scrunch, bite into.

• **noun** (informal) *when the crunch comes, she'll be forced to choose:* **moment of truth**, critical point, crux, crisis, decision time, zero hour, point of no return; showdown.

**crusade** noun **1** *the medieval crusades:* **holy war**; Islam **jihād**. **2** *a crusade against crime:* **campaign**, drive, push, movement, effort, struggle; battle, war, offensive.

• **verb** *she likes crusading for the cause of the underdog:* **campaign**, fight, do battle, battle, take up arms, take up the cudgels, work, strive, struggle, agitate, lobby, champion, promote.

**crusader** noun **campaigner**, fighter, champion, advocate; reformer.

**crush** verb **1** *essential oils are released when the herbs are crushed:* **squash**, squeeze, press, compress; pulp, mash, macerate, mangle; flatten, trample on, tread on; informal **squidge**, splat; N. Amer. informal **smush**. **2** *your dress will get crushed:* **crease**, crumple, rumple, wrinkle, crinkle, scrunch up, ruck up; Brit. **scrumple** up. **3** *crush the biscuits with a rolling pin:* **pulverize**, pound, grind, break up, smash, crumble; mill; technical **triturate**, **comminute**; old use **bray**, **levigate**. **4** *he crushed her in his arms:* **hug**, squeeze, hold tight, embrace, enfold. **5** *the new regime crushed all popular uprisings:* **suppress**, put down, quell, quash, stamp out, put an end to, overcome, overpower, defeat, triumph over, break, repress, subdue, extinguish. **6** *Alan was crushed by her words:* **mortify**, humiliate, abash, chagrin, deflate, demoralize, flatten, squash; devastate, shatter, put someone in their place; informal shoot down in flames, cut down to size, knock the stuffing out of.

• **noun 1** *the crush of people:* **crowd**, throng, horde, swarm, sea, mass, pack, press, mob; old use **rout**. **2** (informal) *a teenage crush:* **infatuation**, obsession, love, passion; informal **pash**, puppy love, calf love. **3** *lemon crush:* **squash**, fruit juice, cordial, drink.

**crust** noun **1** *a crust of ice:* **covering**, layer, coating, cover, coat, sheet, thickness, film, skin, topping; encrustation, scab. **2** (informal) *I'm just trying to earn an honest crust:* **living**, livelihood, income, daily bread, means of subsistence; informal bread and butter.

**crusty** adjective **1** *crusty French bread:* **crisp**, **crispy**, well baked; crumbly, brittle, friable. **2** *a crusty old man:* **irritable**, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, crabby, curmudgeonly, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish, peppery, cross-grained; informal **snappish**, **snappy**, **chippy**; Brit. informal **strop**, **narky**, **ratty**; N. Amer. informal **cranky**, **ornery**; Austral./NZ informal **snaky**.

– **OPPOSITES** soft, good-natured.

**crux** noun **nub**, heart, essence, central point, main point, core, centre, nucleus, kernel; informal the bottom line.

**cry** verb **1** *Mandy started to cry:* **weep**, shed tears, sob, wail, cry one's eyes out, bawl, howl, snivel, whimper, squall, mewl, bleat; lament, grieve, mourn, keen; Scottish greet; informal **boohoo**, **blub**, **blubber**, turn on the waterworks; Brit. informal **grizzle**; literary **pule**.

**2** *'Wait!' he cried:* **call**, shout, exclaim, sing out, yell, shriek, scream, screech, bawl, bellow, roar, vociferate, squeal, yelp; informal **holler**; dated **ejaculate**.

– **OPPOSITES** laugh, whisper.

• **noun 1** *Leonora had a good cry:* **sob**, weep, crying fit. **2** *a cry of despair:* **call**, shout, exclamation, yell, shriek, scream, screech, bawl, bellow, roar, howl, yowl, squeal, yelp, interjection; informal **holler**; dated **ejaculation**.

**3** *fund-raisers have issued a cry for help:* **appeal**, plea, entreaty, cry from the heart, **cri de cœur**.

■ **cry off** (informal) back out, pull out, cancel, withdraw, beg off, excuse oneself, change one's mind; informal get cold feet, cop out.

**crypt** noun **tomb**, vault, mausoleum, burial chamber, sepulchre, catacomb, ossuary, undercroft.

**cryptic** adjective **enigmatic**, mysterious, confusing, mystifying, perplexing, puzzling, obscure, abstruse, arcane, oracular, Delphic, ambiguous, elliptical, oblique; informal as clear as mud.

– **OPPOSITES** clear.

**cubbyhole** noun **small room**, booth, cubicle; den, snug; N. Amer. **cubby**.

**cube** noun **1** *a shape that was neither a cube nor a sphere:* **hexahedron**, cuboid, parallelepiped. **2** *a cube of soap:* **block**, lump, chunk, brick.

**cuddle** verb **1** *she picked up the baby and cuddled her:* **hug**, embrace, clasp, hold tight, hold/fold in one's arms. **2** *the pair were kissing and cuddling:* **embrace**, hug, caress, pet, fondle; informal **canoodle**, **smooch**; informal, dated **spoon**, **bill** and **coo**. **3** *I cuddled up to him:* **snuggle**, nestle, curl, nuzzle, burrow against.

**cuddly** adjective **huggable**, cuddlesome; plump, curvaceous, rounded, buxom, soft, warm; attractive, endearing, lovable; N. Amer. informal **zaftig**.

**cudgel** noun *a thick wooden cudgel:* **club**, bludgeon, stick, truncheon, baton, blackthorn, shillelagh, mace; N. Amer. **blackjack**, **billy**, **nightstick**; Brit. **life preserver**; Brit. informal **cosh**.

• **verb** *she was cudgelled to death:* **bludgeon**, club, beat, batter, bash; Brit. informal **cosh**.

**cue** noun **signal**, sign, indication, prompt, reminder; nod, word, gesture.

**cuff** verb *Cullam cuffed him on the head:* **hit**, strike, slap, smack, thump, beat, punch; informal **clout**, **wallop**, **belt**, **whack**, **thwack**, **bash**, **clobber**, **bop**, **biff**, **sock**; Brit. informal **slosh**; N. Amer. informal **boff**, **slug**; old use **smite**.

■ **off the cuff** (informal) **1** *an off-the-cuff remark:* **impromptu**, **extempore**, **ad lib**; unrehearsed, unscripted, unprepared, improvised, spontaneous, unplanned. **2** *I spoke off the cuff:* without preparation,

without rehearsal, impromptu, ad lib; informal off the top of one's head.

**cuisine** noun **cooking**, cookery; haute cuisine, cordon bleu, nouvelle cuisine.

**cul-de-sac** noun **no through road**, blind alley, dead end.

**cull** verb **1** *anecdotes culled from Greek history*: select, choose, pick, take, obtain, glean. **2** *he sees culling deer as a necessity*: slaughter, kill, destroy.

**culminate** verb *the festival culminated in a dramatic fire-walking ceremony*: come to a climax, come to a head, peak, climax, reach a pinnacle; build up to, lead up to; end with, finish with, conclude with.

**culmination** noun **climax**, pinnacle, peak, high point, highest point, height, high water mark, top, summit, crest, zenith, crowning moment, apotheosis, apex, apogee; consummation, completion, finish, conclusion.

– OPPOSITES nadir.

**culpable** adjective **to blame**, guilty, at fault, in the wrong, answerable, accountable, responsible, blameworthy, censurable.

– OPPOSITES innocent.

**culprit** noun **guilty party**, offender, wrongdoer, miscreant; criminal, malefactor, lawbreaker, felon, delinquent; informal baddy, crook.

**cult** noun **1** *a religious cult*: sect, denomination, group, movement, church, persuasion, body, faction. **2** *the cult of youth in Hollywood*: obsession with, fixation on, mania for, passion for, idolization of, devotion to, worship of, veneration of.

**cultivate** verb **1** *the peasants cultivated the land*: till, plough, dig, hoe, farm, work, fertilize, mulch. **2** *they were encouraged to cultivate basic food crops*: grow, raise, rear, plant, sow. **3** *Tessa tried to cultivate her: win someone's friendship*, woo, court, pay court to, keep sweet, curry favour with, ingratiate oneself with; informal get in someone's good books, butter up, suck up to; N. Amer. informal shine up to. **4** *he wants to cultivate his mind*: improve, better, refine, elevate; educate, train, develop, enrich.

**cultivated** adjective **cultured**, educated, well read, civilized, enlightened, discerning, discriminating, refined, polished; sophisticated, urbane, cosmopolitan.

**cultivation** noun. See **FARMING**.

**cultural** adjective **1** *cultural differences*: ethnic, racial, folk; societal, lifestyle. **2** *cultural achievements*: aesthetic, artistic, intellectual; educational, edifying, civilizing.

**culture** noun **1** *20th century popular culture*: the arts, the humanities, intellectual achievement; literature, music, painting, philosophy. **2** *a man of culture*: intellectual/artistic awareness, education, cultivation, enlightenment, discernment, discrimination, good taste, taste, refinement, polish, sophistication. **3** *Afro-Caribbean culture*: civilization, society, way of life, lifestyle; customs, traditions,

heritage, habits, ways, mores, values. **4** *the culture of crops*: cultivation, farming; agriculture, husbandry, agronomy.

**cultured** adjective **cultivated**, intellectually/artistically aware, artistic, enlightened, civilized, educated, well educated, well read, well informed, learned, knowledgeable, discerning, discriminating, refined, polished, sophisticated; informal arty.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**culvert** noun **channel**, conduit, watercourse, trough; drain, gutter.

**cumbersome** adjective **1** *a cumbersome diving suit*: **unwieldy**, unmanageable, awkward, clumsy, inconvenient, incommodious; bulky, large, heavy, hefty, weighty, burdensome; informal hulking, clunky. **2** *cumbersome procedures*: **complicated**, complex, involved, inefficient, unwieldy, slow.

– OPPOSITES manageable, straightforward.

**cumulative** adjective **increasing**, accumulative, growing, mounting; collective, aggregate, amassed; Brit. knock-on.

**cunning** adjective *a cunning scheme*: **crafty**, wily, artful, guileful, devious, sly, scheming, designing, calculating, Machiavellian; shrewd, astute, clever, canny; deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous; informal foxy; old use subtle.

– OPPOSITES honest.

• noun *his political cunning*: **guile**, craftiness, deviousness, slyness, trickery, duplicity; shrewdness, astuteness.

**cup** noun **1** *a cup and saucer*: teacup, coffee cup, demitasse; mug, beaker; historical chalice. **2** *the winner was presented with a silver cup*: trophy, award, prize.

**cupboard** noun **cabinet**, sideboard, dresser, armoire, credenza, buffet; Brit. chiffonier; informal glory hole.

**Cupid** noun **Eros**, the god of love; Art amoretto.

**cupidity** noun **greed**, avarice, avariciousness, acquisitiveness, covetousness, rapacity, materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism; informal money-grubbing, an itching palm.

– OPPOSITES generosity.

**cur** noun **1** *a mangy cur*: **mongrel**, tyke; N. Amer. yellow dog; NZ kuri; informal mutt; Austral. informal mong, bitzer. **2** (informal) *Neil was beginning to feel like a cur*. See **SCOUNDREL**.

**curable** adjective **remediable**, treatable, medicable, operable.

**curative** adjective **healing**, therapeutic, medicinal, remedial, corrective, restorative, tonic, health-giving; old use sanative.

**curator** noun **custodian**, keeper, conservator, guardian, caretaker, steward.

**curb** noun *a curb on public spending*: **restraint**, restriction, check, brake, rein, control, limitation, limit, constraint; informal crackdown; literary trammel.

• verb *he tried to curb his temper*: **restrain**, hold back/in, keep back, repress, suppress, fight back, bite back, keep in check, check,



control, rein in, contain, bridle, subdue; informal keep a/the lid on.

**curdle** verb **clot**, coagulate, congeal, solidify, thicken; turn, sour, ferment.

**cure** verb **1** *he was cured of the disease*: **heal**, restore to health, make well/better; old use cleanse. **2** *economic equality cannot cure all social ills*: **rectify**, remedy, put/set right, right, fix, mend, repair, heal, make better; solve, sort out, be the answer/solution to; eliminate, end, put an end to. **3** *some farmers cured their own bacon*: **preserve**, smoke, salt, dry, pickle.

• **noun 1** *a cure for cancer*: **remedy**, medicine, medication, medicament, antidote, antiserum; treatment, therapy; old use physic. **2** *interest rate cuts are not the cure for the problem*: **solution**, answer, antidote, nostrum, panacea, cure-all; informal quick fix, magic bullet.

**cure-all** noun **panacea**, cure for all ills, sovereign remedy, heal-all, nostrum; informal magic bullet.

**curio** noun trinket, knick-knack, bibelot, ornament, bauble; objet d'art, collector's item, object of virtu, rarity, curiosity; N. Amer. kickshaw.

**curiosity** noun **1** *his evasiveness roused my curiosity*: **interest**, spirit of inquiry, inquisitiveness. **2** *the shop is a treasure trove of curiosities*: **oddity**, curio, conversation piece, object of virtu, collector's item.

**curious** adjective **1** *she was curious to know what had happened*: **intrigued**, interested, eager/dying to know, agog; inquisitive. **2** *her curious behaviour*: **strange**, odd, peculiar, funny, unusual, bizarre, weird, eccentric, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, extraordinary, abnormal, out of the ordinary, anomalous, surprising, incongruous, unconventional, unorthodox; informal offbeat; Brit. out of the common; Scottish unco; Brit. informal rum.

– OPPOSITES uninterested, ordinary.

**curl** verb **1** *smoke curled up from his cigarette*: **spiral**, coil, wreath, twirl, swirl; wind, curve, bend, twist (and turn), loop, meander, snake, corkscrew, zigzag. **2** *Ruth curled her arms around his neck*: **wind**, twine, entwine, wrap. **3** *she washed and curled my hair*: **crimp**, perm, tong. **4** *they curled up together on the sofa*: **nestle**, snuggle, cuddle; N. Amer. snug down.

• **noun 1** *the tangled curls of her hair*: **ringlet**, corkscrew, kink; kiss-curl. **2** *a curl of smoke*: **spiral**, coil, twirl, swirl, twist, corkscrew, curlicue, helix.

**curly** adjective **wavy**, curling, curled, ringlety, crimped, permed, frizzy, kinky, corkscrew.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**currency** noun **1** *foreign currency*: **money**, legal tender, cash, banknotes, notes, coins, coinage, specie; N. Amer. bills. **2** *a term which has gained new currency*: **prevalence**, circulation, exposure; acceptance, popularity.

**current** adjective **1** *current issues and events*: **contemporary**, present-day, modern,

present, contemporaneous; topical, in the news, live, burning. **2** *the idea is still current*: **prevalent**, prevailing, common, accepted, in circulation, circulating, on everyone's lips, popular, widespread. **3** *a current driving licence*: **valid**, usable, up to date. **4** *the current prime minister*: **incumbent**, present, in office, in power; reigning.

– OPPOSITES past, out of date, former.

• **noun 1** *a current of air*: **flow**, stream, backdraught, slipstream; airstream, thermal, updraught, draught; undercurrent, undertow, tide. **2** *the current of human life*: **course**, progress, progression, flow, tide, movement. **3** *the current of opinion*: **trend**, drift, direction, tendency.

**curriculum** noun **syllabus**, course/programme of study, subjects, modules.

**curse** noun **1** *she put a curse on him*: **malediction**, the evil eye; N. Amer. hex; Irish cess; informal jinx; formal imprecation; literary anathema. **2** *the curse of racism*: **evil**, blight, scourge, plague, cancer, canker, poison. **3** *the curse of unemployment*: **affliction**, burden, cross to bear, bane. **4** *muffled curses*: **swear word**, expletive, oath, profanity, four-letter word, dirty word, obscenity, blasphemy; informal cuss, cuss word; formal imprecation.

• **verb 1** *it seemed as if the family had been cursed*: **put a curse on**, put the evil eye on, hoodoo, anathematize, damn; N. Amer. hex; informal jinx; old use imprecate. **2** *she was cursed with feelings of inadequacy*: **afflict**, trouble, plague, bedevil. **3** *drivers cursed and sounded their horns*: **swear**, blaspheme, take the Lord's name in vain; informal cuss, turn the air blue, eff and blind; old use execrate.

**cursed** adjective **1** *a cursed city*: **under a curse**, damned, doomed, ill-fated, ill-starred; informal jinxed; literary accursed, star-crossed.

**2** (informal, dated) *those cursed children*. See **ANNOYING**.

**cursory** adjective **perfunctory**, desultory, casual, superficial, token; hasty, quick, hurried, rapid, brief, passing, fleeting.

– OPPOSITES thorough.

**curt** adjective **terse**, brusque, abrupt, clipped, blunt, short, monosyllabic, summary; snappish, sharp, tart; gruff, offhand, unceremonious, ungracious, rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil; informal snappy.

– OPPOSITES expansive.

**curtail** verb **1** *economic policies designed to curtail spending*: **reduce**, cut, cut down, decrease, lessen, pare down, trim, retrench; restrict, limit, curb, rein in/back; informal slash. **2** *his visit was curtailed*: **shorten**, cut short, truncate.

– OPPOSITES increase, lengthen.

**curtain** noun *he drew the curtains*: **window hanging**, screen, blind; N. Amer. drape.

• **verb** *the bed was curtained off from the rest of the room*: **conceal**, hide, screen, shield; separate, isolate.

**curtsy** verb *she curtsied to the king*: **bend one's knee**, drop/bob a curtsy, genuflect.

• **noun** *she made a curtsy*: **bob**, genuflection, obeisance.

**curvaceous** adjective shapely, voluptuous, sexy, full-figured, buxom, full-bosomed, bosomy, Junoesque; cuddly; informal curvy, well endowed, pneumatic, busty; old use comely.

– OPPOSITES skinny.

**curve** noun *the serpentine curves of the river:* bend, turn, loop, curl, twist, hook; arc, arch, bow, half-moon, undulation, curvature.

• **verb** *the road curved back on itself:* bend, turn, loop, wind, meander, undulate, snake, spiral, twist, coil, curl; arc, arch.

#### WORD LINKS

**sinuous** having many curves

**concave** curving inwards

**convex** curving outwards

**curved** adjective bent, arched, bowed, crescent, curving, wavy, sinuous, serpentine, meandering, undulating, curvilinear, curvy.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**cushion** noun *a cushion against inflation:* protection, buffer, shield, defence, bulwark.

• **verb** **1** *she cushioned her head on her arms:* support, cradle, prop (up), rest. **2** *to cushion the blow, wages and pensions were increased:* soften, lessen, diminish, decrease, mitigate, temper, allay, alleviate, take the edge off, dull, deaden. **3** *residents are cushioned from the outside world:* protect, shield, shelter, cocoon.

**cushy** adjective (informal) *a cushy job:* easy, undemanding; comfortable, secure; Brit. informal jammy.

– OPPOSITES difficult.

**custodian** noun *curator*, keeper, conservator, guardian, overseer, superintendent; caretaker, steward, protector.

**custody** noun *the parent who has custody of the child:* care, guardianship, charge, keeping, safe keeping, wardship, responsibility, protection, tutelage; custodianship, trusteeship; old use ward.

■ **in custody** in prison, in jail, imprisoned, incarcerated, locked up, under lock and key, interned, detained; on remand; informal behind bars, doing time, inside; Brit. informal banged up.

**custom** noun **1** *his unfamiliarity with the local customs:* tradition, practice, usage, observance, way, convention, formality, ceremony, ritual; shibboleth, sacred cow, unwritten rule; mores; formal praxis. **2** *it is our custom to visit the Lake District in October:* habit, practice, routine, way; policy, rule; formal wont. **3** (Brit.) *if you keep me waiting I will take my custom elsewhere:* business, patronage, trade.

**customarily** adverb usually, traditionally, normally, as a rule, generally, ordinarily, commonly; habitually, routinely.

– OPPOSITES occasionally.

**customary** adjective **1** *customary social practices:* usual, traditional, normal, conventional, familiar, accepted, routine, established, time-honoured, regular, prevailing. **2** *her customary good sense:*

usual, accustomed, habitual; literary wonted.

– OPPOSITES unusual.

**customer** noun *consumer*, buyer, purchaser, patron, client; shopper; Brit. informal punter.

**customs** plural noun. See **TAX** noun sense 1.

**cut** verb **1** *the knife slipped and cut his finger:* gash, slash, lacerate, sever, slit, pierce, penetrate, wound, injure; scratch, graze, nick, snick, incise, score; lance. **2** *cut the meat into small pieces:* chop, cut up, slice, dice, cube, mince; carve; N. Amer. hash. **3** *cut back the new growth to about half its length:* trim, snip, clip, crop, barber, shear, shave; pare; prune, pollard, poll, lop, dock; mow. **4** *I went to cut some flowers:* pick, pluck, gather; literary cull. **5** *lettering had been cut into the stonework:* carve, engrave, incise, etch, score; chisel, whittle. **6** *the government cut public expenditure:* reduce, cut back/down on, decrease, lessen, retrench, trim, slim down; rationalize, downsize, slenderize; mark down, discount, lower; informal slash. **7** *the text has been substantially cut:* shorten, abridge, condense, abbreviate, truncate; edit; bowdlerize, expurgate. **8** *you need to cut at least ten lines per page:* delete, remove, take out, excise, blue-pencil. **9** *oil supplies to the area had been cut:* discontinue, break off, suspend, interrupt; stop, end, put an end to. **10** *the point where the line cuts the vertical axis:* cross, intersect, bisect; meet, join. **11** (dated) *the banker's wife cut her at church:* snub, ignore, shun, give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder, cut dead, look right through, rebuff, turn one's back on; informal freeze out.

• **noun** **1** *a cut on his jaw:* gash, slash, laceration, incision, wound, injury; scratch, graze, nick, snick. **2** *a cut of beef:* joint, piece, section. **3** (informal) *the directors are demanding their cut:* share, portion, bit, quota, percentage; informal slice of the cake, rake-off, piece of the action; Brit. informal whack. **4** *his hair was in need of a cut:* haircut, trim, clip, crop. **5** *a smart cut of the whip:* blow, slash, stroke. **6** *he followed this with the unkindest cut of all:* insult, slight, affront, slap in the face, jibe, barb, cutting remark; informal put-down, dig. **7** *a cut in interest rates:* reduction, cutback, decrease, lessening; N. Amer. rollback. **8** *the elegant cut of his jacket:* style, design; tailoring, lines, fit.

■ **cut back** *companies cut back on foreign investment:* reduce, cut, cut down on, decrease, lessen, retrench, economize on, trim, slim down, scale down; rationalize, downsize, pull/draw in one's horns, tighten one's belt; informal slash.

■ **cut someone/something down** **1** *24 hectares of trees were cut down:* fell, chop down, hack down, saw down, hew. **2** *he was cut down in his prime:* kill, slaughter, shoot down, mow down, gun down; informal take out, blow away; literary slay.

■ **cut and dried** definite, decided, settled, explicit, specific, precise, unambiguous, clear-cut, unequivocal, black and white, hard and fast.

■ **cut in** interrupt, butt in, break in, interject, interpose, chime in; Brit. informal chip in.

■ **cut someone/something off** **1** *they cut off his finger*: sever, chop off, hack off; amputate. **2** *oil and gas supplies were cut off*: discontinue, break off, disconnect, suspend; stop, end, bring to an end. **3** *a community cut off from the mainland by the flood waters*: isolate, separate, keep apart; seclude, closet, cloister, sequester.

■ **cut out** stop working, stop, fail, give out, break down; informal die, give up the ghost, conk out; Brit. informal pack up.

■ **cut someone/something out** **1** *cut out all the diseased wood*: remove, take out, excise, extract; snip out, clip out. **2** *it's best to cut out alcohol altogether*: give up, refrain from, abstain from, go without; informal quit, leave off, pack in, lay off, knock off. **3** *his mother cut him out of her will*: exclude, leave out, omit, eliminate.

■ **cut something short** break off, shorten, truncate, curtail, terminate, end, stop, abort, bring to an untimely end.

■ **cut someone short** interrupt, cut off, butt in on, break in on.

**cutback** **noun** reduction, cut, decrease; economy, saving; N. Amer. rollback.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**cute** **adjective** endearing, adorable, lovable, sweet, lovely, appealing, engaging, delightful, dear, darling, winning, winsome, attractive, pretty; informal cutesy, twee; Brit. informal dinky.

**cut-price** **adjective** cheap, marked down, reduced, on (special) offer, discount; N. Amer. cut-rate.

**cut-throat** **noun** (dated) *a band of robbers and cut-throats*: murderer, killer, assassin; informal hit man; dated homicide.

• **adjective** *cut-throat competition between rival firms*: ruthless, merciless, fierce, intense, aggressive, dog-eat-dog.

**cutting** **noun** **1** *a newspaper cutting*: clipping, clip, snippet; article, piece, column, paragraph. **2** *plant cuttings*: scion, slip;

graft. **3** *fabric cuttings*: piece, bit, fragment; trimming.

• **adjective** **1** *a cutting remark*: hurtful, wounding, barbed, pointed, scathing, acerbic, mordant, caustic, acid, sarcastic, sardonic, snide, spiteful, malicious, mean, nasty, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty; Brit. informal sarky; N. Amer. informal snarky. **2** *cutting winter winds*: icy, icy-cold, freezing, arctic, Siberian, glacial, bitter, chilling, chilly, chill; biting, piercing, penetrating, raw, keen, sharp.

– OPPOSITES friendly, warm.

**cut up** **adjective** (informal) *he's pretty cut up about it*. See UPSET adjective sense 1.

**cycle** **noun** **1** *the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth*: round, rotation; pattern, rhythm.

**2** *the painting is one of a cycle of seven*: series, sequence, succession, run; set.

**3** *cycles may be hired from the station*. See BICYCLE.

**cyclical** **adjective** recurrent, recurring, regular, repeated; periodic, seasonal, circular.

**cyclone** **noun** hurricane, typhoon, tropical storm, storm, tornado, windstorm, whirlwind, tempest; Austral. willy-willy; N. Amer. informal twister.

**cynic** **noun** sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas; pessimist, prophet of doom, doomsayer, Cassandra; informal doom (and gloom) merchant.

– OPPOSITES idealist.

**cynical** **adjective** sceptical, doubtful, distrustful, suspicious, disbelieving; pessimistic, negative, world-weary, disillusioned, disenchanted, jaundiced, sardonic.

– OPPOSITES idealistic.

**cynicism** **noun** scepticism, doubt, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, disbelief; pessimism, negativity, world-weariness, disenchantment.

– OPPOSITES idealism.

**cyst** **noun** growth, lump; abscess, wen, boil, carbuncle.



# Dd

**dab** verb *she dabbed disinfectant on the cut:* pat, press, touch, blot, mop, swab; daub, apply, wipe, stroke.

• **noun** **1** *a dab of glue:* drop, spot, smear, splash, speck, taste, trace, touch, hint, bit; informal smidgen, tad, lick. **2** *apply concealer with light dabs:* pat, touch, blot, wipe.

**dabble** verb **1** *they dabbled their feet in rock pools:* splash, dip, paddle, trail; immerse. **2** *he dabbled in politics:* toy with, dip into, flirt with, tinker with, trifle with, play with, dally with.

**dabbler** noun *amateur, dilettante, layman, layperson; tinkerer, trifler.*

– OPPOSITES professional.

**daemon** noun *numen, genius (loci), attendant spirit, tutelary spirit.*

**daft** adjective (Brit. informal) **1** *a daft idea:* absurd, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, laughable; idiotic, stupid, foolish, silly, inane, fatuous, hare-brained, half-baked; informal crazy, cockeyed; Brit. informal barmy. **2** *are you daft?* simple-minded, stupid, idiotic, slow, witless, feeble-minded, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid; unhinged, insane, mad; informal thick, dim, dopey, dumb, dim-witted, half-witted, birdbrained, pea-brained, slow on the uptake, soft in the head, brain-dead, not all there, touched, crazy, mental, nuts, batty, bonkers; Brit. informal potty, not the full shilling, barmy, crackers; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded. **3** *she's daft about him:* infatuated with, enamoured of, smitten with, besotted by, very fond of; informal crazy, mad, nuts; Brit. informal potty; informal, dated sweet on.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**daily** adjective *a daily event:* everyday, day-to-day, quotidian, diurnal, circadian.

• **adverb** *the museum is open daily:* every day, once a day, day after day, diurnally.

**dainty** adjective **1** *a dainty china cup:* delicate, fine, neat, elegant, exquisite; Brit. informal dinky. **2** *a dainty morsel:* tasty, delicious, choice, palatable, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, toothsome; appetizing, inviting, tempting; informal scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, finger-licking, moreish. **3** *a dainty eater:* fastidious, fussy, finicky, finical, faddish; particular, discriminating;

informal choosy, pernickety, picky; Brit. informal faddy.

– OPPOSITES unwieldy, unpalatable, indiscriminating.

• **noun** *home-made dainties:* delicacy, titbit, fancy, luxury, treat; nibble, savoury, appetizer, confection, bonbon; informal goody; old use sweetmeat.

**dais** noun *platform, stage, podium, rostrum, stand, apron; soapbox, stump.*

**dale** noun *valley, vale; hollow, basin, gully, gorge, ravine; Brit. dene, combe; N. English clough; Scottish glen, strath; literary dell.*

**dally** verb **1** *don't dally on the way to work:* dawdle, delay, loiter, linger, waste time; lag, trail, straggle, fall behind; amble, meander, drift; informal dilly-dally; old use tarry. **2** *he likes dallying with film stars:* trifle, toy, amuse oneself, flirt, play fast and loose, philander, carry on; informal play around. – OPPOSITES hurry.

**dam** noun *the dam burst:* barrage, barrier, wall, embankment, barricade, obstruction.

• **verb** *the river was dammed:* block (up), obstruct, bung up, close; technical occlude.

**damage** noun **1** *did the thieves do any damage?* harm, destruction, vandalism; injury, impairment, desecration, vitiation, detriment; ruin, havoc, devastation.

**2** (humorous) *what's the damage?* cost, price, expense, charge, total. **3** *she won £4,300 damages:* compensation, recompense, restitution, redress, reparation(s); indemnification, indemnity; N. Amer. informal comp.

• **verb** *the parcel had been damaged:* harm, deface, mutilate, mangle, impair, injure, disfigure, vandalize; tamper with, sabotage; ruin, destroy, wreck; N. Amer. informal trash; formal vitiate.

– OPPOSITES repair.

**damaging** adjective *harmful, detrimental, injurious, hurtful, inimical, dangerous, destructive, ruinous, deleterious; bad, malign, adverse, undesirable, prejudicial, unfavourable; unhealthy, unwholesome.*

– OPPOSITES beneficial.

**damn** verb **1** *they were all damning him:* curse, put the evil eye on, hoodoo; anathematize; N. Amer. hex; informal jinx; old use imprecate. **2** *we are not going to damn the new product:* condemn, censure, criticize,

attack, denounce, revile; find fault with, deprecate, disparage; informal slam, lay into, blast; Brit. informal slate, slag off, have a go at.

– OPPOSITES bless, praise.

• **noun** (informal) *I don't care a damn*: jot, whit, iota, rap, scrap, bit; informal hoot, two hoots.

**damnable** adjective **1** *it's a damnable nuisance*: unpleasant, disagreeable, objectionable, horrible, horrid, awful, nasty, dreadful, terrible; annoying, irritating, maddening, exasperating; hateful, detestable, loathsome, abominable; Brit. informal beastly. **2** *suicide was thought damnable*: sinful, wicked, evil, iniquitous, heinous, base, execrable.

**damnation** noun *condemnation to hell*, eternal punishment, perdition, doom, hellfire; curse, anathema; N. Amer. hex; formal imprecation; old use excretion.

**damned** adjective **1** *damned souls*: cursed, doomed, lost, condemned to hell; anathematized; literary accursed. **2** (informal) *this damned car won't start*: wretched; informal blasted, bloody, damn, damnable, flaming, rotten; Brit. informal blessed, flipping, blinking, blooming, bleeding, ruddy; informal, dated confounded; dated accursed.

**damning** adjective *incriminating*, condemnatory, damnatory; damaging, derogatory; conclusive, strong.

**damp** adjective *her hair was damp*: moist, moistened, wettish, dampened, dampish; humid, steamy, muggy, clammy, sweaty, sticky, dank, moisture-laden, wet, wetted, rainy, drizzly, showery, misty, foggy, vaporous, dewy.

– OPPOSITES dry.

• **noun** *the damp in the air*: moisture, dampness, humidity, wetness, wet, water, condensation, steam, vapour; clamminess, dankness; rain, dew, drizzle, precipitation, spray; perspiration, sweat.

– OPPOSITES dryness.

• **verb** **1** *sweat damped his hair*. See **DAMPEN** sense 1. **2** *nothing damped my enthusiasm*. See **DAMPEN** sense 2.

**dampen** verb **1** *the rain dampened her face*: moisten, damp, wet, dew, water; literary bedew. **2** *nothing could dampen her enthusiasm*: lessen, decrease, diminish, reduce, moderate, damp, put a damper on, throw cold water on, cool, discourage; suppress, extinguish, quench, stifle, curb, limit, check, restrain, inhibit, deter.

– OPPOSITES dry, heighten.

**damp** noun curb, check, restraint, restriction, limit, limitation, constraint, rein, brake, control, impediment; chill, pall, gloom.

**dampness** noun. See **DAMP** noun.

**damsel** noun (literary). See **GIRL** sense 2.

**dance** verb **1** *he danced with her*: sway, trip, twirl, whirl, pirouette, gyrate; informal bop, disco, shake a leg, hoof it, cut a rug, trip the light fantastic; N. Amer. informal get down. **2** *little girls danced round me*: caper, cavort, frisk, frolic, skip, prance, gambol, jig; leap, jump, hop, bounce. **3** *flames danced in the*

*fireplace*: flicker, leap, dart, play, flit, quiver; twinkle, shimmer.

• **noun** *the school dance*: ball, discotheque; masquerade; N. Amer. prom, hoedown; informal disco, hop, bop.

#### WORD LINKS

terpsichorean relating to dancing  
choreography the sequence of steps in a ballet or other dance

**dancer** noun danseur, danseuse; informal bopper, hooper.

**dandle** verb bounce, jiggle, dance, rock.

**dandy** noun *he became something of a dandy*: fop, man about town, bright young thing, glamour boy, rake; informal sharp dresser, snappy dresser, trendy, dude, pretty boy; informal, dated swell, popinjay; dated beau; old use buck, coxcomb.

• **adjective** (N. Amer. informal) *our trip was dandy*. See **EXCELLENT**.

**danger** noun **1** *an element of danger*: peril, hazard, risk, jeopardy; perilousness, riskiness, precariousness, uncertainty, instability, insecurity. **2** *he is a danger to society*: menace, hazard, threat, risk. **3** *a serious danger of fire*: possibility, chance, risk, probability, likelihood, fear, prospect.

– OPPOSITES safety.

**dangerous** adjective **1** *a dangerous animal*: menacing, threatening, treacherous; savage, wild, vicious, murderous, desperate; rare minacious. **2** *dangerous wiring*: hazardous, perilous, risky, high-risk, unsafe, unpredictable, precarious, insecure, touch-and-go, chancy, treacherous; informal dicey, hairy; Brit. informal dodgy.

– OPPOSITES harmless, safe.

**dangle** verb **1** *a chain dangled from his belt*: hang (down), droop, swing, sway, wave, trail, stream. **2** *he dangled the keys*: wave, swing, jiggle, brandish, flourish. **3** *he dangled money in front of the locals*: offer, hold out; entice someone with, tempt someone with.

**dangling** adjective hanging, drooping, droopy, suspended, pendulous, pendent, trailing, flowing, tumbling.

**dank** adjective damp, musty, chilly, clammy, moist, wet, unaired, humid.

– OPPOSITES dry.

**dapper** adjective smart, spruce, trim, debonair, neat, well dressed, well groomed, well turned out, elegant, chic, dashing; informal snazzy, snappy, natty, sharp; N. Amer. informal spiffy, fly.

– OPPOSITES scruffy.

**dapple** verb dot, spot, fleck, streak, speck, speckle, mottle, marble.

**dappled** adjective speckled, blotched, blotchy, spotted, spotty, dotted, mottled, marbled, flecked, freckled; piebald, pied, brindle, pinto, tabby; patchy, variegated; informal splotchy, splodgy.

**dare** verb **1** *nobody dared to say a word*: be brave enough, have the courage; venture, have the nerve, have the temerity, be so

bold as, have the audacity; risk, hazard, take the liberty of; N. Amer. take a flyer; informal stick one's neck out, go out on a limb. **2** *she dared him to go: challenge*, defy, invite, bid, provoke, goad; throw down the gauntlet. • **noun** *she accepted the dare: challenge*, provocation, goad; gauntlet, invitation.

**daredevil** **noun** *a young daredevil crashed his car: madcap*, hothead, adventurer, exhibitionist, swashbuckler; stuntman; Brit. tearaway; informal show-off.

• **adjective** *a daredevil skydiver: daring*, bold, audacious, intrepid, fearless, madcap, death-or-glory, dauntless; heedless, reckless, rash, impulsive, impetuous, foolhardy, incautious, imprudent; Brit. tearaway, harum-scarum.

– **OPPOSITES** cowardly, cautious.

**daring** **adjective** *a daring attack: bold*, audacious, intrepid, venturesome, fearless, brave, unafraid, undaunted, dauntless, valiant, valorous, heroic, dashing; madcap, rash, reckless, heedless; informal gutsy, spunky.

• **noun** *his sheer daring: boldness*, audacity, temerity, fearlessness, intrepidity, bravery, courage, valour, heroism, pluck, spirit, mettle; recklessness, rashness, foolhardiness; informal nerve, guts, spunk, grit; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie, sand.

**dark** **adjective** **1** *a dark night: black*, pitch-black, jet-black, inky; unlit, unilluminated; starless, moonless; dingy, gloomy, dusky, shadowy, shady; literary Stygian. **2** *a dark secret: mysterious*, secret, hidden, concealed, veiled, covert, clandestine; enigmatic, arcane, esoteric, obscure, abstruse, impenetrable, incomprehensible, cryptic. **3** *dark hair: brunette*, dark brown, chestnut, sable, jet-black, ebony. **4** *dark skin: swarthy*, dusky, olive, black, ebony; tanned, bronzed. **5** *dark days: tragic*, disastrous, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic; dire, awful, terrible, dreadful, horrible, horrendous, atrocious, nightmarish, harrowing; wretched, woeful. **6** *dark thoughts: gloomy*, dismal, pessimistic, negative, downbeat, bleak, grim, fatalistic, black, sombre; despairing, despondent, hopeless, cheerless, melancholy, glum, grave, morose, mournful, doleful. **7** *a dark look: moody*, brooding, sullen, dour, scowling, glowering, angry, forbidding, threatening, ominous. **8** *dark deeds: evil*, wicked, sinful, immoral, bad, iniquitous, ungodly, unholy, base; vile, unspeakable, foul, monstrous, shocking, atrocious, abominable, hateful, despicable, odious, horrible, heinous, execrable, diabolical, fiendish, murderous, barbarous, black; sordid, degenerate, depraved; dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous; informal low-down, dirty, crooked, shady.

– **OPPOSITES** bright, blonde, pale, happy, good.

• **noun** **1** *he's afraid of the dark: darkness*, blackness, gloom, murkiness, shadow, shade; dusk, twilight, gloaming. **2** *she went out after dark: night*, night-time, darkness;

nightfall, evening, twilight, sunset.

– **OPPOSITES** light, day.

■ **in the dark** (informal) unaware, ignorant, oblivious, uninformed, unenlightened, unacquainted, unconverted.

**darken** **verb** **1** *the sky darkened: grow dark*, blacken, dim, cloud over, lour; shade, fog.

**2** *his mood darkened: blacken*, become angry, become annoyed; sadden, become gloomy, become unhappy, become depressed, become dejected, become dispirited, become troubled.

**darkness** **noun** **1** *lights shone in the darkness: dark*, blackness, gloom, dimness, murkiness, shadow, shade; dusk, twilight, gloaming.

**2** *darkness fell: night*, night-time, dark. **3** *the forces of darkness: evil*, wickedness, sin, iniquity, immorality; devilry, the Devil.

**darling** **noun** **1** *good night, darling: dear*, dearest, love, lover, sweetheart, sweet, beloved; informal honey, angel, pet, sweetie, sugar, babe, baby, poppet, treasure. **2** *the darling of the media: favourite*, pet, idol, hero, heroine; Brit. informal blue-eyed boy/girl.

• **adjective** **1** *his darling wife: dear*, dearest, precious, adored, loved, beloved, cherished, treasured, esteemed, worshipped. **2** *a darling little hat: adorable*, appealing, charming, cute, sweet, enchanting, bewitching, endearing, dear, delightful, lovely, beautiful, attractive, gorgeous, fetching; Scottish & N. English bonny.

**darn** **verb** *he was darning his socks: mend*, repair, reinforce; sew up, stitch, patch.

• **noun** *a sweater with darns in the elbows: patch*, repair, reinforcement, stitch.

**dart** **noun** **1** *a poisoned dart: small arrow*, flechette, bolt; missile, projectile. **2** *she made a dart for the door: dash*, rush, run, bolt, break, start, charge, sprint, bound, leap, dive; scurry, scamper, scramble.

• **verb** **1** *Karl darted across the road: dash*, rush, tear, run, bolt, fly, shoot, charge, race, sprint, bound, leap, dive, gallop, scurry, scamper, scramble; informal scoot. **2** *he darted a glance at her: direct*, cast, throw, shoot, send, flash.

**dash** **verb** **1** *he dashed home: rush*, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb, go like the clappers; N. Amer. informal barrel. **2** *he dashed the glass to the ground: hurl*, smash, crash, slam, throw, toss, fling, pitch, cast, project, propel, send; informal chuck, heave, sling, bung; N. Amer. informal peg; dated shy. **3** *rain dashed against the walls: be hurled*, crash, smash; batter, strike, beat, pound, lash. **4** *her hopes were dashed: shatter*, destroy, wreck, ruin, crush, devastate, demolish, blight, overturn, scotch, spoil, frustrate, thwart, check; informal banjax, do for, blow a hole in, put paid to; Brit. informal scupper.

– **OPPOSITES** dawdle, raise.

• **noun** **1** *a dash for the door: rush*, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, leap, charge, bound,



break; scramble. **2** *a dash of salt*: pinch, touch, sprinkle, taste, spot, drop, dab, speck, smattering, sprinkling, splash, bit, modicum, little; informal smidgen, tad, lick. **3** *he led off with such dash*: verve, style, flamboyance, gusto, zest, confidence, self-assurance, élan, flair, vigour, vivacity, sparkle, brio, panache, éclat, vitality, dynamism; informal pizzazz, pep, oomph.

**dashing** adjective **1** *a dashing pilot*: debonair, devil-may-care, raffish, sporty, spirited, lively, dazzling, energetic, animated, exuberant, flamboyant, dynamic, bold, intrepid, daring, adventurous, plucky, swashbuckling; romantic, attractive, gallant. **2** *he looked exceptionally dashing*: stylish, smart, elegant, chic, dapper, spruce, trim, debonair; fashionable, modish, voguish; informal trendy, with it, hip, sharp, snazzy, classy, natty, swish; N. Amer. informal fly, spiffy.

**dastardly** adjective (dated) **wicked**, evil, heinous, villainous, diabolical, fiendish, barbarous, cruel, black, dark, rotten, vile, monstrous, abominable, despicable, degenerate, sordid; bad, base, mean, low, dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled; informal low-down, dirty, shady, rascally, scoundrelly, crooked; Brit. informal beastly.

– OPPOSITES noble.

**data** noun facts, figures, statistics, details, particulars, specifics; information, intelligence, material, input; informal info, gen.

**date** noun **1** *the only date he has to remember*: day (of the month), occasion, time; year; anniversary. **2** *a later date is suggested for this bridge*: age, time, period, era, epoch, century, decade, year. **3** *a lunch date*: appointment, meeting, engagement, rendezvous, assignation; commitment. **4** (informal) *a date for tonight*: partner, escort, girlfriend, boyfriend; informal steady, bird, fella.

• verb **1** *the sculpture can be dated accurately*: assign a date to, ascertain the date of, put a date on. **2** *the building dates from the 16th century*: was made in, was built in, originates in, comes from, belongs to, goes back to. **3** *the best films don't date*: become old-fashioned, become outmoded, become dated, show its age. **4** (informal) *he's dating Jill*: go out with, take out, go around with, be involved with, see, woo; informal go steady with; dated court.

■ **to date** so far, thus far, yet, as yet, up to now, till now, until now, up to the present (time), hitherto.

**dated** adjective old-fashioned, outdated, outmoded, passé, behind the times, archaic, obsolete, antiquated; unfashionable, unstylish; crusty, olde worlde, prehistoric, antediluvian; informal old hat, out, out of the ark.

– OPPOSITES modern.

**daub** verb *he daubed a rock with paint*: smear, bedaub, plaster, splash, spatter, splatter, cake, cover, smother, coat.

• noun *daubs of paint*: smear, smudge, splash, blot, spot, patch, blotch; informal splodge, splotch.

**daunt** verb discourage, deter, demoralize, put off, dishearten, dispirit; intimidate, abash, take aback, throw, cow, overawe, awe, frighten, scare, unman, dismay, disconcert, discompose, perturb, unsettle, unnerve; throw off balance; informal rattle, faze, shake up.

– OPPOSITES hearten.

**dauntless** adjective fearless, determined, resolute, indomitable, intrepid, doughty, plucky, spirited, mettlesome; undaunted, undismayed, unflinching, unshrinking, bold, audacious, valiant, brave, courageous, daring; informal gutsy, spunky, feisty.

**dawdle** verb **1** *they dawdled over breakfast*: linger, dally, take one's time, be slow, waste time, idle; delay, procrastinate, stall; informal dilly-dally; old use tarry. **2** *Ruth dawdled home*: amble, stroll, trail, walk slowly, move at a snail's pace; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle, mooch.

– OPPOSITES hurry.

**dawn** noun **1** *we got up at dawn*: daybreak, sunrise, first light, daylight, cockcrow; first thing in the morning; N. Amer. sunup. **2** *the dawn of civilization*: beginning, start, birth, inception, origination, genesis, emergence, advent, appearance, arrival, dawning, rise, origin, onset; unfolding, development, infancy; informal kick-off.

– OPPOSITES dusk, end.

• verb **1** *Thursday dawned crisp and sunny*: begin, break, arrive, emerge. **2** *a bright new future has dawned*: begin, start, commence, be born, appear, arrive, emerge; arise, rise, break, unfold, develop. **3** *the reality dawned on him*: occur to, come to, strike, hit, enter/cross someone's mind, register with, suggest itself.

– OPPOSITES end.

**day** noun **1** *I stayed for a day*: twenty-four-hour period, twenty-four hours. **2** *enjoy the beach during the day*: daytime, daylight; waking hours. **3** *the leading architect of the day*: period, time, age, era, generation. **4** *in his day he had great influence*: heyday, prime, time; peak, height, zenith, ascendancy; youth, springtime, salad days.

– OPPOSITES night, decline.

■ **day after day** repeatedly, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, frequently, often, time after time; {day in, day out}, night and day, all the time; persistently, recurrently, constantly, continuously, continually, relentlessly, regularly, habitually, unflinchingly, always; N. Amer. oftentimes; informal 24-7; literary oft, oft-times.

■ **day by day** **1** *day by day they were forced to retreat*: gradually, slowly, progressively; bit by bit, inch by inch, little by little, inchmeal. **2** *they follow the news day by day*: daily, every day, day after day; diurnally.

## WORD LINKS

**diurnal** of or during the daytime  
**equinox** either of the times of the year when day and night are of equal length  
**solstice** the longest or shortest days of the year

**daybreak** noun dawn, crack of dawn, sunrise, first light, first thing in the morning, cockcrow; daylight; N. Amer. sunup.  
 – OPPOSITES nightfall.

**daydream** noun **1** *she was lost in a daydream:* reverie, trance, fantasy, vision, fancy, brown study; inattentiveness, wool-gathering, preoccupation, absorption, self-absorption, absent-mindedness, abstraction. **2** *a big house was one of her daydreams:* dream, pipe dream, fantasy, castle in the air, castle in Spain, fond hope; wishful thinking; informal pie in the sky.  
 • **verb** *stop daydreaming!* dream, muse, stare into space; fantasize, be in cloud cuckoo land, build castles in the air, build castles in Spain.

**daydreamer** noun dreamer, fantasist, fantasizer, romantic, wishful thinker, idealist; visionary, theorizer, utopian, Walter Mitty.

**daylight** noun **1** *do the test in daylight:* natural light, sunlight. **2** *she only went there in daylight:* daytime, day; broad daylight. **3** *police moved in at daylight:* dawn, daybreak, break of day, crack of dawn, sunrise, first light, early morning, cockcrow; N. Amer. sunup.

– OPPOSITES darkness, night-time, nightfall.

■ **see daylight 1** *Sam finally saw daylight:* understand, comprehend, realize, see the light; informal cotton on, catch on, latch on, get the picture, get the message, get it; Brit. informal twig. **2** *his project never saw daylight:* be completed, be accomplished, see (the) light of day.

**day-to-day** adjective regular, everyday, daily, routine, habitual, frequent, normal, standard, usual, typical.

**daze** verb **1** *he was dazed by his fall:* stun, stupefy; knock unconscious, knock out; informal knock the stuffing out of. **2** *she was dazed by the revelations:* astound, amaze, astonish, startle, dumbfound, stupefy, overwhelm, stagger, shock, confound, bewilder, take aback, nonplus, shake up; informal flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over, blow away; Brit. informal knock for six.  
 • **noun** *she is in a daze:* stupor, trance, haze; spin, whirl, muddle, jumble.

**dazzle** verb **1** *she was dazzled by the headlines:* blind temporarily, deprive of sight. **2** *I was dazzled by the exhibition:* overwhelm, overcome, impress, move, stir, affect, touch, awe, overawe, leave speechless, take someone's breath away; spellbind, hypnotize; informal bowl over, blow away, knock out.

• **noun 1** *dazzle can be a problem to sensitive eyes:* glare, brightness, brilliance, shimmer, radiance, shine. **2** *the dazzle of the limelight:*

sparkle, glitter, brilliance, glory, splendour, magnificence, glamour; attraction, lure, allure, draw, appeal; informal razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz.

**dazzling** adjective **1** *the sunlight was dazzling:* bright, blinding, glaring, brilliant. **2** *a dazzling performance:* impressive, remarkable, extraordinary, outstanding, exceptional; incredible, amazing, astonishing, phenomenal, breathtaking, thrilling; excellent, wonderful, magnificent, marvellous, superb, first-rate, superlative, matchless; informal mind-blowing, out of this world, fabulous, fab, super, sensational, ace, A1, cool, awesome; Brit. informal smashing, brill.

**dead** adjective **1** *my parents are dead:* passed on/away, expired, departed, gone, no more; late, lost, lamented; perished, fallen, slain, slaughtered, killed, murdered; lifeless, extinct; informal (as) dead as a doornail, six feet under, pushing up daisies; formal deceased; euphemistic with God, asleep. **2** *patches of dead ground:* barren, lifeless, bare, desolate, sterile. **3** *a dead language:* obsolete, extinct, defunct, disused, abandoned, discarded, superseded, vanished, forgotten; archaic, antiquated, ancient; literary of yore. **4** *the phone was dead:* not working, out of order, inoperative, inactive, in disrepair, broken, malfunctioning, defective; informal kaput, conked out, on the blink, bust; Brit. informal knackered. **5** *a dead leg:* numb, numbed, deadened, desensitized, unfeeling; paralysed, crippled, incapacitated, immobilized, frozen. **6** *she has dead eyes:* emotionless, unemotional, unfeeling, impassive, unresponsive, indifferent, dispassionate, inexpressive, wooden, stony, cold; deadpan, flat; blank, vacant. **7** *his affection for her was dead:* extinguished, quashed, stifled; finished, over, gone, no more; ancient history. **8** *a dead town:* uneventful, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, dull, boring, flat, quiet, sleepy, slow, lacklustre, lifeless; informal one-horse, dead-and-alive; N. Amer. informal dullsville. **9** *dead silence:* complete, absolute, total, utter, out-and-out, thorough, unmitigated. **10** *a dead shot:* unerring, unfailing, impeccable, sure, true, accurate, precise; deadly, lethal; Brit. informal spot on, bang on.

– OPPOSITES alive, fertile, modern, lively, poor.

• **adverb 1** *he was dead serious:* completely, absolutely, totally, utterly, deadly, perfectly, entirely, quite, thoroughly; definitely, certainly, positively, categorically, unquestionably, undoubtedly, surely; one hundred per cent. **2** *flares were seen dead ahead:* directly, exactly, precisely, immediately, right, straight, due, squarely; informal bang, slap bang. **3** (Brit. informal) *it's dead easy.* See **VERY**.

**deadbeat** noun (informal) layabout, loafer, idler, good-for-nothing; informal waster; Brit. informal skiver; N. Amer. informal bum; literary wastrel.

**deaden** verb **1** *ether was used to deaden the pain:* numb, dull, blunt, suppress; alleviate, mitigate, diminish, reduce, lessen, ease, soothe, relieve, assuage. **2** *the wood panelling deadened any noise:* muffle, mute, smother, stifle, dull, damp (down); silence, quieten, soften; cushion, buffer, absorb. **3** *laughing might deaden us to the moral issue:* desensitize, numb, anaesthetize; harden (one's heart), toughen.

– OPPOSITES intensify, amplify, sensitize.

**deadline** noun **time limit**, limit, finishing date, target date, cut-off point.

**deadlock** noun **1** *the strike reached a deadlock:* stalemate, impasse, checkmate, stand-off; standstill, halt, (full) stop, dead end. **2** (Brit.) *the deadlock is opened with a key:* bolt, lock, latch, catch; Scottish sneck, snib.

**deadly** adjective **1** *these drugs can be deadly:* fatal, lethal, mortal, death-dealing, life-threatening; dangerous, injurious, harmful, detrimental, deleterious, unhealthy; noxious, toxic, poisonous; literary deathly. **2** *deadly enemies:* mortal, irreconcilable, implacable, unappeasable, unforgiving, remorseless, merciless, pitiless; bitter, hostile, antagonistic. **3** *deadly seriousness:* intense, great, marked, extreme. **4** *he was deadly pale:* deathly, ghostly, ashen, white, pallid, wan, pale; ghastly. **5** *his aim is deadly:* unerring, unfailing, impeccable, perfect, flawless, faultless; sure, true, precise, accurate, exact; Brit. informal spot on, bang on. **6** (informal) *life here can be deadly.* See BORING.

– OPPOSITES harmless, mild, inaccurate, exciting.

• adverb *deadly calm:* completely, absolutely, totally, utterly, perfectly, entirely, wholly, quite, dead, thoroughly, one hundred per cent.

**deadpan** adjective blank, expressionless, unexpressive, impassive, inscrutable, poker-faced, straight-faced; stony, wooden, vacant, fixed, lifeless.

– OPPOSITES expressive.

**deaf** adjective **1** *she is deaf and blind:* hard of hearing; informal deaf as a post. **2** *she was deaf to their pleading:* unmoved by, untouched by, unaffected by, indifferent to, unresponsive to, unconcerned by; unaware of, oblivious to, impervious to.

**deafening** adjective very loud, very noisy, ear-splitting, ear-shattering, overwhelming, almighty, mighty, tremendous; booming, thunderous, roaring, resounding, resonant, reverberating.

– OPPOSITES quiet.

**deal** noun *completion of the deal:* agreement, understanding, pact, bargain, covenant, contract, treaty; arrangement, compromise, settlement; terms; transaction, sale, account; law indenture.

• verb **1** *how to deal with difficult children:* cope with, handle, manage, treat, take care of, take charge of, take in hand, sort out, tackle, take on; control; act towards, behave towards. **2** *the article deals with advances in chemistry:* concern, be about, have to do

with, discuss, consider, cover, pertain to; tackle, study, explore, investigate, examine, review, analyse. **3** *the company deals in high-tech goods:* trade in, buy and sell; sell, purvey, supply, stock, market, merchandise; traffic, smuggle; informal push; Brit. informal flog. **4** *the cards were dealt:* distribute, give out, share out, divide out, hand out, pass out, pass round, dole out, dispense, allocate; informal divvy up. **5** *the court dealt a blow to government reforms:* deliver, administer, dispense, inflict, give, impose; aim.

■ **a great deal/a good deal** a lot, a large amount, a fair amount, much, plenty; informal lots, loads, heaps, bags, masses, tons; Brit. informal a shedload.

**dealer** noun **1** *an antique dealer:* trader, tradesman, tradesperson, merchant, salesman/woman, seller, vendor, purveyor, pedlar, hawker; buyer, merchandiser, distributor, supplier, shopkeeper, retailer, wholesaler; Brit. stockist. **2** *a dealer in a bank:* stockbroker, broker-dealer, broker, agent.

**dealing** noun **1** *dishonest dealing:* business methods, business practices, business, commerce, trading, transactions; behaviour, conduct, actions. **2** *the UK's dealings with China:* relations, relationship, association, connections, contact, intercourse; negotiations, bargaining, transactions; trade, trading, business, commerce, traffic; informal truck, doings.

**dean** noun *the dean of the college:* faculty head, department head, college head, provost, university official; chief, director, principal, president, governor.

**dear** adjective **1** *a dear friend:* beloved, loved, adored, cherished, precious; esteemed, respected, worshipped; close, intimate, bosom, boon, best. **2** *her pictures were too dear to part with:* precious, treasured, valued, prized, cherished, special. **3** *such a dear man:* endearing, adorable, lovable, appealing, engaging, charming, captivating, winsome, lovely, nice, pleasant, delightful, sweet, darling. **4** *rather dear meals:* expensive, costly, high-priced, overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate; Brit. over the odds; informal pricey, steep, stiff.

– OPPOSITES hated, disagreeable, cheap.

• noun **1** *don't worry, my dear:* darling, dearest, love, beloved, sweetheart, sweet, precious, treasure; informal sweetie, sugar, honey, baby, pet, sunshine, poppet. **2** *he's such a dear:* lovable person; darling, sweetheart, pet, angel, gem, treasure; informal star.

**dearly** adverb **1** *I love my son dearly:* very much, a great deal, greatly, deeply, profoundly, extremely; fondly, devotedly, tenderly. **2** *our freedom has been bought dearly:* at great cost, at a high price, with much suffering, with much sacrifice.

**dearth** noun lack, scarcity, shortage, shortfall, want, deficiency, insufficiency, inadequacy, paucity, sparseness, scantiness, rareness; absence.

– OPPOSITES surfeit.



**death** noun **1** *her father's death*: demise, dying, end, passing, loss of life; eternal rest, quietus; murder, assassination, execution, slaughter, massacre; informal curtains; formal decease; old use expiry. **2** *the death of their dream*: end, finish, termination, extinction, extinguishing, collapse, destruction, eradication, obliteration. **3** *Death gestured towards a grave*: the Grim Reaper, the Dark Angel, the Angel of Death.

– OPPOSITES life, birth.

■ **put someone to death** execute, hang, behead, guillotine, decapitate, electrocute, shoot, gas, crucify, stone; kill, murder, assassinate, eliminate, terminate, exterminate, destroy; informal bump off, polish off, do away with, do in, knock off, top, string up, take out, stiff, blow away; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, waste, whack, smoke; literary slay.

#### WORD LINKS

**fatal, lethal, mortal** causing death

**terminal** (of an illness) predicted to lead to death

**moribund, in extremis** at the point of death

**necromancy** the prediction of the future by supposedly communicating with the dead

**obituary** a short biography of someone, published in a newspaper after their death

**posthumous** happening or awarded after a person's death

**thanatology** the scientific study of death

**deathless** adjective immortal, undying, imperishable, indestructible; enduring, everlasting, eternal; timeless, ageless.

– OPPOSITES mortal, ephemeral.

**deathly** adjective **1** *a deathly pallor*:

deathlike, deadly, ghostly, ghastly; ashen, chalky, white, pale, pallid, bloodless, wan, anaemic, pasty. **2** (literary) *the eagle's deathly grasp*: deadly, fatal, lethal, mortal, death-dealing; terrible, baleful, dangerous, perilous.

**debacle** noun fiasco, failure, catastrophe, disaster, mess, ruin; downfall, collapse, defeat; informal foul-up, screw-up, hash, botch, washout; Brit. informal cock-up, pig's ear, bodge; N. Amer. informal snafu.

**debar** verb **1** *women were debarred from the club*: exclude, ban, bar, disqualify, declare ineligible, preclude, shut out, lock out, keep out, reject, blackball; N. Amer. disfellowship.

**2** *the unions were debarred from striking*:

prevent, prohibit, proscribe, disallow, ban, interdict, block, stop; forbid to; Law enjoin, estop.

– OPPOSITES admit, allow.

**debase** verb **1** *the moral code has been*

*debased*: degrade, devalue, demean, cheapen, prostitute, discredit, drag down, tarnish, blacken, blemish; disgrace, dishonour, shame; damage, harm, undermine. **2** *the added copper debases the silver*: reduce in value, reduce in quality, depreciate; contaminate, adulterate, pollute, taint, sully, corrupt; dilute, alloy.

– OPPOSITES enhance.

**debased** adjective **1** *their debased amusements*: immoral, debauched, dissolute, perverted, degenerate, wicked, sinful, vile, base, iniquitous, corrupt; lewd, lascivious, lecherous, prurient, indecent. **2** *the myth lives on in a debased form*: corrupt, corrupted, bastardized, adulterated, diluted, tainted, sullied.

– OPPOSITES honourable, original.

**debatable** adjective arguable, disputable, questionable, open to question, controversial, contentious; doubtful, dubious, uncertain, unsure, unclear; borderline, inconclusive, moot, unsettled, unresolved, unconfirmed, undetermined, undecided, up in the air; informal iffy.

**debate** noun *a debate on the reforms*:

discussion, discourse, parley, dialogue; argument, dispute, wrangle, war of words; argumentation, disputation, dissension, disagreement, contention, conflict; negotiations, talks; informal confab, powwow.

• verb **1** *MPs will debate our future*: discuss, talk over/through, talk about, thrash out, argue, dispute; informal kick around/about, bat around/about. **2** *he debated whether to call her*: consider, think over/about, chew over, mull over, weigh up, ponder, deliberate, contemplate, muse, meditate; formal cogitate.

**debauch** verb **1** *public morals have been*

*debauched*: corrupt, deprave, deprave, warp, pervert, lead astray, ruin. **2** (dated) *he debauched six schoolgirls*: seduce, deflower, defile, violate; literary ravish.

**debauched** adjective dissolute, dissipated, degenerate, corrupt, depraved, sinful, unprincipled, immoral; lascivious, lecherous, lewd, lustful, libidinous, licentious, promiscuous, loose, wanton, abandoned; decadent, profligate, intemperate, sybaritic.

– OPPOSITES wholesome.

**debauchery** noun dissipation, degeneracy, corruption, vice, depravity; immorality, indecency, perversion, iniquity, wickedness, sinfulness, impropriety, immorality; lasciviousness, salaciousness, lechery, lewdness, lust, promiscuity, wantonness, profligacy; decadence, intemperance, sybaritism; formal turpitude.

**debilitate** verb **weaken**, enfeeble, enervate, debitalize, sap, drain, exhaust, weary, fatigue, prostrate; undermine, impair, indispose, incapacitate, cripple, disable, paralyse, immobilize, lay low; informal knock out, do in.

– OPPOSITES invigorate.

**debility** noun frailty, weakness, enfeeblement, enervation, debilitation, lassitude, exhaustion, weariness, fatigue, prostration; incapacity, indisposition, infirmity, illness, sickness, sickliness; informal weediness; Medicine asthenia.

**debonair** adjective suave, urbane, sophisticated, cultured, self-possessed, self-assured, confident, charming, gracious, courteous, gallant, chivalrous, gentlemanly, refined, polished, well bred, genteel,

dignified, courtly; well groomed, elegant, stylish, smart, dashing; informal smooth, swish, sharp, cool.

– OPPOSITES unsophisticated.

**debrief** verb question, quiz, interview, examine, cross-examine, interrogate, probe, sound out; informal grill, pump.

**debris** noun detritus, refuse, rubbish, waste, litter, scrap, dross, chaff, flotsam and jetsam; lumber, rubble, wreckage; remains, scraps, dregs; N. Amer. trash, garbage; Austral./NZ mullock; informal dreck, junk.

**debt** noun **1** *he couldn't pay his debts*: bill, account, dues, arrears, charges; financial obligation, outstanding payment, money owing; N. Amer. check; informal tab. **2** *his debt to the author*: indebtedness, obligation; gratitude, appreciation, thanks.

■ **in debt** owing money, in arrears, overdrawn; insolvent, bankrupt, ruined; Brit. in liquidation; informal in the red, in Queer Street, on the rocks.

■ **in someone's debt** indebted to, beholden to, obliged to, duty-bound to, honour-bound to, obligated to; grateful, thankful, appreciative.

**debtor** noun borrower, mortgagor; bankrupt, insolvent, defaulter.

– OPPOSITES creditor.

**debunk** verb explode, deflate, quash, drive a coach and horses through, discredit, disprove, contradict, convert, invalidate, negate; challenge, call into question; informal shoot full of holes, blow sky-high; formal confute.

– OPPOSITES confirm.

**debut** noun first appearance, first performance, launch, coming out, entrance, premiere, introduction, inception, inauguration; informal kick-off.

**decadence** noun **1** *the decadence of modern society*: dissipation, degeneracy, debauchery, corruption, depravity, vice, sin, moral decay, immorality; immoderateness, intemperance, licentiousness, self-indulgence, hedonism.

**2** *the decadence of nations*: decline, fall, decay, degeneration, deterioration, degradation, retrogression.

– OPPOSITES morality, rise.

**decadent** adjective **1** *decadent city life*: dissolute, dissipated, degenerate, corrupt, depraved, sinful, unprincipled, immoral; licentious, abandoned, profligate, intemperate; sybaritic, hedonistic, pleasure-seeking, self-indulgent. **2** *the decadent empire*: declining, decaying, ebbing, degenerating, deteriorating.

**decamp** verb **1** *he decamped with the profits*: abscond, make off, run off/away, flee, bolt, take flight, disappear, vanish, steal away, sneak away, escape, make a run for it, leave, depart; informal split, scam, vamoose, cut and run, do a disappearing act, head for the hills, go AWOL; Brit. informal do a bunk, do a runner, scarper; N. Amer. informal take a powder, go on the lam. **2** (old use) *the armies decamped*: strike one's tents, break camp, move on.

**decant** verb pour out/off, draw off, siphon off, drain, tap; transfer.

**decapitate** verb behead, guillotine; old use decollate.

**decay** verb **1** *the corpses had decayed*:

decompose, rot, putrefy, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate; degrade, break down, moulder, mortify, shrivel, wither. **2** *the cities continue to decay*: deteriorate, degenerate, decline, go downhill, slump, slide, go to rack and ruin, go to seed; disintegrate, fall to pieces, fall into disrepair; fail, collapse; informal go to pot, go to the dogs, go down the toilet; Austral./NZ informal go to the pack.

• noun **1** *signs of decay*: decomposition, putrefaction, festering; rot, mould, mildew, fungus. **2** *tooth decay*: rot, corrosion, decomposition; caries, cavities, holes. **3** *the decay of American values*: deterioration, degeneration, debasement, degradation, decline, weakening, atrophy; crumbling, disintegration, collapse.

**decayed** adjective decomposed, decomposing, rotten, putrescent, putrid, bad, off, spoiled, perished; mouldy, festering, fetid, rancid, rank; maggoty, wormy, flyblown.

**decaying** adjective **1** *decaying fish*:

decomposing, decomposed, rotting, rotten, putrescent, putrid, bad, off, perished; mouldy, festering, fetid, rancid, rank; maggoty, wormy, flyblown. **2** *a decaying city*: declining, degenerating, dying, crumbling; run down, tumbledown, ramshackle, shabby, decrepit; in decline, in ruins; informal on the way out.

**deceased** adjective (formal) dead, expired, departed, gone, no more, passed on/away; late, lost, lamented; perished, fallen, slain, slaughtered, killed, murdered; lifeless, extinct; informal (as) dead as a doornail, six feet under, pushing up daisies; euphemistic with God, asleep.

**deceit** noun **1** *her endless deceit*: deception, deceitfulness, duplicity, double-dealing, fraud, cheating, trickery, chicanery, deviousness, slyness, wiliness, guile, bluff, lying, pretence, treachery; informal crookedness, monkey business, jiggery-pokery; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines. **2** *their life is a deceit*: sham, fraud, pretence, hoax, fake, blind, artifice; trick, stratagem, device, ruse, scheme, dodge, machination, deception, subterfuge; cheat, swindle; informal con, set-up, scam, flimflam; N. Amer. informal bunco.

– OPPOSITES honesty.

**deceitful** adjective **1** *a deceitful woman*:

dishonest, untruthful, mendacious, insincere, false, disingenuous, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, two-faced, duplicitous, double-dealing, underhand, crafty, cunning, sly, scheming, calculating, treacherous, Machiavellian; informal sneaky, tricky, foxy, crooked; Brit. informal bent. **2** *a deceitful allegation*: fraudulent, counterfeit, fabricated,

invented, concocted, made up, trumped up, untrue, false, bogus, fake, spurious, fallacious, deceptive, misleading; euphemistic economical with the truth.

**deceive verb 1** *she was deceived by a con man:*

**swindle**, defraud, cheat, trick, hoodwink, hoax, dupe, take in, mislead, delude, fool, outwit, lead on, inveigle, beguile, double-cross, gull; informal con, bamboozle, do, gyp, diddle, swizzle, rip off, shaft, pull a fast one on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes, sell a pup to; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker, stiff. **2** *he deceived her with another woman:* **be unfaithful to**, cheat on, betray, play someone false; informal two-time.

**decelerate verb** **slow down/up**, ease up, slack up, reduce speed, brake.

**decency noun 1** *standards of taste and*

*decency:* **propriety**, decorum, good taste, respectability, dignity, correctness, good form, etiquette; morality, virtue, modesty, delicacy. **2** *he didn't have the decency to tell me:* **courtesy**, politeness, good manners, civility, respect; consideration, thoughtfulness, tact, diplomacy.

**decent adjective 1** *a decent Christian burial:*

**proper**, correct, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable; respectable, dignified, decorous, seemly; nice, tasteful; conventional, accepted, standard, traditional, orthodox; *comme il faut*; informal pukka. **2** (Brit. informal) *a very decent chap:* **honourable**, honest, trustworthy, dependable; respectable, upright, clean-living, virtuous, good; obliging, helpful, accommodating, unselfish, generous, kind, thoughtful, considerate; neighbourly, hospitable, pleasant, agreeable, amiable. **3** *a job with decent pay:* **satisfactory**, reasonable, fair, acceptable, adequate, sufficient, ample; not bad, all right, tolerable, passable, suitable; informal OK, okay, up to snuff.

– OPPOSITES unpleasant, unsatisfactory.

**deception noun 1** *they obtained money by*

*deception:* **deceit**, deceitfulness, duplicity, double-dealing, fraud, cheating, trickery, chicanery, deviousness, slyness, wiliness, guile, bluff, lying, pretence, treachery; informal crookedness, monkey business, jiggery-pokery; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines. **2** *it was all a deception:* **trick**, deceit, sham, fraud, pretence, hoax, fake, blind, artifice; stratagem, device, ruse, scheme, dodge, machination, subterfuge; cheat, swindle; informal con, set-up, scam, flimflam; N. Amer. informal bunco.

**deceptive adjective 1** *distances are very* *deceptive:* **misleading**, illusory, illusionary, specious; ambiguous; distorted; literary illusive. **2** *deceptive practices:* **deceitful**, duplicitous, fraudulent, counterfeit, underhand, cunning, crafty, sly, guileful, scheming, treacherous, Machiavellian; disingenuous, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, dishonest, insincere, false; informal crooked, sharp, shady, sneaky, tricky, foxy; Brit. informal bent.

**decide verb 1** *she decided to become a writer:*

**resolve**, determine, make up one's mind, make a decision; elect, choose, opt, plan, aim, have the intention, have in mind, set one's sights on. **2** *research to decide a variety of questions:* **settle**, resolve, determine, work out, answer; informal sort out, figure out.

**3** *the court is to decide the case:* **adjudicate**, arbitrate, adjudge, judge; hear, try, examine; sit in judgement on, pronounce on, give a verdict on, rule on.

**decided adjective 1** *they have a decided*

*advantage:* **distinct**, clear, marked, pronounced, obvious, striking, noticeable, unmistakable, patent, manifest; definite, certain, positive, emphatic, undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable; assured, guaranteed. **2** *he was very decided:* **determined**, resolute, firm, strong-minded, strong-willed, emphatic, dead set, unwavering, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, unshakeable, unrelenting, obstinate, stubborn; N. Amer. rock-ribbed.

**3** *our future is decided:* **settled**, established, resolved, determined, agreed, designated, chosen, ordained, prescribed; set, fixed; informal sewn up, wrapped up.

**decidedly adverb** distinctly, clearly,

markedly, obviously, noticeably, unmistakably, patently, manifestly; definitely, certainly, positively, absolutely, downright, undeniably, unquestionably; extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, particularly, especially, very; N. English right; informal terrifically, devilishly, ultra, mega, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; old use exceeding.

**deciding adjective** **determining**, decisive, conclusive, key, pivotal, crucial, critical, significant, major, chief, principal, prime.

**decipher verb 1** *he deciphered the code:*

**decode**, decrypt, break, work out, solve, interpret, translate; make sense of, get to the bottom of, unravel; informal crack, figure out; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **2** *the writing was hard to decipher:* **make out**, discern, perceive, read, follow, fathom, make sense of, interpret, understand, comprehend, grasp.

– OPPOSITES encode.

**decision noun 1** *they came to a decision:*

**resolution**, conclusion, settlement, commitment, resolve, determination; choice, option, selection. **2** *the judge's decision:* **verdict**, finding, ruling, recommendation, judgement, pronouncement, adjudication, arbitrament; order, rule; findings, results; Law determination; N. Amer. resolve. **3** *his order had a ring of decision:* **decisiveness**, determination, resolution, resolve, firmness; strong-mindedness, purpose, purposefulness.

**decisive adjective 1** *a decisive man:* **resolute**, firm, strong-minded, strong-willed, determined; purposeful, forceful, dead set, unwavering, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, unshakeable, obstinate, stubborn; N. Amer. rock-ribbed. **2** *the decisive factor:*



**deciding**, conclusive, determining; key, pivotal, critical, crucial, significant, influential, major, chief, principal, prime.

**deck** verb **1** *the street was decked with bunting*: **decorate**, bedeck, adorn, ornament, trim, trick out, garnish, cover, hang, festoon, garland, swathe, wreath; embellish, beautify, prettify, enhance, grace, set off; informal get up, do up, do out, tart up; literary bejewel, bedizen, caparison, furbelow.

**2** *Ingrid was decked out in blue*: **dress (up)**, clothe, attire, garb, robe, drape, turn out, fit out, rig out, outfit, costume; informal doll up, get up, do up.

**declaim** verb **1** *a preacher declaiming from the pulpit*: **make a speech**, give an address, deliver a sermon; speak, hold forth, orate, preach, lecture, sermonize, moralize; informal sound off, spout, speechify, preachify. **2** *they loved to hear him declaim poetry*: **recite**, read aloud, read out loud, read out; deliver; informal spout. **3** *he declaimed against the evils of society*: **speak out**, rail, inveigh, fulminate, rage, thunder; rant, expostulate; condemn, criticize, attack, decry, disparage.

**declamation** noun **speech**, address, lecture, sermon, homily, discourse, oration, recitation, disquisition, monologue.

**declaration** noun **1** *they issued a declaration*: **announcement**, statement, communication, pronouncement, proclamation, communiqué, edict; N. Amer. advisory. **2** *the declaration of war*: **proclamation**, notification, announcement, revelation, disclosure, broadcasting. **3** *a declaration of faith*: **assertion**, profession, affirmation, acknowledgement, revelation, disclosure, manifestation, confirmation, testimony, validation, certification, attestation; pledge, avowal, vow, oath, protestation.

**declare** verb **1** *she declared her political principles*: **proclaim**, announce, state, reveal, air, voice, articulate, express, vent, set forth, publicize, broadcast; informal come out with, shout from the rooftops. **2** *he declared that they were guilty*: **assert**, maintain, state, affirm, contend, argue, insist, hold, profess, claim, avow, swear; formal aver. **3** *his speech declared him a gentleman*: **show to be**, reveal as, confirm as, prove to be.

**decline** verb **1** *she declined all invitations*: **turn down**, reject, brush aside, refuse, rebuff, spurn, repulse, dismiss; forgo, deny oneself, pass up; abstain from, say no; informal give the thumbs down to, give something a miss, give someone the brush-off; Brit. informal knock back. **2** *the number of traders has declined*: **decrease**, reduce, lessen, diminish, dwindle, contract, shrink, fall off, tail off; drop, fall, go down, slump, plummet; informal nosedive, crash. **3** *standards steadily declined*: **deteriorate**, degenerate, decay, crumble, collapse, slump, slip, slide, go downhill, worsen; weaken, wane, ebb; informal go to pot, go to the dogs, go down the toilet; Austral./NZ informal go to the pack.

— **OPPOSITES** accept, increase, rise.

• **noun 1** *a decline in profits*: **reduction**,

decrease, downturn, downswing, devaluation, depreciation, diminution, ebb, drop, slump, plunge; informal nosedive, crash. **2** *forest decline*: **deterioration**, degeneration, degradation, shrinkage; death, decay.

■ **in decline** declining, decaying, crumbling, collapsing, failing; disappearing, dying, moribund; informal on its last legs, on the way out.

**decode** verb **decipher**, decrypt, work out, solve, interpret, translate; make sense of, get to the bottom of, unravel, find the key to; informal crack, figure out; Brit. informal twig, suss (out).

**decompose** verb **1** *the chemical prevents corpses decomposing*: **decay**, rot, putrefy, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate; degrade, break down, moulder, mortify, shrivel, wither. **2** *some minerals decompose rapidly*: **break up**, fragment, disintegrate, crumble, dissolve; break down, decay. **3** *decompose words into simpler elements*: **separate**, divide, break down, dissect, resolve, reduce.

**decomposition** noun **1** *an advanced state of decomposition*: **decay**, putrefaction, putrescence, putridity. **2** *the decomposition of granite*: **disintegration**, dissolution; breaking down, decay. **3** *the decomposition of a sentence*: **separation**, division, breakdown; dissection, dissolution, resolution, analysis, reduction.

**decontaminate** verb **sanitize**, sterilize, disinfect, clean, cleanse, purify; fumigate.

**decor** noun **decoration**, furnishing, ornamentation; colour scheme.

**decorate** verb **1** *the door was decorated with a wreath*: **ornament**, adorn, trim, embellish, garnish, furnish, enhance, grace, prettify; festoon, garland, bedeck. **2** *he started to decorate his home*: **paint**, wallpaper, paper; refurbish, furbish, renovate, redecorate; informal do up, spruce up, do over, fix up, give something a facelift. **3** *he was decorated for courage*: **give a medal to**, honour, cite, reward.

**decoration** noun **1** *a ceiling with rich decoration*: **ornamentation**, adornment, trimming, embellishment, garnishing, gilding, beautification, prettification; enhancements, enrichments, frills, accessories, trimmings, finery, frippery. **2** *internal decoration*. See **DECOR**. **3** *a Christmas tree decoration*: **ornament**, bauble, trinket, knick-knack, spangle; trimming, tinsel. **4** *a decoration won on the battlefield*: **medal**, award, star, ribbon; laurel, trophy, prize; Military slang fruit salad; Brit. informal gong.

**decorative** adjective **ornamental**, embellishing, garnishing; fancy, ornate, attractive, pretty, showy.

— **OPPOSITES** functional.

**decorous** adjective **proper**, seemly, decent, becoming, befitting, tasteful; correct, appropriate, suitable, fitting; tactful, polite, well mannered, genteel, respectable; formal,

restrained, modest, demure, gentlemanly, ladylike.

– OPPOSITES unseemly.

**decorum** noun **1** *he had acted with decorum:* propriety, seemliness, decency, good taste, correctness; politeness, courtesy, good manners; dignity, respectability, modesty, demureness. **2** *a breach of decorum:* etiquette, protocol, good form, custom, convention; formalities, niceties, punctilios, politeness.

– OPPOSITES impropriety.

**decoy** noun *a decoy to distract their attention:* lure, bait, red herring; enticement, inducement, temptation, attraction, carrot; snare, trap.

• **verb** *he was decoyed to the mainland:* lure, entice, tempt; entrap, snare, trap.

**decrease** verb **1** *pollution levels decreased:* lessen, reduce, drop, diminish, decline, dwindle, fall off; die down, abate, subside, tail off, ebb, wane; plummet, plunge.

**2** *decrease the amount of fat in your body:*

reduce, lessen, lower, cut, curtail; slim down, tone down, deplete, minimize; informal slash.

– OPPOSITES increase.

• **noun** *a decrease in crime:* reduction, drop, decline, downturn, cut, cutback, diminution, ebb, wane.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**decree** noun **1** *a presidential decree:* order, edict, command, commandment, mandate, proclamation, dictum, fiat; law, statute, act; formal ordinance. **2** *a court decree:* judgement, verdict, adjudication, ruling, resolution, decision.

• **verb** *he decreed that a stadium should be built:* order, command, rule, dictate, pronounce, proclaim, ordain; direct, decide, determine.

**decrepit** adjective **1** *a decrepit old man:* feeble, infirm, weak, weakly, frail; disabled, incapacitated, crippled, doddering, tottering; old, elderly, aged, ancient, senile; informal past it, over the hill, no spring chicken. **2** *a decrepit house:* dilapidated, rickety, run down, tumbledown, ramshackle, derelict, ruined, in (a state of) disrepair, gone to rack and ruin; battered, decayed, crumbling, deteriorating.

– OPPOSITES strong, sound.

**decry** verb *denounce, condemn, criticize, censure, attack, rail against, run down, pillory, lambaste, vilify, revile; disparage, deprecate, cast aspersions on; informal slam, blast, knock; Brit. informal slate.*

– OPPOSITES praise.

**dedicate** verb **1** *she dedicated her life to the sick:* devote, commit, pledge, give, surrender, sacrifice; set aside, allocate, consign. **2** *a book dedicated to a noblewoman:* inscribe, address; assign. **3** *the chapel was dedicated to the Virgin Mary:* devote, assign; bless, consecrate, sanctify; formal hallow.

**dedicated** adjective **1** *a dedicated socialist:* committed, devoted, staunch, firm, steadfast, resolute, unwavering,

loyal, faithful, true, dyed-in-the-wool; wholehearted, single-minded, enthusiastic, keen, earnest, zealous, ardent, passionate, fervent; informal card-carrying, deep-dyed. **2** *data is accessed by a dedicated machine:* exclusive, custom built, customized.

– OPPOSITES indifferent.

**dedication** noun **1** *sport requires dedication:* commitment, application, diligence, industry, resolve, enthusiasm, zeal, conscientiousness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, drive, staying power; hard work, effort. **2** *her dedication to the job:* devotion, commitment, loyalty, adherence, allegiance. **3** *the book has a dedication to his wife:* inscription, address, message. **4** *the dedication of the church:* blessing, consecration, sanctification, benediction.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**deduce** verb *conclude, reason, work out, infer; glean, divine, intuit. understand, assume, presume, conjecture, surmise, reckon; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss out.*

**deduct** verb *subtract, take away, take off, debit, dock, discount; abstract, remove; informal knock off.*

– OPPOSITES add.

**deduction** noun **1** *the deduction of tax:* subtraction, removal, debit, abstraction. **2** *gross pay, before deductions:* stoppage, subtraction. **3** *she was right in her deduction:* conclusion, inference, supposition, hypothesis, assumption, presumption; suspicion, conviction, belief, reasoning.

**deed** noun **1** *knightly deeds:* act, action; feat, exploit, achievement, accomplishment, endeavour, undertaking, enterprise. **2** *unity must be established in deed and word:* fact, reality, actuality. **3** *mortgage deeds:* legal document, contract, indenture, instrument.

**deem** verb *consider, regard as, judge, adjudge, hold to be, view as, see as, take for, class as, count, find, esteem, suppose, reckon; think, believe, feel.*

**deep** adjective **1** *a deep ravine:* cavernous, yawning, gaping, huge, extensive; bottomless, fathomless, unfathomable; old use profound. **2** *two inches deep:* in depth, downwards, inwards, in vertical extent. **3** *deep affection:* intense, heartfelt, wholehearted, deep-seated, deep-rooted; sincere, genuine, earnest, enthusiastic, great. **4** *a deep sleep:* sound, heavy, intense. **5** *a deep thinker:* profound, serious, philosophical, complex, weighty; abstruse, esoteric, recondite, mysterious, obscure; intelligent, intellectual, learned, wise, scholarly; discerning, penetrating, perceptive, insightful. **6** *he was deep in concentration:* rapt, absorbed, engrossed, preoccupied, immersed, lost, gripped, intent, engaged. **7** *a deep mystery:* obscure, mysterious, secret, unfathomable, opaque, abstruse, recondite, esoteric, enigmatic, arcane; puzzling, baffling, mystifying, inexplicable. **8** *his deep voice:* low-pitched, low, bass, rich, powerful, resonant, booming,

sonorous. **9** *a deep red*: dark, intense, rich, strong, bold, warm.

– **OPPOSITES** shallow, superficial, high, light.

• **noun** (literary) *creatures of the deep*: the sea, the ocean; informal the drink; Brit. informal the briny; literary the profound.

• **adverb** **1** *I dug deep*: far down, way down, to a great depth. **2** *he brought them deep into woodland*: far, a long way, a great distance.

**deepen** verb **1** *his love for her had deepened*: grow, increase, intensify, strengthen, heighten, amplify, augment; informal step up; Brit. informal hot up. **2** *they deepened the hole*: dig out, dig deeper, excavate.

**deeply** adverb profoundly, greatly, enormously, extremely, very much; strongly, powerfully, intensely, keenly, acutely; thoroughly, completely, entirely; informal well, seriously, majorly.

**deep-rooted** adjective deep-seated, deep, profound, fundamental, basic; established, ingrained, entrenched, unshakeable, inveterate, inbuilt; secure; persistent, abiding, lingering.

– **OPPOSITES** superficial.

**deep-seated** adjective. See **DEEP-ROOTED**.

**deer** noun

**WORD LINKS**

cervine relating to deer  
venison meat from a deer  
gralloch the entrails of a dead deer

**deface** verb vandalize, disfigure, mar, spoil, ruin, sully, damage, blight, impair; N. Amer. informal trash.

**de facto** adverb *the republic is de facto two states*: in practice, in effect, in fact, in reality, really, actually.

• **adjective** *de facto control*: actual, real, effective.

**defamation** noun libel, slander, calumny, character assassination, vilification; scandalmongering, malicious gossip, aspersions, muckraking, abuse; disparagement, denigration; smear, slur; informal mud-slinging.

**defamatory** adjective libellous, slanderous, scandalmongering, malicious, vicious, backbiting, muckraking; abusive, disparaging, denigratory, insulting; informal mud-slinging, bitchy, catty; formal calumnious, calumnatory.

**defame** verb libel, slander, malign, cast aspersions on, smear, traduce, give someone a bad name, run down, speak ill of, vilify, besmirch, stigmatize, disparage, denigrate, discredit, decry; informal do a hatchet job on, drag through the mud; N. Amer. slur; informal bad-mouth; Brit. informal slag off; formal calumniate.

– **OPPOSITES** compliment.

**default** noun **1** *the incidence of defaults on loans*: non-payment, failure to pay, non-remittance. **2** *I became a teacher by default*: inaction, omission, lapse, neglect, negligence, disregard; absence, non-appearance.

• **verb** **1** *the customer defaulted*: fail to pay, not pay, renege, back out; go back on one's word; informal welsh, bilk. **2** *the program will default to its own style*: revert, select automatically.

**defaulter** noun **1** *a mortgage defaulter*: non-payer, debt-dodger; tax-dodger; N. Amer. delinquent. **2** (Brit. Military) *the defaulters' room*: offender, wrongdoer, felon, delinquent.

**defeat** verb **1** *the army which defeated the Scots*: beat, conquer, win against, triumph over, get the better of, vanquish; rout, trounce, overcome, overpower, crush, subdue; informal lick, thrash, whip, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, clobber, slaughter, demolish, cane; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal cream, skunk. **2** *these complex plans defeat their purpose*: thwart, frustrate, foil, ruin, scotch, debar, snooker, derail; obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper; informal put the kibosh on, put paid to, stymie; Brit. informal scupper, nobble. **3** *the motion was defeated*: reject, overthrow, throw out, dismiss, outvote, turn down; informal give the thumbs down. **4** *how to make it work defeats me*: baffle, perplex, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, throw; informal beat, flummox, faze, stump, fox.

• **noun** **1** *a crippling defeat*: loss, conquest, vanquishment; rout, trouncing; downfall; informal thrashing, hiding, drubbing, licking, pasting, massacre, slaughter. **2** *the defeat of his plans*: failure, downfall, collapse, ruin; rejection, frustration, abortion, miscarriage; undoing, reverse.

– **OPPOSITES** victory, success.

**defeatist** adjective *a defeatist attitude*: pessimistic, fatalistic, negative, cynical, despondent, despairing, hopeless, bleak, gloomy.

– **OPPOSITES** optimistic.

• **noun** **pessimist**, fatalist, cynic, prophet of doom, doomster; misery, killjoy, worrier; informal quitter, wet blanket.

– **OPPOSITES** optimist.

**defect**<sup>1</sup> noun *he spotted a defect in my work*: fault, flaw, imperfection, deficiency, weakness, weak spot, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing; kink, deformity, blemish; mistake, error; Computing bug; informal glitch, gremlin.

**defect**<sup>2</sup> verb *his chief intelligence officer defected*: desert, change sides, turn traitor, rebel, renege; abscond, quit, escape; break faith; secede from, revolt against; informal rat on; Military go AWOL; literary forsake; rare tergiversate.

**defection** noun **desertion**, absconding, decamping, flight; apostasy, secession; treason, betrayal, disloyalty; literary perfidy; rare tergiversation.

**defective** adjective **1** *a defective seat belt*: faulty, flawed, imperfect, shoddy, inoperative, malfunctioning, out of order, unsound; in disrepair, broken; informal on the blink; Brit. informal knackered, duff. **2** *these methods are defective*: lacking, wanting,



deficient, inadequate, insufficient. **3** (dated) *a mentally defective child*: **impaired**, slow, simple, backward, retarded; dated deficient, subnormal, educationally subnormal, ESN.

– OPPOSITES perfect.

**defector** noun **deserter**, turncoat, traitor, renegade, Judas, quisling; informal rat; rare tergiversator.

**defence** noun **1** *the defence of the fortress*: **protection**, guarding, security, fortification; resistance, deterrent. **2** *the enemy's defences*: **barricade**, fortification; fortress, keep, rampart, bulwark, bastion. **3** *he spoke in defence of his boss*: **vindication**, justification, support, advocacy, endorsement; apology, explanation, exoneration. **4** *more spending on defence*: **armaments**, weapons, weaponry, arms; the military, the armed forces. **5** *the prisoner's defence*: **vindication**, explanation, mitigation, justification, rationalization, excuse, alibi, reason; plea, pleading; testimony, declaration, case.

**defenceless** adjective **1** *defenceless animals*: **vulnerable**, helpless, powerless, impotent, weak, susceptible. **2** *the country is wholly defenceless*: **undefended**, unprotected, unguarded, unshielded, unarmed; vulnerable, assailable, exposed, insecure, pregnable.

– OPPOSITES resilient.

**defend** verb **1** *a fort built to defend Ireland*: **protect**, guard, safeguard, secure, shield; fortify, garrison, barricade; uphold, support, watch over. **2** *he defended his policy*: **justify**, vindicate, argue for, support, make a case for, plead for; excuse, explain. **3** *the manager defended his players*: **support**, back, stand by, stick up for, stand up for, argue for, champion, endorse; informal throw one's weight behind.

– OPPOSITES attack, criticize.

**defendant** noun **accused**, prisoner (at the bar); appellant, litigant, respondent; suspect.

– OPPOSITES plaintiff.

**defender** noun **1** *defenders of the environment*: **protector**, guard, guardian, preserver; custodian, watchdog, keeper, overseer, superintendent, caretaker. **2** *a defender of colonialism*: **supporter**, upholder, backer, champion, advocate, apologist, proponent, exponent, promoter; adherent, believer. **3** *he passed two defenders and scored*: **fullback**, back, sweeper; (defenders) back four.

**defensible** adjective **1** *a defensible attitude*: **justifiable**, arguable, tenable, defensible, supportable; plausible, sound, sensible, reasonable, rational, logical; acceptable, valid, legitimate; excusable, pardonable, understandable. **2** *a defensible territory*: **secure**, safe, fortified; invulnerable, impregnable, impenetrable, unassailable.

– OPPOSITES untenable, vulnerable.

**defensive** adjective **1** *troops in defensive positions*: **defending**, protective; wary, watchful. **2** *a defensive response*: **self-justifying**, oversensitive, prickly, paranoid, neurotic; informal uptight, twitchy.

**defer**<sup>1</sup> verb *the committee will defer their decision*: **postpone**, put off, delay, hold over/off, put back; shelve, suspend, stay, mothball; N. Amer. put over, table, take a rain check on; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage.

**defer**<sup>2</sup> verb *they deferred to Joseph's judgement*: **yield**, submit, give way, give in, surrender, capitulate, acquiesce; respect, honour.

**deference** noun **respect**, respectfulness, dutifulness; submissiveness, submission, obedience, surrender, accession, capitulation, acquiescence, complaisance, obeisance.

– OPPOSITES disrespect.

**deferential** adjective **respectful**, humble, obsequious; dutiful, obedient, submissive, subservient, yielding, acquiescent, complaisant, compliant, tractable, biddable, docile.

**deferment** noun **postponement**, deferral, suspension, delay, adjournment, interruption, pause; respite, stay, moratorium, reprieve, grace.

**defiance** noun **resistance**, opposition, non-compliance, disobedience, insubordination, dissent, recalcitrance, subversion, rebellion; contempt, disregard, scorn, insolence, truculence.

– OPPOSITES obedience.

**defiant** adjective **intransigent**, resistant, obstinate, uncooperative, non-compliant, recalcitrant; obstreperous, truculent, dissenting, disobedient, insubordinate, subversive, rebellious, mutinous; informal feisty; Brit. informal stropky, bolshie.

– OPPOSITES cooperative.

**deficiency** noun **1** *a vitamin deficiency*: **insufficiency**, lack, shortage, want, dearth, inadequacy, deficit, shortfall; scarcity, paucity, absence, undersupply, deprivation, shortness. **2** *the team's big deficiency*: **defect**, fault, flaw, imperfection, weakness, weak point, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing.

– OPPOSITES surplus, strength.

**deficient** adjective **1** *a diet deficient in vitamin A*: **lacking**, wanting, inadequate, insufficient, limited, poor, scant; short of/on, low on. **2** *deficient leadership*: **defective**, faulty, flawed, inadequate, imperfect, shoddy, weak, inferior, unsound, substandard, second-rate, poor; Brit. informal duff.

**deficit** noun **shortfall**, deficiency, shortage, undersupply; debt, arrears; negative amount, loss.

– OPPOSITES surplus.

**defile** verb **1** *her capacity for love had been defiled*: **spoil**, sully, mar, impair, debase, degrade; poison, taint, tarnish; destroy, ruin. **2** *the sacred bones were defiled*: **desecrate**, profane, violate; contaminate, pollute, debase, degrade, dishonour. **3** (old use) *she was defiled by a married man*: **rape**, violate; literary ravish; dated deflower.

**definable** adjective **determinable**, ascertainable, known, definite, clear-cut, precise, exact, specific.

**define** verb **1** *the dictionary defines it succinctly*: explain, expound, interpret, elucidate, describe, clarify; give the meaning of, put into words. **2** *he defined the limits of the middle class*: determine, establish, fix, specify, designate, decide, stipulate, set out; demarcate, delineate. **3** *the farm buildings defined against the fields*: outline, delineate, silhouette.

**definite** adjective **1** *a definite answer*: explicit, specific, express, precise, exact, clear-cut, direct, plain, outright; fixed, established, confirmed, concrete. **2** *definite evidence*: certain, sure, positive, conclusive, decisive, firm, concrete, unambiguous, unequivocal, clear, unmistakable, proven; guaranteed, assured, cut and dried. **3** *she had a definite dislike for Robert*: unmistakable, unequivocal, unambiguous, certain, undisputed, decided, marked, distinct. **4** *a definite geographical area*: fixed, marked, demarcated, delimited, stipulated, particular.

– OPPOSITES vague, ambiguous, indeterminate.

**definitely** adverb certainly, surely, for sure, unquestionably, without doubt, without question, undoubtedly, indubitably, positively, absolutely; undeniably, unmistakably, plainly, clearly, obviously, patently, palpably, transparently, unequivocally, as sure as eggs in eggs.

**definition** noun **1** *the definition of 'intelligence'*: meaning, denotation, sense; interpretation, explanation, elucidation, description, clarification, illustration. **2** *the definition of the picture*: clarity, visibility, sharpness, crispness, acuteness; resolution, focus, contrast.

**definitive** adjective **1** *a definitive decision*: conclusive, final, ultimate; unconditional, unqualified, absolute, categorical, positive, definite. **2** *the definitive guide*: authoritative, exhaustive, best, finest, consummate; classic, standard, recognized, accepted, official.

**deflate** verb **1** *he deflated the tyres*: let down, flatten, void; puncture. **2** *the balloon deflated*: go down, collapse, shrink, contract. **3** *the news had deflated him*: subdue, humble, cow, chasten; dispirit, dismay, discourage, dishearten; squash, crush, bring down, take the wind out of someone's sails; informal knock the stuffing out of. **4** *the budget deflated the economy*: reduce, slow down, diminish; devalue, depreciate, depress.

– OPPOSITES inflate.

**deflect** verb **1** *she wanted to deflect attention from herself*: turn aside/away, divert, avert, sidetrack; distract, draw away; block, parry, fend off, stave off. **2** *the ball deflected off the wall*: bounce, glance, ricochet; diverge, deviate, veer, swerve, slew.

**deform** verb disfigure, bend out of shape,

contort, buckle, warp; damage, impair.

**deformed** adjective **misshapen**, distorted, malformed, contorted, out of shape; twisted, crooked, warped, buckled, gnarled; crippled, humpbacked, hunchbacked, disfigured, grotesque; injured, damaged, mutilated, mangled.

**deformity** noun **malformation**, misshapeness, distortion, crookedness; imperfection, abnormality, irregularity; disfigurement; defect, flaw, blemish.

**defraud** verb **swindle**, cheat, rob; deceive, dupe, hoodwink, double-cross, trick; informal con, do, sting, diddle, rip off, shaft, bilk, rook, gyp, pull a fast one on, put one over on, sell a pup to; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker, stiff; Austral. informal pull a swift on.

**defray** verb **pay (for)**, cover, meet, square, settle, clear, discharge; foot the bill for; N. Amer. informal pick up the tab for.

**deft** adjective **skilful**, adept, adroit, dexterous, agile, nimble, handy; able, capable, skilled, proficient, accomplished, expert, polished, slick, professional, masterly; clever, shrewd, astute, canny, sharp; informal nifty, nippy.

– OPPOSITES clumsy.

**defunct** adjective **disused**, unused, inoperative, non-functioning, unusable, obsolete; no longer existing, discontinued; extinct.

– OPPOSITES working, extant.

**defuse** verb **1** *he tried to defuse the grenade*: deactivate, disarm, disable, make safe. **2** *strategies to defuse potentially explosive situations*: ease, calm, take the heat out of; settle, resolve; pour oil on troubled waters. **3** *an attempt to defuse the tension*: reduce, lessen, diminish, lighten, relieve, ease, alleviate, moderate, mitigate.

– OPPOSITES activate, intensify.

**defy** verb **1** *he defied European law*: disobey, go against, flout, fly in the face of, disregard, ignore; break, violate, contravene, breach, infringe; informal cock a snook at. **2** *his actions defy belief*: elude, escape, defeat; frustrate, thwart, baffle. **3** *he glowered, defying her to mock him*: challenge, dare.

– OPPOSITES obey.

**degeneracy** noun **corruption**, decadence, moral decay, dissipation, dissolution, profligacy, vice, immorality, sin, sinfulness, ungodliness; debauchery; formal turpitude.

**degenerate** adjective **1** *a degenerate form of classicism*: debased, degraded, corrupt, impure; formal vitiated. **2** *her degenerate brother*: corrupt, decadent, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, reprobate, profligate; sinful, ungodly, immoral, unprincipled, amoral, dishonourable, disreputable, unsavoury, sordid, low, ignoble.

– OPPOSITES pure, moral.

• noun *a group of degenerates*: reprobate, debauchee, profligate, libertine, roué, loose-liver.

• verb **1** *their quality of life had degenerated*: deteriorate, decline, slip, slide, worsen, lapse, slump, go downhill, regress, retrogress; go to rack and ruin; informal go

to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, go down the toilet. **2** *the muscles started to degenerate*: **waste** (away), atrophy, weaken. – OPPOSITES improve.

**degradation** noun **1** *poverty brings with it degradation*: **humiliation**, shame, loss of self-respect, abasement, indignity, ignominy. **2** *the degradation of women*: **demeaning**, debasement, discrediting. **3** *the degradation of the tissues*: **deterioration**, degeneration, atrophy, decay; breakdown.

**degrade** verb **1** *prisons should not degrade prisoners*: **demean**, debase, cheapen, devalue; shame, humiliate, humble, mortify, abase, dishonour; dehumanize, brutalize. **2** *the polymer will not degrade*: **break down**, deteriorate, degenerate, decay.

– OPPOSITES dignify.

**degraded** adjective **1** *I feel so degraded*: **humiliated**, demeaned, cheapened, cheap, ashamed. **2** *his degraded sensibilities*: **degenerate**, corrupt, depraved, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, immoral, base, sordid.

– OPPOSITES proud, moral.

**degrading** adjective **humiliating**, demeaning, shameful, mortifying, ignominious, undignified, inglorious, wretched; informal *infra dig*.

**degree** noun **level**, standard, grade, mark; amount, extent, measure; magnitude, intensity, strength; proportion, ratio.

■ **by degrees** gradually, little by little, bit by bit, inch by inch, step by step, slowly; piecemeal.

■ **to a degree** to some extent, to a certain extent, up to a point.

**dehydrate** verb **1** *alcohol dehydrates the skin*: **dry** (out), desiccate, dehumidify, effloresce. **2** *frogs can dehydrate quickly*: **dry up/out**, lose water.

– OPPOSITES hydrate.

**deify** verb **1** *she was deified by the early Romans*: **worship**, revere, venerate, reverence, hold sacred; immortalize. **2** *he was deified by the press*: **idolize**, lionize, hero-worship, extol; idealize, glorify, aggrandize; informal put on a pedestal.

– OPPOSITES demonize.

**deign** verb **condescend**, stoop, lower oneself, demean oneself, humble oneself; consent, vouchsafe; informal come down from one's high horse.

**deity** noun **god**, goddess, divine being, supreme being, divinity, immortal; creator, demiurge; godhead.

**dejected** adjective **downcast**, downhearted, despondent, disconsolate, dispirited, crestfallen, disheartened; depressed, crushed, desolate, heartbroken, in the doldrums, sad, unhappy, doleful, melancholy, miserable, woebegone, forlorn, wretched, glum, gloomy; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up; Brit. informal brassed off, cheesed off.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**delay** verb **1** *we were delayed by the traffic*:

**detain**, hold up, make late, slow up/down, bog down; hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct.

**2** *they delayed no longer*: **linger**, dally, drag one's feet, be slow, hold back, dawdle, waste time; procrastinate, stall, hang fire, mark time, temporize, hesitate, dither, shilly-shally; informal dilly-dally; old use tarry. **3** *he may delay the cut in interest rates*: **postpone**, put off, defer, hold over, shelve, suspend, stay; reschedule; N. Amer. put over, table; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage.

– OPPOSITES hurry, advance.

• **noun 1** *drivers will face lengthy delays*: **hold-up**, wait, detainment; hindrance, impediment, obstruction, setback. **2** *the delay of his trial*: **postponement**, deferral, deferment, stay, respite; adjournment. **3** *I set off without delay*: **procrastination**, stalling, hesitation, dithering, dallying, dawdling.

**delectable** adjective **1** *a delectable meal*: **delicious**, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavoursome, flavourful, toothsome, palatable; succulent, luscious, tasty; informal scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy; Brit. informal mouthish; N. Amer. informal finger-licking, nummy. **2** *the delectable Ms Davis*: **delightful**, lovely, captivating, charming, enchanting, appealing, beguiling; beautiful, attractive, ravishing, gorgeous, stunning, alluring, sexy, seductive, desirable, luscious; informal divine, heavenly, dreamy; Brit. informal tasty.

– OPPOSITES unpalatable, unattractive.

**delectation** noun (humorous) **enjoyment**, gratification, delight, pleasure, satisfaction, relish; entertainment, amusement, titillation.

**delegate** noun **trade union delegates**:

**representative**, envoy, emissary, commissioner, agent, deputy, commissary; spokesperson, spokesman/woman; ambassador, plenipotentiary.

• **verb 1** *she must delegate routine tasks*: **assign**, entrust, pass on, hand on/over, turn over, devolve, depute, transfer. **2** *they were delegated to negotiate with the States*: **authorize**, commission, depute, appoint, nominate, mandate, empower, charge, choose, designate, elect.

**delegation** noun **1** *the delegation from South Africa*: **deputation**, delegacy, legation, (diplomatic) mission, commission; delegates, representatives, envoys, emissaries, deputies. **2** *the delegation of tasks to others*: **assignment**, entrusting, giving, devolution, deputation, transference.

**delete** verb **remove**, cut out, take out, edit out, expunge, excise, eradicate, cancel; cross out, strike out, blue-pencil, ink out, scratch out, obliterate, white out; rub out, erase, efface, wipe out, blot out; Printing dele.

– OPPOSITES add.

**deleterious** adjective **harmful**, damaging, detrimental, injurious; bad, adverse, disadvantageous, unfavourable, unfortunate, undesirable.

– OPPOSITES beneficial.



**deliberate** adjective **1** *a deliberate attempt to provoke him*: intentional, calculated, conscious, intended, planned, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, purposive, premeditated, pre-planned; voluntary, volitional; Law, dated prepenze.

**2** *small, deliberate steps*: careful, cautious; measured, regular, even, steady. **3** *a deliberate worker*: methodical, systematic, careful, painstaking, meticulous, thorough.

– OPPOSITES accidental, hasty, careless.

• verb *she deliberated on his words*: think about/over, ponder, consider, contemplate, reflect on, muse on, meditate on, ruminate on, mull over, give thought to, weigh up; brood over, dwell on; N. Amer. think on.

**deliberately** adverb **1** *he deliberately hurt me*: intentionally, on purpose, purposely, by design, knowingly, wittingly, consciously, purposefully; wilfully, wantonly; Law with malice aforethought. **2** *he walked deliberately down the aisle*: carefully, cautiously, slowly, steadily, evenly.

**deliberation** noun **1** *after much deliberation, I accepted*: thought, consideration, reflection, contemplation, meditation, rumination; formal cogitation. **2** *he replaced the glass with deliberation*: care, carefulness, caution, steadiness.

**delicacy** noun **1** *the fabric's delicacy*: fineness, exquisiteness, delicateness, daintiness, airiness; flimsiness, gauziness, floatiness, silkiness. **2** *the children's delicacy*: sickliness, ill health, frailty, fragility, weakness, debility; infirmity, valetudinarianism. **3** *the delicacy of the situation*: difficulty, trickiness; sensitivity, ticklishness, awkwardness. **4** *treat this matter with delicacy*: care, sensitivity, tact, discretion, diplomacy, subtlety, sensibility. **5** *an Australian delicacy*: choice food, gourmet food, dainty, treat, luxury, bonne bouche; speciality.

**delicate** adjective **1** *delicate embroidery*: fine, exquisite, intricate, dainty; flimsy, gauzy, filmy, floaty, diaphanous, wispy, insubstantial. **2** *a delicate shade of blue*: subtle, soft, muted; pastel, pale, light. **3** *delicate china cups*: fragile, breakable, frail; formal frangible. **4** *his wife is delicate*: sickly, unhealthy, frail, feeble, weak, debilitated; unwell, infirm; formal valetudinarian. **5** *a delicate issue*: difficult, tricky, sensitive, ticklish, awkward, problematical, touchy, prickly; embarrassing; informal sticky, dicey. **6** *the matter required delicate handling*: careful, sensitive, tactful, diplomatic, discreet, kid-glove, softly-softly. **7** *his delicate palate*: discriminating, discerning; fastidious, fussy, finicky, dainty; informal picky, choosy, pernickety. **8** *a delicate mechanism*: sensitive, precision, precise.

– OPPOSITES coarse, lurid, strong, robust, clumsy.

**delicious** adjective **1** *a delicious meal*: delectable, mouth-watering, appetizing, tasty, flavoursome, flavourful, toothsome, palatable; succulent, luscious; informal

scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy; Brit. informal moreish; N. Amer. informal finger-licking, nummy. **2** *a delicious languor stole over her*: delightful, exquisite, lovely, pleasurable, pleasant; informal heavenly, divine.

– OPPOSITES unpalatable, unpleasant.

**delight** verb **1** *her manners delighted him*: please greatly, charm, enchant, captivate, entrance, thrill; gladden, gratify, appeal to; entertain, amuse, divert; informal send, tickle pink, bowl over. **2** *Fabia delighted in his touch*: take pleasure, revel, luxuriate, wallow, glory; adore, love, relish, savour, lap up; informal get a kick out of, get a buzz out of, get a thrill out of, dig; N. Amer. informal get a charge out of.

– OPPOSITES dismay, disgust, dislike.

• noun *she squealed with delight*: pleasure, happiness, joy, glee, gladness; excitement, amusement; bliss, rapture, elation, euphoria.

– OPPOSITES displeasure.

**delighted** adjective *pleased, glad, happy, thrilled, overjoyed, ecstatic, elated*; on cloud nine, walking on air, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy; enchanted, charmed; amused, diverted; gleeful, cock-a-hoop; informal over the moon, tickled pink, as pleased as Punch, on top of the world, as happy as Larry, blissed out; Brit. informal chuffed; N. English informal made up; Austral. informal wrapped.

**delightful** adjective **1** *a delightful evening*: pleasant, lovely, pleasurable, enjoyable; amusing, entertaining, diverting; gratifying, satisfying; marvellous, wonderful, splendid, sublime, thrilling; informal great, super, fabulous, fab, terrific, heavenly, divine, grand; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing; N. Amer. informal peachy, ducky; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer. **2** *the delightful Sally*: charming, enchanting, captivating, bewitching, appealing; sweet, endearing, cute, lovely, adorable, delectable, delicious, gorgeous, ravishing, beautiful, pretty; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal dreamy, divine.

**delimit** verb *determine, establish, set, fix, demarcate, define, delineate*.

**delineate** verb **1** *the aims of the study as delineated by the boss*: describe, set forth/out, present, outline, depict, represent; map out, define, specify, identify. **2** *a section delineated in red marker pen*: outline, trace, block in, mark (out/off), delimit.

**delinquency** noun **1** *teenage delinquency*: crime, wrongdoing, lawbreaking, lawlessness, misconduct, misbehaviour; misdemeanours, offences, misdeeds. **2** (formal) *grave delinquency on the host's part*: negligence, dereliction of duty, irresponsibility.

**delinquent** adjective **1** *delinquent teenagers*: lawless, lawbreaking, criminal; errant, badly behaved, troublesome, difficult, unruly, disobedient, uncontrollable. **2** (formal) *delinquent parents face tough penalties*: negligent, neglectful, remiss, irresponsible, lax, slack; N. Amer. derelict.

– OPPOSITES dutiful.

• **noun** *teenage delinquents*: offender, wrongdoer, malefactor, lawbreaker, culprit, criminal; hooligan, vandal, ruffian, hoodlum; young offender; informal tearaway.

**delirious** adjective **1** *she was delirious but had lucid intervals*: incoherent, raving, babbling, irrational; feverish, frenzied; deranged, demented, unhinged, mad, insane, out of one's mind. **2** *the delirious crowd*: ecstatic, euphoric, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, beside oneself, walking on air, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, carried away, transported, rapturous; hysterical, wild, frenzied; informal blissed out, over the moon, on a high.

**delirium** noun **1** *she had fits of delirium*: derangement, dementia, madness, insanity; incoherence, irrationality, hysteria, feverishness, hallucination. **2** *the delirium of desire*: ecstasy, rapture, transports, wild emotion, passion, wildness, excitement, frenzy, feverishness, fever; euphoria, elation.

– OPPOSITES lucidity.

**deliver** verb **1** *the parcel was delivered to his house*: bring, take, convey, carry, transport; send, dispatch, remit. **2** *the money was delivered up to the official*: hand over, turn over, make over, sign over; surrender, give up, yield, cede; consign, commit, entrust, trust. **3** *he was delivered from his enemies*: save, rescue, free, liberate, release, extricate, emancipate, redeem. **4** *the court delivered its verdict*: utter, give, make, read, broadcast; pronounce, announce, declare, proclaim, hand down, return, set forth. **5** *she delivered a blow to his head*: administer, deal, inflict, give; informal land. **6** *he delivered the first ball*: bowl, pitch, hurl, throw, cast, lob. **7** *the trip delivered everything she wanted*: provide, supply, furnish. **8** *we must deliver on our commitments*: fulfil, live up to, carry out, carry through, make good; informal deliver the goods, come across. **9** *she returned home to deliver her child*: give birth to, bear, be delivered of, have, bring into the world; N. Amer. birth; informal drop.

**deliverance** noun **1** *their deliverance from prison*: liberation, release, delivery, discharge, rescue, emancipation; salvation. **2** *the tone he adopted for such deliverances*: utterance, statement, announcement, pronouncement, declaration, proclamation; lecture, speech.

**delivery** noun **1** *the delivery of the goods*: conveyance, carriage, transportation, transport, distribution; dispatch, remittance; freightage, haulage, shipment. **2** *we get several deliveries a day*: consignment, load, shipment. **3** *the deliveries take place in hospital*: birth, childbirth; formal parturition. **4** *her delivery was stilted*: speech, pronunciation, enunciation, articulation, elocution; utterance, recitation, recital, execution.

**delude** verb mislead, deceive, fool, take in, trick, dupe, hoodwink, gull, lead on; informal con, pull the wool over someone's eyes, lead

up the garden path, take for a ride; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker; Austral. informal pull a swift on.

**deluge** noun **1** *homes were swept away by the deluge*: flood, torrent; Brit. spate. **2** *the deluge turned the pitch into a swamp*: downpour, torrential rain; thunderstorm, rainstorm, cloudburst. **3** *a deluge of complaints*: barrage, volley; flood, torrent, avalanche, stream, spate, rush, outpouring.

• **verb** **1** *homes were deluged by the rains*: flood, inundate, submerge, swamp, drown. **2** *we have been deluged with calls*: inundate, overwhelm, overrun, flood, swamp, snow under, engulf, bombard.

**delusion** noun **1** *a common male delusion*: misapprehension, misconception, misunderstanding, mistake, error, misinterpretation, misconstruction, misbelief; fallacy, illusion, fantasy. **2** *a web of delusion*: deception, trickery.

**de luxe** adjective luxurious, luxury, sumptuous, palatial, opulent, lavish; grand, high-class, quality, exclusive, choice, fancy; expensive, costly; Brit. upmarket; informal plush, posh, classy, ritzy, swanky, pricey; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank.

– OPPOSITES basic, cheap.

**delve** verb **1** *she delved in her pocket*: rummage, search, hunt, scabble about/around, root about/around, ferret, fish about/around in, dig; go through, rifle through; Brit. informal rootle around in. **2** *we must delve deeper into the matter*: investigate, enquire, probe, explore, research, look into, go into.

**demagogue** noun rabble-rouser, political agitator, soapbox orator, firebrand; informal tub-thumper.

**demand** noun **1** *I gave in to her demands*: request, call, command, order, dictate, ultimatum, stipulation. **2** *the demands of a young family*: requirement, need, desire, wish, want; claim, imposition. **3** *the big demand for such toys*: market, call, appetite, desire; run on, rush on.

• **verb** **1** *workers demanded wage increases*: call for, ask for, request, push for, hold out for; insist on, claim. **2** *Harvey demanded that I tell him the truth*: order, command, enjoin, urge; literary bid. **3** *'Where is she?' he demanded*: ask, inquire, question, interrogate; challenge. **4** *an activity demanding detailed knowledge*: require, need, necessitate, call for, involve, entail. **5** *they demanded complete anonymity*: insist on, stipulate, make a condition of; expect, look for.

■ **in demand** sought-after, desired, coveted, wanted, requested; marketable, desirable, popular, all the rage, at a premium, like gold dust; informal big, trendy, hot.

**demanding** adjective **1** *a demanding task*: difficult, challenging, taxing, exacting, tough, hard, onerous, burdensome, formidable; arduous, uphill, rigorous, gruelling, back-breaking, punishing. **2** *a demanding child*: nagging, clamorous,

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importunate, insistent; trying, tiresome, hard to please.

– OPPOSITES easy.

**demarcate** verb separate, divide, mark (out/off), delimit, delineate; bound.

**demarcation** noun **1** *clear demarcation of function: separation, distinction, differentiation, division, delimitation, definition.* **2** *territorial demarcations: boundary, border, borderline, frontier; dividing line, divide.*

**demean** verb discredit, lower, degrade, debase, devalue; cheapen, abase, humble, humiliate, disgrace, dishonour.

– OPPOSITES dignify.

**demeaning** adjective degrading, humiliating, shameful, mortifying, abject, ignominious, undignified, inglorious; informal *infra dig*.

**demeanour** noun manner, air, attitude, appearance, look; bearing, carriage; behaviour, conduct; formal comportment.

**demented** adjective mad, insane, deranged, out of one's mind, crazed, lunatic, unbalanced, unhinged, disturbed, non compos mentis; informal crazy, mental, off one's head, off one's rocker, nutty, round the bend, raving mad, batty, cuckoo, loopy, loony, bananas, screwy, touched, gaga, not all there, out to lunch; Brit. informal barmy, bonkers, crackers, barking, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling; N. Amer. informal buggy, nutso, squirrely, wacko.

– OPPOSITES sane.

**dementia** noun mental illness, madness, insanity, derangement, lunacy; Alzheimer's (disease).

**demise** noun **1** *her tragic demise: death, dying, passing, loss of life, end, quietus; formal decease; old use expiry.* **2** *the demise of the Ottoman empire: end, break-up, disintegration, fall, downfall, collapse.*

– OPPOSITES birth.

**demobilize** verb disband, decommission, discharge; Brit. informal demob.

**democracy** noun representative government, elective government, constitutional government; self-government, autonomy; republic, commonwealth.

– OPPOSITES dictatorship.

**democratic** adjective elected, representative, parliamentary, popular; egalitarian, classless; self-governing, autonomous, republican.

**demolish** verb **1** *they demolished a block of flats: knock down, pull down, tear down, bring down, destroy, flatten, raze (to the ground), level, bulldoze, topple; blow up; dismantle, disassemble.* **2** *he demolished her credibility: destroy, ruin, wreck; refute, disprove, discredit, overturn, explode, drive a coach and horses through; informal shoot full of holes, do for.* **3** (informal) *our team were demolished.* See **TROUNCE**. **4** (informal) *she demolished a sausage roll.* See **DEVOUR** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES construct, strengthen.

**demolition** noun **1** *the demolition of the building: destruction, levelling, bulldozing, clearance; obliteration.* **2** *the demolition of his theory: destruction, refutation.* **3** (informal) *New Zealand's demolition of England.* See **DEFEAT** noun sense 1.

**demon** noun **1** *the demons from hell: devil, fiend, evil spirit, cacodemon; incubus, succubus; hellhound.* **2** *the man was a demon: monster, ogre, fiend, devil, brute, savage, beast, barbarian, animal.* **3** *Surrey's fast-bowling demon: genius, expert, master, virtuoso, maestro, past master, marvel; star; informal hotshot, whizz, buff, pro, ace.* **4** *the demon of creativity.* See **DAEMON**.

– OPPOSITES angel, saint.

**demonic, demoniac, demoniacal** adjective **1** *demonic powers: devilish, fiendish, diabolical, satanic, Mephistophelian, hellish, infernal; evil, wicked.* **2** *the demonic intensity of his playing: frenzied, wild, feverish, frenetic, frantic, furious, manic, like one possessed.*

**demonstrable** adjective verifiable, provable, attestable; verified, proven, confirmed; obvious, clear, clear-cut, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, distinct, noticeable; unmistakable, undeniable.

**demonstrate** verb **1** *his findings demonstrate that boys commit more crimes: show, indicate, determine, establish, prove, confirm, verify, corroborate, substantiate.* **2** *she was asked to demonstrate quilting: give a demonstration of; display, show, illustrate, exemplify.* **3** *his work demonstrated an analytical ability: reveal, bespeak, indicate, signify, signal, denote, show, display, exhibit; bear witness to, testify to; imply, intimate, give away.* **4** *they demonstrated against the Government: protest, rally, march; stage a sit-in, picket, strike, walk out; mutiny, rebel.*

**demonstration** noun **1** *there is no demonstration of God's existence: proof, substantiation, confirmation, affirmation, corroboration, verification, validation; evidence, indication, witness, testament.* **2** *a demonstration of woodcarving: exhibition, presentation, display, exposition, teach-in; informal demo, expo, taster.* **3** *his paintings are a demonstration of his talent: manifestation, indication, sign, mark, token, embodiment; expression.* **4** *an anti-racism demonstration: protest, march, rally, lobby, sit-in; stoppage, strike, walkout, picket (line); informal demo.*

**demonstrative** adjective **1** *a very demonstrative family: expressive, open, forthcoming, communicative, unreserved, emotional, effusive, gushing; affectionate, cuddly, loving, warm, friendly, approachable; informal touchy-feely, lovey-dovey.* **2** *the successes are demonstrative of their skill: indicative, indicatory, suggestive, illustrative.* **3** *demonstrative evidence of his theorem: convincing, definite, positive, telling, conclusive, certain, decisive; incontrovertible, irrefutable, undeniable, indisputable, unassailable.*



– OPPOSITES reserved, inconclusive.

**demoralize** verb *dishearten*, dispirit, deject, cast down, depress, dismay, daunt, discourage, unman, unnerve, crush, shake, throw, cow, subdue; break someone's spirit; informal knock the stuffing out of, knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

– OPPOSITES hearten.

**demoralized** adjective *dispirited*, disheartened, downhearted, dejected, downcast, low, depressed, despairing; disconsolate, crestfallen, disappointed, dismayed, daunted, discouraged; crushed, humbled, subdued.

**demote** verb *downgrade*, relegate, declass, reduce in rank; depose, unseat, displace, oust; Military cashier, disrate.

– OPPOSITES promote.

**demotic** adjective *popular*, vernacular, colloquial, idiomatic, vulgar, common; informal, everyday, slangy.

– OPPOSITES formal.

**demur** verb *Steed demurred when the suggestion was made*: **object**, take exception, take issue, protest, cavil, dissent; voice reservations, be unwilling, be reluctant, balk, think twice; drag one's heels, refuse; informal boggle, kick up a fuss.

• **noun** *they accepted without demur*:

**objection**, protest, protestation, complaint, dispute, dissent, opposition, resistance; reservation, hesitation, reluctance, disinclination; doubts, qualms, misgivings, second thoughts; a murmur, a word.

**demure** adjective *modest*, unassuming, meek, mild, reserved, retiring, quiet, shy, bashful, diffident, reticent, timid, shrinking, coy; decorous, decent, seemly, ladylike, respectable, proper, virtuous, pure, innocent, chaste; sober, sedate, staid, prim, goody-goody, strait-laced; informal butter-wouldn't-melt.

– OPPOSITES brazen.

**den** noun **1** *the mink left its den*: **lair**, sett, earth, drey, burrow, hole, dugout, covert, shelter, hiding place, hideout. **2** *a notorious drinking den*: **haunt**, site, hotbed, nest, pit, hole; informal joint, dive. **3** *the poet scribbled in his den*: **study**, studio, library; sanctum, retreat, sanctuary, hideaway, snug, cubbyhole; informal hidey-hole.

**denial** noun **1** *the reports met with a denial*: **contradiction**, refutation, rebuttal, repudiation, disclaimer; negation, dissent; law disaffirmation. **2** *the denial of insurance to certain people*: **refusal**, withholding; rejection, rebuff, repulse, veto, turndown; informal knock-back; N. Amer. formal declination. **3** *the denial of worldly values*: **renunciation**, eschewal, repudiation, disavowal, rejection, abandonment, surrender, relinquishment.

**denigrate** verb *disparage*, belittle, deprecate, decry, cast aspersions on, criticize, attack; speak ill of, give someone a bad name, defame, slander, libel; run down, abuse, insult, revile, malign, vilify; N. Amer. slur; informal bad-mouth, pull to pieces;

Brit. informal rubbish, slate, slag off; formal calumniate.

– OPPOSITES extol.

**denizen** noun (formal) *inhabitant*, resident, townsman/woman, native, local; occupier, occupant, dweller; old use burgher.

**denominate** verb (formal) *call*, name, term, designate, style, dub, label, entitle.

**denomination** noun **1** *a Christian denomination*: **religious group**, sect, cult, movement, body, branch, persuasion, order, school; Church. **2** *banknotes in a number of denominations*: **value**, unit, size. **3** (formal) *the invention's denomination still stands today*: **name**, title, term, designation, epithet, label, tag; informal handle, moniker; formal appellation.

**denote** verb **1** *the headdresses denoted warriors*: **designate**, indicate, be a mark of, signify, signal, symbolize, represent, mean; typify, characterize, distinguish, mark, identify. **2** *his manner denoted an inner strength*: **suggest**, point to, smack of, indicate, show, reveal, intimate, imply, convey, betray, bespeak; informal spell.

**denouement** noun **1** *the film's denouement*: **finale**, final scene, epilogue, coda, end, ending, finish, close; culmination, climax, conclusion, resolution, solution. **2** *the debate had an unexpected denouement*: **outcome**, upshot, consequence, result, end; informal pay-off.

– OPPOSITES beginning, origin.

**denounce** verb **1** *the pope denounced abortion*: **condemn**, criticize, attack, censure, decry, revile, vilify, discredit, damn, reject; proscribe; malign, rail against, run down; N. Amer. slur; informal knock, slam, hit out at, lay into; Brit. informal slate, slag off; formal castigate. **2** *he was denounced as a traitor*: **expose**, betray, inform on; incriminate, implicate, cite, name, accuse; old use inculcate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**dense** adjective **1** *a dense forest*: **thick**, close-packed, tightly packed, closely set, crowded, compact, solid, tight; overgrown, jungly, impenetrable, impassable. **2** *dense smoke*: **thick**, heavy, opaque, soupy, murky, smoggy; concentrated, condensed. **3** (informal) *they were dense enough to believe me*: **stupid**, unintelligent, ignorant, brainless, mindless, foolish, slow, witless, simple-minded, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, imbecilic; informal thick, dim, moronic, dumb, dopey, dozy, wooden-headed, lamebrained, birdbrained, pea-brained; Brit. informal daft.

– OPPOSITES sparse, thin, clever.

**density** noun *solidity*, solidness, denseness, thickness, substance, mass; compactness, tightness, hardness.

**dent** noun **1** *I made a dent in his car*: **indentation**, dint, dimple, dip, depression, hollow, crater, pit, trough. **2** *a nasty dent in their finances*: **reduction**, depletion, deduction, cut.

– OPPOSITES increase.

• **verb 1** *Jamie dented his bike*: **dint**, indent,

mark. **2** *the experience dented her confidence:* diminish, reduce, lessen, shrink, weaken, erode, undermine, sap, shake, damage, impair.

**denude** verb strip, clear, deprive, bereave, rob; lay bare, uncover, expose; deforest, defoliate; dated divest.

– OPPOSITES cover.

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**deny** verb **1** *the report was denied by witnesses:* contradict, repudiate, challenge, contest, oppose; disprove, debunk, explode, discredit, refute, rebut, invalidate, negate, nullify, quash; informal shoot full of holes; formal gainsay; Law disaffirm. **2** *he denied the request:* refuse, turn down, reject, rebuff, repulse, decline, veto, dismiss; informal knock back, give the thumbs down to. **3** *she had to deny her parents:* renounce, eschew, repudiate, disavow, disown, wash one's hands of, reject, discard, cast aside, abandon, give up; formal forswear; literary forsake.

– OPPOSITES confirm, accept.

**deodorant** noun an underarm deodorant: antiperspirant, body spray, perfume, scent.

**deodorize** verb freshen, sweeten, purify, disinfect, sanitize, sterilize; fumigate, aerate, air, ventilate.

**depart** verb **1** *James departed after lunch:* leave, go (away), withdraw, absent oneself, abstract oneself, quit, exit, decamp, retreat, retire; make off, run off/away; set off/out, get under way, be on one's way; informal make tracks, up sticks, clear off/out, take off, split; Brit. informal sling one's hook. **2** *the budget departed from the norm:* deviate, diverge, digress, drift, stray, veer; differ, vary; contrast with.

– OPPOSITES arrive.

**departed** adjective dead, expired, gone, no more, passed on/away; perished, fallen; informal six feet under, pushing up daisies; formal deceased; euphemistic with God, asleep.

**department** noun **1** *the public health department:* division, section, sector, unit, branch, arm, wing; office, bureau, agency, ministry. **2** *rural departments:* district, canton, province, territory, state, county, shire, parish; region, area. **3** *the food is Kay's department:* domain, territory, province, area, line; responsibility, duty, function, business, affair, charge, task, concern; informal pigeon, baby, bag, bailiwick.

**departure** noun **1** *he tried to delay her departure:* leaving, going, leave-taking, withdrawal, exit, egress, retreat. **2** *a departure from normality:* deviation, divergence, digression, shift; variation, change. **3** *an exciting departure for filmmakers:* change, innovation, novelty, rarity.

**depend** verb **1** *her career depends on a good reference:* be contingent on, be conditional on, be dependent on, hinge on, hang on, rest on, rely on; be decided by. **2** *my family depends on me:* rely on, lean on; count on, bank on, trust (in), have faith in, believe in; pin one's hopes on.

**dependable** adjective reliable, trustworthy, trusty, faithful, loyal, unfailing, sure,

steadfast, stable; honourable, sensible, responsible.

**dependant** noun child, minor; ward, charge, protégé; relative; (**dependants**) offspring, progeny.

**dependence** noun. See **DEPENDENCY** senses 1, 2, 3.

**dependency** noun **1** *her dependency on her husband:* dependence, reliance; need for. **2** *the association of retirement with dependency:* helplessness, dependence, weakness, defencelessness, vulnerability. **3** *drug dependency:* addiction, dependence, reliance; craving, compulsion, fixation, obsession; abuse. **4** *a British dependency:* colony, protectorate, province, outpost, satellite state; holding, possession. **5** *a dependency of the firm:* subsidiary, adjunct, offshoot, auxiliary, attachment, satellite, derivative.

– OPPOSITES independence.

**dependent** adjective **1** *your placement is dependent on her decision:* conditional, contingent, based; subject to, determined by, influenced by. **2** *the army is dependent on volunteers:* reliant on, relying on, counting on; sustained by. **3** *she is dependent on drugs:* addicted to, reliant on; informal hooked on. **4** *he is ill and dependent:* reliant, needy; helpless, weak, infirm, invalid, incapable; debilitated, disabled. **5** *a UK dependent territory:* subsidiary, subject; satellite, ancillary; puppet.

**depict** verb **1** *the painting depicts the Last Supper:* portray, represent, picture, illustrate, delineate, reproduce, render; draw, paint. **2** *the process depicted by Darwin's theory:* describe, detail, relate; present, set forth, set out, outline, delineate; represent, portray, characterize.

**depiction** noun **1** *a depiction of Aphrodite:* picture, painting, portrait, drawing, sketch, study, illustration; image, likeness. **2** *the film's depiction of women:* portrayal, representation, presentation, characterization.

**deplete** verb exhaust, use up, consume, expend, drain, empty, milk; reduce, decrease, diminish; slim down, cut back.

– OPPOSITES augment.

**depletion** noun exhaustion, use, consumption, expenditure; reduction, decrease, diminution; impoverishment.

**deplorable** adjective **1** *your conduct is deplorable:* disgraceful, shameful, dishonourable, unworthy, inexcusable, unpardonable, unforgivable; reprehensible, despicable, abominable, contemptible, execrable, heinous, beyond the pale. **2** *the garden is in a deplorable state:* lamentable, regrettable, unfortunate, wretched, atrocious, appalling, awful, terrible, dreadful, abysmal, diabolical; sorry, poor, inadequate; informal dire, woeful, lousy; formal grievous.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**deplore** verb **1** *we deplore violence:* abhor, find unacceptable, frown on, disapprove of,

take a dim view of, take exception to; detest, despise; condemn, denounce. **2** *he deplored their lack of flair*: regret, lament, mourn, rue, bemoan, bewail, complain about, grieve over, sigh over.

– OPPOSITES applaud.

**deploy** verb **1** *forces were deployed at strategic points*: position, station, post, place, install, locate, situate, site, establish; base; distribute, dispose. **2** *she deployed all her skills*: use, utilize, employ, take advantage of, exploit; bring into service, call on, turn to, resort to.

**deport** verb **1** *they were fined and deported*: expel, banish, exile, transport, expatriate, extradite, repatriate; evict, oust, throw out; informal kick out, boot out, send packing; Brit. informal turf out. **2** (old use) *he deported himself with dignity*. See **BEHAVE** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES admit.

**deportment** noun **1** (Brit.) *poise is concerned with good deportment*: posture, carriage, bearing, stance, gait; formal comportment. **2** (N. Amer.) *unprofessional deportment*: behaviour, conduct, performance; manners, practices, actions.

**depose** verb **1** *the president was deposed*: overthrow, unseat, dethrone, topple, remove, supplant, displace; dismiss, oust, drum out, throw out, expel, eject; informal chuck out, boot out, get rid of, show someone the door; Brit. informal turf out. **2** (Law) *a witness deposed that he had seen me*: swear, testify, attest, assert, declare, claim; rare asseverate.

**deposit** noun **1** *a thick deposit of ash*: accumulation, sediment; layer, covering, coating, blanket. **2** *a copper deposit*: seam, vein, lode, layer, stratum, bed. **3** *they paid a deposit*: down payment, advance payment, prepayment, instalment, retainer, stake.  
• verb **1** *she deposited her books on the table*: put (down), place, set (down), unload, rest; drop; informal dump, park, plonk; N. Amer. informal plunk. **2** *the silt deposited by flood water*: leave (behind), precipitate, dump; wash up, cast up. **3** *the gold was deposited at the bank*: lodge, bank, house, store, stow, put away; informal stash, squirrel away.

**deposition** noun **1** *the King's deposition*: overthrow, downfall, removal, dethronement, displacement, dismissal, expulsion, ejection; N. Amer. ouster. **2** (Law) *depositions from witnesses*: statement, affidavit, attestation, affirmation, submission, declaration; testimony, evidence. **3** *the deposition of calcium*: depositing, accumulation, build-up, precipitation.

**depository** noun repository, cache, store, storeroom, storehouse, warehouse; vault, strongroom, safe, treasury; container, receptacle; informal lock-up.

**depot** noun **1** *the bus depot*: terminal, terminus, station, garage; headquarters, base. **2** *an arms depot*: storehouse, warehouse, store, repository, depository,

cache; arsenal, magazine, armoury, ammunition dump.

**deprave** verb corrupt, lead astray, warp, subvert, pervert, debauch, debase, degrade, defile, sully, pollute.

**depraved** adjective corrupt, perverted, deviant, degenerate, debased, immoral, unprincipled; debauched, dissolute, licentious, lecherous, prurient, indecent, sordid; wicked, sinful, vile, iniquitous, nefarious; informal warped, twisted, pervy, sick.

**depravity** noun corruption, vice, perversion, deviance, degeneracy, immorality, debauchery, dissipation, profligacy, licentiousness, lechery, prurience, obscenity, indecency; wickedness, sin, iniquity; informal perversity; formal turpitude.

**deprecate** verb **1** *the school deprecates this behaviour*: deplore, abhor, disapprove of, frown on, take a dim view of, take exception to, detest, despise; criticize, censure. **2** *he deprecates the value of television*: belittle, disparage, denigrate, run down, discredit, decry, play down, trivialize, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, depreciate; scoff at, sneer at, scorn, disdain; informal pooh-poo.

– OPPOSITES praise, overrate.

**deprecatory** adjective **1** *deprecatory remarks*: disapproving, censorious, critical, scathing, damning, condemnatory, denunciatory, disparaging, denigratory, derogatory, negative, unflattering; disdainful, derisive, snide. **2** *a deprecatory smile*: apologetic, rueful, regretful, sorry, remorseful, contrite, penitent, repentant; shamefaced, sheepish.

**depreciate** verb **1** *these cars will depreciate*: decrease in value, lose value, fall in price. **2** *the decision to depreciate property*: devalue, cheapen, reduce, lower in price, mark down, cut, discount; informal slash. **3** *they depreciate the importance of art*: belittle, disparage, denigrate, decry, deprecate, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, diminish, trivialize; disdain, sneer at, scoff at, scorn; informal knock, bad-mouth, sell short, pooh-poo, do down; Brit. informal rubbish.

**depredation** noun plundering, plunder, looting, pillaging, robbery; devastation, destruction, damage, rape; ravages, raids.

**depress** verb **1** *the news depressed him*: sadden, dispirit, cast down, get down, dishearten, demoralize, crush, shake, desolate, weigh down, oppress; upset, distress, grieve, haunt, harrow; informal give someone the blues, make someone fed up. **2** *new economic policies depressed sales*: slow down, reduce, lower, weaken, impair; limit, check, inhibit, restrict. **3** *imports will depress farm prices*: reduce, lower, cut, cheapen, keep down, discount, deflate, depreciate, devalue, diminish, axe; informal slash.

**4** *depress each key in turn*: press, push, hold down; thumb, tap; operate, activate.

– OPPOSITES encourage, raise.



**depressant** noun *sedative, tranquilizer, calmate, sleeping pill, soporific, opiate, hypnotic; informal downer, trunk, sleeper, dope; Medicine neuroleptic.*

– OPPOSITES stimulant.

**depressed** adjective **1** *he felt lonely and depressed: sad, unhappy, miserable, gloomy, glum, melancholy, dejected, disconsolate, downhearted, downcast, down, despondent, dispirited, low, heavy-hearted, morose, dismal, desolate; tearful, upset; informal blue, down in the dumps, down in the mouth, fed up.* **2** *a depressed economy: weak, enervated, devitalized, impaired; inactive, flat, slow, slack, sluggish, stagnant.* **3** *depressed prices: reduced, low, cut, cheap, marked down, discounted, discount; informal slashed.* **4** *a depressed town: poverty-stricken, poor, disadvantaged, deprived, needy, distressed; run down; informal slummy.* **5** *a depressed fracture: sunken, hollow, concave, indented, recessed.*

– OPPOSITES cheerful, strong, inflated, prosperous, raised.

**depressing** adjective **1** *depressing thoughts: upsetting, distressing, painful, heartbreaking; dismal, bleak, black, sombre, gloomy, grave, unhappy, melancholy, sad; wretched, doleful; informal morbid, blue.* **2** *a depressing room: gloomy, bleak, dreary, grim, drab, sombre, dark, dingy, funereal, cheerless, joyless, comfortless, uninviting.*

**depression** noun **1** *she ate to ease her depression: unhappiness, sadness, melancholy, melancholia, misery, sorrow, woe, gloom, despondency, low spirits, heavy heart, despair, desolation, hopelessness; upset, tearfulness; informal the dumps, the doldrums, the blues, the black dog, a (blue) funk; Psychiatry dysthymia.* **2** *an economic depression: recession, slump, decline, downturn, standstill; stagnation; Economics stagflation.* **3** *a depression in the ground: hollow, indentation, dent, dint, cavity, concavity, dip, pit, hole, sinkhole, trough, crater; basin, bowl.*

**deprivation** noun **1** *unemployment and deprivation: poverty, impoverishment, penury, privation, hardship, destitution; need, want, distress, indigence, beggary, ruin; straitened circumstances; rare pauperdom.* **2** *deprivation of political rights: dispossession, withholding, withdrawal, removal, divestment, expropriation, seizure, confiscation; denial, forfeiture, loss; absence, lack.*

– OPPOSITES wealth.

**deprive** verb *dispossess, strip, divest, relieve, bereave, deny, rob; cheat out of; informal do out of.*

**deprived** adjective *disadvantaged, underprivileged, poverty-stricken, impoverished, poor, destitute, needy, unable to make ends meet; Brit. on the breadline.*

**depth** noun **1** *the depth of the caves: deepness, distance downwards, distance inwards; drop, vertical extent; old use profundity.* **2** *the depth of his knowledge:*

*extent, range, scope, breadth, width; magnitude, scale, degree.* **3** *her lack of depth: profundity, deepness, wisdom, understanding, intelligence, sagacity, discernment, penetration, insight, astuteness, acumen, shrewdness; formal perspicuity.* **4** *a work of great depth: complexity, intricacy; profundity, gravity, weight.* **5** *depth of colour: intensity, richness, deepness, vividness, strength, brilliance.* **6** *the depths of the sea: deepest part, bottom, floor, bed; abyss.*

– OPPOSITES shallowness, triviality, surface.

■ *in depth* thoroughly, extensively, comprehensively, rigorously, exhaustively, completely, fully; meticulously, scrupulously, painstakingly.

**deputation** noun *delegation, delegacy, legation, commission, committee, (diplomatic) mission; contingent, group, party.*

**depute** verb **1** *he was deputed to handle negotiations: appoint, designate, nominate, assign, commission, charge, choose, select, elect; empower, authorize.* **2** *the judge deputed smaller cases to others: delegate, transfer, hand over, pass on, consign, assign, entrust, give.*

**deputize** verb *stand in, sit in, fill in, cover, substitute, replace, take someone's place, understudy, be a locum, relieve, take over; hold the fort, step into the breach; act for, act on behalf of; informal sub.*

**deputy** noun *he handed over to his deputy: second (in command), number two, subordinate, junior, assistant, personal assistant, PA, aide, helper, right-hand man/woman, underling, man/girl Friday; substitute, stand-in, fill-in, relief, understudy, locum tenens; representative, proxy, agent, spokesperson; Scottish depute; informal sidekick, locum, temp.*

● *adjective her deputy editor: assistant, substitute, stand-in, acting, reserve, fill-in, caretaker, temporary, provisional, stopgap, surrogate; pro tempore, ad interim; informal second-string.*

**deranged** adjective *insane, mad, disturbed, unbalanced, unhinged, unstable, irrational; crazed, demented, berserk, frenzied, lunatic, certifiable; non compos mentis; informal touched, crazy, mental; Brit. informal barmy, barking (mad), round the twist.*

– OPPOSITES rational.

**derelict** adjective **1** *a derelict building: dilapidated, ramshackle, run down, tumbledown, in ruins, falling apart; rickety, creaky, deteriorating, crumbling; neglected, untended, gone to rack and ruin.* **2** *a derelict airfield: disused, abandoned, deserted, discarded, rejected, neglected, untended.* **3** (N. Amer.) *he was derelict in his duty: negligent, neglectful, remiss, lax, careless, sloppy, slipshod, slack, irresponsible, delinquent.*

● *noun the derelicts who survive on the streets: tramp, vagrant, vagabond, down-and-out, homeless person, drifter; beggar, mendicant;*

outcast; informal dossier, bag lady; N. Amer. informal hobo, bum.

**dereliction** noun **1** *buildings were reclaimed from dereliction:* **dilapidation**, disrepair, deterioration, ruin, rack and ruin; abandonment, neglect, disuse. **2** *dereliction of duty:* **negligence**, neglect, delinquency, failure; carelessness, laxity, sloppiness, slackness, irresponsibility; oversight, omission.

**deride** verb **ridicule**, mock, scoff at, jibe at, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, pillory; disdain, disparage, denigrate, dismiss, slight; sneer at, scorn, insult; informal knock, pooh-pooh, take the mickey out of.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**de rigueur** adjective **1** *straight hair was de rigueur:* **fashionable**, in fashion, in vogue, modish, up to date, up to the minute, all the rage; informal trendy, with it. **2** *an address is de rigueur for business cards:* **customary**, standard, conventional, normal, orthodox, usual, comme il faut; compulsory; informal done.

**derision** noun **mockery**, ridicule, jeers, sneers, taunts; disdain, disparagement, denigration, disrespect, insults; scorn, contempt; lampooning, satire.

**derisive** adjective **mocking**, jeering, scoffing, teasing, derisory, snide, sneering; disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, taunting, insulting; scathing, sarcastic; informal snidey; Brit. informal sarky.

**derisory** adjective **1** *a derisory sum:* **inadequate**, insufficient, tiny, small; trifling, paltry, pitiful, miserly, miserable; negligible, token, nominal; ridiculous, laughable, ludicrous, preposterous, insulting; informal measly, stingy, lousy, pathetic, piddling, piffling, mingy, poxy. **2** *derisory calls from the crowd.* See **DERISIVE**.

**derivation** noun **1** *the derivation of theories from empirical observation:* **deriving**, induction, deduction, inference; extraction, eliciting. **2** *the derivation of a word:* **origin**, etymology, root, etymon, provenance, source; origination, beginning, foundation, basis, cause; development, evolution.

**derivative** adjective *her poetry was derivative:* **imitative**, unoriginal, uninventive, unimaginative, uninspired; copied, plagiarized, plagiaristic, second-hand; trite, hackneyed, clichéd, stale, stock, banal; informal copycat, cribbed, old hat.

– OPPOSITES original.

• noun **1** *a derivative of opium:* **by-product**, subsidiary product; spin-off. **2** *a derivative of a verb:* **derived word**.

**derive** verb **1** *he derives consolation from his poetry:* **obtain**, get, take, gain, acquire, procure, extract, attain, glean. **2** *'coffee' derives from the Turkish 'kahveh':* **originate in**, stem from, descend from, spring from, be taken from. **3** *his fortune derives from property:* **originate in**, be rooted in; stem from, come from, spring from, proceed from, issue from.

**derogate** verb (formal) **1** *his contribution was*

*derogated by critics:* **disparage**, denigrate, belittle, deprecate, deflate; decry, discredit, cast aspersions on, run down, criticize; defame, vilify, abuse, insult, attack, pour scorn on; informal pull apart, drag through the mud, knock, slam, bash, bad-mouth; Brit. informal rubbish, slate, slag off. **2** *the act would derogate from the king's majesty:* **detract from**, devalue, diminish, reduce, lessen, depreciate; demean, cheapen.

**3** *rules which derogate from an Act of Parliament:* **deviate**, diverge, depart, digress, stray; differ, vary; conflict with, be incompatible with.

– OPPOSITES praise, increase.

**derogatory** adjective **disparaging**, denigratory, deprecatory, disrespectful, demeaning; critical, pejorative, negative, unfavourable, uncomplimentary, unflattering, insulting; offensive, personal, abusive, rude, nasty, mean, hurtful; defamatory, slanderous, libellous; informal bitchy, catty.

– OPPOSITES complimentary.

**descend** verb **1** *the plane started descending:* **go down**, come down; drop, fall, sink, dive, plummet, plunge, nosedive. **2** *she descended the stairs:* **climb down**, go down, come down; shin down. **3** *the road descends to a village:* **slope**, dip, slant, go down, fall away. **4** *she saw Leo descend from the bus:* **alight**, disembark, get down, get off, dismount. **5** *they would not descend to such mean tricks:* **stoop**, lower oneself, demean oneself, debase oneself; resort, be reduced, go as far as. **6** *the army descended into chaos:* **degenerate**, deteriorate, decline, sink, slide, fall. **7** *troops descended on the town:* **attack**, assail, assault, storm, invade, swoop on, charge. **8** *he is descended from a Flemish family:* **be a descendant of**, originate from, issue from, spring from, derive from. **9** *his estates descended to his son:* **be handed down**, be passed down; be inherited by.

– OPPOSITES ascend, climb.

**descendant** noun **successor**, scion; heir; (descendants) offspring, progeny, family, lineage; law issue; old use seed, fruit of one's loins.

– OPPOSITES ancestor.

**descent** noun **1** *the plane began its descent:* **dive**, drop; fall, pitch. **2** *their descent of the mountain:* **downward climb**. **3** *a steep descent:* **slope**, incline, dip, drop, gradient, declivity, slant; hill. **4** *his descent into alcoholism:* **decline**, slide, fall, degeneration, deterioration, regression. **5** *she is of Italian descent:* **ancestry**, parentage, ancestors, family, antecedents; extraction, origin, derivation, birth; lineage, line, genealogy, heredity, stock, pedigree, blood, bloodline; roots, origins. **6** *the descent of property:* **inheritance**, succession. **7** *the sudden descent of the cavalry:* **attack**, assault, raid, onslaught, charge, thrust, push, drive, incursion, foray.

**describe** verb **1** *he described his experiences:* **report**, recount, relate, tell of, set out, chronicle; detail, catalogue, give a rundown

of; explain, illustrate, discuss, comment on. **2** *she described him as a pathetic figure: designate*, pronounce, call, label, style, dub; characterize, class; portray, depict, brand, paint. **3** *the pen described a circle: delineate*, mark out, outline, trace, draw.

**description** noun **1** *a description of my travels: account*, report, rendition, explanation, illustration; chronicle, narration, narrative, story, commentary; portrayal, portrait; details. **2** *the description of coal as 'bottled sunshine': designation*, labelling, naming, dubbing, pronunciation; characterization, classification, branding; portrayal, depiction. **3** *vehicles of every description: sort*, variety, kind, type, category, order, breed, class, designation, specification, genre, genus, brand, make, character, ilk; N. Amer. stripe.

**descriptive** adjective *illustrative*, expressive, graphic, detailed, lively, vivid, striking; explanatory, elucidatory, explicative.

**descry** verb (literary). See **NOTICE** verb.

**desecrate** verb *violate*, profane, defile, debase, degrade, dishonour; vandalize, damage, destroy, deface.

**desert**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *his wife deserted him: abandon*, leave, turn one's back on; throw over, jilt, break up with; leave high and dry, leave in the lurch, leave behind, strand, maroon; informal walk out on, run out on, drop, dump, ditch; literary forsake. **2** *his allies were deserting the cause: renounce*, repudiate, relinquish, wash one's hands of, abandon, turn one's back on, betray, disavow; formal abjure; literary forsake. **3** *soldiers deserted in droves: abscond*, defect, run away, make off, decamp, flee, turn tail, take French leave, depart, quit; Military go AWOL.

**desert**<sup>2</sup> noun *An African desert: wasteland*, wastes, wilderness, wilds, barren land; dust bowl.

• adjective **1** *desert conditions: arid*, dry, moistureless, parched, scorched, hot; barren, bare, stark, infertile, unfruitful, dehydrated, sterile. **2** *a desert island: uninhabited*, empty, lonely, desolate, bleak; wild, uncultivated.

– OPPOSITES fertile.

**deserted** adjective **1** *a deserted wife: abandoned*, thrown over, jilted, cast aside; neglected, stranded, marooned; forlorn, bereft; informal dumped, ditched, dropped; literary forsaken. **2** *a deserted village: empty*, uninhabited, unoccupied, unpeopled, abandoned, evacuated, vacant; untenanted, tenantless, neglected; desolate, lonely, godforsaken.

– OPPOSITES populous.

**deserter** noun *absconder*, runaway, fugitive, truant, escapee; renegade, defector, turncoat, traitor.

**desertion** noun **1** *his wife's desertion of him: abandonment*, leaving, jilting. **2** *the desertion of the president's colleagues: defection*; betrayal, renunciation,

repudiation, apostasy; formal abjuration.

**3** *soldiers were executed for desertion: absconding*, running away, going absent without leave; defection, treason; Military going AWOL.

**deserve** verb *merit*, earn, warrant, rate, justify, be worthy of, be entitled to, have a right to, be qualified for.

**deserved** adjective *well earned*, merited, warranted, justified, justifiable; rightful, due, right, just, fair, fitting, appropriate, suitable, proper, apt; old use meet.

**deserving** adjective **1** *the deserving poor: worthy*, meritorious, commendable, praiseworthy, admirable, estimable, creditable; respectable, decent, honourable, righteous. **2** *a lapse deserving of punishment: meriting*, warranting, justifying, suitable for, worthy of.

**desiccated** adjective *dried*, dry, dehydrated, powdered.

– OPPOSITES moist.

**desideratum** noun *requirement*, prerequisite, need, indispensable thing, sine qua non, essential, requisite, necessary.

**design** noun **1** *a design for the offices: plan*, blueprint, drawing, sketch, outline, map, plot, diagram, draft, representation, scheme, model. **2** *tableware with a gold design: pattern*, motif, device; style, composition, make-up, layout, construction, shape, form.

**3** *his design of reaching the top: intention*, aim, purpose, plan, intent, objective, object, goal, end, target; hope, desire, wish, dream, aspiration, ambition.

• verb **1** *the church was designed by Hicks: plan*, outline, map out, draft, draw. **2** *they designed a new engine: invent*, originate, create, think up, come up with, devise, formulate, conceive; make, produce, develop, fashion; informal dream up. **3** *this paper is designed to provoke discussion: intend*, aim; devise, contrive, purpose, plan; tailor, fashion, adapt, gear; mean, destine. ■ *by design* deliberately, intentionally, on purpose, purposefully; knowingly, wittingly, consciously, calculatedly.

**designate** verb **1** *some firms designate a press officer: appoint*, nominate, depute, delegate; select, choose, pick, elect, name, identify, assign. **2** *the rivers are designated 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest': classify*, class, label, tag; name, call, entitle, term, dub; formal denominate.

**designation** noun **1** *the designation of a leader: appointment*, nomination, naming, selection, election. **2** *the designation of nature reserves: classification*, specification, definition, earmarking, pinpointing. **3** *the designation 'Generalissimo': title*, name, epithet, tag; nickname, byname, sobriquet; informal moniker, handle; formal denomination, appellation.

**designer** noun **1** *a designer of farmhouses: creator*, planner, deviser, inventor, originator; maker; architect, builder. **2** *young designers made the dress: couturier*, tailor, costumier, dressmaker.



**designing** adjective *scheming, calculating, conniving; cunning, crafty, artful, wily, devious, guileful, manipulative; treacherous, sly, underhand, deceitful, double-dealing; informal crooked, foxy.*

**desirability** noun **1** *the desirability of the property:* appeal, attractiveness, allure; agreeableness, worth, excellence.

**2** *the desirability of a different economy:*

**advisability**, advantage, expedience, benefit, merit, value, profit, profitability.

**3** *her obvious desirability:* attractiveness, sexual attraction, beauty, good looks; charm, seductiveness; informal sexiness.

**desirable** adjective **1** *a desirable location:* attractive, sought-after, in demand, popular, desired, covetable, enviable; appealing, agreeable, pleasant; valuable, good, excellent; informal to die for. **2** *it is desirable that they should meet:* advantageous, advisable, wise, sensible, commendable; helpful, useful, beneficial, worthwhile, profitable, preferable. **3** *a very desirable woman:* (sexually) attractive, beautiful, pretty, appealing; seductive, alluring, enchanting, beguiling, captivating, bewitching, irresistible; informal sexy, beddable.

– OPPOSITES unattractive, unwise, ugly.

**desire** noun **1** *a desire to see the world:* wish, want, aspiration, fancy, inclination, impulse; yearning, longing, craving, hankering, hunger; eagerness, enthusiasm, determination; informal yen, itch. **2** *his eyes glittered with desire:* lust, sexual attraction, passion, sensuality, sexuality; lasciviousness, lechery, salaciousness, libidinousness; informal the hots, raunchiness, horniness; Brit. informal randiness.

• **verb 1** *they desired peace:* want, wish for, long for, yearn for, crave, hanker after, be desperate for, be bent on, covet, aspire to; fancy; informal have a yen for, yen for. **2** *she desired him:* be attracted to, lust after, burn for, be infatuated by; informal fancy, have the hots for, have a crush on, be mad about.

**desired** adjective **1** *cut the cloth to the desired length:* required, necessary, proper, right, correct; appropriate, suitable; preferred, chosen, selected. **2** *the desired results:* wished for, wanted, coveted; sought-after, longed for, yearned for.

**desirous** adjective eager, desiring, anxious, keen, craving, yearning, longing, hungry; ambitious, aspiring; covetous, envious; informal dying, itching.

**desist** verb *abstain, refrain, forbear, hold back, keep; stop, cease, discontinue, suspend, give up, break off, drop, disperse with, eschew; informal lay off, give over, quit, pack in.*

– OPPOSITES continue.

**desk** noun *writing table, bureau, escritoire, secretaire; Brit. davenport.*

**desolate** adjective **1** *desolate moorlands:* bleak, stark, bare, dismal, grim; wild, inhospitable; deserted, uninhabited, godforsaken, abandoned, unpeopled,

untenanted, empty; unfrequented, unvisited, isolated, remote. **2** *she is desolate:* miserable, despondent, depressed, disconsolate, devastated, despairing, inconsolable, broken-hearted, grief-stricken, crushed, bereft; sad, unhappy, downcast, down, dejected, forlorn, upset, distressed; informal blue, cut up.

– OPPOSITES populous, joyful.

• **verb 1** *droughts desolated the plains:*

devastate, ravage, ruin, lay waste to; level, raze, demolish, wipe out, obliterate. **2** *she was desolated by the loss of her husband:* dishearten, depress, sadden, cast down, make miserable, weigh down, crush, upset, distress; informal shatter.

**desolation** noun **1** *the desolation of the Gobi desert:* bleakness, starkness, barrenness, sterility; wildness; isolation, loneliness, remoteness. **2** *a feeling of utter desolation:* misery, sadness, unhappiness, despondency, sorrow, depression, grief, woe; broken-heartedness, wretchedness, dejection, devastation, despair, anguish, distress.

**despair** noun *hopelessness, disheartenment, discouragement, desperation, distress, anguish, unhappiness; despondency, depression, disconsolateness, melancholy, misery, wretchedness; defeatism, pessimism.*

– OPPOSITES hope, joy.

• **verb** *lose hope*, abandon hope, give up, lose heart, be discouraged, be despondent, be demoralized, resign oneself; be pessimistic, look on the black side.

■ **be the despair of** be the bane of, be the scourge of, be a burden on, be a trial to, be a thorn in the flesh/side of.

**despairing** adjective *hopeless, in despair, dejected, depressed, despondent, disconsolate, gloomy, miserable, wretched, desolate, inconsolable; disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, devastated; defeatist, pessimistic.*

**despatch** verb & noun. See DISPATCH.

**desperado** noun (dated) *bandit, criminal, outlaw, lawbreaker, villain, renegade; robber, cut-throat, gangster, pirate.*

**desperate** adjective **1** *a desperate look:* despairing, hopeless; anguished, distressed, wretched, desolate, forlorn, distraught, fraught; out of one's mind, at one's wits' end, beside oneself, at the end of one's tether. **2** *a desperate attempt to escape:* last-ditch, last-gasp, eleventh-hour, do-or-die, final; frantic, frenzied, wild; futile, hopeless, doomed. **3** *a desperate shortage of teachers:* grave, serious, critical, acute, risky, precarious; dire, awful, terrible, dreadful; urgent, pressing, crucial, vital, drastic, extreme; informal chronic. **4** *they were desperate for food:* in great need of, urgently requiring, in want of; eager, longing, yearning, hungry, crying out; informal dying. **5** *a desperate act:* violent, dangerous, lawless; reckless, rash, hasty, impetuous, foolhardy, incautious, hazardous, risky; death-or-glory, do-or-die.

**desperately** adverb **1** *he screamed desperately for help:* in desperation, in

despair, despairingly, in anguish, in distress; wretchedly, hopelessly, desolately, forlornly.  
**2** *they are desperately ill*: seriously, critically, gravely, severely, acutely, dangerously, perilously; very, extremely, dreadfully; hopelessly, irretrievably; informal terribly.  
**3** *he desperately wanted to talk*: urgently, pressingly; intensely, eagerly.

**d desperation** noun hopelessness, despair, distress; anguish, agony, torment, misery, wretchedness; disheartenment, discouragement.

**despicable** adjective contemptible, loathsome, hateful, detestable, reprehensible, abhorrent, abominable, awful, heinous; odious, vile, low, mean, abject, shameful, ignominious, shabby, ignoble, disreputable, discreditable, unworthy; informal dirty, rotten, low-down; Brit. informal beastly; old use scurvy.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**despise** verb detest, hate, loathe, abhor, execrate, deplore, dislike; scorn, disdain, look down on, deride, sneer at, revile; spurn, shun; formal abominate.

– OPPOSITES adore.

**despite** preposition in spite of, notwithstanding, regardless of, in the face of, for all, even with.

**despoil** verb **1** *a village despoiled by invaders*: plunder, pillage, rob, ravage, raid, ransack, rape, loot, sack; devastate, lay waste, ruin.  
**2** *the robbers despoiled him of all he had*: rob, strip, deprive, dispossess, denude, divest, relieve, clean out.

**despondency** noun hopelessness, despair, disheartenment, discouragement, low spirits, wretchedness; melancholy, gloom, misery, desolation, disappointment, dejection, sadness, unhappiness; informal the blues, heartache.

**despondent** adjective disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, downhearted, downcast, crestfallen, down, low, disconsolate, despairing, wretched; melancholy, gloomy, morose, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected, sad; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.

– OPPOSITES hopeful, cheerful.

**despot** noun tyrant, oppressor, dictator, absolute ruler, totalitarian, autocrat.

**despotic** adjective autocratic, dictatorial, totalitarian, absolutist, undemocratic, unaccountable; one-party, autarchic, monocratic; tyrannical, tyrannous, oppressive, repressive, draconian, illiberal.

– OPPOSITES democratic.

**despotism** noun tyranny, dictatorship, totalitarianism, absolute rule, absolutism; oppression, repression; autocracy, monocracy, autarchy.

**dessert** noun pudding, sweet, second course, last course; Brit. informal afters, pud.

**destabilize** verb undermine, weaken, damage, subvert, sabotage, unsettle, upset, disrupt.

– OPPOSITES strengthen.

**destination** noun journey's end, end of the line; terminus, stop, stopping place, port of call; goal, target, end.

**destined** adjective **1** *he is destined to lead a troubled life*: fated, ordained, predestined, meant; certain, sure, bound, assured, likely; doomed. **2** *computers destined for Pakistan*: heading, bound, en route, scheduled; intended, meant, designed, designated, allotted, reserved.

**destiny** noun **1** *master of his own destiny*: future, fate, fortune, doom; lot; old use portion. **2** *she was sent by destiny*: fate, providence; predestination; divine decree, God's will, kismet, the stars; luck, fortune, chance; karma.

**destitute** adjective **1** *she was left destitute*: penniless, poor, impoverished, poverty-stricken, impecunious, without a penny to one's name; needy, in straitened circumstances, distressed, badly off; Brit. on the breadline; informal hard up, (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), cash-strapped, without a brass farthing, without two pennies to rub together, without a bean; Brit. informal stony broke, skint; N. Amer. informal stone broke, without a red cent. **2** *we were destitute of clothing*: devoid, bereft, deprived, in need; lacking, without, deficient in, wanting.

– OPPOSITES rich.

**destitution** noun poverty, impoverishment, penury, pennilessness, privation, pauperism; hardship, need, want, straitened circumstances, dire straits, deprivation, (financial) distress.

**destroy** verb **1** *their offices were destroyed by bombing*: demolish, knock down, level, raze (to the ground), fell; wreck, ruin, shatter; blast, blow up, dynamite, explode, bomb. **2** *traffic would destroy the conservation area*: spoil, ruin, wreck, disfigure, blight, mar, impair, deface, scar, injure, harm, devastate, damage, wreak havoc on. **3** *illness destroyed his career chances*: wreck, ruin, spoil, disrupt, undo, upset, put an end to, put a stop to, terminate, frustrate, blight, crush, quash, dash, scotch; devastate, demolish, sabotage; Brit. throw a spanner in the works of; informal mess up, muck up, foul up, put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, queer, blow a hole in; Brit. informal scupper; old use bring to naught. **4** *the horse had to be destroyed*: kill, put down, put to sleep, slaughter, terminate, exterminate. **5** *we had to destroy the enemy*: annihilate, wipe out, obliterate, wipe off the face of the earth, eliminate, eradicate, liquidate, finish off, erase; kill, slaughter, massacre, exterminate; informal take out, rub out, snuff out; N. Amer. informal waste.

– OPPOSITES build, preserve, spare.

**destruction** noun **1** *the destruction by allied bombers*: demolition, wrecking, ruination, blasting, bombing; wreckage, ruins. **2** *the destruction of the countryside*: spoliation, devastation, ruination, blighting, disfigurement, impairment,

scarring, harm, desolation. **3** *the destruction of cattle*: slaughter, killing, putting down, extermination, termination.

**4** *the destruction of the enemies' forces*: annihilation, obliteration, elimination, eradication, liquidation; killing, slaughter, massacre, extermination.

**destructive** adjective **1** *the most destructive war*: devastating, ruinous, disastrous, catastrophic, calamitous, cataclysmic; harmful, damaging, detrimental, deleterious, injurious, crippling; violent, savage, fierce, brutal, deadly, lethal.

**2** *destructive criticism*: negative, hostile, vicious, unfriendly; unhelpful, obstructive, discouraging.

**desultory** adjective casual, cursory, superficial, token, perfunctory, half-hearted, lukewarm; random, aimless, erratic, unmethodical, unsystematic, chaotic, inconsistent, irregular, intermittent, sporadic, fitful.

– OPPOSITES keen.

**detach** verb **1** *he detached the lamp from its bracket*: unfasten, disconnect, disengage, separate, uncouple, remove, loose, unhitch, unhook, free, disunite; pull off, cut off, break off. **2** *he detached himself from the crowd*: free, separate, segregate; move away, split off; leave, abandon. **3** *he has detached himself from his family*: dissociate, divorce, alienate, separate, segregate, isolate, cut off; break away, disaffiliate, defect; leave, quit, withdraw from, break with.

– OPPOSITES attach, join.

**detached** adjective **1** *a detached collar*: unfastened, disconnected, separated, separate, loosened; untied, unhitched, undone, unhooked, unbuttoned; free, severed, cut off. **2** *a detached observer*: dispassionate, disinterested, objective, uninvolved, outside, neutral, unbiased, unprejudiced, impartial, non-partisan; indifferent, aloof, remote, distant, impersonal. **3** *a detached house*: standing alone, separate.

**detachment** noun **1** *she looked on everything with detachment*: objectivity, dispassion, disinterest, open-mindedness, neutrality, impartiality; indifference, aloofness. **2** *a detachment of soldiers*: unit, detail, squad, troop, contingent, outfit, task force, patrol, crew; platoon, company, corps, regiment, brigade, battalion. **3** *the detachment of the wallpaper*: loosening, disconnection, disengagement, separation; removal.

**detail** noun **1** *the picture is correct in every detail*: particular, respect, feature, characteristic, attribute, specific, aspect, facet, part, unit, component, constituent; fact, piece of information, point, element, circumstance, consideration. **2** *that's just a detail*: unimportant point, trivial fact, triviality, technicality, nicety, subtlety, trifle, fine point, incidental, inessential, nothing. **3** *records with a considerable degree of detail*: precision, exactness, accuracy, thoroughness, carefulness, scrupulousness,

particularity. **4** *a guard detail*: unit, detachment, squad, troop, contingent, outfit, task force, patrol. **5** *I got the toilet detail*: duty, task, job, chore, charge, responsibility, assignment, function, mission, engagement, occupation, undertaking, errand.

• verb **1** *the report details our objections*:

describe, explain, expound, relate, catalogue, list, spell out, itemize, particularize, identify, specify; state, declare, present, set out, frame; cite, quote, instance, mention, name. **2** *troops were detailed to prevent the escape*: assign, allocate, appoint, delegate, commission, charge; send, post; nominate, vote, elect, co-opt.

■ **in detail** thoroughly, in depth, exhaustively, minutely, closely, meticulously, rigorously, scrupulously, painstakingly, carefully; completely, comprehensively, fully, extensively.

**detailed** adjective comprehensive, full, complete, thorough, exhaustive, all-inclusive; elaborate, minute, intricate; explicit, specific, precise, exact, accurate, meticulous, painstaking; itemized, blow-by blow.

– OPPOSITES general.

**detain** verb **1** *they were detained for questioning*: hold, take into custody, take (in), confine, imprison, lock up, put in jail, intern; arrest, apprehend, seize; informal pick up, run in, haul in, nab, collar; Brit. informal nick. **2** *don't let me detain you*: delay, hold up, make late, keep, slow up/down; hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct.

– OPPOSITES release.

**detect** verb **1** *no one detected the smell of diesel*: notice, perceive, discern, be aware of, note, make out, spot, recognize, distinguish, remark, identify, diagnose; catch, sense, see, smell, scent, taste; Brit. informal clock. **2** *they are responsible for detecting fraud*: discover, uncover, find out, turn up, unearth, dig up, root out, expose, reveal. **3** *help the police to detect crime*: solve, clear up, get to the bottom of; informal crack. **4** *the hackers were detected*: catch, hunt down, track down, find, expose, reveal, unmask, smoke out; apprehend, arrest; informal nail.

**detection** noun **1** *the detection of methane*: discernment, perception, awareness, recognition, identification, diagnosis; sensing, sight, smelling, tasting. **2** *the detection of insider dealing*: discovery, uncovering, unearthing, exposure, revelation. **3** *the detection rate for burglary*: solving, clear-up. **4** *he managed to escape detection*: capture, identification, exposure; apprehension, arrest.

**detective** noun investigator, private investigator, private detective, operative; Brit. enquiry agent; informal private eye, PI, sleuth, snoop; N. Amer. informal shamus, gumshoe; informal, dated dick.

**detention** noun custody, imprisonment, confinement, incarceration, internment, detainment, captivity; arrest, house arrest; quarantine.

d



**deter** verb 1 *the high cost deterred many:*

discourage, dissuade, put off, scare off; dishearten, demoralize, daunt, intimidate.

2 *the presence of a caretaker deters crime:*

prevent, stop, avert, fend off, stave off, ward off, block, halt, check; hinder, impede, hamper, obstruct, foil, forestall, counteract, inhibit, curb.

– OPPOSITES encourage.

**detergent** noun *washing detergent:* cleaner, cleanser; washing powder, washing-up liquid; soap.

• adjective *detergent action:* cleaning, cleansing; surface-active.

**deteriorate** verb 1 *his health deteriorated:*

worsen, decline, degenerate; fail, slump, slip, go downhill, go backwards, wane, ebb; informal go to pot. 2 *these materials deteriorate if stored wrongly:* decay, degrade, degenerate, break down, decompose, rot, go off, spoil, perish; break up, disintegrate, crumble, fall apart.

– OPPOSITES improve.

**deterioration** noun 1 *a deterioration in law and order:* decline, collapse, failure, drop, downturn, slump, slip, retrogression.

2 *deterioration of the roof structure:* decay, degradation, degeneration, breakdown, decomposition, rot; atrophy, weakening; break-up, disintegration, dilapidation.

**determinate** adjective fixed, settled, specified, established, defined, explicit, known, determined, definitive, conclusive, express, precise, categorical, positive, definite.

**determination** noun 1 *it took great determination to win:* resolution, resolve, will power, strength of character, single-mindedness, purposefulness, intentness; staunchness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, staying power; strong-mindedness, backbone; stubbornness, doggedness, obstinacy; spirit, courage, pluck, grit, stout-heartedness; informal guts, spunk; formal pertinacity. 2 *the determination of the rent:* setting, specification, settlement, designation, arrangement, establishment, prescription. 3 *the determination of the speed of light:* calculation, discovery, ascertainment, establishment, deduction, divination, diagnosis, discernment, verification, confirmation.

**determine** verb 1 *chromosomes determine the sex of the embryo:* control, decide, regulate, direct, dictate, govern; affect, influence, mould. 2 *he determined to sell up:* resolve, decide, make up one's mind, choose, elect, opt; formal purpose. 3 *the rent shall be determined by an accountant:* specify, set, fix, decide on, settle, assign, designate, arrange, choose, establish, ordain, prescribe, decree. 4 *determine the composition of the fibres:* ascertain, find out, discover, learn, establish, calculate, work out, make out, deduce, diagnose, discern; check, verify, confirm; informal figure out.

**determined** adjective 1 *he was determined to have his way:* intent on, bent on, set

on, insistent on, resolved to, firm about, committed to; single-minded about, obsessive about. 2 *a very determined man:* resolute, purposeful, purposive, adamant, single-minded, unswerving, unwavering, undaunted, intent, insistent; steadfast, staunch, stalwart; persevering, persistent, indefatigable, tenacious; strong-minded, strong-willed, unshakeable, steely, four-square, dedicated, committed; stubborn, dogged, obstinate, inflexible, intransigent, unyielding, immovable; N. Amer. rock-ribbed; formal pertinacious.

**determining** adjective deciding, decisive, conclusive, final, definitive, key, pivotal, crucial, critical, major, chief, prime.

**deterrent** noun disincentive, discouragement, damper, curb, check, restraint; obstacle, hindrance, impediment, obstruction, block, barrier, inhibition.

– OPPOSITES incentive.

**detest** verb abhor, hate, loathe, despise, shrink from, be unable to bear, find intolerable, dislike, disdain, have an aversion to; formal abominate.

– OPPOSITES love.

**detestable** adjective abhorrent, hateful, loathsome, despicable, abominable, execrable, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, horrible, horrid, awful; heinous, reprehensible, obnoxious, odious, offensive, contemptible.

**dethrone** verb depose, unseat, uncrown, oust, topple, overthrow, bring down, dislodge, displace, supplant, usurp, eject, drum out.

– OPPOSITES crown.

**detonate** verb 1 *the charge detonated under the engine:* explode, go off, blow up, shatter, erupt; ignite; bang, blast, boom. 2 *they detonated the bomb:* set off, explode, discharge, let off, touch off, trigger; ignite, kindle.

**detonation** noun explosion, discharge, blowing up, ignition; blast, bang, report.

**detour** noun diversion, roundabout route, indirect route, scenic route; bypass, ring road; digression, deviation; Brit. relief road.

**detract** verb 1 *my reservations should not detract from the book's excellence:* belittle, take away from, diminish, reduce, lessen, minimize, play down, trivialize, decry, depreciate, devalue, depreciate. 2 *the patterns will detract attention from each other:* divert, distract, draw away, deflect, avert.

**detractor** noun critic, disparager, denigrator, deprecator, belittler, attacker, fault-finder, backbiter; slanderer, libeller; informal knocker.

**detriment** noun harm, damage, injury, hurt, impairment, loss, disadvantage, disservice, mischief.

– OPPOSITES benefit.

**detrimental** adjective harmful, damaging, injurious, hurtful, inimical, deleterious, destructive, ruinous, disastrous, bad, malign, adverse, undesirable, unfavourable,

unfortunate; unhealthy, unwholesome.  
– OPPOSITES benign.

**detritus** noun debris, waste, refuse, rubbish, litter, scrap, flotsam and jetsam, lumber, rubble; remains, remnants, fragments, scraps, dregs, leavings, sweepings, dross, scum; N. Amer. trash, garbage; Austral./NZ mullock; informal dreck.

**devalue** verb belittle, depreciate, disparage, denigrate, decry, deprecate, treat lightly, discredit, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, deflate, diminish, trivialize, run down; informal knock, sell short, put down, pooh-pooh, do down, pick holes in; Brit. informal rubbish.

**devastate** verb **1** *the city was devastated by an earthquake*: destroy, ruin, wreck, lay waste, ravage, demolish, raze (to the ground), level, flatten. **2** *he was devastated by the news*: shatter, shock, stun, daze, dumbfound, traumatize, crush, overwhelm, overcome, distress; informal knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

**devastating** adjective **1** *a devastating cyclone*: destructive, ruinous, disastrous, catastrophic, calamitous, cataclysmic; harmful, damaging, injurious, detrimental; crippling, violent, savage, fierce, dangerous, fatal, deadly, lethal. **2** *devastating news*: shattering, shocking, traumatic, overwhelming, crushing, distressing, terrible. **3** (informal) *he presented devastating arguments*: incisive, highly effective, penetrating, cutting; withering, blistering, searing, scathing, fierce, savage, stinging, biting, caustic, harsh, unsparing.

**devastation** noun **1** *the hurricane left a trail of devastation*: destruction, ruin, desolation, havoc, wreckage; ruins, ravages. **2** *the devastation of Prussia*: destruction, wrecking, ruination, despoliation; demolition, annihilation. **3** *the devastation you have caused the family*: shock, trauma, distress, stress, strain, pain, anguish, suffering, upset, agony, misery, heartache.

**develop** verb **1** *the industry developed rapidly*: grow, expand, spread; advance, progress, evolve, mature; prosper, thrive, flourish, blossom. **2** *a plan was developed*: initiate, instigate, set in motion; originate, invent, form, establish, generate. **3** *children should develop their talents*: expand, augment, broaden, supplement, reinforce; enhance, refine, improve, polish, perfect. **4** *a row developed*: start, begin, emerge, erupt, break out, burst out, arise, break, unfold, happen. **5** *he developed the disease last week*: fall ill with, be stricken with, succumb to; contract, catch, get, pick up, come down with, become infected with.

**development** noun **1** *the development of the firm*: evolution, growth, maturation, expansion, enlargement, spread, progress; success. **2** *the development of an idea*: forming, establishment, initiation, instigation, origination, invention, generation. **3** *keep abreast of developments*: event, occurrence, happening, circumstance,

incident, situation, issue. **4** *a housing development*: estate, complex, site.

**deviant** adjective *deviant behaviour*: aberrant, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, irregular, non-standard; nonconformist, perverse, uncommon, unusual; freakish, strange, odd, peculiar, bizarre, eccentric, idiosyncratic, unorthodox, exceptional; warped, perverted; informal kinky, quirky.  
– OPPOSITES normal.

• noun *we were seen as deviants*: nonconformist, eccentric, maverick, individualist; outsider, misfit; informal oddball, weirdo, freak; N. Amer. informal screwball, kook.

**deviate** verb diverge, digress, drift, stray, slew, veer, swerve; get sidetracked, branch off; differ, vary, run counter to, contrast with.

**deviation** noun divergence, digression, departure; difference, variation, variance; aberration, abnormality, irregularity, anomaly, inconsistency, discrepancy.

**device** noun **1** *a device for measuring pressure*: implement, gadget, utensil, tool, appliance, apparatus, instrument, machine, mechanism, contrivance, contraption; informal gizmo, widget. **2** *an ingenious legal device*: ploy, tactic, move, stratagem, scheme, plot, trick, ruse, manoeuvre, machination, contrivance, expedient, dodge, wile; Brit. informal wheeze. **3** *their shields bear his device*: emblem, symbol, logo, badge, crest, insignia, coat of arms, escutcheon, seal, mark, design, motif; monogram, hallmark, trademark.

**devil** noun **1** *God and the Devil*: Satan, Beelzebub, Lucifer, the Lord of the Flies, the Prince of Darkness; informal Old Nick. **2** *they drove out the devils from their bodies*: evil spirit, demon, cacodemon, fiend, bogie; informal spook. **3** *look what the cruel devil has done*: brute, beast, monster, fiend; villain, sadist, barbarian, ogre. **4** *he's a naughty little devil*: rascal, rogue, imp, fiend, monkey, wretch; informal monster, horror, scamp, tyke; Brit. informal perisher; N. Amer. informal varmint. **5** (informal) *the poor devils looked ill*: wretch, unfortunate, creature, soul, person, fellow; informal thing, beggar.

**devilish** adjective **1** *a devilish grin*: diabolical, fiendish, demonic, satanic, demoniac, demoniacal; hellish, infernal. **2** *a devilish torture*: wicked, evil, iniquitous, vile, foul, abominable, unspeakable, loathsome, monstrous, atrocious, heinous, hideous, odious, horrible, appalling, dreadful, awful, terrible, ghastly, abhorrent, despicable, depraved, dark, black, immoral; vicious, cruel, savage, barbaric. **3** *a devilish job*: difficult, tricky, ticklish, troublesome, thorny, awkward, problematic.

**devil-may-care** adjective reckless, rash, incautious, heedless, impetuous, impulsive, daredevil, hot-headed, wild, foolhardy, audacious, death-or-glory; nonchalant, casual, breezy, flippant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky, easy-going, unworried,

untroubled, unconcerned, harum-scarum;  
Brit. tearaway.

**devilment** noun. See **DEVILRY** sense 2.

**devilry, devilry** noun **1** *some devilry was afoot*: wickedness, evil, sin, iniquity, vileness, badness, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, villainy, delinquency, devilishness, fiendishness; informal crookedness, shadiness. **2** *she had a perverse sense of devilry*: mischief, mischievousness, naughtiness, badness, perversity, impishness; misbehaviour, troubling, misconduct; pranks, tricks, roguery, devilment; informal monkey business, shenanigans. **3** *they dabbled in devilry*: black magic, sorcery, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, enchantment, spell-working, incantation; the supernatural, occultism, the occult, the black arts, divination, voodoo, witchery; N. Amer. mojo, orenda.

**devious** adjective **1** *the devious ways in which they bent the rules*: **underhand**, deceitful, dishonest, dishonourable, unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, fraudulent, dubious, unfair, treacherous, duplicitous; crafty, cunning, calculating, artful, conniving, scheming, sly, wily; sneaky, furtive, secret, clandestine, surreptitious, covert; N. Amer. snide, snidey; informal crooked, shady, dirty, low-down; Brit. informal dodgy. **2** *a devious route around the coast*: **circuitous**, roundabout, indirect, meandering, tortuous.

**devise** verb *conceive*, think up, dream up, work out, formulate, concoct; design, invent, coin, originate; compose, construct, fabricate, create, produce, develop; discover, hit on; hatch, contrive; informal cook up.

**devitalize** verb *weaken*, enfeeble, debilitate, enervate, sap, drain, tax, exhaust, weary, tire (out), fatigue, wear out, prostrate; indispose, incapacitate, lay low; informal knock out, do in, shatter, whack, bush, frazzle, poop; Brit. informal knacker.  
– **OPPOSITES** strengthen.

**devoid** adjective *free*, empty, vacant, bereft, denuded, deprived, destitute, bankrupt; (**devoid of**) lacking, without, wanting; informal minus.

**devolution** noun *decentralization*, delegation; redistribution, transfer; surrender, relinquishment.

**devolve** verb *delegate*, depute, pass (down/on), hand down/over/on, transfer, transmit, assign, consign, convey, entrust, turn over, give, cede, surrender, relinquish, deliver; bestow, grant.

**devote** verb *allocate*, assign, allot, commit, give (over), apportion, consign, pledge; dedicate, consecrate; set aside, earmark, reserve, designate.

**devoted** adjective *loyal*, faithful, true (blue), staunch, steadfast, constant, committed, dedicated, devout; fond, loving, affectionate, caring, admiring.

**devotee** noun **1** *a devotee of rock music*: enthusiast, fan, lover, aficionado, admirer;

informal buff, freak, nut, fiend, fanatic, addict, maniac. **2** *devotees thronged the temple*: follower, adherent, supporter, advocate, disciple, votary, member, stalwart, fanatic, zealot; believer, worshipper.

**devotion** noun **1** *her devotion to her husband*: **loyalty**, faithfulness, fidelity, constancy, commitment, adherence, allegiance, dedication; fondness, love, admiration, affection, care. **2** *a life of devotion*: **devoutness**, piety, religiousness, spirituality, godliness, holiness, sanctity. **3** *morning devotions*: (**religious**) **worship**, religious observance; prayers, vespers, matins; prayer meeting, church service.

**devotional** adjective *religious*, sacred, spiritual, divine, church, ecclesiastical.  
– **OPPOSITES** secular.

**devour** verb **1** *he devoured his meal*: eat hungrily, eat greedily, gobble (up/down), guzzle, gulp (down), bolt (down), cram down, gorge oneself on, wolf (down), feast on, consume, eat up; informal pack away, demolish, dispose of, make short work of, polish off, scoff, shovel down, stuff oneself with, pig oneself on, put away, get outside of. **2** *flames devoured the house*: **consume**, engulf, envelop; destroy, demolish, lay waste, devastate; gut, ravage, ruin, wreck. **3** *he was devoured by remorse*: **afflict**, plague, bedevil, trouble, harrow, rack; consume, swallow up, overcome, overwhelm.

**devout** adjective **1** *a devout Christian*: **pious**, religious, devoted, dedicated, reverent, God-fearing; holy, godly, saintly, faithful, dutiful, righteous, churchgoing, orthodox. **2** *a devout soccer fan*: **dedicated**, devoted, committed, loyal, faithful, staunch, genuine, firm, steadfast, unwavering, sincere, wholehearted, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, passionate, ardent, fervent, active, sworn, pledged; informal card-carrying, true blue, deep-dyed.

**dexterity** noun **1** *painting china demanded dexterity*: **deftness**, adeptness, adroitness, agility, nimbleness, handiness, ability, talent, skill, proficiency, expertise, experience, efficiency, mastery, delicacy, knack, artistry, finesse. **2** *his political dexterity*: **shrewdness**, astuteness, sharp-wittedness, acumen, acuity, intelligence; ingenuity, inventiveness, cleverness, smartness; caniness, sense, discernment, insight, understanding, penetration, perception, perspicacity, discrimination; cunning, artfulness, craftiness; informal nous, horse sense, savvy.

**dexterous** adjective **1** *a dexterous flick of the wrist*: **deft**, adept, adroit, agile, nimble, neat, handy, able, capable, skilful, skilled, proficient, expert, practised, polished; efficient, effortless, slick, professional, masterly; informal nifty, mean, ace. **2** *his dexterous accounting abilities*: **shrewd**, ingenious, inventive, clever, intelligent, brilliant, smart, sharp, acute, astute, canny, intuitive, discerning, perceptive, insightful, incisive, judicious; cunning, artful, crafty,



wily; informal on the ball, quick off the mark, quick on the uptake, brainy, savvy; Brit. informal suss.

– OPPOSITES clumsy, stupid.

**diabolical, diabolic** adjective **1** *his diabolical skill*: devilish, fiendish, satanic, demonic, demoniacal, hellish, infernal, evil, wicked, ungodly, unholy. **2** (informal) *a diabolical performance*: very bad, dreadful, awful, terrible, disgraceful, shameful, lamentable, deplorable, appalling, atrocious, abysmal; inferior, substandard, unsatisfactory, inadequate, second-rate, third-rate, shoddy, inept; informal crummy, dire, dismal, God-awful, rotten, pathetic, pitiful, lousy; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, ropy, pants.

**diadem** noun crown, coronet, tiara, circlet, chaplet; literary coronal; historical taj.

**diagnose** verb identify, determine, distinguish, recognize, detect, pinpoint.

**diagnosis** noun **1** *the diagnosis of coeliac disease*: identification, detection, recognition, determination, discovery, pinpointing. **2** *the results confirmed his diagnosis*: opinion, judgement, verdict, conclusion.

**diagonal** adjective crosswise, crossways, slanting, slanted, aslant, squint, oblique, angled, at an angle, cornerways, cornerwise; N. Amer. cater-cornered, kitty-cornered.

**diagram** noun drawing, line drawing, sketch, representation, draft, illustration, picture, plan, outline, delineation, figure; Computing graphic.

**diagrammatic** adjective graphic, graphical, representational, representative, schematic, simplified.

**dial** verb phone, telephone, call, ring.

**dialect** noun regional language, local language, local speech, vernacular, patois, idiom; regionalisms, localisms; informal lingo.

**dialectic** noun discussion, debate, dialogue, logical argument, reasoning, argumentation, polemics; formal ratiocination.

**dialogue** noun **1** *a book consisting of a series of dialogues*: conversation, talk, discussion, interchange, discourse; chat, tête-à-tête; informal confab; formal colloquy, confabulation; old use converse. **2** *they called for a serious political dialogue*: discussion, exchange, debate, exchange of views, talk, head-to-head, consultation, conference, parley; talks, negotiations; informal powwow; N. Amer. informal skull session.

**diameter** noun breadth, width, thickness; calibre, bore, gauge.

**diametrical, diametric** adjective direct, absolute, complete, exact, extreme, polar, antipodal.

**diaphanous** adjective sheer, fine, delicate, light, thin, insubstantial, floaty, flimsy, filmy, silken, chiffony, gossamer, gossamer-thin, gauzy; translucent, transparent, see-through.

– OPPOSITES thick, opaque.

**diarrhoea** noun loose motions; informal the runs, the trots, gippy tummy, holiday tummy, Delhi belly, Montezuma's revenge; Brit. informal the squits; N. Amer. informal turista; old use the flux.

– OPPOSITES constipation.

**diary** noun **1** *he put the date in his diary*: appointment book, engagement book, personal organizer; trademark Filofax. **2** *her World War II diaries*: journal, memoir, chronicle, log, logbook, history, annal, record; weblog, blog; N. Amer. daybook.

**diatribe** noun tirade, harangue, onslaught, attack, polemic, denunciation, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, censure, criticism; informal blast; literary philippic.

**dicey** adjective (informal) risky, uncertain, unpredictable, touch-and-go, precarious, unsafe, dangerous, fraught with danger, hazardous, perilous, high-risk, difficult; informal chancy, hairy, iffy; Brit. informal dodgy; N. Amer. informal gnarly.

– OPPOSITES safe.

**dichotomy** noun contrast, difference, polarity, conflict; gulf, chasm, division, separation, split; rare contrariety.

**dicky** adjective (Brit. informal) weak, unhealthy, ailing, poorly, sickly, frail; unsound, unreliable, unsteady.

– OPPOSITES robust.

**dictate** verb **1** *the tsar's attempts to dictate policy*: prescribe, lay down, impose, set down, order, command, decree, ordain, direct, determine, decide, control, govern. **2** *you are in no position to dictate to me*: give orders to, order about/around, lord it over; lay down the law; informal boss about/around, push around/about, throw one's weight about/around. **3** *choice is often dictated by availability*: determine, control, govern, decide, influence, affect.

• noun *the dictates of his superior*: order, command, commandment, decree, edict, ruling, dictum, diktat, directive, direction, instruction, pronouncement, mandate, requirement, stipulation, injunction, demand; formal ordinance; literary behest.

**dictator** noun autocrat, absolute ruler, despot, tyrant, oppressor, autarch.

**dictatorial** adjective **1** *a dictatorial regime*: autocratic, undemocratic, totalitarian, authoritarian, autarchic, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous, absolute, unrestricted, unlimited, unaccountable, arbitrary. **2** *his dictatorial manner*: domineering, autocratic, authoritarian, oppressive, imperious, officious, overweening, overbearing, peremptory, dogmatic, high and mighty; severe, strict; informal bossy, high-handed.

– OPPOSITES democratic, meek.

**dictatorship** noun absolute rule, undemocratic rule, despotism, tyranny, autocracy, autarchy, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, Fascism; oppression, repression.

– OPPOSITES democracy.

**diction** noun 1 *his careful diction:* enunciation, articulation, elocution, locution, pronunciation, speech, intonation, inflection; delivery. 2 *the need for contemporary diction in poetry:* phraseology, phrasing, turn of phrase, wording, language, usage, vocabulary, terminology, expressions, idioms.

**d** **dictionary** noun lexicon, wordbook, word list, glossary.

**WORD LINKS**

lexicography the compilation of dictionaries

**dictum** noun 1 *he received the head's dictum with evident reluctance:* pronouncement, proclamation, direction, injunction, dictate, command, commandment, order, decree, edict, mandate, diktat. 2 *the old dictum 'might is right':* saying, maxim, axiom, proverb, adage, aphorism, saw, precept, epigram, motto, truism, commonplace; expression, phrase, tag.

**didactic** adjective instructive, instructional, educational, educative, informative, informational, edifying, improving, preceptive, pedagogic, moralistic.

**die** verb 1 *her father died last year: pass away,* pass on, lose one's life, expire, breathe one's last, meet one's end, meet one's death, lay down one's life, perish, go the way of all flesh, go to one's last resting place, go to meet one's maker, cross the great divide; informal give up the ghost, kick the bucket, croak, buy it, turn up one's toes, cash in one's chips, shuffle off this mortal coil; Brit. informal snuff it, peg out, pop one's clogs; N. Amer. informal bite the big one, buy the farm; old use de cease, depart this life. 2 *the wind had died down:* abate, subside, drop, lessen, ease (off), let up, moderate, fade, dwindle, peter out, wane, ebb, relent, weaken; melt away, dissolve, vanish, disappear; old use remit. 3 (informal) *the engine died:* fail, cut out, give out, stop, break down, stop working; informal conk out, go kaput, give up the ghost; Brit. informal pack up. 4 (informal) *she's dying to meet you:* long, yearn, burn, ache; informal itch.

– OPPOSITES live, intensify.

**diehard** adjective *hard-line*, reactionary, ultra-conservative, conservative, traditionalist, dyed-in-the-wool, deep-dyed, intransigent, inflexible, uncompromising, rigid, entrenched, set in one's ways; staunch, steadfast; informal blimpish.

**diet**<sup>1</sup> noun *health problems related to your diet:* selection of food, food, foodstuffs; informal grub, nosh.

• verb *she dieted for most of her life:* be on a diet, eat sparingly; slim, lose weight, watch one's weight; N. Amer. reduce; informal weight-watch; N. Amer. informal slenderize.

**diet**<sup>2</sup> noun *the diet's lower house:* legislative assembly, legislature, parliament, congress, senate, council, assembly.

**differ** verb 1 *the second set of data differed from the first:* contrast with, be different/dissimilar to, be unlike, vary from, diverge

from, deviate from, conflict with, run counter to, be incompatible with, be at odds with, go against, contradict. 2 *the two sides differed over this issue:* disagree, conflict, be at variance/odds, be in dispute, not see eye to eye.

– OPPOSITES resemble, agree.

**difference** noun 1 *the difference between the two sets of data:* dissimilarity, contrast, distinction, differentiation, variance, variation, divergence, disparity, deviation, polarity, gulf, gap, imbalance, contradiction, contradistinction; formal dissimilitude.

2 *we've had our differences in the past:* disagreement, difference of opinion, dispute, argument, quarrel, wrangle, contretemps, altercation; informal tiff, set-to, run-in, spat; Brit. informal row. 3 *I am willing to pay the difference:* balance, remainder, rest, remaining amount, residue.

– OPPOSITES similarity.

**different** adjective 1 *people with different lifestyles:* dissimilar, unalike, unlike, contrasting, contrastive, divergent, differing, varying, disparate; poles apart, incompatible, mismatched, conflicting, clashing; informal like chalk and cheese.

2 *suddenly everything in her life was different:* changed, altered, transformed, new, unfamiliar, unknown, strange. 3 *two different occasions:* distinct, separate, individual, discrete, independent. 4 (informal) *he wanted to try something different:* unusual, out of the ordinary, unfamiliar, novel, new, fresh, original, unconventional, exotic, uncommon.

– OPPOSITES similar, related, ordinary.

**differential** adjective (technical) 1 *the differential achievements of boys and girls:* different, dissimilar, contrasting, unalike, divergent, disparate, contrastive. 2 *the differential features between benign and malignant tumours:* distinctive, distinguishing.

– OPPOSITES similar.

**differentiate** verb 1 *he was unable to differentiate between fantasy and reality:* distinguish, discriminate, make/draw a distinction, tell the difference, tell apart. 2 *this differentiates their business from all other booksellers:* make different, distinguish, set apart, single out, separate, mark off.

**differentiation** noun distinction, distinctness, difference; separation, demarcation, delimitation.

**difficult** adjective 1 *a very difficult job:* hard, strenuous, arduous, laborious, tough, onerous, burdensome, demanding, punishing, gruelling, back-breaking, exhausting, tiring, fatiguing, wearisome; informal hellish, killing, no picnic; old use toilsome. 2 *she found maths very difficult:* hard, complicated, complex, involved, impenetrable, unfathomable, over/above one's head, beyond one, puzzling, baffling, perplexing, confusing, mystifying; problematic, intricate, knotty, thorny,

ticklish. **3** *a difficult child*: troublesome, tiresome, trying, exasperating, awkward, demanding, perverse, contrary, unhelpful, unmanageable, obstreperous, unaccommodating, recalcitrant, uncooperative, disobliging; hard to please, fussy, finicky; formal refractory. **4** *you've come at a difficult time*: inconvenient, awkward, inopportune, unfavourable, unfortunate, inappropriate, unsuitable, untimely, ill-timed. **5** *the family have been through very difficult times*: bad, tough, grim, dark, black, hard, adverse, distressing; straitened, hard-pressed.

– OPPOSITES easy, simple, accommodating.

**difficulty** noun **1** *the difficulty of balancing motherhood with a career*: strain, trouble, problems, toil, struggle, laboriousness, arduousness; informal hassle, stress. **2** *practical difficulties*: problem, complication, snag, hitch, pitfall, handicap, impediment, hindrance, obstacle, hurdle, obstruction, barrier, stumbling block, fly in the ointment; Brit. spanner in the works; informal headache, hiccup. **3** *Charles got into difficulties*: trouble, predicament, plight, hard times, dire straits; quandary, dilemma; informal deep water, a fix, a jam, a spot, a scrape, a stew, a hole, a pickle.

– OPPOSITES ease.

**diffidence** noun shyness, bashfulness, modesty, self-effacement, meekness, unassertiveness, timidity, humility, hesitancy, reticence, insecurity, self-doubt, uncertainty, self-consciousness.

**diffident** adjective shy, bashful, modest, self-effacing, unassuming, meek, unconfident, unassertive, timid, timorous, humble, shrinking, reticent, hesitant, insecure, self-doubting, doubtful, uncertain, unsure, self-conscious; informal mousy.

– OPPOSITES confident.

**diffuse** verb *such ideas were diffused widely in the 1970s*: spread, spread around, send out, disseminate, scatter, disperse, distribute, put about, circulate, communicate, purvey, propagate, transmit, broadcast, promulgate.

• adjective **1** *a diffuse community centred on the church*: spread out, scattered. **2** *a diffuse narrative*: verbose, wordy, prolix, long-winded, long-drawn-out, discursive, rambling, wandering, meandering, maundering, digressive, circuitous, roundabout, circumlocutory, periphrastic; Brit. informal waffly.

**diffusion** noun spread, dissemination, scattering, dispersal, distribution, circulation, propagation, transmission, broadcasting, promulgation.

**dig** verb **1** *she began to dig the heavy clay soil*: turn over, work, break up; till, harrow, plough. **2** *he took a spade and dug a hole*: excavate, dig out, quarry, hollow out, scoop out, gouge out; cut, bore, tunnel, burrow, mine. **3** *the bodies were hastily dug up*: exhume, disinter, unearth. **4** *Winnie dug her elbow into his ribs*: poke, prod, jab, stab,

shove, ram, push, thrust, drive. **5** *he'd been digging into my past*: delve, probe, search, inquire, look, investigate, research, examine, scrutinize, check up on; informal check out.

**6** *I dug up some disturbing information*:

uncover, discover, find (out), unearth, dredge up, root out, ferret out, turn up, reveal, bring to light, expose. **7** (informal, dated) *I dig talking with him*. See **enjoy** verb sense 1.

• noun **1** *a dig in the ribs*: poke, prod, jab, stab, shove, push. **2** (informal) *they're always making digs at each other*: snide remark, cutting remark, jibe, jeer, taunt, sneer, insult, barb, insinuation; informal wisecrack, crack, put-down.

**digest** verb *Liz digested this information*: assimilate, absorb, take in, understand, comprehend, grasp; consider, think about, reflect on, ponder, contemplate, mull over. • noun *a digest of their findings*: summary, synopsis, abstract, précis, résumé, summation; compilation; N. Amer. informal wrap-up.

**digit** noun **1** *the door code has ten digits*: numeral, number, figure, integer. **2** *our frozen digits*: finger, thumb, toe; extremity.

**dignified** adjective stately, noble, courtly, majestic, distinguished, proud, august, lofty, exalted, regal, lordly, imposing, impressive, grand; solemn, serious, grave, formal, proper, ceremonious, decorous, reserved, composed, sedate.

**dignify** verb ennoble, enhance, distinguish, add distinction to, honour, grace, exalt, magnify, glorify, elevate.

**dignitary** noun worthy, personage, VIP, grandee, notable, notability, pillar of society, luminary, leading light, big name; informal heavyweight, bigwig, top brass, top dog, big gun, big shot, big noise, big cheese, big chief, supremo; N. Amer. informal big wheel, big kahuna, big enchilada, top banana.

**dignity** noun **1** *the dignity of the Crown*: stateliness, nobility, majesty, regality, courtliness, augustness, loftiness, lordliness, grandeur; solemnity, gravity, gravitas, formality, decorum, propriety, sedateness.

**2** *he had lost his dignity*: self-respect, pride, self-esteem, self-worth, amour propre.

**3** *Cnut promised dignities to the noblemen*: high rank, high standing, high station, status, elevation, eminence, honour, glory, greatness.

**digress** verb deviate, go off at a tangent, get off the subject, get sidetracked, lose the thread, diverge, turn aside/away, depart, drift, stray, wander.

**digression** noun deviation, detour, diversion, departure, divergence, excursus; aside, incidental remark.

**digs** plural noun (informal) lodgings, rooms, accommodation, living quarters; flat, house, home; informal pad, place; Brit. informal bedsit; formal abode, dwelling, dwelling place, residence, domicile, habitation.

**dilapidated** adjective run down, tumbledown, ramshackle, broken-down, in disrepair, shabby, battered, rickety, shaky,



unsound, crumbling, in ruins, ruined, decayed, decaying, decrepit; neglected, uncared-for, untended, the worse for wear, falling to pieces, falling apart, gone to rack and ruin, gone to seed.

**dilate** verb **1** *her nostrils dilated*: enlarge, widen, expand, distend. **2** *Diane dilated on the joys of her married life*: expatiate, expound, enlarge, elaborate, speak/write at length.

– OPPOSITES contract.

**dilatory** adjective **1** *he had been dilatory in appointing a solicitor*: slow, tardy, unhurried, sluggish, sluggardly, snail-like, tortoise-like, lazy. **2** *dilatory procedural tactics*: delaying, stalling, temporizing, procrastinating, time-wasting, Fabian.

– OPPOSITES fast.

**dilemma** noun quandary, predicament, catch-22, vicious circle, plight, mess, muddle; difficulty, problem, trouble, perplexity, confusion, conflict; informal no-win situation, fix, tight spot/corner; Brit. informal sticky wicket.

■ *on the horns of a dilemma* between the devil and the deep blue sea, between Scylla and Charybdis; informal between a rock and a hard place.

**dilettante** noun dabbler, amateur, non-professional, non-specialist, layman, layperson.

– OPPOSITES professional.

**diligence** noun conscientiousness, assiduousness, assiduity, hard work, application, concentration, effort, care, industriousness, rigour, meticulousness, thoroughness; perseverance, persistence, tenacity, dedication, commitment, tirelessness, indefatigability, doggedness.

**diligent** adjective **industrious**, hard-working, assiduous, conscientious, particular, punctilious, meticulous, painstaking, rigorous, careful, thorough, sedulous, earnest; persevering, persistent, tenacious, zealous, dedicated, committed, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, dogged; old use laborious.

– OPPOSITES lazy.

**dilly-dally** verb (informal) **waste time**, dally, dawdle, loiter, linger, take one's time, delay, temporize, stall, procrastinate, pussyfoot around, drag one's feet; dither, hesitate, falter, vacillate, waver; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal shilly-shally, let the grass grow under one's feet; old use tarry.

– OPPOSITES hurry.

**dilute** verb **1** *strong bleach can be diluted with water*: make weaker, weaken, water down; thin out, thin; doctor, adulterate; informal cut. **2** *the original plans have been diluted*: weaken, moderate, tone down, water down. • adjective *a dilute acid*. See **DILUTED**.

**diluted** adjective weak, dilute, thin, watered down, watery; adulterated.

– OPPOSITES concentrated.

**dim** adjective **1** *the dim light*: faint, weak, feeble, soft, pale, dull, subdued, muted, wishy-washy. **2** *long dim corridors*: dark,

badly lit, ill-lit, dingy, dismal, gloomy, murky; literary tenebrous. **3** *a dim figure*: indistinct, ill-defined, unclear, vague, shadowy, nebulous, obscured, blurred, blurry, fuzzy. **4** *dim memories*: vague, imprecise, imperfect, unclear, indistinct, sketchy, hazy, blurred, shadowy. **5** (informal) *I'm awfully dim*. See **STUPID** sense 1. **6** *their prospects for the future looked dim*: gloomy, unpromising, unfavourable, discouraging, disheartening, depressing, dispiriting, hopeless.

– OPPOSITES bright, distinct, encouraging.

• verb **1** *the lights were dimmed*: turn down, lower, dip, soften, subdue, mute; literary bedim. **2** *my memories have not dimmed with time*: fade, become vague, dwindle, blur. **3** *the fighting dimmed hopes of peace*: diminish, reduce, lessen, weaken, undermine.

– OPPOSITES brighten, sharpen, intensify.

**dimension** noun **1** *the dimensions of the room*: size, measurements, proportions, extent; length, width, breadth, depth, area, volume, capacity; footage, acreage. **2** *the dimension of the problem*: size, scale, extent, scope, magnitude; importance, significance. **3** *the cultural dimensions of the problem*: aspect, feature, element, facet, side.

**diminish** verb **1** *the pain will gradually diminish*: decrease, lessen, decline, reduce, subside, die down, abate, dwindle, fade, slacken off, moderate, let up, ebb, wane, recede, die away/out, peter out; old use remit. **2** *new legislation diminished the courts' authority*: reduce, decrease, lessen, curtail, cut, cut down/back, constrict, restrict, limit, curb, check; weaken, blunt, erode, undermine, sap. **3** *she lost no opportunity to diminish him*: belittle, disparage, denigrate, defame, deprecate, run down; decry, demean, cheapen, devalue; formal derogate.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**diminution** noun reduction, decrease, lessening, decline, dwindling, moderation, fading, weakening, ebb.

**diminutive** adjective tiny, small, little, petite, elfin, minute, miniature, mini, minuscule, compact, pocket, toy, midget, undersized, short; Scottish wee; informal teeny, weeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, itty-bitty, itsy-bitsy, tiddly, dinky, baby, pint-sized, knee-high to a grasshopper; Brit. informal titchy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

– OPPOSITES enormous.

**dimple** noun indentation, hollow, cleft, dint.

**dimwit** noun (informal). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**dim-witted** adjective (informal). See **STUPID** senses 1, 2.

**din** noun *he shouted above the din*: noise, racket, rumpus, cacophony, babel, hubbub, tumult, uproar, commotion, clangour, clatter; shouting, yelling, screaming, caterwauling, clamour, outcry; Scottish & N. English stramash; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row.

– OPPOSITES silence.

• verb **1** *she had had the evils of drink*

*dinned into her:* instil, inculcate, drive, drum, hammer, drill, ingrain; indoctrinate, brainwash. **2** *the sound dinning in my ears:* blare, blast, clang, clatter, crash, clamour.

**dine** verb **1** *we dined at a restaurant:* have dinner, have supper, eat; dated sup, break bread. **2** *they dined on lobster:* eat, feed on, feast on, banquet on, partake of; informal tuck into.

**dingle** noun (literary) valley, dale, vale, hollow; Brit. dene; Scottish glen, strath; literary dell.

**dingy** adjective gloomy, dark, dull, badly/poorly lit, murky, dim, dismal, dreary, drab, sombre, grim, cheerless; dirty, grimy, shabby, faded, worn, dowdy, seedy, run down.

—OPPOSITES bright.

**dinky** adjective (Brit. informal) small, little, petite, dainty, neat, diminutive, mini, miniature; sweet, cute, dear, adorable; Scottish wee; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

**dinner** noun evening meal, supper, main meal; lunch; feast, banquet, dinner party; Brit. tea; informal spread, blowout; Brit. informal nosh-up, slap-up meal; formal repast.

**dint** noun dent, indentation, hollow, depression, dip, dimple, cleft, pit.  
■ *by dint of* by means of, by virtue of, on account of, as a result of, as a consequence of, owing to, on the strength of, due to, thanks to, by; formal by reason of.

**diocese** noun bishopric, see.

**dip** verb **1** *he dipped a rag in the water:* immerse, submerge, plunge, duck, dunk, lower, sink. **2** *the sun dipped below the horizon:* sink, set, drop, go/drop down, fall, descend; disappear, vanish. **3** *the president's popularity has dipped:* decrease, fall, drop, fall off, decline, diminish, dwindle, slump, plummet, plunge; informal hit the floor. **4** *the road dipped:* slope down, descend, go down; drop away, fall, sink. **5** *he dipped his headlights:* dim, lower, turn down. **6** *you might have to dip into your savings:* draw on, use, make use of, have recourse to, spend. **7** *an interesting book to dip into:* browse through, skim through, look through, flick through, glance at, peruse, run one's eye over.

—OPPOSITES rise, increase.

● noun **1** *a relaxing dip in the pool:* swim, bathe; paddle. **2** *give the fish a ten-minute dip in a salt bath:* immersion, plunge, ducking, dunking. **3** *chicken satay with peanut dip:* sauce, relish, dressing. **4** *the hedge at the bottom of the dip:* slope, incline, decline, descent; hollow, concavity, depression, basin, indentation. **5** *a dip in sales:* decrease, fall, drop, downturn, decline, falling-off, slump, reduction, diminution, ebb.

**diplomacy** noun **1** *diplomacy failed to win them independence:* statesmanship, statecraft, negotiation(s), discussion(s), talks, dialogue; international relations, foreign affairs. **2** *Jack's quiet diplomacy:* tact, tactfulness, sensitivity, discretion, subtlety, finesse, delicacy, savoir faire, politeness,

thoughtfulness, care, judiciousness, prudence.

**diplomat** noun ambassador, attaché, consul, chargé d'affaires, envoy, emissary, plenipotentiary; old use legate.

**diplomatic** adjective **1** *diplomatic activity:* ambassadorial, consular, foreign-office. **2** *he tried to be diplomatic:* tactful, sensitive, subtle, delicate, polite, discreet, thoughtful, careful, judicious, prudent, politic, clever, skilful.

—OPPOSITES tactless.

**dire** adjective **1** *the dire economic situation:* terrible, dreadful, appalling, frightful, awful, atrocious, grim, alarming; grave, serious, disastrous, ruinous, hopeless, irretrievable, wretched, desperate, parlous; formal grievous. **2** *he was in dire need of help:* urgent, desperate, pressing, crying, sore, grave, serious, extreme, acute, drastic. **3** *dire warnings of fuel shortages:* ominous, gloomy, grim, dismal, unpropitious, inauspicious, unfavourable, pessimistic. **4** (informal) *the concert was dire.* See **AWFUL** sense 2.

**direct** adjective **1** *the most direct route:* straight, undeviating, unswerving; shortest, quickest. **2** *a direct flight:* non-stop, unbroken, uninterrupted, through. **3** *he is very direct:* frank, candid, straightforward, honest, open, blunt, plain-spoken, outspoken, forthright, downright, no-nonsense, matter-of-fact, not afraid to call a spade a spade; informal upfront. **4** *direct contact with the president:* face to face, personal, head-on, immediate, first-hand, tête-à-tête. **5** *a direct quotation:* verbatim, word for word, to the letter, faithful, exact, precise, accurate, correct. **6** *the direct opposite:* exact, absolute, complete, diametrical.

● verb **1** *an economic elite directed the nation's affairs:* manage, govern, run, administer, control, conduct, handle, be in charge/control of, preside over, lead, head, rule, be at the helm of, helm; supervise, superintend, oversee, regulate, orchestrate, coordinate; informal run the show, call the shots/tune, be in the driving seat. **2** *was that remark directed at me?* aim at, target at, address to, intend for, mean for, design for. **3** *a man in uniform directed them to the hall:* give directions, show the way, guide, lead, conduct, accompany, usher, escort. **4** *the judge directed the jury to return a not guilty verdict:* instruct, tell, command, order, charge, require; literary bid.

**direction** noun **1** *a northerly direction:* way, route, course, line, run, bearing, orientation. **2** *the newspaper's political direction:* orientation, inclination, leaning, tendency, bent, bias, preference; drift, tack, attitude, tone, tenor, mood, current, trend. **3** *his direction of the project:* administration, management, conduct, handling, running, supervision, superintendence, regulation, orchestration; control, command, rule, leadership, guidance. **4** *explicit directions about nursing care:* instruction, order,

command, prescription, rule, regulation, requirement.

**directive** noun instruction, direction, command, order, charge, injunction, prescription, rule, ruling, regulation, law, dictate, decree, dictum, edict, mandate, fiat; formal ordinance.

**directly** adverb **1** *they flew directly to New York*: straight, right, as the crow flies, by a direct route. **2** *I went directly after breakfast*: immediately, at once, instantly, right away, straight away, post-haste, without delay, without hesitation, forthwith; quickly, speedily, promptly; informal pronto. **3** *the houses directly opposite*: exactly, right, immediately; diametrically; informal bang. **4** *she spoke simply and directly*: frankly, candidly, openly, bluntly, forthrightly, without beating around the bush.

**director** noun administrator, manager, chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, chair, head, chief, principal, leader, governor, president; managing director, MD, chief executive, CEO; supervisor, controller, overseer; informal boss, kingpin, top dog, gaffer, head honcho, numero uno; N. Amer. informal Mister Big.

**directory** noun index, list, listing, register, catalogue, record, archive, inventory.

**dirge** noun elegy, lament, threnody, requiem, dead march; Irish keen; Irish & Scottish coronach.

**dirt** noun **1** *his face was streaked with dirt*: grime, filth; dust, soot, smut; muck, mud, mire, sludge, slime, ooze, dross; smudges, stains; informal crud, yuck, grunge; Brit. informal grot, gunge. **2** *the packed dirt of the road*: earth, soil, loam, clay, silt; ground. **3** (informal) *dog dirt*. See **EXCREMENT**. **4** (informal) *they tried to dig up dirt on the President*: scandal, gossip, revelations, rumour(s); information.

**dirty** adjective **1** *a dirty sweatshirt* | *dirty water*: soiled, grimy, grubby, filthy, mucky, stained, unwashed, greasy, smeared, smeary, spotted, smudged, cloudy, muddy, dusty, sooty; unclean, sullied, impure, tarnished, polluted, contaminated, defiled, foul, unhygienic, insanitary, unsanitary; informal cruddy, yucky, icky; Brit. informal manky, gungy, grotty; literary befouled, besmirched, begrimed. **2** *a dirty joke*: indecent, obscene, rude, naughty, vulgar, smutty, coarse, crude, filthy, bawdy, suggestive, ribald, racy, salacious, risqué, offensive, off colour, lewd, pornographic, explicit, X-rated; informal blue; euphemistic adult. **3** *dirty tricks*: dishonest, deceitful, unscrupulous, dishonourable, unsporting, ungentlemanly, below the belt, unfair, unethical, unprincipled; crooked, double-dealing, underhand, sly, crafty, devious, sneaky; Brit. informal out of order, not cricket. **4** (informal) *a dirty cheat*: despicable, contemptible, hateful, vile, low, mean, unworthy, worthless, beyond contempt, sordid; informal rotten; old use scurvy. **5** *a dirty look*: malevolent, resentful, hostile, black, dark; angry, cross, indignant, annoyed, disapproving; informal peevish. **6** *dirty weather*: unpleasant, nasty, foul, inclement,

bad; rough, stormy, squally, gusty, windy, blowy, rainy; murky, overcast, louring.

– **OPPOSITES** clean, innocent, honourable, pleasant.

• **verb** *the dog had dirtied her dress*: soil, stain, muddy, blacken, mess up, mark, spatter, bespatter, smudge, smear, splatter; sully, pollute, foul, defile; literary befoul, besmirch, begrime.

– **OPPOSITES** clean.

**disability** noun handicap, disablement, incapacity, impairment, infirmity, defect, abnormality; condition, disorder, affliction.

**disable** verb **1** *an injury that could disable somebody for life*: incapacitate, put out of action, debilitate; handicap, cripple, lame, maim, immobilize, paralyse. **2** *the bomb squad disabled the device*: deactivate, defuse, disarm. **3** *he was disabled from holding public office*: disqualify, prevent, preclude.

**disabled** adjective handicapped, incapacitated; debilitated, infirm, out of action; crippled, lame, paralysed, immobilized, bedridden; euphemistic physically challenged, differently abled.

– **OPPOSITES** able-bodied.

**disabuse** verb disillusion, set straight, open someone's eyes, correct, enlighten, disenchant, shatter someone's illusions.

**disadvantage** noun drawback, snag, downside, stumbling block, fly in the ointment, catch, hindrance, obstacle, impediment; flaw, defect, weakness, fault, handicap, con, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication, nuisance; Brit. disbenefit, spanner in the works; informal minus.

– **OPPOSITES** benefit.

**disadvantaged** adjective deprived, underprivileged, depressed, in need, needy, poor, impoverished, indigent, hard up; Brit. on the breadline.

**disadvantageous** adjective unfavourable, adverse, unfortunate, unlucky, bad; detrimental, prejudicial, deleterious, harmful, damaging, injurious, hurtful; inconvenient, inopportune, ill-timed, untimely, inexpedient.

**disaffected** adjective dissatisfied, disgruntled, discontented, malcontent, frustrated, alienated; disloyal, rebellious, mutinous, seditious, dissident, up in arms; hostile, antagonistic, unfriendly.

– **OPPOSITES** contented.

**disagree** verb **1** *no one was willing to disagree with him*: take issue, challenge, contradict, oppose; be at variance/odds, not see eye to eye, differ, dissent, be in dispute, debate, argue, quarrel, wrangle, clash, be at loggerheads, cross swords, lock horns; formal gainsay. **2** *their accounts disagree on details*: differ, be dissimilar, be different, vary, diverge; contradict each other, conflict, clash, contrast. **3** *the spicy food disagreed with her*: make ill, make unwell, nauseate, sicken, upset.

**disagreeable** adjective **1** *a disagreeable smell*: unpleasant, displeasing, nasty, offensive, off-putting, obnoxious,



objectionable, horrible, horrid, dreadful, frightful, abominable, odious, repugnant, repulsive, repellent, revolting, disgusting, foul, vile, nauseating, sickening, unpalatable. **2** *a disagreeable man*: **bad-tempered**, ill-tempered, curmudgeonly, cross, crabbed, irritable, grumpy, peevish, sullen, prickly; unfriendly, unpleasant, nasty, mean, mean-spirited, rude, surly, discourteous, impolite, brusque, abrupt, churlish, disobliging.

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**disagreement** noun **1** *there was some disagreement over possible solutions*: **dissent**, dispute, difference of opinion, variance, controversy, discord, contention, division. **2** *a heated disagreement*: **argument**, debate, quarrel, wrangle, squabble, falling-out, altercation, dispute, disputation, war of words, contretemps; informal tiff, set-to, spat, ding-dong; Brit. informal row, barney; Scottish informal rammy. **3** *the disagreement between the results of the two assessments*: **difference**, dissimilarity, variation, variance, discrepancy, disparity, divergence, deviation, nonconformity; incompatibility, contradiction, conflict, clash, contrast; formal dissimilitude.

**disallow** verb **reject**, refuse, dismiss, say no to; ban, bar, block, debar, forbid, prohibit; cancel, invalidate, overrule, quash, overturn, countermand, reverse, throw out, set aside; informal give the thumbs down to.

**disappear** verb **1** *by 4 o'clock the mist had disappeared*: **vanish**, pass from sight, be lost to view/sight, recede from view; fade (away), melt away, clear, dissolve, disperse, evaporate, dematerialize; literary evanesce. **2** *this way of life has disappeared*: **die out**, fade, cease to exist, come to an end, end, pass away, pass into oblivion, perish, vanish.

– OPPOSITES materialize.

**disappoint** verb **1** *I'm sorry to have disappointed you*: **let down**, fail, dissatisfy, dash someone's hopes; upset, dismay, sadden, disenchant, disillusion, shatter someone's illusions, disabuse. **2** *his hopes were disappointed*: **thwart**, frustrate, foil, dash, put a/the damper on; informal throw cold water on.

– OPPOSITES fulfil.

**disappointed** adjective **upset**, saddened, let down, cast down, disheartened, downhearted, downcast, depressed, dispirited, discouraged, despondent, dismayed, crestfallen, distressed, chagrined; disenchanted, disillusioned; displeased, discontented, dissatisfied, frustrated, disgruntled; informal choked, miffed, cut up; Brit. informal gutted, as sick as a parrot.

– OPPOSITES pleased.

**disappointing** adjective **regrettable**, unfortunate, sorry, discouraging, disheartening, dispiriting, depressing, dismaying, upsetting, saddening; dissatisfactory, unsatisfactory; informal not all it's cracked up to be.

**disappointment** noun **1** *she tried to hide*

*her disappointment*: **sadness**, regret, dismay, sorrow; dispiritedness, despondency, distress, chagrin; disenchantment, disillusionment; displeasure, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement. **2** *the trip was a bit of a disappointment*: **let-down**, non-event, anticlimax; Brit. damp squib; informal washout, lead balloon.

– OPPOSITES satisfaction.

**disapprobation** noun. See **DISAPPROVAL**.

**disapproval** noun **disapprobation**, objection, dislike; dissatisfaction, disfavour, displeasure, distaste, exception; criticism, censure, condemnation, denunciation, deprecation.

**disapprove** verb **1** *he disapproved of gamblers*: **object to**, have a poor opinion of, look down one's nose at, take exception to, dislike, take a dim view of, look askance at, frown on, be against, not believe in; deplore, criticize, censure, condemn, denounce, decry, deprecate. **2** *the board disapproved the plan*: **reject**, veto, refuse, turn down, disallow, throw out, dismiss, rule against; informal give the thumbs down to.

**disapproving** adjective **reproachful**, reproving, critical, censorious, condemnatory, disparaging, denigratory, deprecatory, unfavourable; dissatisfied, displeased, hostile.

**disarm** verb **1** *the UN must disarm the country*: **demilitarize**, demobilize. **2** *the militia refused to disarm*: **lay down one's arms**, demilitarize; literary turn swords into ploughshares. **3** *police disarmed the bomb*: **defuse**, disable, deactivate, put out of action, make harmless. **4** *the warmth in his voice disarmed her*: **win over**, charm, persuade, thaw; mollify, appease, placate, pacify, conciliate, propitiate.

**disarmament** noun **demilitarization**, demobilization, decommissioning; arms reduction, arms limitation, arms control; the zero option.

**disarming** adjective **winning**, charming, irresistible, persuasive, beguiling; conciliatory, mollifying.

**disarrange** verb **disorder**, throw into disarray/disorder, put out of place, disorganize, disturb, displace; mess up, make untidy, make a mess of, jumble, mix up, muddle, turn upside-down, scatter; dishevel, tousle, rumple; informal turn topsy-turvy, make a shambles of; N. Amer. informal muss up.

**disarray** noun *the room was in disarray*: **disorder**, confusion, chaos, untidiness, disorganization, dishevelment, mess, muddle, clutter, jumble, tangle, hotchpotch, shambles.

– OPPOSITES tidiness.

• verb *her clothes were disarrayed*. See **DISARRANGE**.

**disassemble** verb **dismantle**, take apart, take to pieces, take to bits, deconstruct, break up, strip down.

**disaster** noun **1** *a railway disaster*: **catastrophe**, calamity, cataclysm, tragedy,

act of God, holocaust; accident. **2** *a string of personal disasters*: **misfortune**, mishap, misadventure, mischance, setback, reversal, stroke of bad luck, blow. **3** (informal) *the film was a disaster*: **failure**, fiasco, catastrophe, debacle; informal flop, dud, washout, dead loss.

– OPPOSITES success.

**disastrous** adjective **catastrophic**, calamitous, cataclysmic, tragic; devastating, ruinous, harmful, dire, terrible, awful, shocking, appalling, dreadful; black, dark, unfortunate, unlucky, ill-fated, ill-starred, inauspicious; formal grievous.

**disavow** verb **deny**, disclaim, disown, wash one's hands of, repudiate, reject, renounce.

**disavowal** noun **denial**, rejection, repudiation, renunciation, disclaimer.

**disband** verb **break up**, disperse, demobilize, dissolve, scatter, separate, go their separate ways, part company.

– OPPOSITES assemble.

**disbelief** noun **1** *she stared at him in disbelief*: **incredulity**, incredulousness, scepticism, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness; cynicism, suspicion, distrust, mistrust; formal dubiety. **2** *I'll burn in hell for disbelief*: **atheism**, unbelief, godlessness, irreligion, agnosticism, nihilism.

**disbelieve** verb **not believe**, give no credence to, discredit, discount, doubt, distrust, mistrust, be incredulous, be unconvinced; reject, repudiate, question, challenge; informal take with a pinch of salt.

**disbeliever** noun **unbeliever**, non-believer, atheist, irreligionist, nihilist; sceptic, doubter, agnostic, doubting Thomas, cynic; rare nullifidian.

**disbelieving** adjective **incredulous**, doubtful, dubious, unconvinced; distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, cynical, sceptical.

**disburden** verb **relieve**, free, liberate, unburden, disencumber, discharge, excuse, absolve.

**disburse** verb **pay out**, spend, expend, dole out, dish out, hand out, part with, donate, give; informal fork out, shell out, lay out; Brit. informal stump up; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up.

**disc, disk** noun **1** *the sun was a huge scarlet disc*: **circle**, round, saucer, discuss, ring. **2** *computer disks*: **diskette**, floppy disk, floppy; hard disk; CD-ROM. **3** *an old T-Rex disc*: **record**, gramophone record, album, LP, vinyl.

**discard** verb **dispose of**, throw away/out, get rid of, toss out, jettison, scrap, dispense with, cast aside/off, throw on the scrap heap; reject, repudiate, abandon, drop, have done with, shed; informal chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash.

– OPPOSITES keep.

**discern** verb **perceive**, make out, pick out, detect, recognize, notice, observe, see, spot; identify, determine, distinguish; literary descry, espy.

**discernible** adjective **visible**, detectable,

noticeable, perceptible, observable, distinguishable, recognizable, identifiable; apparent, evident, distinct, appreciable, clear, obvious, manifest, conspicuous.

**discerning** adjective **discriminating**, judicious, shrewd, clever, astute, intelligent, sharp, selective, sophisticated, tasteful, sensitive, perceptive, perceptive, perspicacious, wise, aware, knowing.

**discharge** verb **1** *he was discharged from the RAF*: **dismiss**, eject, expel, throw out, give someone notice, make redundant; release, let go; Military cashier; informal sack, give someone the sack, fire, boot out, give someone the boot, turf out, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push. **2** *he was discharged from prison*: **release**, free, set free, let go, liberate, let out. **3** *oil is routinely discharged from ships*: **send out**, release, eject, let out, pour out, void, give off.

**4** *the swelling will burst and discharge pus*: **emit**, exude, ooze, leak. **5** *he accidentally discharged a pistol*: **fire**, shoot, let off; set off, loose off, trigger, explode, detonate. **6** *the ferry was discharging passengers*: **unload**, offload, put off; remove; old use unlade.

**7** *they discharged their duties efficiently*: **carry out**, perform, execute, conduct, do; fulfil, accomplish, achieve, complete. **8** *the executor must discharge the funeral expenses*: **pay**, pay off, settle, clear, honour, meet, liquidate, defray, make good; informal square.

– OPPOSITES recruit, imprison, absorb.

• noun **1** *his discharge from the service*: **dismissal**, release, removal, ejection, expulsion, congé; Military cashiering; informal the sack, the boot. **2** *her discharge from prison*: **release**, liberation. **3** *a discharge of diesel oil into the river*: **leak**, leakage, emission, release, flow. **4** *a watery discharge from the eyes*: **emission**, secretion, excretion, seepage, suppuration; pus, matter; Medicine exudate. **5** *a single discharge of his gun*: **shot**, firing, blast; explosion, detonation. **6** *the discharge of their duties*: **carrying out**, performance, performing, execution, conduct; fulfilment, accomplishment, completion. **7** *the discharge of all debts*: **payment**, repayment, settlement, clearance, meeting, liquidation, defrayal.

**disciple** noun **1** *the disciples of Jesus*: **apostle**, follower. **2** *a disciple of Rousseau*: **follower**, adherent, believer, admirer, devotee, acolyte, votary; pupil, student, learner; upholder, supporter, advocate, proponent, apologist; epigone.

**disciplinarian** noun **martinet**, hard taskmaster, authoritarian, stickler for discipline; tyrant, despot; N. Amer. ramrod; informal slave-driver.

**discipline** noun **1** *a lack of proper parental discipline*: **control**, training, teaching, instruction, regulation, direction, order, authority, rule, strictness, a firm hand; routine, regimen, drill, drilling. **2** *he was able to maintain discipline among his men*: **good behaviour**, orderliness, control, obedience; self-control, self-discipline,

self-government, self-restraint. **3** *sociology is a fairly new discipline: field (of study), branch of knowledge, subject, area; speciality, specialty.*

• **verb 1** *she had disciplined herself to ignore the pain:* train, drill, teach, school, coach; regiment. **2** *she learned to discipline her emotions:* control, restrain, regulate, govern, keep in check, check, curb, keep a tight rein on, rein in, bridle, tame, bring into line. **3** *he was disciplined by the management:* punish, penalize, bring to book; reprimand, rebuke, reprove, chastise, upbraid; informal dress down, give someone a dressing-down, rap over the knuckles, give someone a roasting; Brit. informal carpet; formal castigate.

**disclaim** verb **1** *the school disclaimed responsibility for his death:* deny, refuse to accept/acknowledge, reject, wash one's hands of. **2** (Law) *the earl disclaimed his title:* renounce, relinquish, resign, give up, abandon.

– OPPOSITES accept.

**disclose** verb **1** *the information must not be disclosed to anyone:* reveal, make known, divulge, tell, impart, communicate, pass on, vouchsafe; release, make public, broadcast, publish, report, unveil; leak, betray, let slip, let drop, give away; informal let on, blab, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag; Brit. informal blow the gaff; old use discover, unbosom. **2** *exploratory surgery disclosed an aneurysm:* uncover, reveal, show, bring to light.

– OPPOSITES conceal.

**disclosure** noun **1** *she was embarrassed by this unexpected disclosure:* revelation, declaration, announcement, news, report; exposé, leak. **2** *the disclosure of official information:* publishing, broadcasting; revelation, communication, release, uncovering, unveiling, exposure; leakage.

**discoloration** noun stain, mark, patch, soiling, streak, spot, blotch, tarnishing; blemish, flaw, defect, bruise, contusion; birthmark, naevus; liver spot, age spot; informal splodge, splotch; Medicine ecchymosis.

**discolour** verb stain, mark, soil, dirty, streak, smear, spot, tarnish, sully, spoil, mar, blemish; blacken, char; fade, bleach.

**discoloured** adjective stained, marked, spotted, dirty, soiled, tarnished, blackened; bleached, faded, yellowed.

**discomfit** verb embarrass, abash, disconcert, nonplus, discompose, discomfort, take aback, unsettle, unnerve, put someone off their stroke, ruffle, confuse, fluster, agitate, disorientate, upset, disturb, perturb, distress; chagrin, mortify; informal faze, rattle; N. Amer. informal discombobulate.

**discomfiture** noun embarrassment, unease, uneasiness, awkwardness, discomfort, discomposure, abashment, confusion, agitation, nervousness, disorientation, perturbation, distress; chagrin, mortification, shame, humiliation; N. Amer. informal discombobulation.

**discomfort** noun **1** *abdominal discomfort:* pain, aches and pains, soreness, tenderness, irritation, stiffness; ache, twinge, pang, throb, cramp; Brit. informal gyp. **2** *the discomforts of life at sea:* inconvenience, difficulty, bother, nuisance, vexation, drawback, disadvantage, trouble, problem, trial, tribulation, hardship; informal hassle. **3** *Ruth flushed and Thomas noticed her discomfort:* embarrassment, discomfiture, unease, uneasiness, awkwardness, discomposure, confusion, nervousness, flusteredness, perturbation, distress, anxiety; chagrin, mortification, shame, humiliation.

• **verb** *his purpose was to discomfort the Prime Minister.* See DISCOMFIT.

**discomposure** noun agitation, discomfiture, discomfort, uneasiness, unease, confusion, disorientation, perturbation, distress, nervousness; anxiety, worry, consternation, disquiet, disquietude; embarrassment, abashment, chagrin, loss of face; N. Amer. informal discombobulation.

**disconcert** verb unsettle, nonplus, discomfit, throw/catch off balance, take aback, rattle, unnerve, disorient, perturb, disturb, perplex, confuse, bewilder, baffle, fluster, ruffle, shake, upset, agitate, worry, dismay, discountenance; surprise, take by surprise, startle, put someone off (their stroke/stride), distract; informal throw, faze; N. Amer. informal discombobulate.

**disconcerting** adjective unsettling, unnerving, discomfiting, disturbing, perturbing, troubling, upsetting, worrying, alarming, distracting, off-putting; confusing, bewildering, perplexing.

**disconnect** verb **1** *the trucks were disconnected from the train:* detach, disengage, uncouple, decouple, unhook, unhitch, undo, unfasten, unyoke. **2** *she felt as if she had been disconnected from the real world:* separate, cut off, divorce, sever, isolate, divide, part, disengage, dissociate, remove. **3** *an engineer disconnected the appliance:* deactivate, shut off, turn off, switch off, unplug.

– OPPOSITES attach.

**disconnected** adjective **1** *a world that seemed disconnected from reality:* detached, separate, separated, divorced, cut off, isolated, dissociated, disengaged; apart. **2** *a disconnected narrative:* disjointed, incoherent, garbled, mixed up, confused, jumbled, rambling, wandering, disorganized, uncoordinated, ill-thought-out.

**disconsolate** adjective sad, unhappy, doleful, weebegone, dejected, downcast, downhearted, despondent, dispirited, crestfallen, cast down, depressed, down, disappointed, disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, low-spirited, forlorn, in the doldrums, melancholy, miserable, long-faced, glum, gloomy; informal blue, choked, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.



d

**discontent** noun dissatisfaction, disaffection, discontentment, discontentedness, disgruntlement, grievances, unhappiness, displeasure, bad feelings, resentment, envy; restlessness, unrest, uneasiness, unease, frustration, irritation, annoyance; informal a chip on one's shoulder.

– OPPOSITES satisfaction.

**discontented** adjective dissatisfied, disgruntled, disaffected, discontent, malcontent, unhappy, aggrieved, displeased, resentful, envious; restless, frustrated, irritated, annoyed; informal fed up, fed up to the (back) teeth, browned off, hacked off; Brit. informal cheesed off, brassed off; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off.

– OPPOSITES satisfied.

**discontinue** verb stop, end, terminate, put an end to, put a stop to, wind up, finish, call a halt to, cancel, drop, abandon, disperse with, do away with, get rid of, axe, abolish; suspend, interrupt, break off, withdraw; informal cut, pull the plug on, scrap, knock something on the head.

**discontinuity** noun disconnectedness, disconnection, break, disruption, interruption, disjointedness.

**discontinuous** adjective intermittent, sporadic, broken, fitful, interrupted, on and off, disrupted, erratic, disconnected.

**discord** noun **1** stress resulting from family discord: strife, conflict, friction, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, enmity, bad feeling, ill feeling, bad blood, argument, quarrelling, squabbling, bickering, wrangling, feuding, contention, disagreement, dissension, dispute, difference of opinion, disunity, division, opposition. **2** the music faded in discord: dissonance, discordance, disharmony, cacophony, jangling.

– OPPOSITES accord, harmony.

**discordant** adjective **1** the messages from Washington and London were discordant: different, in disagreement, at variance, at odds, divergent, discrepant, contradictory, contrary, in conflict, conflicting, opposite, opposed, opposing, clashing; incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable. **2** discordant sounds: inharmonious, tuneless, off-key, dissonant, harsh, jarring, grating, jangling, jangly, strident, shrill, screeching, screechy, cacophonous; sharp, flat.

– OPPOSITES harmonious.

**discount** noun students get a 10 per cent discount: reduction, deduction, markdown, price cut, cut, concession; rebate.

• verb **1** I'd heard rumours, but discounted them: disregard, pay no attention to, take no notice of, take no account of, dismiss, ignore, overlook, disbelieve, reject; informal take with a pinch of salt, pooh-pooh. **2** the RRP is discounted in many stores: reduce, mark down, cut, lower; informal knock down. **3** top Paris hotels discounted 20 per cent off published room rates: deduct, take off, rebate; informal knock off, slash.

– OPPOSITES believe, increase.

**discouragement** verb **1** she was not discouraged by the accusation: disconcert, discomfit, unsettle, nonplus, throw/catch off balance, take aback, unnerve, disorient, perturb, disturb, perplex, fluster, ruffle, shake, upset, agitate, worry, dismay, discompose, abash; informal throw, faze, rattle; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** a family environment in which alcohol consumption is discouraged: disapprove of, frown on, take a dim view of, object to.

**discourage** verb **1** we want to discourage children from smoking: deter, dissuade, disincline, put off, talk out of; advise against, urge against. **2** she was discouraged by his hostile tone: dishearten, dispirit, demoralize, cast down, depress, disappoint, dash someone's hopes; put off, unnerve, daunt, intimidate, cow, crush. **3** he sought to discourage further conversation: prevent, stop, put a stop to, avert, fend off, stave off, ward off; inhibit, hinder, check, curb, put a damper on, throw cold water on.

– OPPOSITES encourage.

**discouraged** adjective disheartened, dispirited, demoralized, deflated, disappointed, let down, disconsolate, despondent, dejected, cast down, downcast, depressed, crestfallen, dismayed, low-spirited, gloomy, glum, pessimistic, unenthusiastic; put off, daunted, intimidated, cowed, crushed; informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, unenthused; old use chap-fallen.

**discouraging** adjective depressing, demoralizing, disheartening, dispiriting, disappointing, gloomy, off-putting; unfavourable, unpromising, inauspicious.

– OPPOSITES encouraging.

**discourse** noun **1** they prolonged their discourse outside the door: discussion, conversation, talk, dialogue, conference, debate, consultation; parley, powwow, chat; informal confab; formal confabulation, colloquy; old use converse. **2** a discourse on critical theory: essay, treatise, dissertation, paper, study, critique, monograph, disquisition, tract; lecture, address, speech, oration; sermon, homily.

• verb **1** he discoursed at length on his favourite topic: hold forth, expatiate, pontificate; talk, give a talk, give a speech, lecture, sermonize, preach; informal spout, sound off; formal perorate. **2** Edward was discoursing with his friends: converse, talk, speak, debate, confer, consult, parley, chat; formal confabulate.

**discourteous** adjective rude, impolite, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, disrespectful, uncivil, unmannerly, unchivalrous, ungentlemanly, unladylike, ill-bred, churlish, boorish, crass, ungracious, graceless, uncouth; insolent, impudent, cheeky, audacious, presumptuous; curt, brusque, blunt, offhand, unceremonious, short, sharp; informal ignorant; old use malapert.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**discourtesy** noun rudeness, impoliteness, ill manners, bad manners, incivility, disrespect, ungraciousness, churlishness, boorishness, ill breeding, uncouthness, crassness; insolence, impudence, impertinence; curtness, brusqueness, abruptness.

**discover** verb **1** *firemen discovered a body in the debris*: find, locate, come across/upon, stumble on, chance on, light on, bring to light, uncover, unearth, turn up; track down, run to earth, run to ground. **2** *eventually, I discovered the truth*: find out, learn, realize, recognize, see, ascertain, work out, fathom out, dig up/out, ferret out, root out; informal figure out, tumble to; Brit. informal twig, rumble, suss out; N. Amer. informal dope out. **3** *scientists discovered a new way of dating fossil crustaceans*: hit on, come up with, invent, originate, devise, design, contrive, conceive of; pioneer, develop.

**discoverer** noun originator, inventor, creator, deviser, designer; pioneer.

**discovery** noun **1** *the discovery of the body*: finding, location, uncovering, unearthing. **2** *the discovery that she was pregnant*: realization, recognition; revelation, disclosure. **3** *the discovery of new drugs*: invention, origination, devising; pioneering. **4** *he failed to take out a patent on his discoveries*: find, finding; invention, breakthrough, innovation.

**discredit** verb **1** *an attempt to discredit him and his company*: bring into disrepute, disgrace, dishonour, damage the reputation of, blacken the name of, put/show in a bad light, reflect badly on, compromise, stigmatize, smear, tarnish, taint; N. Amer. slur. **2** *that theory has been discredited*: disprove, invalidate, explode, drive a coach and horses through, refute; informal debunk, shoot full of holes, blow sky-high; formal confute.

• noun **1** *crimes which brought discredit on the administration*: dishonour, disrepute, disgrace, shame, humiliation, ignominy, infamy, notoriety; censure, blame, reproach, opprobrium; stigma; dated disesteem.

**2** *the ships were a discredit to the country*: disgrace, source of shame, reproach, blot on the escutcheon.

– OPPOSITES honour, glory.

**discreditable** adjective dishonourable, reprehensible, shameful, deplorable, disgraceful, disreputable, blameworthy, ignoble, shabby, objectionable, regrettable, unacceptable, unworthy.

– OPPOSITES praiseworthy.

**discreet** adjective **1** *discreet enquiries*: careful, circumspect, cautious, wary, chary, guarded; tactful, diplomatic, prudent, judicious, strategic, politic, delicate, sensitive, kid-glove; informal softly-softly. **2** *discreet lighting*: unobtrusive, inconspicuous, subtle, low-key, understated, subdued, muted, soft, restrained.

**discrepancy** noun difference, disparity, variance, variation, deviation, divergence, disagreement, inconsistency, dissimilarity, mismatch, discordance, incompatibility,

conflict; formal dissimilitude.

– OPPOSITES correspondence.

**discrete** adjective separate, distinct, individual, detached, unattached, disconnected, discontinuous, disjunct, disjointed.

– OPPOSITES connected.

**discretion** noun **1** *you can rely on his discretion*: circumspection, carefulness, caution, wariness, chariness, guardedness; tact, tactfulness, diplomacy, delicacy, sensitivity, prudence, judiciousness.

**2** *honorary fellowships awarded at the discretion of the council*: choice, option, preference, disposition, volition; pleasure, liking, wish, will, inclination, desire.

**discretionary** adjective optional, voluntary, at one's discretion, elective; Law permissive.

– OPPOSITES compulsory.

**discriminate** verb **1** *he cannot discriminate between fact and opinion*: differentiate, distinguish, draw a distinction, tell the difference, tell apart; separate, separate the sheep from the goats, separate the wheat from the chaff. **2** *existing employment policies discriminate against women*: be biased, be prejudiced; treat differently, treat unfairly, put at a disadvantage, disfavour; victimize.

**discriminating** adjective discerning, perceptive, astute, shrewd, judicious, perspicacious, insightful, keen; selective, fastidious, tasteful, refined, sensitive, cultivated, cultured, artistic, aesthetic.

– OPPOSITES indiscriminate.

**discrimination** noun **1** *racial discrimination*: prejudice, bias, bigotry, intolerance, narrow-mindedness, unfairness, inequity, favouritism, one-sidedness, partisanship; sexism, chauvinism, racism, racialism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, ageism, classism; positive discrimination; (in S. Africa, historical) apartheid. **2** *a man with no discrimination*: discernment, judgement, perception, perceptiveness, perspicacity, acumen, astuteness, shrewdness, judiciousness, insight; selectivity, (good) taste, fastidiousness, refinement, sensitivity, cultivation, culture.

– OPPOSITES impartiality.

**discriminatory** adjective prejudicial, biased, prejudiced, preferential, unfair, unjust, invidious, inequitable, weighted, one-sided, partisan; sexist, chauvinistic, chauvinist, racist, racialist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist.

– OPPOSITES impartial.

**discursive** adjective **1** *dull, discursive prose*: rambling, digressive, meandering, wandering, maundering, diffuse, long, lengthy, wordy, verbose, long-winded, prolix; circuitous, roundabout, circumlocutory; Brit. informal waffly. **2** *an elegant discursive style*: fluent, flowing, fluid, eloquent, expansive.

– OPPOSITES concise, terse.

**discuss** verb **1** *I discussed the matter with my wife*: talk over, talk about, talk through, converse about, debate, confer about,

deliberate about, chew over, consider, weigh up, consider the pros and cons of, thrash out; informal kick around/about, bat around/about.  
**2** *chapter three discusses this topic in detail:*  
**examine**, explore, study, analyse, go into, deal with, treat, consider, concern itself with, tackle.

**discussion** **noun** **1** *a long discussion with her husband:* **conversation**, talk, dialogue, discourse, conference, debate, exchange of views, consultation, deliberation; powwow, chat, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart; negotiations, parley; informal confab, chit-chat, rap; N. Amer. informal skull session, bull session; formal confabulation, colloquy; old use converse. **2** *the book's candid discussion of sexual matters:* **examination**, exploration, analysis, study; treatment, consideration.

**disdain** **noun** *she looked at him with disdain:* **contempt**, scorn, scornfulness, contemptuousness, derision, disrespect; disparagement, condescension, superciliousness, hauteur, haughtiness, arrogance, snobbishness, indifference, dismissiveness; distaste, dislike, disgust; old use despite.

– OPPOSITES respect.

• **verb** **1** *she disdained such vulgar exhibitionism:* **scorn**, deride, pour scorn on, regard with contempt, sneer at, sniff at, curl one's lip at, look down one's nose at, look down on; despise; informal turn up one's nose at, pooh-pooh; old use contemn. **2** *she disdained his invitation:* **spurn**, reject, refuse, rebuff, disregard, ignore, snub; decline, turn down, brush aside.

**disdainful** **adjective** **contemptuous**, scornful, derisive, sneering, withering, slighting, disparaging, disrespectful, condescending, patronizing, supercilious, haughty, superior, arrogant, proud, snobbish, lordly, aloof, indifferent, dismissive; informal high and mighty, hoity-toity, snuffy, snotty; old use contumelious.

**disease** **noun** **illness**, sickness, ill health; infection, ailment, malady, disorder, complaint, affliction, condition, indisposition, upset, problem, trouble, infirmity, disability, defect, abnormality; pestilence, plague, cancer, canker, blight; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy; dated contagion.

#### WORD LINKS

**pathological** relating to or caused by disease  
**morbid** relating to or indicating disease

**pathology** the branch of medicine concerned with the causes and effects of disease

**epidemiology** the study of the spread and control of disease

**aetiology** the cause of a disease

**prophylactic** intended to prevent disease

**quarantine** a period of isolation for people or animals that may have a disease.

See also **ILLNESS**.

**diseased** **adjective** **unhealthy**, ill, sick, unwell, ailing, sickly, unsound; infected,

septic, contaminated, blighted, rotten, bad, abnormal.

**disembark** **verb** **get off**, step off, leave, alight, pile out; go ashore, debark, detrain; land, arrive; N. Amer. deplane.

**disembodied** **adjective** **bodiless**, incorporeal, discarnate, spiritual; intangible, insubstantial, impalpable; ghostly, spectral, phantom, wraithlike.

**disembowel** **verb** **gut**, draw, remove the guts from; formal eviscerate.

**disenchanted** **adjective** **disillusioned**, disappointed, disabused, let down, dissatisfied, discontented; cynical, soured, jaundiced, sick, out of love, indifferent; informal fed up.

**disenchantment** **noun** **disillusionment**, disappointment, dissatisfaction, discontent, discontentedness, rude awakening; cynicism.

**disengage** **verb** **1** *I disengaged his hand from mine:* **remove**, detach, disentangle, extricate, separate, release, free, loosen, loose, disconnect, unfasten, unclasp, uncouple, undo, unhook, unhitch, untie, unyoke, disentwine. **2** *American forces disengaged from the country:* **withdraw**, leave, pull out of, quit, retreat from.

– OPPOSITES attach, enter.

**disentangle** **verb** **1** *Allen was disentangling a coil of rope:* **untangle**, unravel, untwist, unwind, undo, untie, straighten out, smooth out; comb, card. **2** *he disentangled his fingers from her hair:* **extricate**, extract, free, remove, disengage, untwine, disentwine, release, loosen, detach, unfasten, unclasp, disconnect.

**disfavour** **noun** **disapproval**, disapprobation; dislike, displeasure, distaste, dissatisfaction, low opinion; dated disesteem; old use disrelish.

**disfigure** **verb** **mar**, spoil, deface, scar, blemish, uglify; damage, injure, impair, blight, mutilate, deform, maim, ruin; vandalize.

– OPPOSITES adorn.

**disfigurement** **noun** **1** *the disfigurement of Victorian buildings:* **defacement**, spoiling, scarring, uglification, mutilation, damage, vandalizing, ruin. **2** *a permanent facial disfigurement:* **blemish**, flaw, defect, imperfection, discoloration, blotch; scar, pockmark; deformity, malformation, abnormality, injury, wound.

**disgorge** **verb** **1** *the combine disgorged a stream of grain:* **pour out**, discharge, eject, throw out, emit, expel, spit out, spew out, belch forth, spout; vomit, regurgitate. **2** *they were made to disgorge all the profits:* **surrender**, relinquish, hand over, give up, turn over, yield.

**disgrace** **noun** **1** *he brought disgrace on the family:* **dishonour**, shame, discredit, ignominy, degradation, disrepute, ill-repute, infamy, scandal, stigma, opprobrium, obloquy, condemnation, vilification, contempt, disrespect; humiliation, embarrassment, loss of face; Austral. strife;



dated disesteem. **2** *the unemployment figures are a disgrace*: scandal, outrage; discredit, reproach, affront, insult; stain, blemish, blot, blot on the escutcheon, black mark; informal crime, sin.

– OPPOSITES honour.

• **verb 1** *you have disgraced the family name*: **bring shame on**, shame, dishonour, discredit, bring into disrepute, degrade, debase, defame, stigmatize, taint, sully, tarnish, besmirch, stain, blacken, drag through the mud/mire. **2** *he was publicly disgraced*: **discredit**, dishonour, stigmatize; humiliate, cause to lose face, chasten, humble, demean, put someone in their place, take down a peg or two, cut down to size.

– OPPOSITES honour.

■ **in disgrace** out of favour, unpopular, in bad odour, under a cloud, disgraced; informal in someone's bad/black books, in the doghouse; NZ informal in the dogbox.

**disgraceful** adjective shameful, shocking, scandalous, deplorable, despicable, contemptible, beyond contempt, beyond the pale, dishonourable, discreditable, reprehensible, base, mean, low, blameworthy, unworthy, ignoble, shabby, inglorious, outrageous, abominable, atrocious, appalling, dreadful, terrible, disgusting, shameless, vile, odious, monstrous, heinous, iniquitous, unspeakable, loathsome, sordid, nefarious; old use scurvy.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**disgruntled** adjective dissatisfied, discontented, aggrieved, resentful, displeased, unhappy, disappointed, disaffected; angry, irate, annoyed, cross, exasperated, indignant, vexed, irritated, piqued, irked, put out; informal peeved, miffed, fed up, aggravated, hacked off, browned off, riled, peed off, hot under the collar, in a huff; Brit. informal cheesed off, shirty, narked; N. Amer. informal sore, teed off, ticked off.

**disguise** verb *his controlled voice disguised his true feelings*: **camouflage**, conceal, hide, cover up, dissemble, mask, screen, shroud, veil, cloak; paper over, gloss over, put up a smokescreen.

– OPPOSITES expose.

■ **disguise oneself as** dress up as, pretend to be, pass oneself off as, impersonate, pose as; formal personate.

**disguised** adjective in disguise, camouflaged; incognito, under cover.

**disgust** noun *a look of disgust*: **revulsion**, repugnance, aversion, distaste, nausea, abhorrence, loathing, detestation, odium, horror; contempt, outrage; old use disrelish.

– OPPOSITES delight.

• **verb 1** *the hospital food disgusted me*: **revolt**, repel, repulse, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, make someone's gorge rise; informal turn off; N. Amer. informal gross out. **2** *Toby's behaviour disgusted her*: **outrage**, shock, horrify, appal, scandalize, offend.

**disgusting** adjective **1** *the food was disgusting*: **revolting**, repellent, repulsive, sickening, nauseating, stomach-churning, stomach-turning, off-putting, unpalatable, distasteful, foul, nasty; N. Amer. vomituous; informal yucky, icky, gross, rank, sick-making. **2** *I find racism disgusting*: **abhorrent**, loathsome, offensive, appalling, outrageous, objectionable, shocking, horrifying, scandalous, monstrous, unspeakable, shameful, vile, odious, obnoxious, detestable, hateful, sickening, contemptible, despicable, deplorable, abominable, beyond the pale; informal gross, ghastly, sick.

– OPPOSITES delicious, appealing.

**dish** noun **1** *a china dish*: **bowl**, plate, platter, salver, paten; container, receptacle; historical porringer; old use trencher, charger.

**2** *vegetarian dishes*: **recipe**, meal, course; (**dishes**) food, fare. **3** (informal) *she's quite a dish*. See **BEAUTY** sense 2.

■ **dish something out** distribute, dispense, issue, hand out/round, give out, pass out/round; deal out, dole out, share out, allocate, allot, apportion.

■ **dish something up** serve (up), spoon out, ladle out, scoop out.

**disharmony** noun **discord**, friction, strife, conflict, hostility, acrimony, bad blood, bad feeling, enmity, dissension, disagreement, feuding, quarrelling; disunity, division, divisiveness.

**dishearten** verb **discourage**, dispirit, demoralize, cast down, depress, disappoint, dismay, dash someone's hopes; put off, deter, unnerve, daunt, intimidate, cow, crush.

– OPPOSITES encourage.

**disheartened** adjective **discouraged**, dispirited, demoralized, deflated, disappointed, let down, disconsolate, despondent, dejected, cast down, downcast, depressed, crestfallen, dismayed, low-spirited, gloomy, glum, pessimistic, unenthusiastic; daunted, intimidated, cowed, crushed; informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, unenthused; old use chap-fallen.

**dishevelled** adjective **untidy**, unkempt, scruffy, messy, in a mess, disordered, disarranged, rumpled, bedraggled; uncombed, tousled, tangled, tangly, knotted, knotty, shaggy, straggly, windswept, wind-blown, wild; slovenly, slatternly, blowzy, frowzy; informal ratty; N. Amer. informal mussed (up); old use draggled-tailed.

– OPPOSITES tidy.

**dishonest** adjective **fraudulent**, corrupt, swindling, cheating, double-dealing; underhand, crafty, cunning, devious, treacherous, unfair, unjust, dirty, unethical, immoral, dishonourable, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, amoral; criminal, illegal, unlawful; false, untruthful, deceitful, deceiving, lying, mendacious; informal crooked, shady, tricky, sharp, shifty; Brit. informal bent, dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky; literary perfidious.

**dishonesty** noun **fraud**, fraudulence,

sharp practice, corruption, cheating, chicanery, double-dealing, deceit, deception, duplicity, lying, falseness, falsity, falsehood, untruthfulness; craft, cunning, trickery, artifice, underhandedness, subterfuge, skulduggery, treachery, untrustworthiness, unscrupulousness, criminality, misconduct; informal crookedness, dirty tricks, shenanigans; Brit. informal jiggery-pokery; literary perfidy.

– OPPOSITES probity.

**dishonour** *noun* *the incident brought dishonour upon the police profession:*

**disgrace**, shame, discredit, humiliation, degradation, ignominy, scandal, infamy, disrepute, ill repute, loss of face, disfavour, ill favour, debasement, opprobrium, obloquy; stigma; dated disesteem.

• **verb** *his family name has been dishonoured:*

**disgrace**, shame, discredit, bring into disrepute, humiliate, degrade, debase, lower, cheapen, drag down, drag through the mud, blacken the name of, give a bad name to; sully, stain, taint, besmirch, smear, mar, blot, stigmatize.

**dishonourable** *adjective* **disgraceful**,

shameful, disreputable, discreditable, degrading, ignominious, ignoble, blameworthy, contemptible, despicable, reprehensible, shabby, shoddy, sordid, sorry, base, low, improper, unseemly, unworthy; unprincipled, unscrupulous, corrupt, untrustworthy, treacherous, traitorous; informal shady, dirty; literary perfidious; old use scurvy.

**disillusion** *verb* **disabuse**, enlighten, set straight, open someone's eyes; disenchant, shatter someone's illusions, disappoint, make sadder and wiser.

– OPPOSITES deceive.

**disillusioned** *adjective* **disenchanted**,

disabused, disappointed, let down, discouraged; cynical, sour, negative, world-weary.

**disincentive** *noun* **deterrent**, check, discouragement, damper, brake, curb, restraint, inhibitor; obstacle, impediment, hindrance, obstruction, block, barrier.

**disinclination** *noun* **reluctance**, unwillingness, lack of enthusiasm, indisposition, hesitancy; aversion, dislike, distaste; objection, demur, resistance, opposition; old use **disrelish**.

– OPPOSITES enthusiasm.

**disinclined** *adjective* **reluctant**, unwilling, unenthusiastic, unprepared, indisposed, ill-disposed, not in the mood, hesitant; loath, averse, antipathetic, resistant, opposed.

– OPPOSITES willing.

**disinfect** *verb* **sterilize**, sanitize, clean, cleanse, purify, decontaminate; fumigate.

– OPPOSITES contaminate.

**disinfectant** *noun* **antiseptic**, bactericide, germicide, sterilizer, cleanser, decontaminant; fumigant.

**disingenuous** *adjective* **insincere**, dishonest, untruthful, false, deceitful, duplicitous, lying, mendacious; hypocritical;

old use **hollow-hearted**.

**disinherit** *verb* **cut someone out of one's will**, cut off, dispossess; disown, repudiate, reject, cast off/aside, wash one's hands of, have nothing more to do with, turn one's back on; informal cut off without a penny.

**disintegrate** *verb* **break up**, break apart, fall apart, fall to pieces, fragment, fracture, shatter, splinter; explode, blow up, blow apart, fly apart; crumble, deteriorate, decay, decompose, rot, moulder, perish, dissolve, collapse, go to rack and ruin, degenerate; informal bust, be smashed to smithereens.

**disinter** *verb* **exhume**, unearth, dig up, disentomb.

**disinterested** *noun* **1** *scholarly disinterest:*

**impartiality**, neutrality, objectivity, detachment, disinterestedness, lack of bias, lack of prejudice; open-mindedness, fairness, fair-mindedness, equity, balance, even-handedness. **2** *he looked at us with complete disinterest:* **indifference**, lack of interest, unconcern, impassivity; boredom, apathy.

– OPPOSITES bias.

**disinterested** *adjective* **1** *disinterested*

*advice:* **unbiased**, unprejudiced, impartial, neutral, non-partisan, detached, uninvolved, objective, dispassionate, impersonal, clinical; open-minded, fair, just, equitable, balanced, even-handed, with no axe to grind, without fear or favour. **2** *he looked at her with disinterested eyes:* **uninterested**, indifferent, incurious, unconcerned, unmoved, unresponsive, impassive, passive, detached, unenthusiastic, lukewarm, bored, apathetic; informal couldn't-care-less.

**disjointed** *adjective* **unconnected**, disconnected, disunited, discontinuous, fragmented, disorganized, disordered, muddled, mixed up, jumbled, garbled, incoherent, confused; rambling, wandering.

**dislike** *verb* *a man she had always disliked:* **find distasteful**, regard with distaste, be averse to, have an aversion to, have no liking/taste for, disapprove of, object to, take exception to; hate, detest, loathe, abhor, despise, be unable to bear/stand, shrink from, shudder at, find repellent; informal be unable to stomach; formal abominate; old use **disrelish**.

• *noun* *she viewed the other woman with dislike:* **distaste**, aversion, disfavour, disapproval, disapprobation, enmity, animosity, hostility, antipathy, antagonism; hate, hatred, detestation, loathing, disgust, repugnance, abhorrence, disdain, contempt; old use **disrelish**.

**dislocate** *verb* **1** *she dislocated her hip:* **put out of joint**; dislocate, put out; Medicine **luxate**.

**2** *trade was dislocated by a famine:* **disrupt**, disturb, throw into disarray, throw into confusion, play havoc with, interfere with, disorganize, upset; informal mess up.

**dislodge** *verb* **1** *replace any stones you*

*dislodge:* **displace**, knock out of place/position, move, shift; knock over, upset.

**2** *economic sanctions failed to dislodge the*

**dictator:** remove, force out, drive out, oust, eject, get rid of, evict, unseat, depose, topple, drum out; informal kick out, boot out; Brit. informal turf out.

**disloyal** adjective **unfaithful**, faithless, false, false-hearted, untrue, inconstant, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable, fickle; treacherous, traitorous, subversive, seditious, unpatriotic, two-faced, double-dealing, double-crossing, deceitful; dissident, renegade; adulterous; informal backstabbing, two-timing; literary perfidious; old use hollow-hearted.

**disloyalty** noun **unfaithfulness**, infidelity, inconstancy, faithlessness, fickleness, unreliability, untrustworthiness, betrayal, falseness; duplicity, double-dealing, treachery, treason, subversion, sedition, dissidence; adultery; informal backstabbing, two-timing; literary perfidy, perfidiousness.

**dismal** adjective **1** *a dismal look:* gloomy, glum, melancholy, morose, doleful, woebegone, forlorn, dejected, depressed, dispirited, downcast, despondent, disconsolate, miserable, sad, unhappy, sorrowful, desolate, wretched; informal blue, fed up, down in the dumps/mouth; literary dolorous. **2** *a dismal hall:* dingy, dim, dark, gloomy, dreary, drab, dull, bleak, cheerless, depressing, uninviting, unwelcoming. **3** (informal) *a dismal performance.* See **POOR** sense 2.

– OPPOSITES cheerful, bright.

**dismantle** verb **take apart**, take to pieces/bits, pull apart, pull to pieces, disassemble, break up, strip (down); knock down, pull down, demolish.

– OPPOSITES assemble, build.

**dismay** verb *he was dismayed by the change in his friend:* **appal**, horrify, shock, shake (up); disconcert, take aback, alarm, unnerve, unsettle, throw off balance, discompose; disturb, upset, distress; informal rattle, faze, knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

– OPPOSITES encourage, please.

• **noun** *they greeted his decision with dismay:* **alarm**, shock, surprise, consternation, distress, concern, perturbation, disquiet, discomposure.

– OPPOSITES pleasure, relief.

**dismember** verb **disjoint**, joint; pull apart, cut up, chop up, butcher.

**dismiss** verb **1** *the president dismissed five ministers:* **give someone their notice**, get rid of, discharge; lay off, make redundant; informal sack, give someone the sack, fire, boot out, give someone the boot/elbow/push, give someone their marching orders, show someone the door; Brit. informal give someone their cards; Military cashier. **2** *the guards were dismissed:* **send away**, let go; disband, dissolve, discharge. **3** *he dismissed all morbid thoughts:* **banish**, set aside, disregard, brush off, shrug off, put out of one's mind; reject, deny, repudiate, spurn.

– OPPOSITES engage.

**dismissal** noun **1** *the threat of dismissal:* **one's notice**, discharge; redundancy, laying

off; informal the sack, sacking, firing, the push, the boot, the axe, the elbow, one's marching orders; Brit. informal one's cards, the chop; Military cashiering. **2** *a condescending dismissal:* **rejection**, repudiation, repulse, non-acceptance.

– OPPOSITES recruitment.

**dismissive** adjective **contemptuous**, disdainful, scornful, sneering, snide, disparaging, negative; informal sniffy.

– OPPOSITES admiring.

**dismount** verb **1** *the cyclist dismounted:* **alight**, get off/down. **2** *the horse dismounted the trooper:* **unseat**, dislodge, throw, unhorse.

**disobedient** adjective **insubordinate**, unruly, wayward, badly behaved, naughty, delinquent, disruptive, troublesome, rebellious, defiant, mutinous, recalcitrant, uncooperative, wilful, intractable, obstreperous; Brit. informal bolshie; old use contumacious.

**disobey** verb **defy**, go against, flout, contravene, infringe, transgress, violate; disregard, ignore, pay no heed to.

**disobliging** adjective **unhelpful**, uncooperative, unaccommodating, unamenable, unreasonable, awkward, difficult; discourteous, uncivil, unfriendly.

– OPPOSITES helpful.

**disorder** noun **1** *he hates disorder:* **untidiness**, disorderliness, mess, disarray, chaos, confusion; clutter, jumble; a muddle, a shambles. **2** *incidents of public disorder:* **unrest**, disturbance, disruption, upheaval, turmoil, mayhem, pandemonium; violence, fighting, rioting, lawlessness, anarchy; breach of the peace, fracas, rumpus, melee; Law, dated affray; informal aggro. **3** *a blood disorder:* **disease**, infection, complaint, condition, affliction, malady, sickness, illness, ailment, infirmity, irregularity.

– OPPOSITES tidiness, peace.

**disordered** adjective **1** *her grey hair was disordered:* **untidy**, unkempt, messy, in a mess; disorganized, chaotic, confused, jumbled, muddled; N. Amer. informal mussed (up); Brit. informal shambolic. **2** *a disordered digestive system:* **dysfunctional**, disturbed, unsettled, unbalanced, upset, poorly.

**disorderly** adjective **1** *a disorderly desk:* **untidy**, disorganized, messy, cluttered; in disarray, in a mess, in a jumble, in a muddle, at sixes and sevens; informal like a bomb's hit it, higgledy-piggledy; Brit. informal shambolic. **2** *disorderly behaviour:* **unruly**, boisterous, rough, rowdy, wild, riotous; disruptive, troublesome, undisciplined, lawless, unmanageable, uncontrollable, out of hand, out of control.

– OPPOSITES tidy, peaceful.

**disorganized** adjective **1** *a disorganized tool box:* **disorderly**, disordered, unorganized, jumbled, muddled, untidy, messy, chaotic, topsy-turvy, haphazard; in disorder, in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle, in a shambles; informal higgledy-piggledy; Brit. informal shambolic. **2** *muddled and*



*disorganized*: unmethodical, unsystematic, undisciplined, badly organized, inefficient; haphazard, careless, sloppy, slapdash; informal hit-or-miss.

– OPPOSITES orderly.

**disorientated, disoriented** adjective *confused*, bewildered, (all) at sea; lost, adrift, off-course, having lost one's bearings; informal not knowing whether one is coming or going; old use mazed.

**disown** verb reject, cast off/aside, abandon, renounce, deny; turn one's back on, wash one's hands of, have nothing more to do with; literary forsake.

**disparage** verb belittle, denigrate, deprecate, play down, trivialize, make light of, undervalue, underrate; ridicule, deride, mock, scorn, scoff at, sneer at; run down, defame, discredit, speak badly of, cast aspersions on, impugn, vilify, traduce, criticize; N. Amer. slur; informal do down, pick holes in, knock, slam, pan, bad-mouth, pooch-pooch; Brit. informal rubbish, slate; formal calumniate, derogate.

– OPPOSITES praise, overrate.

**disparaging** adjective derogatory, deprecatory, denigratory, belittling; critical, scathing, negative, unfavourable, uncomplimentary, uncharitable; contemptuous, scornful, snide, disdainful; informal bitchy, catty; old use contumelious.

– OPPOSITES complimentary.

**disparate** adjective contrasting, different, differing, dissimilar, unlike, poles apart; varying, various, diverse, diversified, heterogeneous, distinct, separate, divergent; literary divers.

– OPPOSITES homogen(e)ous.

**disparity** noun discrepancy, inconsistency, imbalance; variance, variation, divergence, gap, gulf; difference, dissimilarity, contrast; formal dissimilitude.

– OPPOSITES similarity.

**dispassionate** adjective **1** *a calm, dispassionate manner*: unemotional, emotionless, impassive, cool, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, unruffled, unperturbed, composed, self-possessed, self-controlled, unexcitable; informal laid-back. **2** *a dispassionate analysis*: objective, detached, neutral, disinterested, impartial, non-partisan, unbiased, unprejudiced; scientific, analytical.

– OPPOSITES emotional, biased.

**dispatch** verb **1** *all the messages were dispatched*: send (off), post, mail, forward, transmit. **2** *the business was dispatched in the morning*: deal with, finish, conclude, settle, discharge, perform; expedite, push through; informal make short work of. **3** *the good guy dispatched a host of villains*: kill, put to death, take/end the life of; slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, exterminate, eliminate; murder, assassinate, execute; informal bump off, do in, do away with, top, take out, blow away; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, waste; literary slay.

• noun **1** *goods ready for dispatch*: sending,

posting, mailing. **2** *efficiency and dispatch*: promptness, speed, speediness, swiftness, rapidity, briskness, haste, hastiness; literary fleetness, celerity; formal expedition.

**3** *the latest dispatch from the front*: communication, communiqué, bulletin, report, statement, letter, message; news, intelligence; informal memo, info, low-down; literary tidings. **4** *the capture and dispatch of the wolf*: killing, slaughter, massacre, extermination, elimination; murder, assassination, execution; literary slaying.

**dispel** verb banish, eliminate, drive away/off, get rid of; relieve, allay, ease, quell.

**dispensable** adjective expendable, disposable, replaceable, inessential, non-essential; unnecessary, redundant, superfluous, surplus to requirements.

**dispensation** noun **1** *the dispensation of supplies*: distribution, supply, supplying, issue, issuing, handing out, doling out, dishing out, sharing out, dividing out; division, allocation, allotment, apportionment. **2** *the dispensation of justice*: administration, administering, delivery, discharge, dealing out, meting out. **3** *dispensation from National Insurance contributions*: exemption, immunity, exception, exoneration, reprieve, remission; informal a let-off. **4** *the new constitutional dispensation*: system, order, arrangement, organization.

**disperse** verb **1** *servants dispensed the drinks*: distribute, pass round, hand out, dole out, dish out, share out; allocate, supply, allot, apportion. **2** *the soldiers dispensed summary justice*: administer, deliver, issue, discharge, deal out, mete out. **3** *dispensing medicines*: prepare, make up; supply, provide, sell. **4** *the pope dispensed him from his impediment*: exempt, excuse, except, release, let off, reprieve, absolve. ■ **disperse with 1** *let's disperse with the formalities*: waive, omit, drop, leave out, forgo; do away with; informal give something a miss. **2** *he dispensed with his crutches*: get rid of, throw away/out, dispose of, discard; manage without, cope without; informal ditch, scrap, dump, chuck out/away, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of.

**disperse** verb **1** *the crowd began to disperse* | *police dispersed the demonstrators*: break up, split up, disband, scatter, leave, go their separate ways; drive away/off, chase away. **2** *the fog finally dispersed*: dissipate, dissolve, melt away, fade away, clear, lift. **3** *seeds dispersed by birds*: scatter, disseminate, distribute, spread, broadcast.

– OPPOSITES assemble, gather.

**dispirited** adjective disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, downcast, low, low-spirited, dejected, downhearted, depressed, disconsolate; informal fed up; Brit. informal cheesed off.

– OPPOSITES heartened.

**dispiriting** adjective disheartening, depressing, discouraging, daunting, demoralizing.

**displace** verb **1** *roof tiles displaced by gales*: **dislodge**, dislocate, move, shift, reposition; move out of place, knock out of place/position. **2** *the minister was displaced*: **depose**, dislodge, unseat, remove (from office), dismiss, eject, oust, expel, force out, drive out; overthrow, topple, bring down; informal boot out, give someone the boot, show someone the door; Brit. informal turf out; dated out. **3** *English displaced the local language*: **replace**, take the place of, supplant, supersede.

– OPPOSITES replace, reinstate.

**display** noun **1** *a display of dolls and puppets | a motorcycle display*: **exhibition**, exposition, array, arrangement, presentation, demonstration; spectacle, show, parade, pageant. **2** *they vied to outdo each other in display*: **ostentation**, ostentatiousness, showiness, extravagance, flamboyance, lavishness, splendour; informal swank, flashiness, glitziness. **3** *his display of concern*: **manifestation**, expression, show.

• verb **1** *the Crown Jewels are displayed in London*: **exhibit**, show, put on show/view; arrange, array, present, lay out, set out. **2** *the play displays his many theatrical talents*: **show off**, parade, flaunt, reveal; publicize, make known, call/draw attention to; informal hype. **3** *she displayed a vein of sharp humour*: **manifest**, show evidence of, reveal; demonstrate, show; formal evince.

– OPPOSITES conceal.

**displease** verb annoy, irritate, anger, irk, vex, pique, gall, nettles; put out, upset; informal aggravate, peeve, needle, bug, rile, miff, hack off; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off.

**displeasure** noun annoyance, irritation, crossness, anger, vexation, pique, rancour; dissatisfaction, discontent, discontentedness, disgruntlement, disapproval; informal aggravation.

– OPPOSITES satisfaction.

**disposable** adjective **1** *disposable plates*: **throwaway**, expendable, one-use. **2** *disposable income*: **available**, usable, spendable.

**disposal** noun **1** *rubbish ready for disposal*: **throwing away**, discarding, jettisoning, scrapping; informal dumping, ditching, chucking (out/away). **2** *we have twenty copies for disposal*: **distribution**, handing out, giving out/away, allotment, allocation. **3** *the disposal of the troops in two lines*: **arrangement**, arranging, positioning, placement, lining up, disposition, grouping; Military dressing.

■ **at someone's disposal** for use by, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of.

**dispose** verb **1** *he disposed his attendants in a circle*: **arrange**, place, put, position, array, set up, form; marshal, gather, group; Military dress. **2** *the experience disposed him to be kind*: **incline**, encourage, persuade, predispose, make willing, prompt, lead, motivate; sway, influence.

■ **dispose of** **1** *the waste was disposed of*:

throw away/out, get rid of, discard, jettison, scrap; informal dump, ditch, chuck (out/away), get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash. **2** *he had disposed of all his assets*: part with, give away, hand over, deliver up, transfer; sell, auction; informal get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of. **3** (informal) *she disposed of a fourth cake*. See **CONSUME** sense 1. **4** (informal) *he robbed her and then disposed of her*. See **KILL** verb sense 1.

**disposed** adjective **1** *they are philanthropically disposed*: **inclined**, predisposed, minded. **2** *we are not disposed to argue*: **willing**, inclined, prepared, ready, minded, in the mood. **3** *he was disposed to be cruel*: **liable**, apt, inclined, likely, predisposed, prone, tending; capable of.

**disposition** noun **1** *a nervous disposition*: **temperament**, nature, character, constitution, make-up, mentality. **2** *his disposition to clemency*: **inclination**, tendency, proneness, propensity, proclivity. **3** *the disposition of the armed forces*: **arrangement**, positioning, placement, configuration; set-up, line-up, layout, array; marshalling, mustering, grouping; Military dressing. **4** (Law) *the disposition of the company's property*: **distribution**, disposal, allocation, transfer; sale, auction.

■ **at someone's disposition** at the disposal of, for use by, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of.

**dispossess** verb divest, strip, rob, cheat out of, deprive; informal do out of; old use reave.

**disproportionate** adjective out of proportion to, not appropriate to, not commensurate with; inordinate, unreasonable, excessive, undue.

**disprove** verb refute, prove false, rebut, falsify, debunk, negate, invalidate, contradict, confound, controvert, negative, discredit; informal shoot full of holes, blow out of the water; formal confute, gainsay.

**disputable** adjective debatable, open to debate/question, arguable, contestable, moot, questionable, doubtful, controvertible; informal iffy.

**disputation** noun debate, discussion, dispute, argument, arguing, altercation, dissension, disagreement, controversy; polemics.

**dispute** noun **1** *a subject of dispute*: **debate**, discussion, disputation, argument, controversy, disagreement, quarrelling, dissension, conflict, friction, strife, discord.

**2** *they have settled their dispute*: **quarrel**, argument, altercation, squabble, falling-out, disagreement, difference of opinion, clash, wrangle; informal tiff, spat, scrap; Brit. informal row, barney, ding-dong; N. Amer. informal rhu-barb; old use broil.

– OPPOSITES agreement.

• verb **1** *George disputed with him*: **debate**, discuss, exchange views; quarrel, argue, disagree, clash, fall out, wrangle, bicker, squabble; informal have words; old use altercation.

**2** *they disputed his proposals*: **challenge**, contest, question, call into question,

impugn, quibble over, contradict, controvert, argue about, disagree with, take issue with; formal gainsay.

– OPPOSITES accept.

**disqualified** adjective banned, barred, debarred; ineligible.

– OPPOSITES allowed.

**disquiet** noun *grave public disquiet*: unease, uneasiness, worry, anxiety, anxiousness, concern, disquietude; perturbation, consternation, upset, malaise, angst; agitation, restlessness, fretfulness; informal jitteriness.

– OPPOSITES calm.

• verb *I was disquieted by the news*: perturb, agitate, upset, disturb, unnerve, unsettle, discompose, disconcert; make uneasy, worry, make anxious; trouble, concern, make fretful, make restless.

**disquisition** noun essay, dissertation, treatise, paper, tract, article; discussion, lecture, address, presentation, speech, talk.

**disregard** verb *Annie disregarded the remark*: ignore, take no notice of, pay no attention/heed to; overlook, turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to, shut one's eyes to, gloss over, brush off/aside, shrug off.

– OPPOSITES heed.

• noun *blithe disregard for the rules*: indifference, non-observance, inattention, heedlessness, neglect.

– OPPOSITES attention.

**disrepair** noun *dilapidation*, decrepitude, shabbiness, ricketiness, collapse, ruin; abandonment, neglect, disuse.

**disreputable** adjective **1** *he fell into disreputable company*: of bad reputation, infamous, notorious, louche; dishonourable, dishonest, untrustworthy, unwholesome, villainous, corrupt, immoral; unsavoury, slippery, seedy, sleazy; informal crooked, shady, shifty; Brit. informal dodgy. **2** *filthy and disreputable*: scruffy, shabby, down at heel, seedy, untidy, unkempt, dishevelled.

– OPPOSITES respectable, smart.

**disrepute** noun *disgrace*, shame, dishonour, infamy, notoriety, ignominy, bad reputation; humiliation, discredit, ill repute, low esteem, opprobrium, obloquy.

– OPPOSITES honour.

**disrespect** noun **1** *disrespect for authority*: contempt, lack of respect, scorn, disregard, disdain. **2** *he meant no disrespect to anybody*: discourtesy, rudeness, impoliteness, incivility, ill/bad manners; insolence, impudence, impertinence.

– OPPOSITES esteem.

**disrespectful** adjective discourteous, rude, impolite, uncivil, ill-mannered, bad-mannered; insolent, impudent, impertinent, cheeky, flippant, insubordinate.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**disrobe** verb *undress*, strip, take off one's clothes, remove one's clothes; Brit. informal peel off.

**disrupt** verb **1** *the strike disrupted public transport*: throw into confusion/disorder/

disarray, cause confusion/turmoil in, play havoc with; disturb, interfere with, upset, unsettle; obstruct, impede, hold up, delay, interrupt, suspend; Brit. throw a spanner in the works of; N. Amer. throw a monkey wrench in the works of. **2** *the explosion disrupted the walls of the crater*: distort, damage, buckle, warp; shatter; literary sunder.

**disruptive** adjective troublesome, unruly, badly behaved, rowdy, disorderly, undisciplined, wild; unmanageable, uncontrollable, uncooperative, out of control/hand, obstreperous, truculent; formal refractory.

– OPPOSITES well behaved.

**dissatisfaction** noun discontent, discontentment, disaffection, disquiet, unhappiness, malaise, disgruntlement, vexation, annoyance, irritation, anger; disapproval, disapprobation, disfavour, displeasure.

**dissatisfied** adjective discontented, malcontent, unsatisfied, disappointed, disaffected, unhappy, displeased; disgruntled, aggrieved, vexed, annoyed, irritated, angry, exasperated; informal cheesed off, fed up; Brit. informal brassed off.

– OPPOSITES contented.

**dissect** verb **1** *the body was dissected*: anatomize, cut up/open, dismember; vivisection. **2** *the text of the gospels was dissected*: analyse, examine, study, scrutinize, pore over, investigate, go over with a fine-tooth comb.

**dissection** noun **1** *the dissection of corpses*: cutting up/open, dismemberment; autopsy, post-mortem, necropsy, anatomy, vivisection. **2** *a thorough dissection of their policies*: analysis, examination, study, scrutiny, scrutinization, investigation; evaluation, assessment.

**dissemble** verb *dissimulate*, pretend, feign, act, masquerade, sham, fake, bluff, posture, hide one's feelings, put on a false front.

**dissembler** noun liar, dissimulator; humbug, bluffer, fraud, impostor, actor, hoaxer, charlatan.

**disseminate** verb spread, circulate, distribute, disperse, promulgate, propagate, publicize, communicate, pass on, put about, make known.

**dissension** noun disagreement, difference of opinion, dispute, dissent, conflict, friction, strife, discord, antagonism; argument, debate, controversy, disputation, contention.

**dissent** verb *two members dissented*: differ, disagree, demur, fail to agree, be at variance/odds, take issue; protest, object, dispute, challenge, quibble.

– OPPOSITES agree, accept.

• noun *murmurs of dissent*: disagreement, difference of opinion, argument, dispute; disapproval, objection, protest, opposition, defiance; conflict, friction, strife.

– OPPOSITES agreement.

**dissenter** noun dissident, dissentient,



objector, protester, disputant; rebel, renegade, maverick, independent; apostate, heretic.

**dissentient** adjective *dissentient voices*:

**dissenting**, dissident, disagreeing, differing, discordant, contradicting, contrary, anti-; opposing, objecting, protesting, complaining, rebellious, revolutionary; nonconformist, recusant, unorthodox, heterodox, heretical.

• **noun** a dissentient spoke up. See **DISSENTER**.

**dissertation** noun essay, thesis, treatise, paper, study, discourse, disquisition, tract, monograph.

**disservice** noun unkindness, bad/ill turn, disfavour; injury, harm, hurt, damage, wrong, injustice.

– OPPOSITES favour.

**dissidence** noun disagreement, dissent, discord, discontent; opposition, resistance, protest, sedition.

**dissident** noun a jailed dissident: dissenter, objector, protester; rebel, revolutionary, recusant, subversive, agitator, insurgent, insurrectionist, refusenik.

– OPPOSITES conformist.

• **adjective** *dissident intellectuals*: dissenting, disagreeing, dissentient; opposing, objecting, protesting, rebellious, rebelling, revolutionary, recusant, nonconformist.

– OPPOSITES conforming.

**dissimilar** adjective different, differing, unlike, variant, diverse, divergent, heterogeneous, disparate, unrelated, distinct, contrasting; literary divers.

**dissimilarity** noun difference(s), variance, diversity, heterogeneity, disparateness, disparity, distinctness, contrast, non-uniformity, divergence; formal dissimilitude.

**dissimilitude** noun (formal). See **DISSIMILARITY**.

**dissimulate** verb pretend, deceive, feign, act, dissemble, masquerade, pose, posture, sham, fake, bluff, hide one's feelings, be dishonest, put on a false front, lie.

**dissimulation** noun pretence, dissembling, deceit, dishonesty, duplicity, lying, guile, subterfuge, feigning, shamming, faking, bluff, bluffing, posturing, hypocrisy.

**dissipate** verb 1 *his anger dissipated*:

disappear, vanish, evaporate, dissolve, melt away, melt into thin air, be dispelled; disperse, scatter; literary evanesce. 2 *he dissipated his fortune*: squander, fritter (away), mispend, waste, be prodigal with, spend recklessly/freely, spend like water; expend, use up, consume, run through, go through; informal blow, splurge.

**dissipated** adjective dissolute, debauched, decadent, intemperate, profligate, self-indulgent, wild, depraved; licentious, promiscuous; drunken.

– OPPOSITES ascetic.

**dissipation** noun 1 *drunken dissipation*:

debauchery, decadence, dissoluteness, dissolution, intemperance, excess, profligacy, self-indulgence, wildness; depravity, degeneracy; licentiousness,

promiscuity; drunkenness. 2 *the dissipation of our mineral wealth*: squandering, frittering (away), waste, mispending; expenditure, draining, depletion.

– OPPOSITES asceticism.

**dissociate** verb the word 'spiritual' has

become dissociated from religion: separate, detach, disconnect, sever, cut off, divorce; isolate, alienate.

– OPPOSITES relate.

■ **dissociate oneself from** 1 *he dissociated himself from the Church of England*: break away from, end relations with, sever connections with; withdraw from, quit, leave, disaffiliate from, resign from, pull out of, drop out of, defect from. 2 *he dissociated himself from the statement*: disown, reject, disagree with, distance oneself from.

**dissociation** noun separation, disconnection, detachment, severance, divorce, split; segregation, division; literary sundering.

– OPPOSITES union.

**dissolute** adjective dissipated, debauched, decadent, intemperate, profligate, self-indulgent, wild, depraved; licentious, promiscuous; drunken.

– OPPOSITES ascetic.

**dissolution** noun 1 *the dissolution of parliament*: cessation, conclusion, end, ending, termination, winding up/down, discontinuation, suspension, disbanding; prorogation, recess. 2 (technical) *the dissolution of a polymer in a solvent*: dissolving, liquefaction, melting, deliquescence; breaking up, decomposition, disintegration.

3 *the dissolution of the empire*:

disintegration, breaking up; decay, collapse, demise, extinction. 4 *a life of dissolution*. See **DISSIPATION** sense 1.

**dissolve** verb 1 *sugar dissolves in*

*water*: break down; liquefy, deliquesce, disintegrate. 2 *his hopes dissolved*:

disappear, vanish, melt away, evaporate, disperse, dissipate, disintegrate; dwindle, fade (away), wither; literary evanesce. 3 *the crowd dissolved*: disperse, disband, break up, scatter, go in different directions.

4 *the assembly was dissolved*: disband, disestablish, bring to an end, end, terminate, discontinue, close down, wind up/down, suspend; prorogue, adjourn. 5 *their marriage was dissolved*: annul, nullify, void, invalidate, overturn, revoke.

■ **dissolve into/in** burst into, break (down) into, be overcome with.

**dissonant** adjective 1 *dissonant sounds*:

inharmonious, discordant, unmelodious, atonal, off-key, cacophonous. 2 *harmonious and dissonant colours*: incongruous, anomalous, clashing; disparate, different, dissimilar.

– OPPOSITES harmonious.

**dissuade** verb discourage, deter, prevent, divert, stop; talk out of, persuade against, advise against, argue out of.

– OPPOSITES encourage.

**distance** noun 1 *they measured the distance*:

interval, space, span, gap, extent; length, width, breadth, depth; range, reach.

**2** *our perception of distance: remoteness; closeness.* **3** *a mix of warmth and distance: aloofness, remoteness, detachment, unfriendliness; reserve, reticence, restraint, formality; informal stand-offishness.*

• *verb he distanced himself from her:*

**withdraw**, detach, separate, dissociate, isolate, put at a distance.

■ *in the distance* far away/off, afar, just in view; on the horizon; old use yonder.

**distant** adjective **1** *distant parts of the world: faraway, far-off, far-flung, remote, out of the way, outlying.* **2** *the distant past: long ago, bygone, olden; ancient, prehistoric; literary of yore.* **3** *half a mile distant: away, off, apart.* **4** *a distant memory: vague, faint, dim, indistinct, unclear, indefinite, sketchy, hazy.* **5** *a distant family connection: remote, indirect, slight.* **6** *father was always distant: aloof, reserved, remote, detached, unapproachable; withdrawn, reticent, taciturn, uncommunicative, undemonstrative, unforthcoming, unresponsive, unfriendly; informal stand-offish.* **7** *a distant look in his eyes: distracted, absent-minded, faraway, detached, distraught, vague.*

– OPPOSITES near, close, recent.

**distaste** noun dislike, aversion, disinclination, disapproval, disapprobation, disdain, repugnance, hatred, loathing; old use disrelish.

– OPPOSITES liking.

**distasteful** adjective **1** *distasteful behaviour:*

**unpleasant**, disagreeable, displeasing, undesirable; objectionable, offensive, unsavoury, unpalatable, obnoxious; disgusting, repellent, repulsive, revolting, repugnant, abhorrent, loathsome, vile.

**2** *their eggs are distasteful to predators: unpalatable*, unsavoury, unappetizing, inedible, disgusting.

– OPPOSITES agreeable, tasty.

**distended** adjective swollen, bloated, dilated, engorged, enlarged, inflated, expanded, extended, bulging, protuberant.

**distil** verb **1** *the water was distilled: purify*, refine, filter, treat, process; evaporate and condense. **2** *oil distilled from marjoram: extract*, press out, squeeze out, express. **3** *whisky is distilled from barley: brew*, ferment. **4** *the solvent is distilled to leave the oil: boil down*, reduce, concentrate, condense; purify, refine.

**distinct** adjective **1** *two distinct categories: discrete*, separate, different, unconnected; precise, specific, distinctive, contrasting.

**2** *the tail has distinct black tips: clear*, well defined, unmistakable, easily distinguishable; recognizable, visible, obvious, pronounced, prominent, striking.

– OPPOSITES overlapping, indefinite.

**distinction** noun **1** *class distinctions: difference*, contrast, dissimilarity, variance, variation; division, differentiation, dividing line, gulf, gap; formal dissimilitude.

**2** *a painter of distinction: importance*, significance, note, consequence; renown, fame, celebrity, prominence, eminence, pre-eminence, repute, reputation; merit, worth, greatness, excellence, quality. **3** *he had served with distinction: honour*, credit, excellence, merit.

– OPPOSITES similarity, mediocrity.

**distinctive** adjective **distinguishing**, characteristic, typical, individual, particular, peculiar, unique, exclusive, special.

– OPPOSITES common.

**distinctly** adverb **1** *there's something distinctly odd about him: decidedly*, markedly, definitely; clearly, noticeably, obviously, plainly, evidently, unmistakably, manifestly, patently; Brit. informal dead.

**2** *Laura spoke quite distinctly: clearly*, plainly, intelligibly, audibly, unambiguously.

**distinguish** verb **1** *distinguishing reality from fantasy: differentiate*, tell apart, discriminate between, tell the difference between. **2** *he could distinguish shapes in the dark: discern*, see, perceive, make out; detect, recognize, identify; literary descry, espy. **3** *this is what distinguishes history from other disciplines: separate*, set apart, make distinctive, make different; single out, mark off, characterize.

**distinguishable** adjective discernible, recognizable, identifiable, detectable.

**distinguished** adjective eminent, famous, renowned, prominent, well known; esteemed, respected, illustrious, acclaimed, celebrated, great; notable, important, influential.

– OPPOSITES unknown, obscure.

**distinguishing** adjective distinctive, differentiating, characteristic, typical, peculiar, singular, unique.

**distorted** adjective **1** *a distorted face:*

**twisted**, warped, contorted, buckled, deformed, malformed, misshapen, disfigured, crooked, awry, out of shape.

**2** *a distorted version: misrepresented*, perverted, twisted, falsified, misreported, misstated, garbled, inaccurate; biased, prejudiced, slanted, coloured, loaded, weighted, altered, changed.

**distract** verb **divert**, sidetrack, draw away, disturb, put off.

**distracted** adjective **preoccupied**, inattentive, vague, abstracted, distraught, absent-minded, faraway, in a world of one's own; bemused, confused, bewildered; troubled, harassed, worried; informal miles away, not with it.

– OPPOSITES attentive.

**distracting** adjective **disturbing**, unsettling, intrusive, disconcerting, bothersome, off-putting.

**distraction** noun **1** *a distraction from the real issues: diversion*, interruption, disturbance, interference, hindrance.

**2** *frivolous distractions: amusement*, entertainment, diversion, recreation, leisure pursuit, divertissement. **3** *he was driven*

to **distracted**: **frenzy**, hysteria, mental distress, madness, insanity, mania; agitation, perturbation.

**distracted** adjective **worried**, upset, distressed, fraught; overcome, overwrought, beside oneself, out of one's mind, desperate, hysterical, worked up, at one's wits' end; informal in a state.

**distress** noun **1** *she concealed her distress*: **anguish**, suffering, pain, agony, torment, heartache, heartbreak; misery, wretchedness, sorrow, grief, woe, sadness, unhappiness, desolation, despair. **2** *a ship in distress*: **danger**, peril, difficulty, trouble, jeopardy, risk. **3** *the poor in distress*: **hardship**, adversity, poverty, deprivation, privation, destitution, indigence, impoverishment, penury, need, dire straits.

– OPPOSITES happiness, safety, prosperity.

• **verb** *he was distressed by the trial*: **cause anguish/suffering** to, pain, upset, make miserable; trouble, worry, bother, perturb, disturb, disquiet, agitate, harrow, torment; informal cut up.

– OPPOSITES calm, please.

**distressing** adjective **upsetting**, worrying, disturbing, disquieting, painful, traumatic, agonizing, harrowing; sad, saddening, heartbreaking, heart-rending.

– OPPOSITES comforting.

**distribute** verb **1** *the proceeds were distributed among his creditors*: **give out**, deal out, dole out, dish out, hand out/round; allocate, allot, apportion, share out, divide out/up, parcel out. **2** *the newsletter is distributed free*: **circulate**, issue, hand out, deliver. **3** *a hundred and thirty different species are distributed worldwide*: **disperse**, scatter, spread.

– OPPOSITES collect.

**distribution** noun **1** *the distribution of charity*: **giving out**, dealing out, doling out, handing out/round, issue, issuing, dispensation; allocation, allotment, apportioning, sharing out, dividing up/out, parcelling out. **2** *the geographical distribution of plants*: **dispersal**, dissemination, spread; placement, position, location, disposition. **3** *centres of food distribution*: **supply**, supplying, delivery, transport, transportation. **4** *the statistical distribution of the problem*: **frequency**, prevalence, incidence, commonness.

**district** noun **neighbourhood**, area, region, locality, locale, community, quarter, sector, zone, territory; administrative division, ward, parish; informal neck of the woods.

**distrust** noun *the general distrust of authority*: **mistrust**, suspicion, wariness, chariness, leerness, lack of trust, lack of confidence; scepticism, doubt, doubtfulness, cynicism; misgivings, qualms, disbelief; formal dubiety.

• **verb** *Louise distrusted him*: **mistrust**, be suspicious of, be wary/chary of, be leery of, regard with suspicion, suspect; be sceptical of, have doubts about, doubt, be unsure of/

about, have misgivings about, wonder about, disbelieve (in).

**disturb** verb **1** *somewhere where we won't be disturbed*: **interrupt**, intrude on, butt in on, barge in on; distract, disrupt, bother, trouble, pester, harass; informal hassle. **2** *don't disturb his papers*: **disarrange**, muddle, rearrange, disorganize, disorder, mix up, interfere with, throw into disorder/confusion, turn upside down. **3** *waters disturbed by winds*: **agitate**, churn up, stir up; literary roil. **4** *he wasn't disturbed by the allegations*: **perturb**, trouble, concern, worry, upset; agitate, fluster, discomfit, disconcert, dismay, distress, discompose, unsettle, ruffle.

**disturbance** noun **1** *a disturbance to local residents*: **disruption**, distraction, interference; bother, trouble, inconvenience, upset, annoyance, irritation, intrusion, harassment; informal hassle. **2** *disturbances among the peasantry*: **riot**, fracas, upheaval, brawl, street fight, melee, free-for-all, ruckus, rumpus; Law, dated affray; informal ruction. **3** *emotional disturbance*: **trouble**, perturbation, distress, worry, upset, agitation, discomposure, discomfiture; neurosis, illness, sickness, disorder, complaint.

**disturbed** adjective **1** *disturbed sleep*: **disrupted**, interrupted, fitful, intermittent, broken. **2** *disturbed children*: **troubled**, distressed, upset, distraught; unbalanced, unstable, disordered, dysfunctional, maladjusted, neurotic, unhinged; informal screwed up, mixed up.

**disturbing** adjective **worrying**, perturbing, troubling, upsetting; distressing, discomfiting, disconcerting, disquieting, unsettling, dismaying, alarming, frightening.

**disunion** noun **breaking up**, separation, dissolution, partition.

– OPPOSITES federation.

**disunite** verb **break up**, separate, divide, split up, partition, dismantle; literary sunder.

– OPPOSITES unify.

**disunity** noun **disagreement**, dissent, dissension, argument, arguing, quarrelling, feuding; conflict, strife, friction, discord.

**disuse** noun **non-use**, non-employment, lack of use; neglect, abandonment, desertion, obsolescence; formal desuetude.

**disused** adjective **unused**, no longer in use, unemployed, idle; abandoned, deserted, vacated, unoccupied, uninhabited.

**ditch** noun **trench**, trough, channel, dyke, drain, gutter, gully, watercourse, conduit; Archaeology fosse.

• **verb** **1** (informal) *more and more companies are ditching their final salary pension schemes*: **abandon**, get rid of, dispose of, drop, jettison, throw away/out, shelve; informal dump, junk, scrap, axe. **2** (informal) *she ditched her husband*. See **THROW SOMEONE OVER**.

**dither** verb **hesitate**, falter, waver, vacillate, change one's mind, be in two minds, be



indecisive, be undecided; Brit. haver; informal shilly-shally, dilly-dally.

**diurnal** adjective **daily**, everyday, quotidian, occurring every/each day.

**divan** noun **settee**, sofa, couch; sofa bed; Brit. put-you-up; N. Amer. studio couch.

**dive** verb **1** *they dived into the clear water | the plane was diving towards the ground:* **plunge**, nosedive, jump head first, bellyflop; plummet, fall, drop, pitch. **2** *the islanders dive for oysters:* **swim under water**; snorkel, scuba dive. **3** *they dived for cover:* **leap**, jump, lunge, launch oneself, throw oneself, go headlong, duck.

• **noun 1** *a dive into the pool:* **plunge**, nosedive, jump, bellyflop; plummet, fall, drop, swoop, pitch. **2** *a sideways dive:* **lunge**, spring, jump, leap. **3** (informal) *John got into a fight in some dive:* **sleazy bar/nightclub**, seedy bar/nightclub, drinking den; informal drinking joint.

**diverge** verb **1** *the two roads diverged:* **separate**, part, fork, divide, split, bifurcate, go in different directions. **2** *areas where our views diverge:* **differ**, be different, be dissimilar; disagree, be at variance/odds, conflict, clash. **3** *he diverged from his text:* **deviate**, digress, depart, veer, stray; stray from the point, get off the subject.

– OPPOSITES converge, agree.

**divergence** noun **1** *the divergence of the human and ape lineages:* **separation**, dividing, parting, forking, bifurcation. **2** *a marked political divergence:* **difference**, dissimilarity, variance, disparity; disagreement, incompatibility, mismatch; formal dissimilitude. **3** *divergence from standard behaviour:* **deviation**, digression, departure, shift, straying; variation, change, alteration.

**divergent** adjective **differing**, varying, different, dissimilar, unlike, disparate, contrasting, contrastive; conflicting, incompatible, contradictory, at odds, at variance.

– OPPOSITES similar.

**divers** adjective (literary) **several**, many, numerous, multiple, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous; sundry, miscellaneous, assorted, various; literary myriad.

**diverse** adjective **various**, sundry, manifold, multiple; varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diversified, divergent, heterogeneous, a mixed bag of; different, differing, distinct, unlike, dissimilar; literary divers, myriad.

**diversify** verb **1** *farmers looking for ways to diversify:* **branch out**, expand, extend operations. **2** *a plan aimed at diversifying the economy:* **vary**, bring variety to; modify, alter, change, transform; expand, enlarge.

**diversion** noun **1** *the diversion of 19 rivers:* **re-routing**, redirection, deflection, deviation, divergence. **2** *traffic diversions:* **detour**, deviation, alternative route. **3** *the noise created a diversion:* **distraction**, disturbance, smokescreen. **4** *a city full of diversions:* **entertainment**, amusement,

pastime, delight, divertissement; fun, recreation, rest and relaxation, pleasure; informal R & R; dated sport.

**diversity** noun **variety**, miscellany, assortment, mixture, mix, melange, range, array, multiplicity; variation, variance, diverseness, diversification, heterogeneity, difference, contrast; formal dissimilitude.

– OPPOSITES uniformity.

**divert** verb **1** *a plan to divert Siberia's rivers:* **re-route**, redirect, change the course of, deflect, channel. **2** *he diverted her from her studies:* **distract**, sidetrack, disturb, draw away, be a distraction, put off. **3** *the story diverted them:* **amuse**, entertain, distract, delight, enchant, interest, fascinate, absorb, engross, rivet, grip, hold the attention of.

**diverting** adjective **entertaining**, amusing, enjoyable, pleasing, agreeable, delightful, appealing; interesting, fascinating, intriguing, absorbing, riveting, compelling; humorous, funny, witty, comical, chucklesome.

– OPPOSITES boring.

**divest** verb **deprive**, strip, dispossess, rob, cheat/trick out of; old use reave.

**divide** verb **1** *he divided his kingdom into four:* **split (up)**, cut up, carve up; dissect, bisect, halve, quarter; literary sunder. **2** *a curtain divided her cabin from the galley:* **separate**, segregate, partition, screen off, section off, split off. **3** *the stairs divide at the mezzanine:* **diverge**, separate, part, branch (off), fork, split (in two), bifurcate. **4** *Jack divided up the cash:* **share out**, allocate, allot, apportion, portion out, ration out, parcel out, deal out, dole out, dish out, distribute, dispense; informal divvy up. **5** *he aimed to divide his opponents:* **disunite**, drive apart, break up, split up, set at variance/odds; separate, isolate, estrange, alienate; literary tear asunder. **6** *living things are divided into three categories:* **classify**, sort (out), categorize, order, group, grade, rank.

– OPPOSITES unify, join, converge.

• **noun** *the sectarian divide:* **breach**, gulf, gap, split; borderline, boundary, dividing line.

**dividend** noun **1** *an annual dividend:* **share**, portion, premium, return, gain, profit; informal cut, rake-off; Brit. informal divvy. **2** *the research will produce dividends in the future:* **benefit**, advantage, gain; bonus, extra, plus.

**divination** noun **fortune telling**, divining, prophecy, prediction, soothsaying, augury; clairvoyance, second sight.

**divine**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *a divine being:* **godly**, angelic, seraphic, saintly, beatific; heavenly, celestial, holy. **2** *divine worship:* **religious**, holy, sacred, sanctified, consecrated, blessed, devotional. **3** (informal) *divine food.* See **LOVELY** sense 3.

– OPPOSITES mortal.

• **noun** (dated) *puritan divines:* **theologian**, clergyman, clergywoman, member of the clergy, churchman, churchwoman, cleric, minister, man/woman of the cloth, preacher, priest; informal reverend.

**divine**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *Fergus divined how afraid she*

**was:** guess, surmise, conjecture, deduce, infer; discern, intuit, perceive, recognize, see, realize, appreciate, understand, grasp, comprehend; informal figure (out), savvy; Brit. informal twig, suss. **2** *they divined that this was an auspicious day:* foretell, predict, prophesy, forecast, foresee, prognosticate; rare vaticinate.

**diviner** noun fortune teller, clairvoyant, crystal-gazer, psychic, seer, soothsayer, prognosticator, prophesier, oracle, sibyl; rare vaticinator.

**divinity** noun **1** *they denied Christ's divinity:* divine nature, divineness, godliness, deity, godhead, holiness. **2** *the study of divinity:* theology, religious studies, religion, scripture. **3** *a female divinity:* deity, god, goddess, divine/supreme being.

**division** noun **1** *the division of the island | cell division:* dividing (up), breaking up, break-up, carving up, splitting, dissection, bisection; partitioning, separation, segregation. **2** *the division of his estates:* sharing out, dividing up, parcelling out, dishing out, allocation, allotment, apportionment; splitting up, carving up; informal divvying up. **3** *the division between nomadic and urban cultures:* dividing line, divide, boundary, borderline, border, demarcation line. **4** *each class is divided into nine divisions:* section, subsection, subdivision, category, class, group, grouping, set, family. **5** *an independent division of the executive:* department, branch, arm, wing, sector, section, subsection, subdivision, subsidiary. **6** *the causes of social division:* disunity, disunion, conflict, discord, disagreement, dissension, disaffection, estrangement, alienation, isolation.

**divisive** adjective alienating, estranging, isolating, schismatic.

– OPPOSITES unifying.

**divorce** noun **1** *she wants a divorce:* dissolution, annulment, (official/judicial) separation. **2** *a growing divorce between the church and people:* separation, division, split, disunity, estrangement, alienation; schism, gulf, chasm.

– OPPOSITES marriage, unity.

• **verb** **1** *her parents have divorced:* dissolve one's marriage, end one's marriage. **2** *religion cannot be divorced from morality:* separate, disconnect, divide, dissociate, detach, isolate, alienate, set apart, cut off.

**divulge** verb disclose, reveal, tell, communicate, pass on, publish, broadcast, proclaim; expose, uncover, make public, give away, let slip; informal spill the beans about, let on about.

– OPPOSITES conceal.

**dizzy** adjective **1** *she felt dizzy:* giddy, light-headed, faint, unsteady, shaky, muzzy, wobbly; informal woozy. **2** *dizzy heights:* causing dizziness, causing giddiness, vertiginous. **3** (informal) *a dizzy blonde.* See EMPTY-HEADED.

**do** verb **1** *she does most of the manual work:* carry out, undertake, discharge, execute,

perform, accomplish, achieve; bring about, engineer; informal pull off; formal effectuate.

**2** *they can do as they please:* act, behave, conduct oneself, acquit oneself; formal comport oneself. **3** *regular coffee will do:* suffice, be adequate, be satisfactory, fill/fit the bill, serve one's purpose, meet one's needs. **4** *the boys will do the dinner:* prepare, make, get ready, see to, arrange, organize, be responsible for, be in charge of; informal fix. **5** *the company are doing a new range | a portrait I am doing:* make, create, produce, turn out, design, manufacture; paint, draw, sketch; informal knock up/off. **6** *each room was done in a different colour:* decorate, furnish, ornament, deck out, trick out; informal do up. **7** *her maid did her hair:* style, arrange, adjust; brush, comb, wash, dry, cut; informal fix. **8** *I am doing a show to raise money:* put on, present, produce; perform in, act in, take part in, participate in. **9** *you've done me a favour:* grant, pay, render, give. **10** *show me how to do these equations:* work out, figure out, calculate; solve, resolve. **11** *she's doing archaeology:* study, read, learn, take a course in. **12** *what does he do?* have as a job, have as a profession, be employed at, earn a living at. **13** *he is doing well at college:* get on/along, progress, fare, manage, cope; succeed, prosper. **14** *he was doing 80 mph:* drive at, travel at, move at. **15** *the cyclists do 30 miles per day:* travel (over), journey, cover, traverse, achieve, notch up, log; informal chalk up. **16** (informal) *we're doing Scotland this summer:* visit, tour, sightsee in.

• **noun** (Brit. informal) *he invited us to a grand do:* party, reception, gathering, celebration, function, social event/occasion, social, soirée; informal bash, shindig; Brit. informal knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight; Austral./NZ informal rage, jollo.

■ **do away with** **1** *they want to do away with the old customs:* abolish, get rid of, discard, remove, eliminate, discontinue, stop, end, terminate, put an end/stop to, dispense with, drop, abandon, give up; informal scrap, ditch, dump. **2** (informal) *she tried to do away with her husband.* See KILL verb sense 1.

■ **do someone/something down** (informal) belittle, disparage, denigrate, run down, deprecate, cast aspersions on, discredit, vilify, defame, criticize, malign; N. Amer. slur; informal have a go at, hit out at, knock, slam, pan, bad-mouth; Brit. informal rubbish, slag off.

■ **do someone/something in** (informal) **1** *the poor devil's been done in.* See KILL verb sense 1. **2** *the long walk home did me in:* wear out, tire out, exhaust, fatigue, weary, overtire, drain; informal shatter, take it out of; Brit. informal knacker. **3** *I did my back in:* injure, hurt, damage.

■ **do something out** (Brit. informal) decorate, furnish, ornament, deck out, trick out; informal do up.

■ **do someone out of something** (informal) swindle out of, cheat out of, trick out of, deprive of; informal con out of, diddle out of.

■ **do something up** **1** *she did her bootlace up:* fasten, tie (up), lace, knot; make fast, secure. **2** (informal) *he's had his house done*

*up*: renovate, refurbish, refit, redecorate, decorate, revamp, make over, modernize, improve, spruce up, smarten up; informal give something a facelift; N. Amer. informal rehab.

■ **do without** forgo, dispense with, abstain from, refrain from, eschew, give up, cut out, renounce, manage without; formal forswear.

**docile** adjective compliant, obedient, pliant, dutiful, submissive, deferential, unassertive, cooperative, amenable, accommodating, biddable, malleable.

– OPPOSITES disobedient, wilful.

**dock**<sup>1</sup> noun *his boat was moored at the dock*: harbour, marina, port, anchorage; wharf, quay, pier, jetty, landing stage.

• **verb** *the ship docked*: moor, berth, put in, tie up, anchor.

**dock**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *they docked the money from his salary*: deduct, subtract, remove, debit, take off/away; informal knock off. **2** *workers had their pay docked*: reduce, cut, decrease. **3** *the dog's tail was docked*: cut off, cut short, shorten, crop, lop; remove, amputate, detach, sever, chop off, take off.

**docket** (Brit.) noun *a docket for every transaction*: document, chit, coupon, voucher, certificate, counterfoil, bill, receipt; Brit. informal chitty.

• **verb** *neatly docketed bundles*: document, record, register; label, tag, tab, mark.

**doctor** noun physician, medical practitioner, GP, general practitioner, consultant, clinician; informal doc, medic, medico; Brit. informal quack.

• **verb** **1** (informal) *he doctored their wounds*: treat, medicate, cure, heal; tend, attend to, minister to, care for, nurse. **2** *he doctored Stephen's drinks*: adulterate, contaminate, tamper with, lace; informal spike, dope. **3** *the reports have been doctored*: falsify, tamper with, interfere with, alter, change; forge, fake; informal cook; Brit. informal fiddle (with).

**doctrinaire** adjective dogmatic, rigid, inflexible, uncompromising; authoritarian, intolerant, fanatical, zealous, extreme.

**doctrine** noun creed, credo, dogma, belief, teaching, ideology; tenet, maxim, canon, principle, precept.

**document** noun *their solicitor drew up a document*: (official/legal) paper, certificate, deed, contract, legal agreement; Law instrument, indenture.

• **verb** *many aspects of school life have been documented*: record, register, report, log, chronicle, archive, put on record, write down; detail, note, describe.

**documentary** adjective **1** *documentary evidence*: recorded, documented, registered, written, chronicled, archived, on record/paper, in writing. **2** *a documentary film*: factual, non-fictional.

• **noun** *a documentary about rural England*: factual programme/film; programme, film, broadcast.

**dodder** verb totter, teeter, toddle, hobble, shuffle, shamble, falter.

**dodderly** adjective tottering, tottery,

staggering, shuffling, shambling, faltering, shaky, unsteady, wobbly; feeble, frail, weak.

**dodge** verb **1** *she dodged into a telephone booth*: dart, bolt, dive, lunge, leap, spring.

**2** *he could easily dodge the two coppers*: elude, evade, avoid, escape, run away from, lose, shake (off); informal give someone the slip. **3** *the minister tried to dodge the debate*: avoid, evade, get out of, back out of, sidestep; N. Amer. end-run; informal duck, wriggle out of; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove.

• **noun** **1** *a dodge to the right*: dart, bolt, dive, lunge, leap, spring. **2** *a clever dodge* | *a tax dodge*: ruse, ploy, scheme, tactic, stratagem, subterfuge, trick, hoax, wile, cheat, deception, blind; swindle, fraud; informal scam, con (trick); Brit. informal wheeze; N. Amer. informal bunco, grift; Austral. informal lurk, rort.

**dodgy** adjective (Brit. informal) **1** *a dodgy second-hand car salesman*. See **DISHONEST**. **2** *the champagne was dodgy*: second-rate, third-rate, substandard, low-quality; awful, terrible, dreadful, dire; N. Amer. cheapjack; informal not up to much, woeful; Brit. informal ropy, grotty.

**doer** noun **1** *the doer of unspeakable deeds*: performer, perpetrator, executor, accomplicher, agent. **2** *Daniel is a thinker more than a doer*: worker, organizer, man/woman of action; informal mover and shaker, busy bee.

**doff** verb (dated) **take off**, remove, strip off, pull off; raise, lift, tip; dated divest oneself of. – OPPOSITES don.

**dog** noun *she went for a walk with her dog*: hound, canine, mongrel; pup, puppy, whelp; informal doggy, pooch, mutt; Austral. informal bitzer.

• **verb** **1** *they dogged him the length of the country*: pursue, follow, track, trail, shadow, hound; informal tail. **2** *the scheme was dogged by bad weather*: plague, beset, bedevil, beleaguer, blight, trouble.

#### WORD LINKS

canine relating to dogs

**dogged** adjective tenacious, determined, resolute, resolved, purposeful, persistent, persevering, single-minded, tireless; strong-willed, steadfast, staunch; formal pertinacious.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**dogma** noun teaching, belief, tenet, principle, precept, maxim, article of faith, canon; creed, credo, set of beliefs, doctrine, ideology.

**dogmatic** adjective opinionated, peremptory, assertive, insistent, emphatic, adamant, doctrinaire, authoritarian, imperious, dictatorial, uncompromising, unyielding, inflexible, rigid.

**dogsbody** noun (Brit. informal) **drudge**, menial (worker), factotum, servant, slave, lackey, minion, man/girl Friday; informal gofer; Brit. informal skivvy; N. Amer. informal peon; old use scullion.

**doing** noun **1** *the doing of the act constitutes*



*the offence*: performance, performing, carrying out, execution, implementation, implementing, accomplishment, achievement, realization, completion; formal effectuation. **2** *an account of his doings in Paris*: exploit, activity, act, action, deed, feat, achievement, accomplishment; informal caper. **3** *that would take some doing*: effort, exertion, (hard) work, application, labour, toil, struggle. **4** (Brit. informal) *the drawer where he kept the doings*: thing, so-and-so; informal whatsit, whatnot, doodah, thingummy, thingamajig, thingamabob, what's-its-name, what-d'-you-call-it, oojamaflop, oojah; Brit. informal gubbins; N. Amer. informal doohickey, doojigger, dingus.

**doldrums** plural noun *winter doldrums*: depression, melancholy, gloom, gloominess, downheartedness, dejection, despondency, low spirits, despair; inertia, apathy, listlessness; N. Amer. blahs; informal blues. ■ **in the doldrums** inactive, quiet, slow, slack, sluggish, stagnant.

**dole** noun **1** (dated) *the customary dole was a tumblerful of rice*: handout, charity; gift, donation; historical alms. **2** (Brit. informal) *he was on the dole*: unemployment benefit, social security, welfare. ■ **dole something out** deal out, share out, divide up, allocate, allot, distribute, dispense, hand out, give out, dish out/up; informal divvy up.

**doleful** adjective *mournful, woeful, sorrowful, sad, unhappy, depressed, gloomy, morose, melancholy, miserable, forlorn, wretched, weebegone, despondent, dejected, disconsolate, downcast, crestfallen, downhearted*; informal blue, down in the mouth/dumps; literary dolorous, heartsick.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**doll** noun **1** *the child was hugging a doll*: figure, figurine, model; toy, plaything; informal dolly. **2** (informal) *she was quite a doll*. See BEAUTY sense 2. ■ **doll oneself up** (informal) dress up; informal get/do oneself up, dress up to the nines, put on one's glad rags; Brit. informal tart oneself up.

**dollop** noun (informal) blob, gobbet, lump, ball; informal glob; Brit. informal gob, wodge.

**dolorous** adjective (literary). See DOLEFUL.

**dolour** noun (literary). See MISERY sense 1.

**dolt** noun. See IDIOT.

**doltish** adjective. See STUPID sense 1.

**domain** noun **1** *they extended their domain*: realm, kingdom, empire, dominion, province, territory, land. **2** *the domain of art*: field, area, sphere, discipline, province, world.

**dome** noun cupola, vault, arched roof.

**domestic** adjective **1** *domestic commitments*: family, home, household. **2** *she was not at all domestic*: housewifely, domesticated, house-proud. **3** *small domestic animals*: domesticated, tame, pet, household. **4** *the domestic car industry*: national, state, home, internal. **5** *domestic plants*: native, indigenous.

• noun *they worked as domestics*: servant, domestic worker/help, home help, maid, housemaid, cleaner, housekeeper; Brit. dated charwoman, charlady, char; Brit. informal daily (help).

**domesticated** adjective **1** *domesticated animals*: tame, tamed, pet, domestic, trained. **2** *domesticated crops*: cultivated, naturalized. **3** *I'm quite domesticated really*: housewifely, house-proud, home-loving, homely.

– OPPOSITES wild.

**domicile** (formal) noun *changes of domicile*: residence, home, house, address, residency, lodging, accommodation; informal digs; formal dwelling (place), abode, habitation. ■ **be domiciled** *he is now domiciled in Australia*: settled, living, resident; formal dwelling.

**dominance** noun supremacy, superiority, ascendancy, pre-eminence, predominance, domination, dominion, mastery, power, authority, rule, command, control, sway; literary puissance.

**dominant** adjective **1** *the dominant classes*: presiding, ruling, governing, controlling, commanding, ascendant, supreme, authoritative. **2** *he has a dominant personality*: assertive, authoritative, forceful, domineering, commanding, controlling, pushy; dated pushful. **3** *the dominant issues in psychology*: main, principal, prime, premier, chief, foremost, primary, predominant, paramount, prominent; central, key, crucial, core; informal number-one.

– OPPOSITES subservient.

**dominate** verb **1** *the Russians dominated Iran in the nineteenth century*: control, influence, exercise control over, command, be in command of, be in charge of, rule, govern, direct, have ascendancy over, have mastery over; informal head up, be in the driver's seat, be at the helm, rule the roost; Brit. informal wear the trousers; N. Amer. informal have someone in one's hip pocket; literary sway. **2** *the Puritan work ethic still dominates*: predominate, prevail, reign, be prevalent, be paramount, be pre-eminent. **3** *the village is dominated by the viaduct*: overlook, command, tower above/over, loom over.

**domination** noun rule, government, sovereignty, control, command, authority, power, dominion, dominance, mastery, supremacy, superiority, ascendancy, sway.

**domineer** verb browbeat, bully, intimidate, push around/about, order about/around, lord it over; dictate to, be overbearing, have under one's thumb, rule with a rod of iron; informal boss about/around, walk all over.

**domineering** adjective overbearing, authoritarian, imperious, high-handed, autocratic; masterful, dictatorial, despotic, oppressive, iron-fisted, strict, harsh; informal bossy.

**dominion** noun **1** *France had dominion over Laos*: supremacy, ascendancy, dominance,

domination, superiority, predominance, pre-eminence, hegemony, authority, mastery, control, command, power, sway, rule, government, jurisdiction, sovereignty, suzerainty. **2** *a British dominion*: dependency, colony, protectorate, territory, province, possession; historical tributary.

**don**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *an Oxford don*: university teacher, (university) lecturer, fellow, professor, reader, academic, scholar.

**don**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *he donned an overcoat*: put on, get dressed in, dress (oneself) in, get into, slip into/on.

**donate** **verb** give, give/make a donation of, contribute, make a contribution of, gift, subscribe, grant, bestow; informal chip in, pitch in; Brit. informal stump up; N. Amer. informal kick in.

**donation** **noun** gift, contribution, subscription, present, handout, grant, offering; charity; formal benefaction; historical alms.

**done** **adjective** **1** *the job is done*: finished, ended, concluded, complete, completed, accomplished, achieved, fulfilled, discharged, executed; informal wrapped up, sewn up, polished off. **2** *is the meat done?* cooked (through), ready. **3** *those days are done*: over (and done with), at an end, finished, ended, concluded, terminated, no more, dead, gone, in the past. **4** (informal) *that's just not done*: proper, seemly, decent, respectable, right, correct, in order, fitting, appropriate, acceptable, the done thing.

— **OPPOSITES** incomplete, underdone, ongoing.

• **exclamation** *Done!* agreed, all right, very well; informal you're on, OK, okey-dokey; Brit. informal righto, righty-ho.

■ **be/have done with** be/have finished with, be through with, want no more to do with.

■ **done for** (informal) ruined, finished, destroyed, undone, doomed, lost; informal washed-up.

■ **done in** (informal). See **EXHAUSTED** sense 1.

**Don Juan** **noun** womanizer, philanderer, Casanova, Lothario, flirt, ladies' man, playboy, seducer, rake, roué, libertine; informal skirt-chaser, ladykiller, wolf.

**donkey** **noun** *the cart was drawn by a donkey*: ass, jackass, jenny, mule, hinny; Brit. informal moke.

**donnish** **adjective** scholarly, studious, academic, bookish, intellectual, learned, highbrow; informal egghead; dated lettered.

**donor** **noun** giver, contributor, benefactor, benefactress, subscriber; supporter, backer, patron, sponsor; informal angel.

**doom** **noun** **1** *his impending doom*: destruction, downfall, ruin, ruination; extinction, annihilation, death. **2** (old use) *the day of doom*: Judgement Day, the Last Judgement, doomsday, Armageddon. • **verb** *we were doomed to fail*: destine, fate, predestine, preordain, foredoom, mean; condemn, sentence.

**doomed** **adjective** ill-fated, ill-starred,

cursed, jinxed, foredoomed, damned; literary star-crossed.

**door** **noun** doorway, portal, opening, entrance, entry, exit.

■ **out of doors** outside, outdoors, in/into the open air, alfresco.

**doorkeeper** **noun** doorman, concierge, commissioner.

**dope** **noun** (informal) **1** *he was caught smuggling dope*: (illegal) drugs, narcotics; cannabis, heroin. **2** *what a dope!* See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**3** *they had plenty of dope on Mr Dixon*. See **INTELLIGENCE** sense 2.

• **verb** **1** *the horse was doped*: drug, administer drugs/narcotics to, tamper with, interfere with; sedate; Brit. informal nobble.

**2** *they doped his drink*: add drugs to, tamper with, adulterate, contaminate, lace; informal spike, doctor.

**dopey** **adjective** (informal) stupefied, confused, muddled, befuddled, disorientated, groggy, muzzy; informal woozy, not with it.

— **OPPOSITES** alert.

**dosmormant** **adjective** asleep, sleeping, resting; inactive, passive, inert, latent, quiescent.

— **OPPOSITES** awake, active.

**dose** **noun** measure, portion, dosage, drench; informal hit.

**dossier** **noun** file, report, case history; account, notes, information, document(s), documentation, data, evidence.

**dot** **noun** a pattern of tiny dots: spot, speck, fleck, speckle; full stop, decimal point.

• **verb** **1** *spots of rain dotted his shirt*: spot, fleck, mark, stipple, freckle, sprinkle; literary bestrew, besprinkle. **2** *restaurants are dotted around the site*: scatter, pepper, sprinkle, strew; spread, disperse, distribute.

■ **on the dot** (informal) precisely, exactly, sharp, prompt, dead on, on the stroke of —; informal bang on; N. Amer. informal on the button, on the nose.

**dotage** **noun** declining years; advanced years, old age; literary eld.

**dote** **verb**

■ **dote on** adore, love dearly, be devoted to, idolize, treasure, cherish, worship, hold dear; indulge, spoil, pamper.

**doting** **adjective** adoring, loving, besotted, infatuated; affectionate, fond, devoted, caring.

**dotty** **adjective** (informal). See **MAD** sense 1.

**double** **adjective** **1** *a double garage* | *double yellow lines*: dual, duplex, twin, binary, duplicate, in pairs, coupled, twofold. **2** *a double helping*: doubled, twofold. **3** *a double meaning*: ambiguous, equivocal, dual, two-edged, double-edged, ambivalent, cryptic, enigmatic. **4** *a double life*: deceitful, double-dealing, two-faced, dual; hypocritical, false, duplicitous, insincere, deceiving, dissembling, dishonest.

— **OPPOSITES** single, unambiguous.

• **adverb** *we had to pay double*: twice (over), twice the amount, doubly.

• **noun** **1** *if it's not her, it's her double*: lookalike, twin, clone, duplicate,

exact likeness, replica, copy, facsimile, doppelgänger; informal spitting image, dead ringer, dead spit. **2** *she used a double for the stunts: stand-in, substitute.*

• **verb 1** *they doubled his salary: multiply by two, increase twofold. 2 the bottom sheet had been doubled up: fold (back/up/down/over/under), turn back/up/down/over/under, tuck back/up/down/under. 3 the kitchen doubles as a dining room: function, do, (also) serve.*

■ **at/on the double** very quickly, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a run, at a gallop, fast, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, at (full) speed, at full tilt, as fast as possible; informal double quick, like (greased) lightning, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

**double-cross** **verb** betray, cheat, defraud, trick, hoodwink, mislead, deceive, swindle, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, play false; informal do the dirty on, sell down the river.

**double-dealing** **noun** duplicity, treachery, betrayal, double-crossing, unfaithfulness, untrustworthiness, infidelity, bad faith, disloyalty, breach of trust, fraud, underhandedness, cheating, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness, deception, falseness; informal crookedness.

— **OPPOSITES** honesty.

**double entendre** **noun** ambiguity, double meaning, innuendo, play on words.

**doubly** **adverb** twice as, in double measure, even more, especially, extra.

**doubt** **noun 1** *there was some doubt as to the caller's identity: uncertainty, unsureness, indecision, hesitation, dubiousness, suspicion, confusion; queries, questions; formal dubiety. 2 a weak leader racked by doubt: indecision, hesitation, uncertainty, insecurity, unease, uneasiness, apprehension; hesitancy, vacillation, irresolution. 3 there is doubt about their motives: scepticism, distrust, mistrust, doubtfulness, suspicion, cynicism, uneasiness, apprehension, wariness, chariness, leerness; reservations, misgivings, suspicions; formal dubiety.*

— **OPPOSITES** certainty, conviction.  
• **verb 1** *they doubted my story: disbelieve, distrust, mistrust, suspect, have doubts about, be suspicious of, have misgivings about, feel uneasy about, feel apprehensive about, query, question, challenge. 2 I doubt whether he will come: think something unlikely, have (one's) doubts about, question, query, be dubious. 3 stop doubting and believe! be undecided, have doubts, be irresolute, be ambivalent, be doubtful, be unsure, be uncertain, be in two minds, hesitate, shilly-shally, waver, vacillate.*

— **OPPOSITES** trust.

■ **in doubt 1** *the issue was in doubt: doubtful, uncertain, open to question, unconfirmed, unknown, undecided, unresolved, in the balance, up in the air; informal iffy. 2 if you are in doubt, ask for advice: irresolute, hesitant, vacillating, dithering, wavering, ambivalent;*

*doubtful, unsure, uncertain, in two minds, shilly-shallying, undecided, in a quandary/dilemma; informal sitting on the fence.*

■ **no doubt** doubtless, undoubtedly, indubitably, doubtlessly, without (a) doubt; unquestionably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably; unequivocally, clearly, plainly, obviously, patently.

**doubter** **noun** sceptic, doubting Thomas, non-believer, unbeliever, disbeliever, cynic, scoffer, questioner, challenger, dissenter.  
— **OPPOSITES** believer.

**doubtful** **adjective 1** *I was doubtful about going: irresolute, hesitant, vacillating, dithering, wavering, in doubt, unsure, uncertain, in two minds, shilly-shallying, undecided, in a quandary/dilemma, blowing hot and cold. 2 it is doubtful whether he will come: in doubt, uncertain, open to question, unsure, unconfirmed, not definite, unknown, undecided, unresolved, debatable, in the balance, up in the air; informal iffy.*

**3** *the whole trip is looking rather doubtful: unlikely, improbable, dubious, impossible.*

**4** *they are doubtful of the methods used:*

**distrustful**, **mistrustful**, suspicious, wary, chary, leery, apprehensive; sceptical, unsure, ambivalent, dubious, cynical. **5** *this decision is of doubtful validity: questionable, arguable, debatable, controversial, contentious; informal iffy; Brit. informal dodgy.*

— **OPPOSITES** confident, certain, probable, trusting.

**doubtless** **adverb** undoubtedly, indubitably, doubtlessly, no doubt; unquestionably, indisputably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably; certainly, surely, of course, indeed.

**doughty** **adjective** fearless, dauntless, determined, resolute, indomitable, intrepid, plucky, spirited, bold, valiant, brave, stout-hearted, courageous; informal gutsy, spunky, feisty.

**dour** **adjective** stern, unsmiling, unfriendly, severe, forbidding, gruff, surly, grim, sullen, solemn, austere, stony.

— **OPPOSITES** cheerful, friendly.

**douse** **verb 1** *a mob doused the thieves with petrol: drench, soak, saturate, wet, splash, slosh. 2 a guard doused the flames: extinguish, put out, quench, smother, dampen down.*

**dovetail** **verb 1** *the ends of the logs were dovetailed: joint, join, fit together, splice, mortise, tenon. 2 this will dovetail well with the division's existing activities: fit in, go together, be consistent, match, conform, harmonize, be in tune, correspond; informal square; N. Amer. informal jibe.*

**dowdy** **adjective** unfashionable, frumpy, old-fashioned, inelegant, shabby, scruffy, frowzy; Brit. informal mumsy; Austral./NZ informal daggy.

— **OPPOSITES** fashionable.

**down<sup>1</sup>** **adjective 1** *I'm feeling a bit down: depressed, sad, unhappy, melancholy, miserable, wretched, sorrowful, gloomy, dejected, downhearted, despondent,*



dispirited, low; informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth, fed up. **2** *the computer is down*: **not working**, inoperative, malfunctioning, out of order, broken; not in service, out of action, out of commission; informal conked out, bust, (gone) kaput; N. Amer. informal on the fritz.

• **verb** (informal) *he downed his beer*: **drink (up/down)**, gulp (down), guzzle, quaff, drain, toss off, slug, finish off; informal sink, knock back, put away, Hoover up; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).

• **noun** *the ups and downs of running a business*: **setbacks**, upsets, reverses, reversals, mishaps, vicissitudes; informal glitches.

■ **have a down on** (informal) **disapprove of**, be against, feel antagonism to, be hostile to, feel ill will towards; informal have it in for, be down on.

**down**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *goose down*: **soft feathers**, fine hair; fluff, fuzz, floss, lint.

**down and out** **adjective** **destitute**, poverty-stricken, impoverished, penniless, insolvent, impecunious; needy, in straitened circumstances, distressed, badly off; homeless, on the streets, vagrant, sleeping rough; informal hard up, (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), without a brass farthing, without two pennies to rub together; Brit. informal stony broke, skint; N. Amer. informal without a red cent, on skid row.

– **OPPOSITES** wealthy.

• **noun** (**down-and-out**) **poor person**, pauper, indigent; beggar, homeless person, vagrant, tramp, drifter, derelict, vagabond; N. Amer. hobo; Austral. bagman; informal have-not, bag lady; Brit. informal dossier; N. Amer. informal bum.

**down at heel** **adjective** **1** *the resort looks down at heel*: **run down**, dilapidated, neglected, uncared-for; seedy, insalubrious, squalid, slummy, wretched; informal scruffy, scuzzy; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal shacky. **2** *a down-at-heel labourer*: **scruffy**, shabby, ragged, tattered, mangy, sorry, unkempt, bedraggled, dishevelled, ungroomed, seedy, untidy, slovenly; informal tatty, scuzzy, grungy; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal raggedy.

– **OPPOSITES** smart.

**downbeat** **adjective** **1** *the mood is decidedly downbeat*: **pessimistic**, gloomy, negative, defeatist, cynical, bleak, fatalistic, dark, black; despairing, despondent, depressed, dejected, demoralized, hopeless, melancholy, glum. **2** *his downbeat joviality*: **relaxed**, easy-going, easy, casual, informal, nonchalant, insouciant; low-key, subtle, unostentatious, cool; informal laid-back.

**downcast** **adjective** **despondent**, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, downhearted, crestfallen, down, low, disconsolate, despairing; sad, melancholy, gloomy, glum, morose, doleful, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.

– **OPPOSITES** elated.

**downfall** **noun** **undoing**, ruin, ruination; defeat, conquest, deposition, overthrow; nemesis, destruction, annihilation, elimination; end, collapse, fall, crash, failure; debasement, degradation, disgrace; Waterloo.

– **OPPOSITES** rise.

**downgrade** **verb** **1** *plans to downgrade three workers*: **demote**, lower, reduce/lower in rank; relegate. **2** *I won't downgrade their achievement*: **disparage**, denigrate, detract from, run down, belittle; informal bad-mouth.

– **OPPOSITES** promote, praise.

**downhearted** **adjective** **despondent**, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, disconsolate, downcast, crestfallen, down, low, wretched; melancholy, gloomy, glum, morose, doleful, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected, sorrowful, sad; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.

– **OPPOSITES** elated.

**downmarket** **adjective** (Brit.) **cheap**, cheap and nasty, inferior; low-class, lowbrow, unsophisticated, rough, insalubrious; informal tacky, rubbishy, dumbed down.

**downpour** **noun** **rainstorm**, cloudburst, deluge; thunderstorm; torrential/pouring rain.

**downright** **adjective** **1** *downright lies*: **complete**, total, absolute, utter, thorough, out-and-out, outright, sheer, arrant, pure, real, veritable, categorical, unmitigated, unadulterated, unalloyed, unequivocal; Brit. informal proper. **2** *her downright attitude*: **frank**, straightforward, direct, blunt, plain-spoken, forthright, uninhibited, unreserved; no-nonsense, matter-of-fact, bluff, undiplomatic; explicit, clear, plain, unequivocal, unambiguous; honest, candid, open, sincere; informal upfront.

• **adverb** *that's downright dangerous*: **thoroughly**, utterly, positively, profoundly, really, completely, totally, entirely; unquestionably, undeniably, in every respect, through and through; informal plain.

**downside** **noun** **drawback**, disadvantage, snag, stumbling block, catch, pitfall, fly in the ointment; handicap, limitation, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication, nuisance; hindrance; weak spot/point; informal minus, flip side.

– **OPPOSITES** advantage.

**down-to-earth** **adjective** **practical**, sensible, realistic, matter-of-fact, responsible, reasonable, rational, logical, balanced, sober, pragmatic, level-headed, commonsensical, sane.

– **OPPOSITES** idealistic.

**downtrodden** **adjective** **oppressed**, subjugated, persecuted, repressed, tyrannized, crushed, enslaved, exploited, victimized, bullied; disadvantaged, underprivileged, powerless, helpless; abused, maltreated.

**downward** **adjective** **descending**, downhill, falling, sinking, dipping; earthbound, earthward.

**downy** adjective soft, velvety, smooth, fleecy, fluffy, fuzzy, feathery, furry, woolly, silky.

**dowry** noun marriage settlement, (marriage) portion; old use dot.

**doze** verb **catnap**, nap, drowse, sleep lightly, rest; informal snooze, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal kip; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs; literary slumber.

• **noun catnap**, nap, siesta, light sleep, drowse, rest; informal snooze, forty winks; Brit. informal kip, zizz; literary slumber.

■ **doze off** fall asleep, go to sleep, drop off; informal nod off, drift off; N. Amer. informal sack out, zone out.

**dozy** adjective drowsy, sleepy, half asleep, heavy-eyed, somnolent; lethargic, listless, enervated, inactive, languid, weary, tired, fatigued; N. Amer. logy; informal dopey, yawny.

**drab** adjective **1** *a drab interior: colourless*, grey, dull, washed out, muted, lacklustre; dingy, dreary, dismal, cheerless, gloomy, sombre. **2** *a drab existence: uninteresting*, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, dry, dreary; unexciting, unimaginative, uninspiring, insipid, lacklustre, flat, stale, wishy-washy, colourless; lame, tired, sterile, anaemic, barren, tame; middle-of-the-road, run-of-the-mill, mediocre, nondescript, characterless, mundane, unremarkable, humdrum.

– OPPOSITES bright, cheerful, interesting.

**draconian** adjective harsh, severe, strict, extreme, drastic, stringent, tough; cruel, oppressive, ruthless, relentless, punitive; authoritarian, despotic, tyrannical, repressive; Brit. swingeing.

– OPPOSITES lenient.

**draft** noun **1** *the draft of his speech: preliminary version*, rough outline, plan, skeleton, abstract; main points, bare bones. **2** *a draft of the building: plan*, blueprint, design, diagram, drawing, sketch, map, layout, representation. **3** *a banker's draft: cheque*, order, money order, bill of exchange, postal order.

**drag** verb **1** *she dragged the chair backwards: haul*, pull, tug, heave, lug, draw; trail, trawl, tow; informal yank. **2** *the day dragged: become tedious*, pass slowly, creep along, hang heavy, wear on, go on too long, go on and on.

• **noun 1** *the drag of the air brakes: pull*, resistance, tug. **2** (informal) *work can be a drag: bore*, nuisance, bother, trouble, pest, annoyance, trial, vexation; informal pain (in the neck), bind, headache, hassle.

■ **drag on** persist, continue, go on, carry on, extend, run on, be protracted, endure, prevail.

■ **drag something out** prolong, protract, draw out, spin out, string out, extend, lengthen, carry on, keep going, continue.

**dragon** noun (historical) *the dragons charged: cavalryman*, mounted soldier; historical knight, chevalier, hussar; old use cavalier.

• **verb** *he dragoned his friends into participating: coerce*, pressure, pressurize, press, push; force, compel, impel; hound, harass, nag, harry, badger, goad, pester;

browbeat, bludgeon, bully, twist someone's arm, strong-arm; informal railroad.

**drain** verb **1** *a valve for draining the tank: empty (out)*, void, clear (out), evacuate, unload. **2** *drain off any surplus liquid: draw off*, extract, withdraw, remove, siphon off, pour out, pour off; milk, bleed, tap, void, filter, discharge. **3** *the water drained away to the sea: flow*, pour, trickle, stream, run, rush, gush, flood, surge; leak, ooze, seep, dribble, issue, filter, bleed, leach. **4** *more people would just drain our resources: use up*, exhaust, deplete, consume, expend, get through, sap, strain, tax; milk, bleed. **5** *he drained his drink: drink (up/down)*, gulp (down), guzzle, quaff, down, imbibe, sup, swallow, finish off, toss off, slug; informal sink, swig, swill (down), polish off, knock back, put away.

– OPPOSITES fill.

• **noun 1** *the drain filled with water: sewer*, channel, conduit, ditch, culvert, duct, pipe, gutter, trough; sluice, spillway, race, flume, chute. **2** *a drain on the battery: strain*, pressure, burden, load, tax, demand.

**dram** noun **drink**, nip, tot, sip, drop, finger, splash, little, spot, taste.

**drama** noun **1** *a television drama: play*, show, piece, theatrical work, dramatization. **2** *he is studying drama: acting*, the theatre, the stage, the performing arts, dramatic art, stagecraft. **3** *she liked to create a drama: incident*, scene, spectacle, crisis; excitement, thrill, sensation; disturbance, row, commotion, turmoil; dramatics, theatrics.

**dramatic** adjective **1** *dramatic art: theatrical*, theatric, thespian, stage, dramaturgical; formal histrionic. **2** *a dramatic increase: considerable*, substantial, sizeable, goodly, fair, marked, noticeable, measurable, perceptible, obvious, appreciable; significant, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, phenomenal; informal tidy. **3** *there were dramatic scenes in the city: exciting*, stirring, action-packed, sensational, spectacular; startling, unexpected, tense, gripping, riveting, fascinating, thrilling, hair-raising; rousing, lively, electrifying, impassioned, moving. **4** *dramatic headlands: striking*, impressive, imposing, spectacular, breathtaking, dazzling, sensational, awesome, awe-inspiring, remarkable, outstanding, incredible, phenomenal. **5** *a dramatic gesture: exaggerated*, theatrical, ostentatious, actressy, stagy, showy, melodramatic, overdone, histrionic, affected, mannered, artificial; informal hammy, ham, campy.

– OPPOSITES insignificant, boring.

**dramatist** noun **playwright**, writer, scriptwriter, screenwriter, scenarist, dramaturge.

**dramatize** verb **1** *the novel was dramatized for television: turn into a play/film*, adapt for the stage/screen. **2** *the tabloids dramatized the event: exaggerate*, overdo, overstate, hyperbolize, magnify, amplify,

inflate; sensationalize, embroider, colour, aggrandize, embellish, elaborate; informal blow up (out of all proportion).

**drape verb 1** *she draped a shawl round her: wrap*, wind, swathe, sling, hang. **2** *the chair was draped with blankets: cover*, envelop, swathe, shroud, deck, festoon, overlay, cloak, wind, enfold, sheathe. **3** *he draped one leg over the arm of his chair: dangle*, hang, suspend, droop, drop.

**drastic adjective** extreme, serious, desperate, radical, far-reaching, momentous, substantial; heavy, severe, harsh, rigorous; oppressive, draconian.

– OPPOSITES moderate.

**draught noun 1** *the draught made Robyn shiver: current of air*, rush of air; waft, wind, breeze, gust, puff, blast; informal blow. **2** *a deep draught of beer: gulp*, drink, swallow, mouthful, slug; informal swig, swill.

**draw verb 1** *he drew the house: sketch*, make a drawing (of), delineate, outline, draft, rough out, illustrate, render, represent, trace; portray, depict. **2** *she drew her chair in to the table: pull*, haul, drag, tug, heave, lug, trail, tow; informal yank. **3** *the train drew into the station: move*, go, come, proceed, progress, travel, advance, pass, drive; inch, roll, glide, cruise; forge, sweep, back. **4** *she drew the curtains: close*, shut, pull to, lower; open, part, pull back, pull open, fling open, raise. **5** *he drew some fluid off the knee joint: drain*, extract, withdraw, remove, suck, pump, siphon, milk, bleed, tap. **6** *he drew his gun: pull out*, take out, produce, fish out, extract, withdraw; unsheathe. **7** *I drew £50 out of the bank: withdraw*, take out. **8** *while I draw breath: breathe in*, inhale, inspire, respire. **9** *she was drawing huge audiences: attract*, interest, win, capture, catch, engage, lure, entice; absorb, occupy, rivet, engross, fascinate, mesmerize, spellbind, captivate, enthrall, grip. **10** *what conclusion can we draw? deduce*, infer, conclude, derive, gather, glean.

• **noun 1** *she won the Christmas draw: raffle*, lottery, sweepstake, sweep, tombola, ballot; N. Amer. lotto. **2** *the match ended in a draw: tie*, dead heat, stalemate. **3** *the draw of central London: attraction*, lure, allure, pull, appeal, glamour, excitement, temptation, charm, seduction, fascination, magnetism.

■ **draw on** call on, have recourse to, avail oneself of, turn to, look to, fall back on, rely on, exploit, use, employ, utilize, bring into play.

■ **draw something out 1** *he drew out a gun*.

See **DRAW** verb sense 6. **2** *they always drew their parting out: prolong*, protract, drag out, spin out, string out, extend, lengthen.

■ **draw someone out** encourage to talk, put at ease.

■ **draw up** stop, pull up, halt, come to a standstill, brake, park; arrive.

■ **draw something up 1** *we drew up a list: compose*, formulate, frame, write down, draft, prepare, think up, devise, work out; create, invent, design. **2** *he drew up his forces in battle array: arrange*, marshal, muster,

assemble, group, order, range, rank, line up, dispose, position, array.

**drawback noun** disadvantage, snag, downside, stumbling block, catch, hitch, pitfall, fly in the ointment; weak spot/point, weakness, imperfection; handicap, limitation, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication; hindrance, obstacle, impediment, obstruction, inconvenience, discouragement, deterrent; Brit. spanner in the works; informal minus, hiccup.

– OPPOSITES benefit.

**drawing noun** sketch, picture, illustration, representation, portrayal, delineation, depiction, composition, study; diagram, outline, design, plan.

#### WORD LINKS

graphic relating to drawing

draughtsman an artist skilled in drawing

**drawl verb** say slowly, speak slowly; drone.

**drawn adjective** *she looked pale and drawn: pinched*, haggard, drained, wan, hollow-cheeked; fatigued, tired, exhausted; tense, stressed, strained, worried, anxious, harassed, fraught; informal hassled.

**dread verb** *I used to dread going to school:*

fear, be afraid of, worry about, be anxious about, have forebodings about; be terrified by, tremble/shudder at, shrink from, quail from, flinch from; informal get cold feet about.

• **noun** *she was filled with dread: fear*, apprehension, trepidation, anxiety, worry, concern, foreboding, disquiet, unease, angst; fright, panic, alarm; terror, horror; informal the jitters, the heebie-jeebies.

– OPPOSITES confidence.

• **adjective** *a dread secret: awful*, frightful, terrible, horrible, dreadful; feared, frightening, alarming, terrifying, dire, dreaded.

**dreadful adjective 1** *a dreadful accident: terrible*, frightful, horrible, grim, awful, dire; horrifying, alarming, shocking, distressing, appalling, harrowing; ghastly, fearful, horrendous; tragic, calamitous; formal grievous. **2** *a dreadful meal: unpleasant*, disagreeable, nasty; frightful, shocking, awful, abysmal, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, very bad, repugnant; poor, inadequate, inferior, unsatisfactory, distasteful; informal pathetic, woeful, crummy, rotten, sorry, third-rate, lousy, ropy, God-awful; Brit. informal duff, chronic, rubbish, pants. **3** *you're a dreadful flirt: outrageous*, shocking; inordinate, immoderate, unrestrained.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, agreeable.

**dreadfully adverb 1** *I'm dreadfully hungry: extremely*, very, really, exceedingly, tremendously, exceptionally, extraordinarily; decidedly, most, particularly; N. English right; informal terribly, terribly, desperately, awfully, devilishly, mega, seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; informal, dated frightfully. **2** *she missed James dreadfully: very much*, much, lots, a lot, a great deal,



intensely, desperately. **3** *the company performed dreadfully*: terribly, awfully, very badly, atrociously, abysmally, appallingly, abominably, poorly; informal pitifully, diabolically.

**dream** noun **1** *I awoke from my dreams*: REM sleep; nightmare; vision, fantasy, hallucination. **2** *she went around in a dream*: **daydream**, reverie, trance, daze, stupor, haze; Scottish dwam. **3** *he realized his childhood dream*: **ambition**, aspiration, hope; goal, aim, objective, goal, intention, intent, target; desire, wish, yearning; **daydream**, fantasy, pipe dream. **4** *he's an absolute dream*: **delight**, joy, marvel, wonder, gem, treasure; beauty, vision.

• **verb** **1** *she dreamed of her own funeral*: **have a dream**, have a nightmare. **2** *I dreamt of making the Olympic team*: **fantasize about**, **daydream about**; **wish for**, hope for, long for, yearn for, hanker after, set one's heart on; aspire to, aim for, set one's sights on. **3** *she's always dreaming*: **daydream**, be in a trance, be lost in thought, be preoccupied, be abstracted, stare into space, be in cloud cuckoo land; muse. **4** *I wouldn't dream of being late*: **think**, consider, contemplate, conceive.

• **adjective** *his dream home*: **ideal**, perfect, fantasy.

■ **dream something up** think up, invent, concoct, devise, hatch, contrive, create, work out, come up with; informal cook up.

#### WORD LINKS

oneiric relating to dreams  
phantasmagoria a dreamlike sequence of images

**dreamer** noun fantasist, daydreamer; romantic, sentimentalist, idealist, wishful thinker, Don Quixote; Utopian, visionary.  
– OPPOSITES realist.

**dreamland** noun **1** *I drift off to dreamland*: **sleep**; humorous the land of Nod. **2** *they must be living in dreamland*: the land of make-believe, fairyland, cloud cuckoo land; paradise, Utopia, heaven, Shangri-La.

**dreamlike** adjective **unreal**, illusory, imaginary, unsubstantial, chimerical, ethereal, phantasmagorical, trance-like; surreal; nightmarish, Kafkaesque; hazy, shadowy, faint, indistinct, unclear; literary illusive.

**dreamy** adjective **1** *a dreamy expression*: **daydreaming**, dreaming; pensive, thoughtful, reflective, meditative, ruminative; lost in thought, preoccupied, distracted, rapt, inattentive, wool-gathering, vague, absorbed, absent-minded, with one's head in the clouds, in a world of one's own; informal miles away. **2** *he was dreamy as a child*: **idealistic**, romantic, starry-eyed, impractical, unrealistic, Utopian, quixotic; Brit. informal airy-fairy. **3** *a dreamy recollection*: **dreamlike**, vague, dim, hazy, shadowy, faint, indistinct, unclear. **4** (informal) *the prince was really dreamy*: **attractive**, handsome, good-looking; appealing, lovely, delightful; informal heavenly, divine, gorgeous, hot, cute.

– OPPOSITES alert, practical, clear, ugly.

**dreary** adjective **1** *a dreary day at school*: dull, drab, uninteresting, flat, tedious, wearisome, boring, unexciting, unstimulating, uninspiring, soul-destroying; humdrum, monotonous, uneventful, unremarkable, featureless. **2** *she thought of dreary things*: sad, miserable, depressing, gloomy, sombre, grave, mournful, melancholic, joyless, cheerless. **3** *a dreary day*: **gloomy**, dismal, dull, dark, dingy, murky, overcast; depressing, sombre.

– OPPOSITES exciting, cheerful, bright.

**dregs** plural noun **1** *the dregs from a bottle of wine*: **sediment**, deposit, residue, accumulation, sludge, lees, grounds, settlings; remains; technical residuum; old use grouts. **2** *the dregs of humanity*: scum, refuse, riff-raff, outcasts, deadbeats; the underclass, the untouchables, the lowest of the low, the great unwashed, the hoi polloi; informal trash; Brit. informal dossers.

**drench** verb **soak**, saturate, wet through, permeate, douse, sous; drown, swamp, inundate, flood; steep, bathe.

**dress** verb **1** *he dressed quickly*: **put on clothes**, clothe oneself, get dressed. **2** *she was dressed in a suit*: **clothe**, attire, garb, deck out, trick out/up, costume, array, robe; informal get up, doll up; old use apparel. **3** *she enjoyed dressing the tree*: **decorate**, trim, deck, adorn, ornament, embellish, beautify, prettify; festoon, garland, garnish. **4** *they dressed his wounds*: **bandage**, cover, bind, wrap, swathe. **5** *she had to dress the chickens*: **prepare**, get ready; clean. **6** *the field was dressed with manure*: **fertilize**, enrich, manure, mulch, compost, top-dress.

• **noun** **1** *a long blue dress*: **frock**, gown, robe, shift. **2** *full evening dress*: **clothes**, clothing, garments, attire; costume, outfit, ensemble, garb, turnout; informal gear, get-up, togs, duds, garms, glad rags; Brit. informal clobber; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel; old use raiment.

■ **dress up** **1** *Angela loved dressing up*: **dress smartly**; informal doll oneself up, put on one's glad rags. **2** *Hugh dressed up as Santa Claus*: **disguise oneself**, **dress**; put on fancy dress, put on a costume.

■ **dress something up** present, represent, portray, depict, characterize; embellish, enhance, touch up, embroider.

**dressing** noun **1** *salad dressing*: **sauce**, relish, condiment, dip. **2** *they put fresh dressings on her burns*: **bandage**, covering, plaster, gauze, lint, compress. **3** *a soil dressing*: **fertilizer**, mulch; manure, compost, dung, bonemeal, fishmeal, guano; top-dressing.

**dressmaker** noun **tailor**, seamstress, needlewoman; outfitter, costumier, clothier; couturier, designer; dated modiste.

**dressy** adjective **smart**, formal; elaborate, ornate; stylish, elegant, chic, fashionable; informal snappy, snazzy, natty, trendy.

– OPPOSITES casual.

**dribble** verb **1** *the baby started to dribble*: **drool**, slaver, slobber, salivate, drivel, water at the mouth; Scottish & Irish slabber.

**2** rainwater dribbled down her face: **trickle**, drip, fall, drizzle; ooze, seep.

• **noun 1** there was dribble on his chin: saliva, spittle, spit, slaver, slobber, drool. **2** a dribble of sweat: **trickle**, drip, dribble, stream, drizzle; drop, splash.

**dried** adjective dehydrated, desiccated, dry, dried up, moistureless.

**d** **drift** verb **1** his raft drifted down the river: be carried, be borne; float, bob, waft, meander. **2** the guests drifted away: **wander**, meander, stray, potter, dawdle; Brit. informal mooch. **3** don't allow your attention to drift: **stray**, digress, deviate, diverge, veer, get sidetracked. **4** snow drifted over the path: **pile up**, bank up, heap up, accumulate, gather, amass.

• **noun 1** a drift from the country to urban areas: **movement**, shift, flow, transfer, relocation, gravitation. **2** the pilot had not noticed any drift: **deviation**, digression.

**3** he caught the drift of her thoughts: gist, essence, meaning, sense, substance, significance; thrust, import, tenor; implication, intention; direction, course.

**4** a drift of deep snow: **pile**, heap, bank, mound, mass, accumulation.

**drifter** noun wanderer, traveller, transient, roamer, tramp, vagabond, vagrant; N. Amer. hobo.

**drill** noun **1** a hydraulic drill: **drilling tool**, boring tool, auger, (brace and) bit, gimlet, awl, Bradawl. **2** they learned military discipline and drill: **training**, instruction, coaching, teaching; (physical) exercises, workout; informal square-bashing. **3** Estelle knew the drill: **procedure**, routine, practice, regimen, programme, schedule; method, system.

• **verb 1** drill the piece of wood: **bore** a hole in, make a hole in; bore, pierce, puncture, perforate. **2** a sergeant drilling new recruits: **train**, instruct, coach, teach, discipline; exercise, put someone through their paces. **3** his mother had drilled politeness into him: instil, hammer, drive, drum, din, implant, ingrain; teach, indoctrinate, brainwash.

**drink** verb **1** she drank her coffee: **swallow**, gulp down, quaff, guzzle, sup; imbibe, sip, consume; drain, toss off, slug; informal swig, down, knock back, put away, neck, sink, swill. **2** he never drank: **drink alcohol**, tipple, indulge; carouse; informal hit the bottle, booze, knock a few back, have one over the eight, get tanked up, go on a bender; Brit. informal bevvy; N. Amer. informal bend one's elbow. **3** let's drink to success: **toast**, salute.

• **noun 1** he took a sip of his drink: **beverage**, liquid refreshment; dram, bracer, nightcap, nip, tot; pint; Brit. informal bevvy; humorous libation; old use potation. **2** she turned to drink: **alcohol**, (intoxicating) liquor, alcoholic drink; informal booze, hooch, the hard stuff, firewater, rotgut, moonshine, the bottle, the sauce, grog, Dutch courage. **3** she took a drink of her wine: **swallow**, gulp, sip, draught, slug; informal swig, swill. **4** a drink of orange juice: **glass**, cup, mug. **5** (informal) he fell into the drink: **the sea**, the ocean, the

water; informal **the briny**, Davy Jones's locker; literary **the deep**.

■ **drink something in** absorb, assimilate, digest, ingest, take in; be rapt in, be lost in, be fascinated by, pay close attention to.

**drinkable** adjective fit to drink, palatable; pure, clean, safe, unpolluted, untainted, uncontaminated; formal potable.

**drinker** noun drunkard, drunk, inebriate, imbibor, tippler, sot; alcoholic, dipsomaniac, alcohol-abuser; informal boozier, soak, lush, wino, alky, sponge, barfly; Austral./NZ informal hophead; old use toper.

– OPPOSITES teetotaler.

**drip** verb **1** there was a tap dripping: **dribble**, drop, leak. **2** sweat dripped from his chin: **drop**, dribble, trickle, drizzle, run, splash, plop; leak, emanate, issue.

• **noun 1** a bucket to catch the drips: **drop**, dribble, spot, trickle, splash. **2** (informal) that drip who fancies you: **weakling**, ninny, milksop, namby-pamby, crybaby, softie, doormat; informal wimp, weed, sissy; Brit. informal wet, big girl's blouse; N. Amer. informal pantywaist, pussy, wuss.

**drive** verb **1** I can't drive a car: **operate**, handle, manage; pilot, steer. **2** he drove to the police station: **travel by car**, motor. **3** I'll drive you to the airport: **chauffeur**, run, give someone a lift, take, ferry, transport, convey, carry. **4** the engine drives the front wheels: **power**, propel, move, push. **5** he drove a nail into the boot: **hammer**, screw, ram, sink, plunge, thrust, propel, knock. **6** she drove her cattle to market: **impel**, urge; herd, round-up, shepherd. **7** a desperate mother driven to crime: **force**, compel, prompt, precipitate; oblige, coerce, pressure, goad, spur, prod. **8** he drove his staff extremely hard: **work**, push, tax, exert.

• **noun 1** an afternoon drive: **excursion**, outing, trip, jaunt, tour; ride, run, journey; informal spin. **2** the house has a long drive: **driveway**, approach, access road. **3** sexual drive: **urge**, appetite, desire, need; impulse, instinct. **4** she lacked the drive to succeed: **motivation**, ambition, single-mindedness, will power, dedication, doggedness, tenacity; enthusiasm, zeal, commitment, aggression, spirit; energy, vigour, verve, vitality, pep; informal get-up-and-go. **5** an anti-corruption drive: **campaign**, crusade, movement, effort, push, appeal. **6** (Brit.) a whist drive: **tournament**, competition, contest, event, match.

■ **drive at** suggest, imply, hint at, allude to, intimate, insinuate, indicate; refer to, mean, intend; informal get at.

**drivel** noun he was talking complete drivel: **nonsense**, twaddle, claptrap, balderdash, gibberish, rubbish, mumbo-jumbo; N. Amer. garbage; informal rot, poppycock, phooey, piffle, tripe, bosh, bull, hogwash, baloney; Brit. informal cobbler's, codswallop, waffle, tosh, double Dutch; N. Amer. informal flapdoodle, bushwa; informal, dated tommyrot, bunkum.

• **verb you always drivel on**: **talk nonsense**, talk rubbish, babble, ramble, gibber, blather,

blether, prattle, gabble; Brit. informal waffle, witter.

**driver** verb motorist, chauffeur; pilot, operator.

**drizzle** noun **1** *they shivered in the drizzle:* fine rain, light shower, spray; N. English mizzle. **2** *a drizzle of sour cream:* trickle, dribble, drip, stream, rivulet; sprinkle, sprinkling.  
 • verb **1** *it's beginning to drizzle:* rain lightly, shower, spot; Brit. spit; N. English mizzle; N. Amer. sprinkle. **2** *drizzle the cream over the jelly:* trickle, drip, dribble, pour, splash, sprinkle.

**droll** adjective funny, humorous, amusing, comic, comical, mirthful, hilarious; clownish, farcical, zany, quirky; jocular, light-hearted, facetious, witty, whimsical, wry, tongue-in-cheek; informal waggish, wacky, side-splitting, rib-tickling.  
 – OPPOSITES serious.

**drone** verb **1** *a plane droned overhead:* hum, buzz, whirr, vibrate, murmur, rumble, purr. **2** *he droned on about right and wrong:* speak boringly, go on and on, talk at length; intone, pontificate; informal spout, sound off, jaw, spiel, speechify.  
 • noun **1** *the drone of aircraft taking off:* hum, buzz, whirr, vibration, murmur, purr. **2** *drones supported by taxpayers' money:* hanger-on, parasite, leech, passenger; idler, loafer, layabout, good-for-nothing, do-nothing; informal lazybones, scrounger, sponger, cadger, freeloader, bloodsucker, waster, slacker.

**drool** verb *his mouth was drooling:* salivate, dribble, slaver, slobber; Scottish & Irish slabber.  
 • noun *a fine trickle of drool:* saliva, spit, spittle, dribble, slaver, slobber.

**droop** verb **1** *the dog's tail is drooping:* hang (down), dangle, sag, flop; wilt, sink, slump, drop, drape. **2** *his eyelids were drooping:* close, shut, fall. **3** *the news made her droop:* be despondent, lose heart, give up hope, become dispirited, become dejected; flag, languish, wilt.

**droopy** adjective hanging (down), dangling, falling, dropping, draped; bent, bowed, stooping; sagging, flopping, wilting.

**drop** verb **1** *Eric dropped the box:* let fall, let go of, lose one's grip on; release, unhand, relinquish. **2** *water drops from the cave roof:* drip, fall, dribble, trickle, run, plop, leak. **3** *a plane dropped out of the sky:* fall, descend, plunge, plummet, dive, nosedive, tumble, pitch. **4** *she dropped to her knees:* fall, sink, collapse, slump, tumble. **5** (informal) *I was dropping with exhaustion:* collapse, faint, pass out, black out, swoon, keel over; informal flake out, conk out. **6** *the track dropped from the ridge:* slope downwards, slant downwards, descend, go down, fall away, sink, dip. **7** *the exchange rate dropped:* decrease, lessen, reduce, diminish, depreciate; fall, decline, dwindle, sink, slump, plunge, plummet. **8** *pupils can drop history if they wish:* give up, finish with, withdraw from; discontinue, end, stop, cease, halt; abandon, forgo, relinquish,

dispense with, have done with; informal pack in, quit. **9** *he was dropped from the team:* exclude, discard, expel, oust, throw out, leave out; dismiss, discharge, let go; informal boot out, kick out, turf out. **10** *he dropped his unsuitable friends:* abandon, desert, throw over; renounce, disown, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of; reject, give up, cast off; neglect, shun; literary forsake. **11** *he dropped all reference to compensation:* omit, leave out, eliminate, take out, miss out, delete, cut, erase. **12** *the taxi dropped her off:* deliver, bring, take, convey, carry, transport; leave, unload. **13** *drop the gun on the ground:* put, place, deposit, set, lay, leave; informal pop, plonk. **14** *she dropped names:* mention, refer to, hint at; bring up, raise, broach, introduce; show off. **15** *the team has yet to drop a point:* lose, concede, give away.

– OPPOSITES lift, rise, increase, keep, win.

• noun **1** *a drop of water:* droplet, blob, globule, bead, bubble, tear, dot; informal glob. **2** *it needs a drop of oil:* small amount, little, bit, dash, spot; dribble, driblet, sprinkle, trickle, splash; dab, speck, smattering, sprinkling, modicum; informal smidgen, tad. **3** *an acid drop:* sweet, lozenge, pastille, bonbon; N. Amer. candy. **4** *a small drop in profits:* decrease, reduction, decline, fall-off, downturn, slump; cut, cutback, curtailment; depreciation. **5** *I walked to the edge of the drop:* cliff, abyss, chasm, gorge, gully, precipice; slope, descent, incline. **6** *the hangman measured her for the drop:* hanging, gibbeting; execution; informal stringing up.

– OPPOSITES increase.

■ **drop back/behind** fall back/behind, get left behind, lag behind; straggle, linger, dawdle, dally, hang back, loiter, bring/take up the rear; informal dilly-dally.

■ **drop off 1** *trade dropped off sharply.*

See **DROP** verb sense 7. **2** *she kept dropping off:* fall asleep, doze (off), nap, catnap, drowse; informal nod off, drift off, snooze, take forty winks.

■ **drop out of** *he dropped out of his studies.*  
 See **DROP** verb sense 8.

**dropout** noun nonconformist, hippy, beatnik, bohemian, free spirit, rebel; idler, layabout, loafer; informal oddball, deadbeat, waster.

**droppings** plural noun excrement, excreta, faeces, stools, dung, ordure, manure; informal pooch.

**dross** noun rubbish, junk; debris, chaff, detritus, flotsam and jetsam; N. Amer. garbage, trash; informal dreck.

**drought** noun dry spell, lack of rain, shortage of water.

**drove** noun **1** *a drove of cattle:* herd, flock, pack. **2** *they came in droves:* crowd, swarm, horde, multitude, mob, throng, host, mass, army, herd.

**drown** verb **1** *the valleys were drowned:* flood, submerge, immerse, inundate, deluge, swamp, engulf. **2** *his voice was drowned out by the footsteps:* make inaudible, overpower,



overwhelm, override; muffle, deaden, stifle, extinguish.

**drowse** verb *they like to drowse in the sun:*

**doze**, nap, catnap, rest; informal snooze, get forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal kip; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs.

• **noun** *she had been woken from her drowse:*

**doze**, light sleep, nap, catnap, rest; informal snooze, forty winks, shut-eye; Brit. informal kip.

**drowsy** adjective **1** *the tablet made her*

**drowsy**: **sleepy**, dozy, heavy-eyed, groggy, somnolent; tired, weary, fatigued, exhausted, yawning, nodding; lethargic, sluggish, torpid, listless, languid; informal snoozy, dopey, yawny, dead beat, all in, dog-tired; Brit. informal knackered. **2** *a drowsy afternoon*: **soporific**, sleep-inducing, sleepy, somniferous; narcotic, sedative, tranquillizing; lulling, soothing.

– **OPPOSITES** alert, invigorating.

**drubbing** noun **1** *I gave him a good drubbing:*

**beating**, thrashing, whalloping, thumping, battering, pounding, pummelling, slapping, punching, pelting; informal hammering, licking, clobbering, belting, bashing, pasting, tanning, hiding, kicking. **2** (informal) *Scotland's 3-0 drubbing by France*. See **DEFEAT** noun sense 1.

**drudge** noun *a household drudge*: **menial**

**worker**, slave, lackey, servant, labourer, worker, maid/man of all work; informal gofer, runner; Brit. informal dogsbody, skivvy; Brit. dated charwoman, charlady, char.

• **verb** (old use) *he drugged in the fields*. See **TOIL** verb sense 1.

**drudgery** noun **hard work**, menial work,

donkey work, toil, labour; chores; informal skivvyng; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal (hard) yakka.

**drug** noun **1** *drugs prescribed by doctors:*

**medicine**, medication, medicament; remedy, cure, antidote. **2** *she was under the influence of drugs*: **narcotic**, stimulant, hallucinogen; informal dope, gear, downer, upper.

• **verb** **1** *he was drugged*: **anaesthetize**, narcotize; poison; knock out, stupefy; informal dope. **2** *she drugged his coffee*: **add drugs to**, tamper with, adulterate, contaminate, lace, poison; informal dope, spike, doctor.

#### WORD LINKS

**pharmaceutical** relating to medicinal drugs  
**pharmacology** the branch of science concerned with the uses and effects of drugs

**pharmacy** (Brit. **chemist**; N. Amer. **drugstore**) a shop selling medicinal drugs

**codex**, **formulary**, **pharmacopeia** an official list of medicinal drugs with directions for their use or prescription

**drugged** adjective **stupefied**, insensible, befuddled; delirious, hallucinating, narcotized; anaesthetized, knocked out; informal stoned, high (as a kite), doped, tripping, spaced out, wasted, wrecked, off one's head.

– **OPPOSITES** sober.

**drum** noun **1** *the beat of a drum*: **percussion**

**instrument**; bongo, tom-tom, snare drum, kettledrum; historical tambour. **2** *the steady drum of raindrops*: **beat**, rhythm, patter, tap, pounding, thump, thud, rattle, pitter-patter, pit-a-pat, rat-a-tat, thrum. **3** *a drum of radioactive waste*: **canister**, barrel, cylinder, tank, bin, can; container.

• **verb** **1** *she drummed her fingers on the desk*: **tap**, beat, rap, thud, thump; tattoo, thrum.

**2** *the rules were drummed into us at school*: **instil**, drive, din, hammer, drill, drub, implant, ingrain, inculcate.

■ **drum someone out** expel, dismiss, throw out, oust; drive out, get rid of; exclude, banish; informal give someone the boot, boot out, kick out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push, show someone the door, send packing; Military cashier.

■ **drum something up** round up, gather, collect; summon, attract; canvass, solicit, petition.

**drunk** adjective **intoxicated**, inebriated, drunken, incapable, tipsy, the worse for drink, under the influence; informal tight, merry, in one's cups, three sheets to the wind, pie-eyed, plastered, smashed, wrecked, wasted, sloshed, soused, sozzled, blotto, stewed, pickled, tanked (up), off one's face, out of one's head, ratted; Brit. informal legless, bevied, paralytic, Brahm's and Liszt, half cut, out of it, bladdered, trolleyed, slaughtered, mulled, scruffy, tiddly; N. Amer. informal loaded, trashed, juiced, sauced, out of one's gourd, in the bag, zoned; euphemistic tired and emotional; informal, dated lit up.

– **OPPOSITES** sober.

• **noun** **drunkard**, inebriate, drinker, tippler, imbibor, sot; heavy drinker, problem drinker, alcoholic, dipsomaniac; informal boozier, soak, lush, wino, alky, sponge, barfly, tosspot; Austral./NZ informal hophead, metho; old use toper.

– **OPPOSITES** teetotaler.

**drunken** adjective **1** *a drunken driver*.

See **DRUNK** adjective. **2** *a drunken all-night party*: **debauched**, dissipated, carousing,

roistering, intemperate, unrestrained, uninhibited, abandoned; bacchanalian, Bacchic; informal boozy.

**drunkenness** noun **intoxication**,

inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness; intemperance, overindulgence, debauchery; heavy drinking, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, dipsomania.

**dry** adjective **1** *the dry desert*: **arid**, parched,

droughty, scorched, baked; waterless, moistureless, rainless; dehydrated, desiccated, thirsty, bone dry. **2** *dry leaves*: **parched**, dried, withered, shrivelled, wilted, wizened; crisp, crispy, brittle; dehydrated, desiccated. **3** *the hamburgers were dry*: **hard**, stale, old, past its best; off. **4** *a dry well*: **waterless**, empty. **5** *I'm really dry*: **thirsty**, dehydrated; informal parched, gasping. **6** *it was dry work*: **thirsty**, thirst-making; hot; strenuous, arduous. **7** *dry toast*: **unbuttered**, butterless, plain. **8** *the dry facts*: **bare**,

simple, basic, fundamental, stark, bald, hard, straightforward. **9** a *dry debate*: dull, uninteresting, boring, unexciting, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, dreary, monotonous; unimaginative, sterile, flat, bland, lacklustre, stodgy, prosaic, humdrum, mundane; informal deadly. **10** a *dry sense of humour*:

wry, subtle, laconic, sharp; ironic, sardonic, sarcastic, cynical; satirical, mocking, droll; informal waggish; Brit. informal sarky.

**11** a *dry response to his cordial advance*: unemotional, indifferent, impassive, cool, cold, emotionless; reserved, restrained, impersonal, formal, stiff, wooden. **12** *this is a dry state*: teetotal, Prohibitionist, alcohol-free, non-drinking, abstinent, sober; informal on the wagon. **13** *dry white wine*: crisp, sharp, piquant, tart, bitter.

– OPPOSITES wet, moist, fresh, lively, emotional, sweet.

• **verb 1** *the sun dried the ground*: parch, scorch, bake; dehydrate, desiccate, dehumidify. **2** *dry the leaves completely*: dehydrate, desiccate; wither, shrivel.

**3** *he dried the dishes*: towel, rub; mop up, blot up, soak up, absorb. **4** *she dried her eyes*: wipe, rub, dab. **5** *methods of drying meat*: desiccate, dehydrate; preserve, cure, smoke.

– OPPOSITES moisten.

■ **dry up 1** (informal) *he dried up and didn't say another thing*: stop speaking, stop talking, fall silent, shut up; forget one's words.

**2** *investment may dry up*: dwindle, subside, peter out, wane, taper off, ebb, come to a halt/end, run out, give out, disappear, vanish.

**dual adjective** double, twofold, binary; duplicate, twin, matching, paired, coupled.

– OPPOSITES single.

**dub verb 1** *he was dubbed 'the world's sexiest man'*: nickname, call, name, label, christen, term, tag, entitle, name; designate, characterize, nominate; formal denominate. **2** *she dubbed a new knight*: knight, invest.

**dubiety noun** (formal) doubtfulness, uncertainty, unsureness, incertitude; ambiguity, ambivalence, confusion; hesitancy, doubt.

**dubious adjective 1** *I was rather dubious about the idea*: doubtful, uncertain, unsure, hesitant; undecided, indefinite, unresolved, up in the air; vacillating, irresolute; sceptical, suspicious; informal iffy. **2** a *dubious businessman*: suspicious, suspect, untrustworthy, unreliable, questionable; informal shady, fishy; Brit. informal doggy.

– OPPOSITES certain, trustworthy.

**duck<sup>1</sup> noun** drake, duckling.

**duck<sup>2</sup> verb 1** *he ducked behind the wall*: bob down, bend (down), stoop (down), crouch (down), squat (down), hunch down, hunker down; cower, cringe. **2** *she was ducked in the river*: dip, dunk, plunge, immerse, submerge, lower, sink. **3** (informal) *they cannot duck the issue forever*: shirk, dodge, evade, avoid, elude, escape, back out of, shun, eschew, sidestep, bypass, circumvent; informal

cop out of, get out of, wriggle out of, funk; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove.

**duct noun** tube, channel, canal, vessel; conduit, culvert; pipe, pipeline, outlet, inlet, flue, shaft, vent; Anatomy ductus, ductule.

**ductile adjective 1** *ductile metals*: pliable, pliant, flexible, supple, plastic, tensile; soft, malleable, workable, bendable; informal bendy. **2** a *way to make people ductile*: docile, obedient, submissive, meek, mild, lamblike; willing, accommodating, amenable, cooperative, compliant, malleable, tractable, biddable, persuadable.

– OPPOSITES brittle, intransigent.

**dud** (informal) *noun their new product is a dud*: failure, flop, let-down, disappointment; Brit. damp squib; informal washout, lemon, no-hoper, non-starter, dead loss, lead balloon; N. Amer. informal clinker.

– OPPOSITES success.

• **adjective 1** a *dud typewriter*: defective, faulty, unsound, inoperative, broken, malfunctioning; informal bust, busted, kaput, conked out; Brit. informal duff, knackered.

**2** a *dud £50 note*: counterfeit, fraudulent, forged, fake, faked, false, bogus; invalid, worthless; informal phoney.

– OPPOSITES sound, genuine.

**dudgeon noun**

■ in *high dudgeon* indignantly, resentfully, angrily, furiously; in a temper, in anger, with displeasure; informal in a huff, in a paddy, as cross as two sticks, seeing red; Brit. informal, dated in a bate, in a wax.

**due adjective 1** *their fees were due*: owing, owed, payable; outstanding, overdue, unpaid, unsettled, undischarged; N. Amer. delinquent. **2** *the chancellor's statement is due today*: expected, anticipated, scheduled for, awaited; required. **3** *the respect due to a great artist*: deserved by, merited by, warranted by; appropriate to, fit for, fitting for, right for, proper to. **4** *he drove without due care*: proper, correct, rightful, suitable, appropriate, apt; adequate, sufficient, enough, satisfactory, requisite.

• **noun 1** *he attracts more criticism than is his due*: rightful treatment, fair treatment, just punishment; right, entitlement; just deserts; informal comeuppance. **2** *members have paid their dues*: fee, subscription, charge; payment, contribution.

• **adverb** *he hiked due north*: directly, straight, exactly, precisely, dead.

■ **due to 1** *her death was due to an infection*: attributable to, caused by, ascribed to, because of, put down to. **2** *the train was cancelled due to staff shortages*: because of, owing to, on account of, as a consequence of, as a result of, thanks to, in view of; formal by reason of.

**duel noun 1** *he was killed in a duel*: mano-a-mano, single combat; fight, confrontation, head-to-head; informal face-off, shoot-out; old use rencounter. **2** a *snooker duel*: contest, match, game, meet, encounter.

• **verb** *they duelled with swords*: fight a duel, fight, battle, combat, contend.

**duff** adjective (Brit. informal). See **BAD** sense 1.

**duffer** noun (informal). See **DUNCE**.

**dulcet** adjective sweet, soothing, mellow, honeyed, mellifluous, euphonious, pleasant, agreeable; melodious, melodic, lilting, lyrical, silvery, golden.

– **OPPOSITES** harsh.

**d**

**dull** adjective **1** *a dull novel*: uninteresting, boring, tedious, monotonous, unrelieved, unvaried, unimaginative, uneventful; characterless, featureless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, unexciting, uninspiring, unstimulating, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, banal, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane; mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome; informal deadly, not up to much; Brit. informal samey; N. Amer. informal dullsville. **2** *a dull morning*: overcast, cloudy, gloomy, dark, dismal, dreary, sombre, grey, murky, sunless. **3** *dull colours*: drab, dreary, sombre, dark, subdued, muted, lacklustre, faded, washed out, muddy. **4** *a dull sound*: muffled, muted, quiet, soft, faint, indistinct; stifled, suppressed. **5** *the chisel became dull*: blunt, unsharpened, edgeless, worn down. **6** *a rather dull child*: unintelligent, stupid, slow, witless, vacuous, empty-headed, brainless, mindless, foolish, idiotic; informal dense, dim, moronic, cretinous, half-witted, thick, dumb, dopey, dozy, bovine, slow on the uptake, wooden-headed, fat-headed. **7** *her cold made her feel dull*: sluggish, lethargic, enervated, listless, languid, torpid, slow, sleepy, drowsy, weary, tired, fatigued; apathetic; informal dozy, dopey, yawny.

– **OPPOSITES** interesting, bright, loud, resonant, sharp, clever.

• **verb 1** *the pain was dulled by drugs*: lessen, decrease, diminish, reduce, dampen, blunt, deaden, allay, ease, soothe, assuage, alleviate. **2** *sleep dulled her mind*: numb, benumb, deaden, desensitize, stupefy, daze. **3** *the leaves are dulled by mildew*: fade, bleach, decolorize, decolour, etiolate. **4** *rain dulled the sky*: darken, blacken, dim, veil, obscure, shadow, fog. **5** *the sombre atmosphere dulled her spirit*: dampen, lower, depress, crush, sap, extinguish, smother, stifle.

– **OPPOSITES** intensify, enliven, enhance, brighten.

**dullard** noun idiot, fool, stupid person, simpleton, ignoramus, oaf, dunce, dolt; informal duffer, moron, cretin, imbecile, nincompoop, dope, chump, nitwit, dimwit, birdbrain, pea-brain, numbskull, fathead, dumbo, dum-dum, donkey; Brit. informal wally, berk, divvy; N. Amer. informal doofus, goof, bozo, dummy; Austral./NZ informal galah.

**duly** adverb **1** *the document was duly signed*: properly, correctly, appropriately, suitably, fittingly. **2** *he duly arrived to collect Alice: at the right time*, on time, punctually.

**dumb** adjective **1** *she stood dumb while he shouted*: mute, speechless, tongue-tied, silent, at a loss for words; taciturn, uncommunicative, untalkative, tight-lipped,

close-mouthed; informal mum. **2** (informal) *he is not as dumb as you'd think*: stupid, unintelligent, ignorant, dense, brainless, mindless, foolish, slow, dull, simple, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, half-baked, imbecilic, bovine; informal thick, dim, moronic, cretinous, dopey, dozy, thickheaded, wooden-headed, fat-headed, birdbrained, pea-brained; Brit. informal daft.

– **OPPOSITES** clever.

**dumbfound** verb astonish, astound, amaze, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, confound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, stop someone in their tracks, strike dumb, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast; informal flabbergast, floor, knock sideways, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six.

**dumbfounded** adjective astonished, astounded, amazed, staggered, surprised, startled, stunned, confounded, nonplussed, stupefied, dazed, dumbstruck, open-mouthed, speechless, thunderstruck; taken aback, disconcerted; informal flabbergasted, flummoxed; Brit. informal gobsmailed.

**dummy** noun **1** *a shop-window dummy*: mannequin, model, figure. **2** *the book is just a dummy*: mock-up, imitation, likeness, lookalike, representation, substitute, sample; replica, reproduction; counterfeit, sham, fake, forgery; informal dupe. **3** (informal) *you're a dummy*. See **IDiot**.

• **adjective** *a dummy attack on the airfield*: simulated, feigned, pretended, practice, trial, mock, make-believe; informal pretend, phoney.

– **OPPOSITES** real.

**dump** noun **1** *take the rubbish to the dump*: tip, rubbish dump, rubbish heap, dumping ground; dustheap, slag heap. **2** (informal) *the house is a dump*: hovel, shack, slum; mess; informal hole, pigsty.

• **verb 1** *he dumped his bag on the table*: put down, set down, deposit, place, shove, unload; drop, throw down; informal stick, park, plonk; Brit. informal bung; N. Amer. informal plunk. **2** *they will dump asbestos at the site*: dispose of, get rid of, throw away/out, discard, bin, jettison; informal ditch, junk.

**3** (informal) *he dumped her*: abandon, desert, leave, jilt, break up with, finish with, throw over; informal walk out on, rat on, drop, ditch, chuck, give someone the elbow; Brit. informal give someone the big E.

**dumpy** adjective short, squat, stubby; plump, stout, chubby, chunky, portly, fat, bulky; informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, porky; Brit. informal podgy.

– **OPPOSITES** tall, slender.

**dun**<sup>1</sup> adjective *a dun cow*: greyish-brown, brownish, mousy, muddy, khaki, umber.

**dun**<sup>2</sup> verb *you can't dun me for her debts*: importune, press, plague, pester, nag, harass, hound, badger; informal hassle, bug; N. English informal mither.

**dunce** noun fool, idiot, stupid person, simpleton, ignoramus, dullard; informal dummy, dumbo, clot, thickhead, nitwit, dimwit, halfwit, moron, cretin, imbecile,



dope, duffer, booby, chump, numbskull, nincompoop, fathead, airhead, birdbrain, pea-brain, ninny, ass; Brit. informal wally, berk, divvy; N. Amer. informal doofus, goof, schmuck, bozo, lummox; Austral./NZ informal galah.

– OPPOSITES genius.

**dune** noun bank, mound, hillock, hummock, knoll, ridge, heap, drift.

**dung** noun manure, muck; excrement, faeces, droppings, ordure, cowpats.

**dungeon** noun underground prison, oubliette; cell, jail, lock-up.

**dupe** verb they were duped by a con man: deceive, trick, hoodwink, hoax, swindle, defraud, cheat, double-cross; gull, mislead, take in, fool, inveigle; informal con, do, rip off, diddle, shaft, bilk, rook, pull the wool over someone's eyes, pull a fast one on, sell a pup to; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker; Austral. informal pull a swift on.

• noun an innocent dupe in her game: victim, gull, pawn, puppet, instrument; fool, innocent; informal sucker, stooge, sitting duck, muggins, fall guy; Brit. informal mug; N. Amer. informal pigeon, patsy, sap.

**duplicate** noun a duplicate of the invoice: copy, carbon copy, photocopy, facsimile, mimeograph, reprint; replica, reproduction, clone; informal dupe; trademark Xerox, photostat.

• adjective duplicate keys: identical, matching, twin, corresponding, equivalent.

• verb 1 she will duplicate the newsletter: copy, photocopy, photostat, xerox, mimeograph, reproduce, replicate, reprint, run off. 2 a feat difficult to duplicate: repeat, do again, redo, replicate.

**duplicitous** noun deceitfulness, deceit, deception, double-dealing, underhandedness, dishonesty, fraud, fraudulence, sharp practice, chicanery, trickery, subterfuge, skulduggery, treachery; informal crookedness, shadiness, dirty tricks, shenanigans, monkey business; literary perfidy.

– OPPOSITES honesty.

**durability** noun imperishability, durableness, longevity; resilience, strength, sturdiness, toughness, robustness.

– OPPOSITES fragility.

**durable** adjective 1 durable carpets: hard-wearing, long-lasting, heavy-duty, tough, resistant, imperishable, indestructible, strong, sturdy. 2 a durable peace: lasting, long-lasting, long-term, enduring, persistent, abiding; stable, secure, firm, deep-rooted, permanent, undying, everlasting.

– OPPOSITES delicate, short-lived.

**duration** noun full length, time, time span, time scale, period, term, span, fullness, length, extent, continuation.

**duress** noun coercion, compulsion, force, pressure, intimidation, constraint; threats; informal arm-twisting.

**during** preposition throughout, through, in, in the course of, for the time of.

**dusk** noun twilight, nightfall, sunset, sundown, evening, close of day; semi-darkness, gloom, murkiness; literary gloaming, eventide.

– OPPOSITES dawn.

**dusky** adjective 1 the dusky countryside: shadowy, dark, dim, gloomy, murky, shady; unlit, unilluminated; sunless, moonless.

2 (dated) a dusky maiden: dark-skinned, dark, olive-skinned, swarthy, ebony, black; tanned, bronzed, brown.

– OPPOSITES bright, fair.

**dust** noun 1 the desk was covered in dust: dirt, grime, filth, smut, soot; fine powder. 2 they fought in the dust: earth, soil, dirt; ground.

• verb 1 she dusted her mantelpiece: wipe, clean, brush, sweep, mop. 2 dust the cake with icing sugar: sprinkle, scatter, powder, dredge, sift, cover, strew.

**dust-up** noun (informal). See SCRAP<sup>2</sup> noun.

**dusty** adjective 1 the floor was dusty: dirty, grimy, grubby, unclean, soiled, mucky, sooty; undusted; informal grungy, cruddy; Brit. informal grotty. 2 dusty sandstone: powdery, crumbly, chalky, friable; granular, gritty, sandy. 3 a dusty pink: muted, dull, faded, pale, pastel, subtle; greyish, darkish, dirty. 4 (Brit.) a dusty answer: curt, abrupt, terse, brusque, blunt, short, sharp, tart, gruff, offhand; informal snippy, snappy.

– OPPOSITES clean, bright.

**dutiful** adjective conscientious, responsible, dedicated, devoted, attentive; obedient, compliant, submissive, biddable; deferential, reverent, reverential, respectful, good.

– OPPOSITES remiss.

**duty** noun 1 she was free of any duty: responsibility, obligation, commitment; allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, homage. 2 it was his duty to attend the king: job, task, assignment, mission, function, charge, place, role, responsibility, obligation; dated office. 3 the duty was raised on alcohol: tax, levy, tariff, excise, toll, fee, payment, rate; dues.

■ off duty not working, at leisure, on holiday, on leave, off (work), free.

■ on duty working, at work, busy, occupied, engaged; informal on the job, tied up.

**dwarf** noun 1 person of restricted growth, small person, short person; midget, pygmy, manikin, homunculus. 2 the wizard captured the dwarf: gnome, goblin, hobgoblin, troll, imp, elf, brownie, leprechaun.

• adjective dwarf conifers: miniature, small, little, tiny, toy, pocket, diminutive, baby, pygmy, stunted, undersized, undersize; Scottish wee; informal mini, teeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy, tiddly, pint-sized; Brit. informal titchy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

– OPPOSITES giant.

• verb 1 the buildings dwarf the trees:

dominate, tower over, loom over, overshadow, overtop. 2 her progress was dwarfed by her sister's success: overshadow, outshine, surpass, exceed, outclass, outstrip, outdo, top, trump, transcend; diminish, minimize.

**dwell** verb (formal) *gypsies dwell in these caves*: **reside**, live, be settled, be housed, lodge, stay; informal put up; formal abide, be domiciled.

■ **dwell on** linger over, mull over, muse on, brood about/over, think about; be preoccupied by, be obsessed by, eat one's heart out over; harp on about, discuss at length.

**dwelling** noun (formal) **residence**, home, house, accommodation, lodging place; lodgings, quarters, rooms; informal place, pad, digs; formal abode, domicile, habitation.

**dwindle** verb *the population dwindled*: **diminish**, decrease, reduce, lessen, shrink; fall off, tail off, drop, fall, slump, plummet; disappear, vanish, die out; informal nosedive.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**dye** noun *a blue dye*: **colourant**, colouring, colour, dyestuff, pigment, tint, stain, wash.  
• verb *the gloves were dyed*: **colour**, tint, pigment, stain, wash.

**dyed-in-the-wool** adjective **inveterate**, confirmed, entrenched, established, long-standing, deep-rooted, diehard; complete, absolute, thorough, thoroughgoing, out-and-out, true blue; firm, unshakeable, staunch, steadfast, committed, devoted, dedicated, loyal, unswerving; N. Amer. full-bore; informal deep-dyed, card-carrying.

**dying** adjective **1** *his dying aunt*: **terminally ill**, at death's door, on one's deathbed, near

death, fading fast, expiring, moribund, not long for this world, in extremis; informal on one's last legs, having one foot in the grave.

**2** *a dying art form*: **declining**, vanishing, fading, ebbing, waning; informal on the way out. **3** *her dying words*: **final**, last; deathbed.

– OPPOSITES thriving, first.

**dynamic** adjective **energetic**, spirited, active, lively, zestful, vital, vigorous, forceful, powerful, positive; high-powered, aggressive, bold, enterprising; magnetic, passionate, fiery, high-octane; informal go-getting, peppy, full of get-up-and-go, full of vim and vigour, gutsy, spunky, feisty, go-ahead.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**dynamism** noun **energy**, spirit, liveliness, zestfulness, vitality, vigour, forcefulness, power, potency, positivity; aggression, drive, ambition, enterprise; magnetism, passion, fire; informal pep, get-up-and-go, guts, feistiness.

**dynasty** noun **bloodline**, line, ancestral line, lineage, house, family, ancestry, descent, succession, genealogy, family tree; regime, rule, reign, empire, sovereignty.

**dyspeptic** adjective **bad-tempered**, short-tempered, irritable, snappish, testy, tetchy, touchy, crabby, crotchety, grouchy, cantankerous, peevish, cross, disagreeable, waspish, prickly; informal snappy, on a short fuse; Brit. informal stropky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery.

# Ee

e

**each** pronoun *there are 5000 books and each must be cleaned:* **every one**, each one, each and every one, all, the whole lot.

• **determiner** *he visited each month:* **every**, each and every, every single.

• **adverb** *they gave a tennor each:* **apiece**, per person, per capita, from each, individually, respectively, severally.

**eager** adjective **1** *small eager faces:* **keen**, enthusiastic, avid, fervent, ardent, motivated, wholehearted, dedicated, committed, earnest; informal **mad keen**, (as) **keen as mustard**. **2** *we were eager for news:* **anxious**, impatient, longing, yearning, wishing, hoping, hopeful; desirous of, hankering after; on the edge of one's seat, on tenterhooks, on pins and needles; informal itching, gagging, dying.

– OPPOSITES apathetic.

**eagerness** noun **keenness**, enthusiasm, avidity, fervour, zeal, wholeheartedness, earnestness, commitment, dedication; impatience, desire, longing, yearning, hunger, appetite, ambition; informal **yen**.

**eagle** noun

## WORD LINKS

**aquiline** like an eagle

**eyrie** an eagle's nest

**ear** noun **1** *he had the ear of the president:* **attention**, notice, heed, regard, consideration. **2** *he has an ear for a good song:* **appreciation**, discrimination, perception. ■ **play it by ear.** See **PLAY**.

## WORD LINKS

**aural**, **auricular**, **otic** relating to the ear or hearing

**binaural** relating to both ears

**auditory** relating to hearing

**audiology** the branch of medicine concerned with hearing

**otology** the study of the anatomy and diseases of the ear

**tinnitus** ringing or buzzing in the ears

**grommet** a tube implanted in the eardrum to drain fluid

**early** adjective **1** *early copies of the book:* **advance**, forward; initial, preliminary, first; pilot, trial. **2** *an early death:* **untimely**, premature, unseasonable, before time. **3** *early man:* **primitive**, ancient, prehistoric,

primeval; literary of yore. **4** *an early official statement:* **prompt**, timely, quick, speedy, rapid, fast.

– OPPOSITES late, modern, overdue.

• **adverb** **1** *Rachel has to get up early:* **in the early morning**; at dawn, at daybreak, at cockcrow, with the lark. **2** *they hoped to leave school early:* **before the usual time**; prematurely, too soon, ahead of time, ahead of schedule.

– OPPOSITES late.

**earmark** verb *the cash had been earmarked for the firm:* **set aside**, keep (back), reserve; designate, assign, mark; allocate, allot, devote, pledge, give over.

• **noun** *he has all the earmarks of a leader:* **characteristics**, attribute, feature, hallmark, quality.

**earn** verb **1** *they earned £20,000:* **be paid**, take home, gross; receive, get, make, obtain, collect, bring in; informal pocket, bank, rake in, net, bag. **2** *he has earned their trust:* **deserve**, merit, warrant, justify, be worthy of; gain, win, secure, establish, obtain, procure, get, acquire; informal clinch.

– OPPOSITES lose.

**earnest**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *he is dreadfully earnest:* **serious**, solemn, grave, sober, humourless, staid, intense; committed, dedicated, keen, diligent, zealous; thoughtful, cerebral, deep, profound. **2** *earnest prayer:* **devout**, heartfelt, wholehearted, sincere, impassioned, fervent, ardent, intense, urgent.

– OPPOSITES frivolous, half-hearted.

■ **in earnest** **1** *we are in earnest about stopping burglaries:* serious, sincere, wholehearted, genuine; committed, firm, resolute, determined. **2** *he started writing in earnest:* zealously, purposefully, determinedly, resolutely; passionately, wholeheartedly.

**earnest**<sup>2</sup> noun *an earnest of a good harvest:* sign, token, promise, guarantee, pledge, assurance; security, surety, deposit.

**earnestly** adverb **seriously**, solemnly, gravely, intently; sincerely, resolutely, firmly, ardently, fervently, eagerly.

**earnings** plural noun **income**, wages, salary, stipend, pay, payment, fees; revenue, yield, profit, takings, proceeds, dividends, return, remuneration.



**earth** noun **1** *the moon orbits the earth:* world, globe, planet. **2** *a trembling of the earth:* land, ground, terra firma; floor. **3** *he ploughed the earth:* soil, clay, loam; dirt, sod, turf; ground. **4** *the fox's earth:* den, lair, sett, burrow, warren, hole; retreat, shelter, hideout, hideaway; informal hidey-hole.

**WORD LINKS**

**terrestrial**, **telluric** relating to the earth  
**tectonic** relating to the earth's crust  
**hemisphere** a half of the earth  
**biosphere**, **ecosphere** the parts of the earth inhabited by living things  
**equator** an imaginary line around the earth at equal distances from the poles

**earthenware** noun pottery, crockery, stoneware; china, porcelain; pots.

**earthly** adjective **1** *the earthly environment:* terrestrial, telluric. **2** *the promise of earthly delights:* worldly, temporal, mortal, human; material; carnal, fleshly, bodily, physical, corporeal, sensual. **3** (informal) *there is no earthly explanation for this:* feasible, possible, likely, conceivable, imaginable.

– OPPOSITES extraterrestrial, heavenly.

**earthquake** noun (earth) tremor, shock, foreshock, aftershock, convulsion; informal quake, shake, trembler.

**WORD LINKS**

**seismic** relating to earthquakes  
**seismology** the branch of science concerned with earthquakes  
**seismograph** an instrument that measures earthquakes  
**Richter scale** a scale for measuring the magnitude of an earthquake  
**epicentre** the point on the earth's surface directly above an earthquake's origin  
**tsunami** a tidal wave caused by an earthquake

**earthly** adjective **1** *an earthy smell:* soil-like, dirt-like. **2** *the earthy Calvinistic tradition:* down-to-earth, unsophisticated, unrefined, simple, plain, unpretentious, natural. **3** *Emma's earthy language:* bawdy, ribald, off colour, racy, rude, vulgar, lewd, crude, foul, coarse, uncouth, unseemly, indelicate, indecent, obscene; informal blue, locker-room, X-rated; Brit. informal fruity, near the knuckle.

**ease** noun **1** *he defeated them all with ease:* effortlessness, no trouble, simplicity; deftness, adroitness, proficiency, mastery. **2** *his ease of manner:* naturalness, casualness, informality, amiability, affability; unconcern, composure, nonchalance, insouciance. **3** *he couldn't find any ease:* peace, calm, tranquillity, serenity; repose, restfulness, quiet, security, comfort. **4** *a life of ease:* affluence, wealth, prosperity, luxury, plenty; comfort, contentment, enjoyment, well-being.

– OPPOSITES difficulty, formality, trouble, hardship.

• verb **1** *the alcohol eased his pain:* relieve, alleviate, mitigate, soothe, palliate, moderate, dull, deaden, numb; reduce,

lighten, diminish. **2** *the rain eased off:* abate, subside, die down, let up, slacken off, diminish, lessen, peter out, relent, come to an end. **3** *work helped to ease her mind:* calm, quieten, pacify, soothe, comfort, console; hearten, gladden, uplift, encourage. **4** *we want to ease their adjustment:* facilitate, expedite, assist, help, aid, advance, further, forward, simplify. **5** *he eased out the cork:* guide, manoeuvre, inch, edge; slide, slip, squeeze.

– OPPOSITES aggravate, worsen, hinder.

■ **at ease/at one's ease** relaxed, calm, serene, tranquil, unworried, contented, content, happy; comfortable.

**easily** adverb **1** *I overcame this problem easily:* effortlessly, comfortably, simply; with ease, without difficulty, smoothly; skilfully, deftly, smartly; informal no sweat. **2** *he's easily the best:* undoubtedly, without doubt, without question, indisputably, undeniably, definitely, certainly, clearly, obviously, patently; by far, far and away, by a mile.

**east** adjective eastern, easterly, oriental.

**easy** adjective **1** *the task was very easy:* uncomplicated, undemanding, unchallenging, effortless, painless, trouble-free, facile, simple, straightforward, elementary, plain sailing; informal easy as pie, a piece of cake, child's play, kids' stuff, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a breeze, a walk in the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy; N. Amer. informal duck soup, a snap; dated a snip. **2** *easy babies:* docile, manageable, amenable, tractable, compliant, pliant, acquiescent, obliging, cooperative, easy-going. **3** *an easy target:* vulnerable, susceptible, defenceless; naive, gullible, trusting. **4** *Vic's easy manner:* natural, casual, informal, unceremonious, unreserved, uninhibited, unaffected, easy-going, amiable, affable, genial, good-humoured; carefree, nonchalant, unconcerned; informal laid-back. **5** *an easy life:* calm, tranquil, serene, quiet, peaceful, untroubled, contented, relaxed, comfortable, secure, safe; informal cushy. **6** *an easy pace:* leisurely, unhurried, comfortable, undemanding, easy-going, gentle, sedate, moderate, steady. **7** (informal) *people think she's easy:* promiscuous, free with one's favours, unchaste, loose, wanton, abandoned, licentious, debauched; informal sluttish, whorish, tarty; N. Amer. informal roundheeled.

– OPPOSITES difficult, demanding, formal, chaste.

**easy-going** adjective relaxed, even-tempered, placid, mellow, mild, happy-go-lucky, carefree, free and easy, nonchalant, insouciant, imperturbable; amiable, considerate, undemanding, patient, tolerant, lenient, broad-minded, understanding; good-natured, pleasant, agreeable; informal laid-back, unflappable.

– OPPOSITES intolerant.

**eat** verb **1** *we ate a hearty breakfast:* consume, devour, ingest, partake of; gobble (up/down), bolt (down), wolf (down); swallow, chew, munch, chomp; informal guzzle, nosh,

put away, scoff, tuck into, demolish, dispose of, polish off, Hoover up, get stuck into, pig out on, get outside of, trough; Brit. informal gollop; N. Amer. informal scarf, snarf. **2** *we ate at a local restaurant: have a meal*, consume food, feed, snack; breakfast, lunch, dine; feast, banquet; informal graze, nosh. **3** *acidic water can eat away at pipes: erode*, corrode, wear away/down/through, burn through, consume, dissolve, disintegrate, crumble, decay; damage, destroy.

**eatable** adjective edible, palatable, digestible; fit to eat, fit for consumption.

**eats** plural noun (informal) food, sustenance, nourishment, fare; eatables, snacks, titbits; informal nosh, grub, chow, scoff; Brit. informal tuck; N. Amer. informal chuck.

**eavesdrop** verb listen in, spy; monitor, tap, wiretap, record, overhear; informal snoop, bug.

**ebb** verb **1** *the tide ebbed: recede*, go out, retreat, flow back, fall back/away, subside. **2** *his courage began to ebb: diminish*, dwindle, wane, fade away, peter out, decline, flag, let up, decrease, weaken, disappear.

— OPPOSITES increase.

• noun **1** *the ebb of the tide: receding*, retreat, subsiding. **2** *the ebb of the fighting: abatement*, subsiding, easing, dying down, de-escalation, decrease, decline, diminution.

**ebony** adjective black, jet-black, pitch-black, coal-black, sable, inky, sooty, raven, dark.

**ebullience** noun exuberance, buoyancy, cheerfulness, cheeriness, merriment, jollity, sunniness, jauntiness, light-heartedness, high spirits, elation, euphoria, jubilation; animation, sparkle, vivacity, enthusiasm, perkiness; informal bubblyness, chirpiness, bounciness, pep.

**ebullient** adjective exuberant, buoyant, cheerful, joyful, cheery, merry, jolly, sunny, jaunty, light-hearted, elated; animated, sparkling, vivacious, irrepressible; Brit. Tiggerish; informal bubbly, bouncy, peppy, upbeat, chirpy, smiley, full of beans; dated gay.

— OPPOSITES depressed.

**eccentric** adjective *eccentric behaviour*: unconventional, uncommon, abnormal, irregular, aberrant, anomalous, odd, queer, strange, peculiar, weird, bizarre, outlandish, freakish, extraordinary, idiosyncratic, quirky, nonconformist, outré; informal way out, offbeat, freaky, oddball, wacky, cranky; Brit. informal rum; N. Amer. informal kooky, wacko.

— OPPOSITES conventional.

• noun *he was something of an eccentric*: oddity, odd fellow, character, individualist, individual, free spirit; misfit; informal oddball, queer fish, weirdo, freak, nut, head case, crank; Brit. informal one-off, odd bod, nutter, mentalist; N. Amer. informal wacko, screwball.

**eccentricity** noun unconventionality, singularity, oddness, strangeness, weirdness, quirkiness, freakishness; peculiarity, foible, idiosyncrasy, caprice, whimsy, quirk; informal nuttiness, screwiness, freakiness; N. Amer. informal kookiness.

**ecclesiastical** adjective priestly, ministerial,

clerical, ecclesiastic, canonical, sacerdotal; church, churchly, religious, spiritual, holy, divine; informal churchy.

**echelon** noun level, rank, grade, step, rung, tier, position, order.

**echo** noun **1** *a faint echo of my shout: reverberation*, reflection, ringing, repetition, repeat. **2** *the scene she described was an echo of the photograph: duplicate*, copy, replica, imitation, mirror image, double, match, parallel; informal lookalike, spitting image, dead ringer. **3** *an echo of their love: trace*, vestige, remnant, ghost, memory, recollection, remembrance; reminder, sign, mark, token, indication, suggestion, hint; evidence.

• verb **1** *his laughter echoed round the room: reverberate*, resonate, resound, reflect, ring, vibrate. **2** *Bill echoed Rex's words: repeat*, restate, reiterate; copy, imitate, parrot, mimic; reproduce, recite, quote, regurgitate; informal recap.

**éclat** noun style, flamboyance, confidence, elan, dash, flair, vigour, gusto, verve, zest, sparkle, brio, panache, dynamism, spirit; informal pizzazz, pep, oomph.

**eclectic** adjective wide-ranging, broad-based, extensive, comprehensive, encyclopedic; varied, diverse, catholic, all-embracing, multifaceted, multifarious, heterogeneous, miscellaneous, assorted.

**eclipse** noun **1** *the eclipse of the sun:*

**blotting out**, blocking, covering, obscuring, concealing, darkening; Astronomy occultation.

**2** *the eclipse of the empire: decline*, fall, failure, decay, deterioration, degeneration, weakening, collapse.

• verb **1** *the sun was eclipsed by the moon: blot out*, block, cover, obscure, hide, conceal, obliterate, darken; shade; Astronomy occult.

**2** *the system was eclipsed by new methods: outshine*, overshadow, surpass, exceed, outclass, outstrip, outdo, top, trump, transcend, upstage.

**economic** adjective **1** *economic reform:*

financial, monetary, budgetary, fiscal; commercial. **2** *the firm cannot remain economic: profitable*, moneymaking, lucrative, remunerative, fruitful, productive; solvent, viable, cost-effective. **3** *an economic alternative to carpeting: cheap*, inexpensive, low-cost, budget, economy, economical, cut-price, discount, bargain.

— OPPOSITES unprofitable, expensive.

**economical** adjective **1** *an economical*

*car: cheap*, inexpensive, low-cost, budget, economy, economic; cut-price, discount, bargain. **2** *a very economical shopper: thrifty*, provident, prudent, sensible, frugal, sparing, abstemious; mean, parsimonious, penny-pinching, miserly; N. Amer. forehanded; informal stingy.

— OPPOSITES expensive, spendthrift.

**economize** verb *save (money)*, cut costs; cut back, make cutbacks, retrench, budget, make economies, be thrifty, be frugal, scrimp, cut corners, tighten one's belt, draw in one's horns, watch the/your pennies.

**economy** **noun** **1** *the nation's economy:* wealth, (financial) resources; financial system, financial management. **2** *one can combine good living with economy:* thrift, thriftiness, providence, prudence, careful budgeting, economizing, saving, scrimping, restraint, frugality, abstemiousness; N. Amer. forehandedness.

– OPPOSITES extravagance.

**ecstasy** **noun** *rapture, bliss, elation, euphoria, transports, rhapsodies; joy, jubilation, exultation.*

– OPPOSITES misery.

**ecstatic** **adjective** *enraptured, elated, in raptures, euphoric, rapturous, joyful, overjoyed, blissful; on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, beside oneself with joy, jumping for joy, delighted, thrilled, exultant; informal over the moon, on top of the world, blissed out.*

**ecumenical** **adjective** *non-denominational, universal, catholic, all-embracing, all-inclusive.*

– OPPOSITES denominational.

**eddy** **noun** *small eddies at the river's edge: swirl, whirlpool, vortex, maelstrom.*

• **verb** *cold air eddied around her:* swirl, whirl, spiral, wind, circulate, twist; flow, ripple, stream, surge, billow.

**edge** **noun** **1** *the edge of the lake:* border, boundary, extremity, fringe, margin, side; lip, rim, brim, brink, verge; perimeter, circumference, periphery, limits, bounds. **2** *she had an edge in her voice:* sharpness, severity, bite, sting, asperity, acerbity, acidity, trenchancy; sarcasm, acrimony, malice, spite, venom. **3** *they have an edge over their rivals:* advantage, lead, head start, the whip hand, the upper hand; superiority, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, primacy.

– OPPOSITES middle, disadvantage.

• **verb** **1** *poplars edged the orchard:* border, fringe, verge, skirt; surround, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, bound. **2** *a frock edged with lace:* trim, pipe, band, decorate, finish; border, fringe; bind, hem. **3** *he edged closer to the fire:* creep, inch, work one's way, pick one's way, ease oneself; sidle, steal, slink.

■ **on edge** tense, nervous, edgy, anxious, apprehensive, uneasy, unsettled; twitchy, nervy, keyed up, restive, skittish, neurotic, insecure; informal uptight, jumpy, wired; Brit. informal strung up.

**edgy** **adjective** tense, nervous, on edge, anxious, apprehensive, uneasy, unsettled; twitchy, nervy, keyed up, restive, skittish, neurotic, insecure; irritable, touchy, tetchy, testy, crotchety, prickly; informal uptight, jumpy, wired, snappy; Brit. informal strung up.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**edible** **adjective** safe to eat, fit for human consumption, wholesome, good to eat; consumable, digestible, palatable; formal comestible.

**edict** **noun** decree, order, command, commandment, mandate, proclamation, pronouncement, dictate, fiat, promulgation;

law, statute, act, bill, ruling, injunction; formal ordinance.

**edification** **noun** (formal) education, instruction, tuition, teaching, training, tutelage, guidance; enlightenment, cultivation, information; improvement, development.

**edifice** **noun** (formal) building, structure, construction, erection, pile, complex; property, development, premises.

**edify** **verb** (formal) educate, instruct, teach, school, tutor, train, guide; enlighten, inform, cultivate, develop, improve, better.

**edit** **verb** **1** *she edited the text:* correct, check, copy-edit, improve, emend, polish; modify, adapt, revise, rewrite, reword, rework, redraft; shorten, condense, cut, abridge; informal clean up. **2** *this volume was edited by a consultant:* select, choose, assemble, organize, put together. **3** *he edited The Times:* be the editor of, direct, run, manage, head, lead, supervise, oversee, preside over; informal be the boss of.

**edition** **noun** issue, number, volume, impression, publication; version, revision.

**educate** **verb** teach, school, tutor, instruct, coach, train, drill; guide, inform, enlighten; inculcate, indoctrinate; formal edify.

**educated** **adjective** informed, literate, schooled, tutored, well read, learned, knowledgeable, enlightened; intellectual, academic, erudite, scholarly, cultivated, cultured; dated lettered.

**education** **noun** **1** *the education of young children:* teaching, schooling, tuition, tutoring, instruction, coaching, training, tutelage, guidance; indoctrination, inculcation, enlightenment; formal edification. **2** *a woman of some education:* learning, knowledge, literacy, scholarship, enlightenment.

#### WORD LINKS

**pedagogy** the profession or theory of teaching

**educational** **adjective** **1** *an educational establishment:* academic, scholastic, school, learning, teaching, pedagogic, tuitional, instructional. **2** *an educational experience:* instructive, instructional, educative, informative, illuminating, pedagogic, enlightening, didactic, heuristic; formal edifying.

**educative** **adjective.** See **EDUCATIONAL** sense 2.

**educator** **noun** teacher, tutor, instructor, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, schoolmistress; educationalist, educationist; lecturer, professor; guide, mentor, guru; N. Amer. informal schoolmarm; Brit. informal beak; formal pedagogue; old use schoolman.

**eerie** **adjective** uncanny, sinister, ghostly, unnatural, unearthly, supernatural, other-worldly; strange, abnormal, odd, weird, freakish; frightening, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, terrifying; informal creepy, scary, spooky, freaky.

**efface** **verb** **1** *the words were effaced by*



*the rain:* erase, eradicate, expunge, blot out, rub out, wipe out, remove, eliminate; delete, cancel, obliterate, blank out. **2** *he attempted to efface himself:* **make oneself inconspicuous**, keep out of sight, keep out of the limelight, lie low, keep a low profile, withdraw.

**effect** **noun** **1** *the effect of these changes:* result, consequence, upshot, outcome, out-turn, repercussions, ramifications; end result, conclusion, culmination, corollary, concomitant, aftermath; fruit(s), product, by-product; informal pay-off; Medicine sequelae. **2** *the effect of the drug:* impact, action, effectiveness, influence; power, potency, strength; success; formal efficacy. **3** *with effect from tomorrow:* force, operation, enforcement, implementation, effectiveness; validity, lawfulness, legality, legitimacy. **4** *some words to that effect:* sense, meaning, theme, drift, import, intent, intention, tenor, significance, message; gist, essence, spirit. **5** *the dead man's effects:* belongings, possessions, (worldly) goods, chattels; property, paraphernalia; informal gear, tackle, things, stuff, bits and pieces; Brit. informal clobber.

– **OPPOSITES** cause.

• **verb** *they effected many changes:* achieve, accomplish, carry out, realize, manage, bring off, execute, conduct, engineer, perform, do, perpetrate, discharge, complete, consummate; cause, bring about, create, produce, make; provoke, occasion, generate, engender, actuate, initiate; formal effectuate.

■ **in effect** really, in reality, in truth, in (actual) fact, effectively, essentially, in essence, practically, to all intents and purposes, all but, as good as, more or less, almost, nearly, just about, well-nigh, nigh on; informal pretty much.

■ **take effect** **1** *these measures will take effect in May:* come into force, come into operation, begin, become valid, become law, apply, be applied. **2** *the drug started to take effect:* work, act, be effective, produce results.

**effective** **adjective** **1** *an effective treatment:* successful, effectual, potent, powerful; helpful, beneficial, advantageous, valuable, useful; formal efficacious. **2** *a more effective argument:* convincing, compelling, strong, forceful, potent, weighty, sound, valid; impressive, persuasive, plausible, credible, authoritative; logical, reasonable, lucid, coherent, cogent, eloquent; formal efficacious. **3** *the new law will be effective next week:* operative, in force, in effect; valid, official, lawful, legal, binding; Law effectual. **4** *Korea was under effective Japanese control:* virtual, practical, essential, actual, implicit, tacit.

– **OPPOSITES** weak, invalid, theoretical.

**effectiveness** **noun** success, productiveness, potency, power; benefit, advantage, value, virtue, usefulness; formal efficacy.

**effectual** **adjective** **1** *effectual political action:* effective, successful, productive, constructive; worthwhile, helpful,

beneficial, advantageous, valuable, useful; formal efficacious. **2** (Law) *an effectual document:* valid, authentic, bona fide, genuine, official; lawful, legal, legitimate, (legally) binding, contractual.

**effeminate** **adjective** **womanish**, effete, foppish, mincing; informal camp, campy, limp-wristed, queenie.

– **OPPOSITES** manly.

**effervesce** **verb** **1** *heat the mixture until it effervesces:* **fizz**, sparkle, bubble; froth, foam. **2** *managers must effervesce with praise:* **sparkle**, be vivacious, be animated, be ebullient, be exuberant, be bubbly, be effervescent.

**effervescence** **noun** **1** *wines of uniform effervescence:* **fizz**, fizziness, sparkle, gassiness, carbonation, aeration, bubbiness. **2** *his cheeky effervescence:* **vivacity**, liveliness, animation, high spirits, ebullience, exuberance, buoyancy, sparkle, gaiety, jollity, cheerfulness, perkiness, breeziness, enthusiasm, irrepressibility, vitality, zest, energy, dynamism; informal pep, bounce.

**effervescent** **adjective** **1** *an effervescent drink:* **fizzy**, sparkling, carbonated, aerated, gassy, bubbly; mousseux, pétillant, spumante. **2** *effervescent young people:* **vivacious**, lively, animated, high-spirited, bubbly, ebullient, buoyant, sparkling, scintillating, light-hearted, jaunty, happy, jolly, cheery, cheerful, perky, sunny, enthusiastic, irrepressible, vital, zesty, energetic, dynamic; Brit. Tiggerish; informal bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, peppery, bouncy, upbeat, chirpy, full of beans.

– **OPPOSITES** still, depressed.

**effete** **adjective** **1** *effete trendies:* affected, pretentious, precious, mannered, over-refined; ineffectual; informal la-di-da, pseud; Brit. informal poncey. **2** *an effete young man:* **effeminate**, unmanly, girlish, feminine; soft, timid, cowardly, lily-livered, spineless, pusillanimous; informal sissy, wimpish, wimpy. **3** *the fabric of society is effete:* **weak**, enfeebled, enervated, worn out, exhausted, finished, drained, spent, powerless, ineffectual.

– **OPPOSITES** manly, powerful.

**efficacious** **adjective** (formal) **effective**, effectual, successful, productive, constructive, potent; helpful, beneficial, advantageous, valuable, useful.

**efficacy** **noun** (formal) **effectiveness**, success, productiveness, potency, power; benefit, advantage, value, virtue, usefulness.

**efficiency** **noun** **1** *we need reforms to bring efficiency:* **organization**, order, orderliness, regulation, coherence; productivity, effectiveness. **2** *I compliment you on your efficiency:* **competence**, capability, ability, proficiency, adeptness, expertise, professionalism, skill, effectiveness.

**efficient** **adjective** **1** *efficient techniques:* **organized**, methodical, systematic, logical, orderly, businesslike, streamlined, productive, effective, cost-effective. **2** *an*

*efficient secretary*: **competent**, capable, able, proficient, adept, skilful, skilled, effective, productive, organized, businesslike.  
 – OPPOSITES disorganized, incompetent.

**effigy** *noun* **statue**, statuette, sculpture, model, dummy, figurine; guy; likeness, image; bust.

**effluent** *noun* (liquid) **waste**, sewage, effluvium, outflow, discharge, emission.

**effort** *noun* **1** *they made an effort to work together*: **attempt**, try, endeavour; informal crack, shot, stab, bash; formal essay. **2** *his score was a fine effort*: **achievement**, accomplishment, attainment, result, feat; undertaking, enterprise, work; triumph, success, coup. **3** *the job requires little effort*: **exertion**, energy, work, endeavour, application, labour, power, muscle, toil, strain; informal sweat, elbow grease; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal (hard) yakka.

**effortless** *adjective* **easy**, undemanding, unchallenging, painless, simple, uncomplicated, straightforward, elementary; fluent, natural; informal as easy as pie, child's play, kids' stuff, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a breeze, a walk in the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy; N. Amer. informal duck soup, a snap.

– OPPOSITES difficult.

**effrontery** *noun* **impudence**, impertinence, cheek, insolence, cockiness, audacity, temerity, presumption, nerve, gall, shamelessness, impoliteness, disrespect, bad manners; informal brass (neck), face, chutzpah; Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sass.

**effusion** *noun* **1** *an effusion of poisonous gas*: **outflow**, outpouring, rush, current, flood, deluge, emission, discharge, emanation; spurt, surge, jet, stream, torrent, gush, flow. **2** *reporters' flamboyant effusions*: **outburst**, outpouring, gushing; wordiness, verbiage.

**effusive** *adjective* **gushing**, gushy, unrestrained, extravagant, fulsome, demonstrative, lavish, enthusiastic, lyrical; expansive, wordy, verbose; informal over the top, OTT.

– OPPOSITES restrained.

**egg** *noun* **ovum**; gamete, germ cell; (eggs) roe, spawn, seed.

■ **egg someone on** urge, goad, incite, provoke, push, drive, prod, prompt, induce, impel, spur on; encourage, exhort, motivate, galvanize.

**WORD LINKS**

oval, ovate, ovoid egg-shaped

oviparous egg-laying

oology the study or collecting of birds' eggs

**egghead** *noun* (informal) **intellectual**, thinker, academic, scholar, sage; bookworm, highbrow; expert, genius, Einstein, mastermind; informal brain, whizz; Brit. informal brainbox, boffin; N. Amer. informal brainiac, rocket scientist.

– OPPOSITES dunce.

**ego** *noun* **self-esteem**, self-importance, self-

worth, self-respect, self-image, self-confidence.

**egocentric** *adjective* **self-centred**, egomaniacal, self-interested, selfish, self-seeking, self-absorbed, self-obsessed; narcissistic, vain, self-important.

– OPPOSITES altruistic.

**egotism, egoism** *noun* **self-centredness**, egomania, egocentricity, self-interest, selfishness, self-seeking, self-serving, self-regard, self-obsession; self-love, narcissism, self-admiration, vanity, conceit, self-importance; boastfulness.

**egotist, egoist** *noun* **self-seeker**, egocentric, egomaniac, narcissist; boaster, brag, braggart; informal swank, show-off, big-head; N. Amer. informal showboat.

**egotistic, egoistic** *adjective* **self-centred**, selfish, egocentric, egomaniacal, self-interested, self-seeking, self-absorbed, self-obsessed; narcissistic, vain, conceited, self-important; boastful.

**egregious** *adjective* **shocking**, appalling, terrible, awful, horrendous, frightful, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, outrageous; monstrous, heinous, dire, unspeakable, shameful, unforgivable, intolerable, dreadful; formal grievous.

– OPPOSITES marvellous.

**egress** *noun* **1** *the egress from the gallery was blocked*: **exit**, way out, escape route. **2** *a means of egress*: **departure**, exit, withdrawal, retreat, exodus; escape; vacation.

– OPPOSITES entrance.

**eight** *cardinal number* **octet**, **eightsome**, **octuplets**; technical **octad**.

**WORD LINKS**

**octuple** consisting of eight parts or things  
**octennial** lasting for or recurring every eight years

**octagon** a plane figure with eight sides

**octahedron** a solid figure with eight faces

**octad** a group or set of eight

**ejaculate** *verb* **1** **emit semen**, climax, orgasm; informal **come**. **2** *the sperm is ejaculated*: **emit**, eject, discharge, release, expel, disgorge; shoot out, squirt out, spurt out. **3** (dated) *'What?' he ejaculated*: **exclaim**, cry out, call out, yell, blurt out, come out with.

**ejaculation** *noun* **1** *the ejaculation of fluid*: **emission**, ejection, discharge, release, expulsion. **2** (dated) *the conversation consisted of ejaculations*: **exclamation**, interjection; call, shout, yell.

**eject** *verb* **1** *the volcano ejected ash*: **emit**, spew out, discharge, give off, send out, belch, vent; expel, release, disgorge, spout, vomit, throw up. **2** *the pilot had time to eject*: **bail out**, escape, get out. **3** *they were ejected from the hall*: **expel**, throw out, turn out, cast out, remove, oust; evict, banish; informal chuck out, kick out, turf out, boot out; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush. **4** *he was ejected from the job*: **dismiss**, remove, discharge, oust, expel, axe, throw

out, force out, drive out; informal sack, fire, send packing, boot out, chuck out, kick out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push, show someone the door; Brit. informal give someone their cards, turf out; Military cashier.

– OPPOSITES admit, appoint.

**ejection** noun **1** *the ejection of electrons:* emission, discharge, expulsion, release; elimination. **2** *their ejection from the ground:* expulsion, removal; eviction, banishment, exile. **3** *his ejection from office:* dismissal, removal, discharge, expulsion; informal the sack, the boot, the push, the (old) heave-ho, the bullet; Brit. informal the chop.

**eke** verb *I had to eke out my remaining funds:* husband, use sparingly, be thrifty with, be frugal with, be sparing with, use economically; informal go easy on.

– OPPOSITES squander.

■ **eke out a living** subsist, survive, get by, scrape by, make ends meet, keep body and soul together, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water.

**elaborate** adjective **1** *an elaborate plan:* complicated, complex, intricate, involved; detailed, painstaking, careful; tortuous, convoluted, serpentine, Byzantine. **2** *an elaborate plasterwork ceiling:* ornate, decorated, embellished, adorned, ornamented, fancy, fussy, busy, ostentatious, extravagant, showy, baroque, rococo, florid, wedding-cake.

– OPPOSITES simple, plain.

● **verb** *both sides refused to elaborate on their reasons:* expand on, enlarge on, add to, flesh out, put flesh on the bones of, add detail to, expatiate on; develop, fill out, embellish, embroider, enhance, amplify.

**elan** noun *flair, style, panache, confidence, dash, éclat; energy, vigour, vitality, liveliness, brio, esprit, animation, vivacity, zest, verve, spirit, pep, sparkle, enthusiasm, gusto, eagerness, feeling, fire; informal pizzazz, zing, zip, vim, oomph.*

**elapse** verb *pass, go by/past, wear on, slip by/away/past, roll by/past, slide by/past, steal by/past, tick by/past.*

**elastic** adjective **1** *elastic material:* stretchy, elasticated, stretchable, springy, flexible, pliant, pliable, supple, yielding, plastic, resilient. **2** *an elastic concept of nationality:* adaptable, flexible, adjustable, accommodating, variable, fluid, versatile.

– OPPOSITES rigid.

**elasticity** noun **1** *the skin's natural elasticity:* stretchiness, flexibility, pliancy, suppleness, plasticity, resilience, springiness; informal give. **2** *the elasticity of the term:* adaptability, flexibility, adjustability, fluidity, versatility.

**elated** adjective *thrilled, delighted, overjoyed, ecstatic, euphoric, very happy, joyous, gleeful, jubilant, beside oneself, exultant, rapturous, in raptures, walking on air, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy, in transports of delight; informal on top of the world, over the moon,*

*on a high, tickled pink; Austral. informal wrapped.*

– OPPOSITES miserable.

**elation** noun *euphoria, ecstasy, happiness, delight, transports of delight, joy, rapture, joyousness, glee, jubilation, exultation, bliss.*

**elbow** verb *push, shove, force, shoulder, jostle, barge, muscle, bulldoze.*

**elbow room** noun *room to manoeuvre, room, space, Lebensraum, breathing space, scope, freedom, play, free rein, licence, latitude, leeway.*

**elder** adjective *his elder brother:* older, senior, big.

● **noun** *the church elders:* leader, senior figure, patriarch, father.

**elderly** adjective *her elderly mother:* aged, old, advanced in years, ageing, long in the tooth, past one's prime; grey-haired, grey-bearded, grizzled, hoary; in one's dotage, decrepit, doddering, doddery, senescent; informal getting on, past it, over the hill, no spring chicken.

– OPPOSITES youthful.

● **noun** *(the elderly) old people, senior citizens, (old-age) pensioners, OAPs, retired people; geriatrics; N. Amer. seniors, retirees, golden agers; informal (golden) oldies, wrinklies; N. Amer. informal oldsters, woopies.*

**elect** verb **1** *a new president was elected:* vote for, vote in, return; choose, pick, select.

**2** *she elected to stay behind:* choose, decide, opt, vote.

● **adjective** *the president elect:* future, -to-be, designate, chosen, elected, coming, next, appointed, presumptive.

● **noun** *(the elect) the chosen, the elite, the favoured; the crème de la crème.*

**election** noun *ballot, vote, popular vote; poll; Brit. by-election; US primary.*

#### WORD LINKS

**psephology** the study of elections and trends in voting

**hustings** the campaigning taking place before an election

**canvass** visit someone to ask for their vote in an election

**scrutineer** a person who ensures that an election is organized correctly

**franchise, suffrage** the right to vote in political elections.

See also **VOTE**.

**electioneer** verb *campaign, canvass, go on the hustings, doorstep; Brit. informal go out on the knocker.*

**elector** noun *voter, member of the electorate, constituent; selector.*

**electric** adjective **1** *an electric kettle:* electric-powered, electrically operated, mains-operated, battery-operated. **2** *the atmosphere was electric:* exciting, charged, electrifying, thrilling, heady, dramatic, intoxicating, dynamic, stimulating, galvanizing, rousing, stirring, moving; tense, knife-edge, explosive, volatile.

**electricity** noun *power, electric power,*



energy, current, static; Brit. mains; Canadian hydro; Brit. informal leccy; historical galvanism.

**electrify** verb excite, thrill, stimulate, arouse, rouse, inspire, stir (up), exhilarate, intoxicate, galvanize, move, fire (with enthusiasm), fire someone's imagination, invigorate, animate; startle, jolt, shock; N. Amer. light a fire under; informal give someone a buzz, give someone a kick; N. Amer. informal give someone a charge.

**elegance** noun **1** *he was attracted by her elegance*: style, stylishness, grace, gracefulness, taste, tastefulness, sophistication; refinement, dignity, beauty, poise, charm, culture; suaveness, urbanity, panache. **2** *the elegance of the idea*: neatness, simplicity; ingenuity, cleverness, inventiveness.

**elegant** adjective **1** *an elegant black outfit*: stylish, graceful, tasteful, sophisticated, classic, chic, smart, fashionable, modish; refined, dignified, poised, beautiful, lovely, charming, artistic, aesthetic; cultivated, polished, cultured; dashing, debonair, suave, urbane. **2** *an elegant solution*: neat, simple, effective; ingenious, clever, deft, intelligent, inventive.

– OPPOSITES gauche.

**elegiac** adjective mournful, melancholic, melancholy, plaintive, sorrowful, sad, lamenting, doleful; funereal, dirgelike; nostalgic, valedictory, poignant; literary, dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**elegy** noun lament, requiem, funeral poem/song, threnody, dirge, plaint; Irish keen; Irish & Scottish coronach.

**element** noun **1** *an essential element of the local community*: component, constituent, part, section, portion, piece, segment, bit; aspect, factor, feature, facet, ingredient, strand, detail, point; member, unit, module, item. **2** *there is an element of truth in this stereotype*: trace, touch, hint, smattering, soupçon. **3** (elements) *the elements of political science*: basics, essentials, principles, first principles; foundations, fundamentals, rudiments; informal nuts and bolts, ABC. **4** *I braved the elements*: the weather, the climate, meteorological conditions, atmospheric conditions; the wind, the rain.

**elemental** adjective **1** *the elemental principles of accountancy*: basic, primary, fundamental, essential, root, underlying; rudimentary. **2** *elemental forces*: natural, atmospheric, meteorological, environmental.

**elementary** adjective **1** *an elementary astronomy course*: basic, rudimentary, fundamental; preparatory, introductory, initiatory. **2** *a lot of the work is elementary*: easy, simple, straightforward, uncomplicated, undemanding, painless, child's play, plain sailing; informal as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, as easy as ABC, a piece of cake, no sweat, kids' stuff, a walk in the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy.

– OPPOSITES advanced, difficult.

**elephantine** adjective enormous, huge, gigantic, very big, massive, giant, immense, tremendous, colossal, mammoth, gargantuan, vast, prodigious, monumental, titanic; hulking, bulky, heavy, weighty, ponderous, lumbering; informal jumbo, whopping, humongous, monster; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**elevate** verb **1** *we need a breeze to elevate the kite*: raise, lift (up), raise up/aloft, upraise; hoist, hike up, haul up. **2** *he was elevated to Secretary of State*: promote, upgrade, advance, move up, raise, prefer; ennoble, exalt, aggrandize; informal kick upstairs, move up the ladder.

– OPPOSITES lower, demote.

**elevated** adjective **1** *an elevated motorway*: raised, upraised, high up, aloft; overhead. **2** *elevated language*: lofty, grand, exalted, fine, sublime; inflated, pompous, bombastic, orotund. **3** *the gentry's elevated status*: high, higher, high-ranking, of high standing, lofty, superior, exalted, eminent; grand, noble.

– OPPOSITES lowly.

**elevation** noun **1** *his elevation to the peerage*: promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, preferment, aggrandizement; ennoblement; informal step up the ladder, kick upstairs. **2** *1,500 to 3,000 metres in elevation*: altitude, height. **3** *elevations in excess of 3,000 metres*: height, hill, mountain, mount; formal eminence. **4** *elevation of thought*: grandeur, greatness, nobility, loftiness, majesty, sublimity.

**elf** noun pixie, fairy, sprite, imp, brownie; dwarf, gnome, goblin, hobgoblin; leprechaun, puck, troll.

**elfin** adjective elflike, elfish, elvish, pixie-like; puckish, impish, playful, mischievous; dainty, delicate, small, petite, slight, little, tiny, diminutive.

**elicit** verb obtain, draw out, extract, bring out, evoke, call forth, bring forth, induce, prompt, generate, engender, trigger, provoke; formal educe.

**eligible** adjective **1** *those people eligible to vote*: entitled, permitted, allowed, qualified, able. **2** *an eligible bachelor*: desirable, suitable; available, single, unmarried, unattached, unwed.

**eliminate** verb **1** *a policy that would eliminate inflation*: remove, get rid of, put an end to, do away with, end, stop, terminate, eradicate, destroy, annihilate, stamp out, wipe out, extinguish; informal knock something on the head. **2** *he was eliminated from the title race*: knock out, beat; exclude, rule out, disqualify.

**elite** noun best, pick, cream, crème de la crème, flower, nonpareil, elect; high society, jet set, beautiful people, beau monde, haut monde; aristocracy, nobility, upper class; N. Amer. four hundred.

– OPPOSITES dregs.

**elixir** noun potion, concoction, brew, philtre,

decoction, mixture; medicine, tincture; extract, essence, concentrate, distillate, distillation; literary draught; old use potation.

**elliptical adjective** **1** *an elliptical shape*: oval, egg-shaped, elliptic, ovate, ovoid, oviform, ellipsoidal; Botany obovate. **2** *elliptical phraseology*: cryptic, abstruse, ambiguous, obscure, oblique, Delphic; terse, concise, succinct, compact, economic, laconic, sparing.

**elocution noun** pronunciation, enunciation, articulation, diction, speech, intonation, vocalization, modulation; phrasing, delivery, public speaking.

**elongate verb** **1** *an exercise that elongates the muscles*: lengthen, extend, stretch (out). **2** *the high notes were elongated*: prolong, protract, draw out, sustain.  
– OPPOSITES shorten.

**eloquence noun** fluency, articulacy, articulateness, expressiveness, silver tongue, persuasiveness, forcefulness, power, potency, effectiveness; oratory, rhetoric, grandiloquence, magniloquence; informal gift of the gab, way with words, blarney.

**eloquent adjective** **1** *an eloquent speaker*: fluent, articulate, expressive, silver-tongued; persuasive, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, well expressed, effective, lucid, vivid, graphic; smooth-tongued, glib. **2** *her glance was more eloquent than words*: expressive, meaningful, suggestive, revealing, telling, significant, indicative.  
– OPPOSITES inarticulate.

**elsewhere adverb** somewhere else, in/at/to another place, in/at/to a different place, hence; not here, not present, absent, away, abroad, out.  
– OPPOSITES here.

**elucidate verb** explain, make clear, illuminate, throw/shed light on, clarify, clear up, sort out, unravel, spell out; interpret, explicate; gloss.  
– OPPOSITES confuse.

**elucidation noun** explanation, clarification, illumination; interpretation, explication; gloss.

**elude verb** evade, avoid, get away from, dodge, escape from, run (away) from; lose, shake off, give the slip to, slip away from, throw off the scent; informal slip through someone's fingers, slip through the net; old use bilk.

**elusive adjective** **1** *her elusive husband*: difficult to find; evasive, slippery. **2** *an elusive quality*: indefinable, intangible, impalpable, unanalysable; fugitive; ambiguous.

**Elysian adjective** heavenly, paradisaal, paradisiacal, celestial, superlunary, divine; literary empyrean.

**Elysium noun** (Greek Mythology) heaven, paradise, the Elysian fields; eternity, the afterlife, the next world, the hereafter; Scandinavian Mythology Valhalla; Classical Mythology the Islands of the Blessed; Arthurian Legend Avalon.

**emaciated adjective** thin, skeletal, bony, gaunt, wasted, thin as a rake; scrawny, skinny, scraggy, skin and bone, raw-boned, stick-like; starved, underfed, undernourished, underweight, half-starved; cadaverous, shrivelled, shrunken, withered; informal anorexic, like a bag of bones.  
– OPPOSITES fat.

**emanate verb** **1** *warmth emanated from the fireplace*: issue, spread, radiate, be sent forth/out. **2** *the proposals emanated from a committee*: originate, stem, derive, proceed, spring, issue, emerge, flow, come. **3** *he emanated an air of power*: exude, emit, radiate, give off/out, send out/forth.

**emanation noun** **1** *an emanation of his tortured personality*: product, consequence, result, fruit. **2** *radon gas emanation*: discharge, emission, radiation, effusion, outflow, outpouring, flow, leak; technical efflux.

**emancipate verb** free, liberate, set free, release, deliver, discharge; unchain, unfetter, unshackle, untie, unyoke; historical manumit; rare disenfranchise.  
– OPPOSITES enslave.

**emancipated adjective** liberated, independent, unconstrained, uninhibited; free.

**emasculate verb** **1** *an Act which emasculated the House of Lords*: weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, erode, undermine, cripple; informal water down. **2** (old use) *young cocks should be emasculated at three months*.  
See CASTRATE.

**embalm verb** **1** *his body had been embalmed*: preserve, mummify, lay out. **2** *the poem ought to embalm his memory*: preserve, conserve, enshrine, immortalize.

**embankment noun** bank, mound, ridge, earthwork, causeway, barrier, levee, dam, dyke.

**embargo noun** *an embargo on oil sales*:

**ban**, bar, prohibition, stoppage, interdiction, proscription, veto, moratorium; restriction, restraint, block, barrier, impediment, obstruction; boycott.

• **verb** *arms sales were embargoed*: **ban**, bar, prohibit, stop, interdiction, debar, proscribe, outlaw; restrict, restrain, block, obstruct; boycott.

– OPPOSITES allow.

**embark verb** **1** *he embarked at Dover*: board ship, go on board, go aboard, take ship; emplane; informal hop on, jump on; dated ship. **2** *he embarked on a new career*: begin, start, commence, undertake, set about, take up, turn one's hand to, get down to; enter into, venture into, launch into, plunge into, engage in, settle down to; informal get cracking on, get going on, have a go/crack/shot at.

**embarrass verb** mortify, shame, put someone to shame, humiliate, abash, chagrin, make uncomfortable, make self-conscious; discomfit, disconcert,

discompose, upset, discountenance, distress; informal show up.

**embarrassed** adjective mortified, red-faced, blushing, abashed, shamed, ashamed, shamefaced, humiliated, chagrined, awkward, self-conscious, uncomfortable, not knowing where to look, sheepish; discomfited, disconcerted, upset, discomposed, flustered, agitated, discountenanced, distressed; shy, bashful, tongue-tied; informal with egg on one's face, wishing the earth would swallow one up.

**embarrassing** adjective humiliating, shaming, shameful, mortifying, ignominious; awkward, uncomfortable, compromising; disconcerting, discomfiting, upsetting, distressing; informal blush-making, cringeworthy, cringe-making, toe-curling.

**embarrassment** noun **1** *he was scarlet with embarrassment*: mortification, humiliation, shame, shamefacedness, chagrin, awkwardness, self-consciousness, sheepishness, discomfort, discomfiture, discomposure, agitation, distress; ignominy; shyness, bashfulness. **2** *his current financial embarrassment*: difficulty, predicament, plight, problem, mess; informal bind, jam, pickle, fix, scrape. **3** *an embarrassment of riches*: surplus, excess, over-abundance, superabundance, glut, surfeit, superfluity; abundance, profusion, plethora.

**embassy** noun **1** *the Italian embassy*: consulate, legation, ministry. **2** (historical) *Charles sent an embassy to the Lombards*: envoy, representative, delegate, emissary; delegation, deputation, legation, (diplomatic) mission; old use embassy, legate.

**embed, imbed** verb implant, plant, set, fix, lodge, root, insert, place; sink, drive in, hammer in, ram in.

**embellish** verb **1** *weapons embellished with precious metal*: decorate, adorn, ornament; beautify, enhance, grace; trim, garnish, gild; deck, bedeck, festoon, emblazon; literary bejewel, bedizen. **2** *the legend was embellished by an American academic*: elaborate, embroider, expand on, exaggerate.

**embellishment** noun **1** *architectural embellishments*: decoration, ornamentation, adornment; beautification, enhancement, trimming, trim, garnishing, gilding. **2** *we wanted the truth, not romantic embellishments*: elaboration, addition, exaggeration.

**ember** noun glowing coal, live coal; cinder; (embers) ashes, residue.

**embezzle** verb misappropriate, steal, thief, pilfer, purloin, appropriate, abstract, defraud someone of, siphon off, pocket, help oneself to; put one's hand in the till; informal rob, rip off, skim, line one's pockets; Brit. informal pinch, nick, half-inch; formal peculate.

**embezzlement** noun misappropriation, theft, stealing, robbery, thieving, pilfering, purloining, pilferage, appropriation, swindling; fraud, larceny; formal peculation.

**embittered** adjective bitter, resentful, grudge-bearing, rancorous, jaundiced, aggrieved, sour, frustrated, dissatisfied, alienated, disaffected.

**emblazon** verb **1** *shirts emblazoned with the company name*: adorn, decorate, ornament, embellish; inscribe. **2** *a flag with a hammer and sickle emblazoned on it*: display, depict, show.

**emblem** noun symbol, representation, token, image, figure, mark, sign; crest, badge, device, insignia, stamp, seal, heraldic device, coat of arms, shield; logo, trademark.

**emblematic, emblematical** adjective **1** *a situation emblematic of the industrialized twentieth century*: symbolic, representative, demonstrative, suggestive, indicative. **2** *emblematic works of art*: allegorical, symbolic, metaphorical, parabolic, figurative.

**embodiment** noun personification, incarnation, realization, manifestation, expression, representation, actualization, symbol, symbolization; paradigm, epitome, paragon, soul, model; type, essence, quintessence, exemplification, example, exemplar, ideal; formal reification.

**embody** verb **1** *Gradgrind embodies the spirit of industrial capitalism*: personify, realize, manifest, symbolize, represent, express, concretize, incarnate, epitomize, stand for, typify, exemplify; formal reify. **2** *the changes in law embodied in the Children Act*: incorporate, include, contain, encompass; assimilate, consolidate, integrate, organize, systematize; combine.

**embolden** verb fortify, make brave/braver, encourage, hearten, strengthen, brace, stiffen the resolve of; rouse, stir, stimulate, cheer, rally, fire, animate, inspirit, invigorate; informal buck up.

— **OPPOSITES** dishearten.

**embrace** verb **1** *he embraced her warmly*: hug, take/hold in one's arms, hold, cuddle, clasp to one's bosom, clasp, squeeze, clutch; caress; enfold, enclasp, encircle, envelop, entwine oneself around; informal canoodle, smooch; literary embosom. **2** *most western European countries have embraced the concept*: welcome, welcome with open arms, accept, take up, take to one's heart, adopt; espouse, support, back, champion. **3** *the faculty embraces a wide range of departments*: include, take in, comprise, contain, incorporate, encompass, cover, involve, embody, subsume, comprehend. • noun *a fond embrace*: hug, cuddle, squeeze, clinch, caress; bear hug.

**embrocation** noun ointment, lotion, cream, rub, salve, emollient, liniment, balm, unguent.

**embroider** verb **1** *a cushion embroidered with a pattern of golden keys*: sew, stitch; decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish. **2** *she embroidered her stories with colourful detail*: elaborate, embellish, enlarge on, exaggerate, touch up, dress up, gild, colour; informal jazz up.



**embroidery** noun **1** *the girls were taught embroidery: needlework*, needlepoint, needlecraft, sewing, tatting, crewel work, tapestry. **2** *fanciful embroidery of the facts: elaboration*, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation, colouring, enhancement; exaggeration, overstatement, hyperbole.

**embroil** verb *involve*, entangle, ensnare, enmesh, catch up, mix up, bog down, mire.

**embryo** noun **1** *a human embryo: fetus*, fertilized egg, unborn child/baby. **2** *the embryo of a capitalist economy: germ*, nucleus, seed; rudimentary version, rudiments, basics, beginning, start.

**embryonic** adjective **1** *an embryonic chick: fetal*, unborn, unhatched. **2** *an embryonic pro-democracy movement: rudimentary*, undeveloped, unformed, immature, incomplete, incipient, inchoate; fledgling, budding, nascent, emerging, developing, early, germinal.

– OPPOSITES mature.

**emend** verb *correct*, rectify, repair, fix; improve, enhance, polish, refine, amend; edit, rewrite, revise, copy-edit, subedit, redraft, recast, rephrase, reword, rework, alter, change, modify; rare redact.

**emerge** verb **1** *a policeman emerged from the alley: come out*, appear, come into view, become visible, surface, materialize, manifest oneself, issue, come forth. **2** *several unexpected facts emerged: become known*, become apparent, be revealed, come to light, come out, turn up, transpire, unfold, turn out, prove to be the case.

**emergence** noun *appearance*, arrival, coming, materialization; advent, inception, dawn, birth, origination, start, development, rise.

**emergency** noun *a military emergency: crisis*, urgent situation, extremity, exigency; accident, disaster, catastrophe, calamity; difficulty, plight, predicament, danger; informal panic stations.

• adjective **1** *an emergency meeting: urgent*, crisis; impromptu, extraordinary. **2** *emergency supplies: reserve*, standby, back-up, fallback, in reserve.

**emergent** adjective *emerging*, developing, rising, dawning, budding, embryonic, infant, fledgling, nascent, incipient.

**emigrate** verb *move abroad*, move overseas, leave one's country, migrate; relocate, resettle; defect.

– OPPOSITES immigrate.

**emigration** noun *moving abroad*, moving overseas, expatriation, migration; exodus, diaspora; relocation, resettling; defection.

**eminence** noun **1** *his eminence as a scientist: fame*, celebrity, illustriousness, distinction, renown, pre-eminence, notability, greatness, prestige, importance, reputation, repute, note; prominence, superiority, stature, standing. **2** *various legal eminences: important person*, dignitary, luminary, worthy, grandee, notable, notability, personage, leading light, VIP;

informal somebody, someone, big shot, big noise, big gun, heavyweight. **3** (formal) *the hotel's eminence above the sea: elevation*, height, rise.

**eminent** adjective **1** *an eminent man of letters: illustrious*, distinguished, renowned, esteemed, pre-eminent, notable, noteworthy, great, prestigious, important, influential, outstanding, noted, of note; famous, celebrated, prominent, well known, lionized, acclaimed, exalted, revered, august, venerable. **2** *the eminent reasonableness of their claims: obvious*, clear, conspicuous, marked, singular, signal; total, complete, utter, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, sheer.

– OPPOSITES unknown.

**eminently** adverb *very*, greatly, highly, exceedingly, extremely, particularly, exceptionally, supremely, uniquely; obviously, clearly, conspicuously, markedly, singularly, signally, outstandingly, strikingly, notably, surpassingly; totally, completely, utterly, absolutely, thoroughly, perfectly, downright.

**emissary** noun *envoy*, ambassador, delegate, attaché, consul, plenipotentiary; agent, representative, deputy; messenger, courier; nuncio; old use legate.

**emission** noun *discharge*, release, outpouring, outflow, outrush, leak, excretion, secretion, ejection; emanation, radiation, effusion, ejaculation, disgorgement, issuance.

**emit** verb **1** *the hydrocarbons emitted from vehicle exhausts: discharge*, release, give out/off, pour out, send forth, throw out, void, vent, issue; leak, ooze, excrete, disgorge, secrete, eject, ejaculate; spout, belch, spew out; emanate, radiate, exude. **2** *he emitted a loud cry: utter*, voice, let out, produce, give vent to, come out with, vocalize.

– OPPOSITES absorb.

**emollient** adjective **1** *a rich emollient shampoo: moisturizing*, soothing, softening. **2** *an emollient response: conciliatory*, conciliating, appeasing, soothing, calming, pacifying, assuaging, placating, mollifying, propitiatory.

• noun *she applied an emollient: moisturizer*, cream, lotion, oil, rub, salve, unguent, balm; technical humectant.

**emolument** noun (formal) *salary*, pay, payment, wage(s), earnings, allowance, stipend, honorarium, reward, premium; fee, charge, consideration; income, profit, gain, return.

**emotion** noun **1** *she was good at hiding her emotions: feeling*, sentiment; reaction, response. **2** *overcome by emotion, she turned away: passion*, strength of feeling, warmth of feeling. **3** *responses based purely on emotion: instinct*, intuition, gut feeling; sentiment, the heart.

**emotional** adjective **1** *an emotional young man: passionate*, hot-blooded, ardent, fervent, excitable, temperamental,

melodramatic, tempestuous; demonstrative, responsive, tender, loving, feeling, sentimental, sensitive. **2** *he paid an emotional tribute to his wife: poignant, moving, touching, affecting, powerful, stirring, emotive, heart-rending, heart-warming, impassioned, dramatic; haunting, pathetic, sentimental; informal tear-jerking.*

– OPPOSITES unfeeling.

**emotionless** adjective **unemotional**, unfeeling, dispassionate, passionless, unexpressive, cool, cold, cold-blooded, impassive, indifferent, detached, remote, aloof; toneless, flat, dead, expressionless, blank, wooden, stony, deadpan, vacant.

**emotive** adjective **controversial**, contentious, inflammatory; sensitive, delicate, difficult, problematic, touchy, awkward, prickly, ticklish.

**empathize** verb **identify**, sympathize, be in sympathy, understand, share someone's feelings, be in tune; be on the same wavelength as, talk the same language as; relate to, feel for, have insight into; informal put oneself in someone else's shoes.

**emperor** noun **ruler**, sovereign, king, monarch, potentate; historical tsar, kaiser, mikado.

#### WORD LINKS

imperial relating to an emperor or empire.

**emphasis** noun **1** *the curriculum gave more emphasis to reading and writing: prominence, importance, significance, value; stress, weight, accent, attention, priority, pre-eminence, urgency, force.* **2** *the emphasis is on the word 'little': stress, accent, accentuation, weight, prominence; beat; Prosody ictus.*

**emphasize** verb **stress**, underline, highlight, focus attention on, point up, lay stress on, draw attention to, spotlight, foreground, play up, make a point of; bring to the fore, insist on, belabour; accent, accentuate, underscore; informal press home, rub it in.

– OPPOSITES understate.

**emphatic** adjective **1** *an emphatic denial: vehement, firm, wholehearted, forceful, forcible, energetic, vigorous, direct, assertive, insistent; certain, definite, out-and-out, one hundred per cent; decided, determined, categorical, unqualified, unconditional, unequivocal, unambiguous, absolute, explicit, downright, outright, clear.* **2** *an emphatic victory: conclusive, decisive, decided, unmistakable; resounding, telling; informal thumping, thundering.*

– OPPOSITES hesitant, narrow.

**empire** noun **1** *the Ottoman Empire: kingdom, realm, domain, territory; commonwealth; power, world power, superpower.* **2** *a worldwide shipping empire: organization, corporation, multinational, conglomerate, consortium, company, business, firm, operation.* **3** *his dream of empire: power, rule, ascendancy, supremacy, command, control, authority, sway, dominance, domination, dominion.*

**empirical** adjective **experiential**, practical, heuristic, first-hand, hands-on; observed, seen.

– OPPOSITES theoretical.

**employ** verb **1** *she employed a chauffeur: hire, engage, recruit, take on, secure the services of, sign up, sign, enrol, appoint; retain; indenture, apprentice.* **2** *Sam was employed in carving a stone figure: occupy, engage, involve, keep busy, tie up; absorb, engross, immerse.* **3** *the team employed subtle psychological tactics: use, utilize, make use of, avail oneself of; apply, exercise, practise, put into practice, exert, bring into play, bring to bear; draw on, resort to, turn to, have recourse to.*

– OPPOSITES dismiss.

**employed** adjective **working**, in work, in employment, holding down a job; earning, waged, breadwinning.

**employee** noun **worker**, member of staff; blue-collar worker, white-collar worker, workman, labourer, (hired) hand; wage-earner, breadwinner; (**employees**) personnel, staff, workforce; informal liveware.

**employer** noun **1** *his employer gave him a glowing reference: manager, manageress, proprietor, director, head man, head woman; informal boss, boss man, skipper; Brit. informal gaffer, governor, guv'nor; N. Amer. informal padrone, sachem.* **2** *the largest private sector employer in Sheffield: firm, company, business, organization, manufacturer.*

**employment** noun **1** *she found employment as a clerk: work, labour, service; job, post, position, situation, occupation, profession, trade, métier, business, line, line of work, calling, vocation, craft, pursuit; old use employ.* **2** *the employment of children: hiring, hire, engagement, taking on; apprenticing.* **3** *the employment of nuclear weapons: use, utilization, application, exercise.*

**emporium** noun **shop**, store, outlet, retail outlet; department store, chain store, supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, megastore; establishment.

**empower** verb **1** *the act empowered Henry to punish heretics: authorize, entitle, permit, allow, license, sanction, warrant, commission, delegate, qualify, enable, equip.* **2** *movements to empower the poor: emancipate, unshackle, set free, liberate.*

– OPPOSITES forbid.

**empress** noun **ruler**, sovereign, queen, monarch, potentate; historical tsarina.

**emptiness** noun **void**, vacuum, empty space, vacuity, gap, vacancy, hole.

**empty** adjective **1** *an empty house: vacant, unoccupied, uninhabited, untenanted, bare, desolate, deserted, abandoned; clear, free.* **2** *an empty threat: meaningless, hollow, idle, vain, futile, worthless, useless, insubstantial, ineffective, ineffectual.* **3** *without her my life is empty: futile, pointless, purposeless, worthless, meaningless, valueless, of no value, useless,*

of no use, aimless, senseless, hollow, barren, insignificant, inconsequential, trivial. **4** *his eyes were empty*: blank, expressionless, vacant, deadpan, wooden, stony, impassive, absent, glazed, fixed, lifeless, emotionless, unresponsive.

– OPPOSITES full, serious, worthwhile.

• **verb 1** *I emptied the dishwasher*: unload, unpack, void; clear, evacuate; old use unlade.

**2** *he emptied out the contents of the case*: remove, take out, extract, tip out, pour out.

– OPPOSITES fill.

**empty-headed** adjective stupid, foolish, silly, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, witless, vacuous, vapid, feather-brained, birdbrained, scatterbrained, scatty, thoughtless; informal half-witted, dumb, dim, airheaded, brain-dead, dippy, dizzy, dopey, dozy, soft in the head, slow on the uptake; Brit. informal daft; N. Amer. informal ditzzy.

– OPPOSITES intelligent.

**emulate** verb imitate, copy, mirror, echo, follow, model oneself on, take a leaf out of someone's book; match, equal, parallel, be on a par with, be in the same league as, come close to; compete with, contend with, rival, surpass.

**enable** verb allow, permit, let, give the means to, equip, empower, make able, fit; authorize, entitle, qualify; formal capacitate.

– OPPOSITES prevent.

**enact** verb **1** *the Bill was enacted in 1963*: pass, make law, legislate; approve, ratify, sanction, authorize; impose, lay down. **2** *members of the church enacted a nativity play*: act out, act, perform, appear in, stage, mount, put on, present.

– OPPOSITES repeal.

**enactment** noun **1** *the enactment of a Bill of Rights*: passing; ratification, sanction, approval, authorization; imposition. **2** *parliamentary enactments*: act, law, by-law, ruling, rule, regulation, statute, measure; N. Amer. formal ordinance; (enactments) legislation. **3** *the enactment of the play*: acting, performing, performance, staging, presentation.

**enamoured** adjective in love, infatuated, besotted, smitten, captivated, enchanted, fascinated, bewitched, beguiled; keen on, taken with; informal mad about, crazy about, wild about, bowled over by, struck on, sweet on, carrying a torch for; literary ensorcelled by.

**encampment** noun camp, military camp, bivouac, cantonment; campsite, camping ground; tents.

**encapsulate** verb **1** *their conclusions are encapsulated in one sentence*: summarize, sum up, give the gist of, put in a nutshell; capture, express. **2** *seeds encapsulated in resin*: enclose, encase, contain, envelop, enfold, sheath, cocoon, surround.

**enchant** verb captivate, charm, delight, enrapture, entrance, enthrall, beguile, bewitch, spellbind, fascinate, hypnotize, mesmerize, rivet, grip, transfix; informal bowl someone over.

– OPPOSITES bore.

**enchanter** noun wizard, witch, sorcerer, warlock, magician, necromancer, magus; witch doctor, medicine man, shaman; old use mage; rare thaumaturge.

**enchanting** adjective captivating, charming, delightful, bewitching, beguiling, adorable, lovely, attractive, appealing, engaging, winning, fetching, winsome, alluring, disarming, irresistible, fascinating; dated taking.

**enchantment** noun **1** *a race of giants skilled in enchantment*: magic, witchcraft, sorcery, wizardry, necromancy; charms, spells, incantations; N. Amer. mojo; rare thaumaturgy. **2** *the enchantment of the garden by moonlight*: allure, delight, charm, beauty, attractiveness, appeal, fascination, irresistibility, magnetism, pull, draw, lure. **3** *being with him was sheer enchantment*: bliss, ecstasy, heaven, rapture, joy.

**enchantress** noun witch, sorceress, magician, fairy; Circe, siren.

**encircle** verb surround, enclose, circle, girdle, ring, encompass; close in, shut in, fence in, wall in, hem in, confine; literary gird, engirdle.

**enclose** verb **1** *tall trees enclosed the garden*: surround, circle, ring, girdle, encompass, encircle; confine, close in, shut in, fence in, wall in, hedge in, hem in; literary gird, engirdle. **2** *please enclose a stamped addressed envelope*: include, insert, put in; send.

#### WORD LINKS

claustrophobia extreme fear of enclosed spaces

**enclosure** noun paddock, fold, pen, compound, stockade, ring, yard; sty, coop; N. Amer. corral.

**encomium** noun (formal) eulogy, panegyric, paean, accolade, tribute, testimonial; praise, acclaim, acclamation, homage; formal laudation.

**encompass** verb **1** *the monument is encompassed by Hunsbury Park*: contain, have within; surround, enclose, encircle. **2** *debates encompassing a vast range of subjects*: cover, embrace, include, incorporate, take in, contain, comprise, involve, deal with; formal comprehend.

**encounter** verb **1** *I encountered a girl I used to know*: meet, meet by chance, run into, come across/upon, stumble across/ on, chance on, happen on; informal bump into; old use run against, rencounter. **2** *we encountered a slight problem*: experience, run into, come up against, face, be faced with, confront.

• **noun 1** *an unexpected encounter*: meeting, chance meeting; old use rencounter. **2** *a violent encounter between police and demonstrators*: battle, fight, clash, confrontation, struggle, skirmish, engagement; informal run-in, set-to, dust-up, scrap.

**encourage** verb **1** *the players were*



*encouraged by the crowd's response: hearten, cheer, buoy up, uplift, inspire, motivate, spur on, stir, stir up, fire up, stimulate, invigorate, vitalize, revitalize, embolden, fortify, rally; informal buck up, pep up, give a shot in the arm to.* **2** *she had encouraged him to go: persuade, coax, urge, press, push, pressure, pressurize, prod, goad, egg on, prompt, influence, sway.* **3** *the Government was keen to encourage local businesses: support, back, champion, promote, further, foster, nurture, cultivate, strengthen, stimulate; help, assist, aid, boost, fuel.*

– OPPOSITES discourage, dissuade, hinder.

**encouragement** noun **1** *she needed a bit of encouragement: heartening, cheering up, inspiration, motivation, stimulation, fortification; morale-boosting; informal a shot in the arm.* **2** *they required no encouragement to get back to work: persuasion, coaxing, urging, pressure, pressurization, prodding, prompting; spur, goad, inducement, incentive, carrot, bait, motive.* **3** *the encouragement of foreign investment: support, backing, championship, championing, sponsoring, promotion, furtherance, furthering, fostering, nurture, cultivation; help, assistance; N. Amer. boosterism.*

**encouraging** adjective **1** *an encouraging start: promising, hopeful, auspicious, propitious, favourable, bright, rosy; heartening, reassuring, cheering, comforting, welcome, pleasing, gratifying.* **2** *my parents were very encouraging: supportive, understanding, helpful; positive, responsive, enthusiastic.*

**encroach** verb *intrude, trespass, impinge, obtrude, impose oneself, invade, infiltrate, interrupt, infringe, violate, interfere with, disturb; tread/step on someone's toes; informal horn in on, muscle in on; old use entrench on.*

**encroachment** noun *intrusion, trespass, invasion, infiltration, incursion, obtrusion, infringement, impingement.*

**encumber** verb **1** *her movements were encumbered by her heavy skirts: hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede, cramp, inhibit, restrict, limit, constrain, restrain, bog down, retard, slow (down); inconvenience, disadvantage, handicap.* **2** *they are encumbered with debt: burden, load, weigh down, saddle; overwhelm, tax, stress, strain, overload, overburden; Brit. informal lumber.*

**encumbrance** noun **1** *he soon found the old equipment a great encumbrance: hindrance, obstruction, obstacle, impediment, constraint, handicap, inconvenience, nuisance, disadvantage, drawback; literary trammel; old use cumber.* **2** *she knew she was an encumbrance to him: burden, responsibility, obligation, liability, weight, load, stress, strain, pressure, trouble, worry; millstone, albatross, cross to bear.*

**encyclopedic** adjective *comprehensive, complete, thorough, thoroughgoing, full, exhaustive, in-depth, wide-ranging, all-inclusive, all-embracing, all-encompassing,*

*universal, vast; formal compendious.*

**end** noun **1** *the end of the road: extremity, furthestmost part, limit; margin, edge, border, boundary, periphery; point, tip, tail end; N. Amer. tag end.* **2** *the end of the novel: conclusion, termination, ending, finish, close, resolution, climax, finale, culmination, denouement; epilogue, coda, peroration.* **3** *a cigarette end: butt, stub, stump, remnant; informal fag end, dog end.* **4** *wealth is a means and not an end in itself: aim, goal, purpose, objective, object, holy grail, target; intention, intent, design, motive; aspiration, wish, desire, ambition.* **5** *the commercial end of the business: aspect, side, section, area, field, part, share, portion, segment, province.* **6** *his end might come at any time: death, dying, demise, passing, expiry, quietus; doom, extinction, annihilation, extermination, destruction; downfall, ruin, ruination, Waterloo; informal curtains; formal decease.*

– OPPOSITES beginning.

• **verb** **1** *the show ended with a wedding scene: finish, conclude, terminate, come to an end, draw to a close, close, stop, cease; culminate, climax, come to a head.* **2** *she ended their relationship: break off, call off, bring to an end, put an end to, stop, finish, terminate, discontinue; dissolve, cancel, annul.*

– OPPOSITES begin.

**endanger** verb *imperil, jeopardize, risk, put at risk, put in danger; threaten, pose a threat to, be a danger to, be detrimental to, damage, injure, harm; old use peril.*

**endearing** adjective *lovable, adorable, cute, sweet, dear, delightful, lovely, charming, appealing, attractive, engaging, winning, captivating, enchanting, beguiling, winsome; dated taking.*

**endearment** noun **1** *his murmured endearments: term of affection, term of endearment, pet name; (endearments) sweet nothings, sweet talk.* **2** *he spoke to her without endearment: affection, fondness, tenderness, feeling, sentiment, warmth, love, liking, care.*

**endeavour** verb *the company endeavoured to expand its activities: try, attempt, seek, undertake, aspire, aim, set out; strive, struggle, labour, toil, work, exert oneself, apply oneself, do one's best, do one's utmost, give one's all, be at pains; informal have a go/shot/stab, give something one's best shot, do one's damndest, go all out, bend over backwards; formal essay.*

• **noun** **1** *an endeavour to build a more buoyant economy: attempt, try, bid, effort, venture; informal go, crack, shot, stab, bash; formal essay.* **2** *several days of endeavour: effort, exertion, striving, struggling, labouring, struggle, labour, hard work, application, industry; pains; informal sweat, (blood, sweat, and tears), elbow grease; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal (hard) yakka; literary travail.* **3** *an extremely unwise endeavour: undertaking, enterprise, venture, exercise, activity, exploit, deed, act,*

action, move; scheme, plan, project; informal caper.

**ending** noun **end**, finish, close, closing, conclusion, resolution, summing-up, denouement, finale; cessation, stopping, termination, discontinuation.

– OPPOSITES beginning.

**endless** adjective **1** *a woman with endless energy*: **unlimited**, limitless, infinite, inexhaustible, boundless, unbounded, untold, immeasurable, measureless, incalculable; abundant, abounding, great; ceaseless, unceasing, unending, without end, everlasting, constant, continuous, continual, interminable, unfading, unending, perpetual, eternal, enduring, lasting. **2** *as children we played endless games*: **countless**, innumerable, untold, legion, numberless, unnumbered, numerous, very many, manifold, multitudinous, multifarious; a great number of, infinite numbers of, a multitude of; informal umpteen, no end of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, scads of, zillions of; N. Amer. informal gazillions of; literary myriad, divers.

– OPPOSITES limited, few.

**endorse** verb **support**, back, agree with, approve (of), favour, subscribe to, recommend, champion, stick up for, uphold, affirm, sanction; informal throw one's weight behind.

– OPPOSITES oppose.

**endorsement** noun **support**, backing, approval, seal of approval, agreement, recommendation, championship, patronage, affirmation, sanction.

**endow** verb **1** *Henry II endowed a hospital for poor pilgrims*: **finance**, fund, pay for, subsidize, support financially, settle money on; establish, found, set up, institute. **2** *nature endowed the human race with intelligence*: **provide**, supply, furnish, equip, invest, favour, bless, grace, gift; give, bestow; literary endue.

**endowment** noun **1** *the endowment of a Chair of Botany*: **funding**, financing, subsidizing; establishment, foundation, institution. **2** *a generous endowment*: **bequest**, legacy, inheritance; gift, present, grant, award, donation, contribution, subsidy, settlement; formal benefaction. **3** *his natural endowments*: **quality**, characteristic, feature, attribute, facility, faculty, ability, talent, gift, strength, aptitude, capability, capacity.

**endurable** adjective **bearable**, tolerable, supportable, manageable, sustainable.

– OPPOSITES unbearable.

**endurance** noun **1** *she pushed him beyond the limit of his endurance*: **toleration**, tolerance, sufferance, forbearance, patience, acceptance, resignation, stoicism. **2** *the race is a test of endurance*: **stamina**, staying power, fortitude, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, doggedness, grit, indefatigability, resolution, determination; informal stickability; formal pertinacity.

**endure** verb **1** *he endured years of pain*:

**undergo**, go through, live through, experience, meet, encounter; cope with, deal with, face, suffer, tolerate, put up with, brave, bear, withstand, sustain, weather; Scottish thole. **2** *I cannot endure such behaviour*: **tolerate**, bear, put up with, suffer, take; informal hack, stand for, stomach, swallow, abide, hold with; Brit. informal stick, wear, be doing with; formal brook. **3** *God's love will endure for ever*: **last**, live, live on, go on, survive, abide, continue, persist, remain, stay.

– OPPOSITES fade.

**enduring** adjective **lasting**, long-lasting, abiding, durable, continuing, persisting, eternal, perennial, permanent, unending, everlasting; constant, stable, steady, steadfast, fixed, firm, unwavering, unflinching, unchanging.

– OPPOSITES short-lived.

**enemy** noun **opponent**, adversary, rival, antagonist, combatant, challenger, competitor, opposer, opposition, competition, other side; literary foe.

– OPPOSITES ally.

**energetic** adjective **1** *an energetic woman*: **active**, lively, dynamic, zestful, spirited, animated, vital, vibrant, bouncy, bubbly, exuberant, perky, frisky, sprightly, tireless, indefatigable, enthusiastic; informal peppy, spunky, feisty, full of beans, full of the joys of spring, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. **2** *energetic exercises*: **vigorous**, strenuous, brisk; hard, arduous, demanding, taxing, tough, rigorous. **3** *an energetic advertising campaign*: **forceful**, vigorous, high-powered, all-out, determined, bold, powerful, potent; intensive, hard-hitting, pulling no punches, aggressive, high-octane; informal punchy, in-your-face.

– OPPOSITES lethargic, gentle, half-hearted.

**energize** verb **1** *people are energized by his ideas*: **enliven**, liven up, animate, vitalize, invigorate, perk up, excite, electrify, stimulate, stir up, fire up, rouse, motivate, move, drive, spur on, encourage, galvanize; informal pep up, buck up, give a shot in the arm to. **2** *floor sensors energized by standing passengers*: **activate**, trigger, trip, operate, actuate, switch on, turn on, start, start up, power.

**energy** noun **1** *she has so much energy*: **vitality**, vigour, life, liveliness, animation, vivacity, spirit, spiritedness, verve, enthusiasm, zest, vibrancy, spark, sparkle, effervescence, exuberance, buoyancy, sprightliness; strength, stamina, forcefulness, power, dynamism, drive; fire, passion, ardour, zeal; informal zip, zing, pep, pizzazz, punch, bounce, oomph, go, get-up-and-go; N. Amer. informal feistiness. **2** *the increasing use of solar energy*: **power**.

**enervate** verb **exhaust**, tire, fatigue, weary, wear out, devitalize, drain, sap, weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, incapacitate, prostrate; informal knock out, do in, shatter, fag out; Brit. informal knacker.

– OPPOSITES invigorate.

**enervation** noun fatigue, exhaustion, tiredness, weariness, lassitude, weakness, feebleness, debilitation, indisposition, prostration.

**enfeeble** verb weaken, debilitate, incapacitate, indispose, lay low; drain, sap, exhaust, tire, fatigue, devitalize.  
– OPPOSITES strengthen.

**enfold** verb 1 *the summit was enfolded in white cloud*: **envelop**, engulf, sheathe, swathe, swaddle, cocoon, shroud, veil, cloak, drape, cover; surround, enclose, encase, encircle; literary enshroud, mantle. 2 *he enfolded her in his arms*: **clasp**, hold, fold, wrap, squeeze, clutch, gather; embrace, hug, cuddle; literary embosom.

**enforce** verb 1 *the sheriff enforced the law*: impose, apply, administer, implement, bring to bear, discharge, execute, prosecute. 2 *they cannot enforce cooperation between the parties*: **force**, compel, coerce, exact, extort; old use constrain.

**enforced** adjective compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, involuntary, forced, imposed, required, requisite, stipulated, prescribed, contractual, binding, necessary, unavoidable, inescapable.

– OPPOSITES voluntary.

**enfranchise** verb 1 *women over thirty were enfranchised in 1918*: **give the vote to**, give/grant suffrage to. 2 (historical) *he enfranchised his slaves*: **emancipate**, liberate, free, set free, release; unchain, unyoke, unfetter, unshackle; historical manumit.

**engage** verb 1 *tasks which engage children's interest*: **capture**, catch, arrest, grab, draw, attract, gain, win, hold, grip, captivate, engross, absorb, occupy. 2 *he engaged a nursemaid*: **employ**, hire, recruit, take on, secure the services of, enrol, appoint. 3 (dated) *she engaged a room in the boarding house*: **book**, reserve; rent, hire; formal bespeak. 4 *he engaged to pay them £10,000*: **contract**, promise, agree, pledge, vow, covenant, commit oneself, bind oneself, undertake, enter into an agreement. 5 *the chance to engage in many social activities*: **participate in**, take part in, join in, become involved in, go in for, partake in/of, share in, play a part/role in; have a hand in, be a party to, enter into. 6 *infantry units engaged the enemy*: **fight**, do battle with, wage war on/against, attack, take on, set upon, clash with, skirmish with; encounter, meet.

– OPPOSITES lose, dismiss.

**engaged** adjective 1 *he's otherwise engaged*: busy, occupied, unavailable; informal tied up. 2 *she's engaged to an American guy*: promised/pledged in marriage; attached; informal spoken for; dated betrothed; literary affianced; old use plighted, espoused.

– OPPOSITES free, unattached.

**engagement** noun 1 *they broke off their engagement*: **marriage contract**; dated betrothal; old use espousal. 2 *a business engagement*: **appointment**, meeting, arrangement, commitment; date, assignation, rendezvous; literary tryst.

3 *Britain's continued engagement in open trading*: **participation**, involvement, association. 4 *his engagement as a curate*: **employment**, appointment; work, job, post, situation. 5 *the first engagement of the war*: **battle**, fight, clash, confrontation, encounter, conflict, skirmish; warfare, action, combat, hostilities; informal dogfight.

**engaging** adjective charming, appealing, attractive, pretty, delightful, lovely, pleasing, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, lovable, sweet, winning, winsome, fetching, captivating, enchanting, bewitching; Scottish & N. English bonny; dated taking; old use comely, fair.

– OPPOSITES unappealing.

**engender** verb 1 *his works engendered considerable controversy*: **cause**, be the cause of, give rise to, bring about, occasion, lead to, result in, produce, create, generate, arouse, rouse, inspire, provoke, kindle, trigger, spark, stir up, whip up, induce, incite, instigate, foment; literary beget, enkindle. 2 (old use) *he engendered six children*: **father**, sire, bring into the world, spawn, breed; literary beget.

**engine** noun 1 *a car engine*: **motor**, machine, mechanism. 2 *the main engine of change*: **cause**, agent, instrument, originator, initiator, generator. 3 (historical) *engines of war*: **device**, contraption, apparatus, machine, appliance, mechanism, implement, instrument, tool.

**engineer** noun 1 *a structural engineer*: designer, planner, builder. 2 *the ship's engineer*: **operator**, driver, controller. 3 *the prime engineer of the approach*: **originator**, deviser, designer, architect, inventor, developer, creator; mastermind. • verb *he engineered a takeover deal*: **bring about**, arrange, pull off, bring off, contrive, manoeuvre, manipulate, negotiate, organize, orchestrate, choreograph, mount, stage, mastermind, originate, manage, stage-manage, coordinate, control, superintend, direct, conduct; informal wangle.

**England** noun Brit. informal Blighty; Austral./NZ informal Old Dart; literary Albion.

**engrained** adjective. See **INGRAINED**.

**engrave** verb 1 *my name was engraved on the ring*: **carve**, inscribe, cut (in), incise, chisel, chase, score, notch, etch, imprint, impress.

2 *the image was engraved in his memory*: **fix**, set, imprint, stamp, brand, impress, embed, etch.

**engraving** noun etching, print, impression, lithograph; plate, dry point, woodcut, linocut.

**engross** verb absorb, engage, rivet, grip, hold, interest, involve, occupy, preoccupy; fascinate, captivate, enthrall, intrigue.

**engrossed** adjective absorbed, involved, interested, occupied, preoccupied, immersed, caught up, riveted, gripped, rapt, fascinated, intent, captivated, enthralled, intrigued.

**engrossing** adjective absorbing, interesting,



riveting, gripping, captivating, compelling, compulsive, fascinating, intriguing, enthralling; informal unputdownable.

**engulf verb** inundate, flood, deluge, immerse, swamp, swallow up, submerge; bury, envelop, overwhelm.

**enhance verb** increase, add to, intensify, heighten, magnify, amplify, inflate, strengthen, build up, supplement, augment, boost, raise, lift, elevate, exalt; improve, enrich, complement.

– OPPOSITES diminish.

**enigma noun** mystery, puzzle, riddle, conundrum, paradox, problem; a closed book; informal poser.

**enigmatic adjective** mysterious, inscrutable, puzzling, mystifying, baffling, perplexing, impenetrable, unfathomable, sphinx-like, Delphic, oracular; cryptic, elliptical, ambiguous, equivocal, paradoxical, obscure, oblique, secret.

**enjoin verb** urge, encourage, admonish, press; instruct, direct, require, order, command, tell, call on, demand, charge; formal adjure; literary bid.

**enjoy verb** **1** *he enjoys playing the piano:* like, love, be fond of, be entertained by, take pleasure in, be keen on, delight in, appreciate, relish, revel in, adore, lap up, savour, luxuriate in, bask in; informal get a kick out of, get a thrill out of, get a buzz out of, go a bundle on. **2** *she had always enjoyed good health:* benefit from, have the benefit of; be blessed with, be favoured with, be endowed with, be possessed of, possess, own, boast.

– OPPOSITES dislike, lack.

■ **enjoy oneself** have fun, have a good time, have the time of one's life; make merry, celebrate, revel; informal party, have a ball, have a whale of a time, whoop it up, let one's hair down.

**enjoyable adjective** entertaining, amusing, diverting, delightful, to one's liking, pleasant, congenial, convivial, lovely, fine, good, great, agreeable, pleasurable, delicious, delectable, satisfying, gratifying; marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, splendid; informal super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, terrific, grand, magic; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing.

**enjoyment noun** pleasure, fun, entertainment, amusement, diversion, recreation, relaxation; delight, happiness, merriment, joy, gaiety, jollity; satisfaction, gratification, liking, relish, gusto; humorous delectation; dated sport.

**enlarge verb** **1** *they enlarged the scope of their research:* extend, expand, grow, add to, amplify, augment, magnify, build up, supplement; widen, broaden, stretch, lengthen; elongate, deepen, thicken. **2** *the lymph glands had enlarged:* swell, distend, bloat, bulge, dilate, tumefy, blow up, puff up, balloon. **3** *he enlarged on this subject:* elaborate on, expand on, add to, build on, flesh out, put flesh on the bones of, add detail to, expatiate on; develop, fill out,

embellish, embroider.

– OPPOSITES reduce, shrink.

**enlargement noun** expansion, extension, growth, amplification, augmentation, addition, magnification, widening, broadening, lengthening; elongation, deepening, thickening; swelling, distension, dilation, tumefaction.

**enlighten verb** inform, tell, make aware, open someone's eyes, notify, illuminate, apprise, brief, update, bring up to date; disabuse, set straight; informal put in the picture, clue in, fill in, put wise, bring up to speed.

**enlightened adjective** informed, well informed, aware, sophisticated, advanced, developed, liberal, open-minded, broad-minded, educated, knowledgeable, wise; civilized, refined, cultured, cultivated.

– OPPOSITES benighted.

**enlightenment noun** insight, understanding, awareness, wisdom, education, learning, knowledge; illumination, awakening, instruction, teaching; sophistication, advancement, development, open-mindedness, broad-mindedness; culture, refinement, cultivation, civilization.

**enlist verb** **1** *he enlisted in the Royal Engineers:* join up, join, enrol in, sign up for, volunteer for; Brit. old use take the King's shilling. **2** *he was enlisted in the army:* recruit, call up, enrol, sign up; conscript; US draft, induct; old use levy. **3** *he enlisted the help of a friend:* obtain, engage, secure, win, get, procure.

**enliven verb** **1** *a meeting enlivened by her wit and vivacity:* liven up, spice up, add spice to, ginger up, perk up, vitalize, leaven; informal pep up, sex up. **2** *the visit had enlivened my mother:* cheer up, brighten up, liven up, raise someone's spirits, uplift, gladden, buoy up, animate, vivify, vitalize, invigorate, restore, revive, refresh, stimulate, rouse, boost, exhilarate; N. Amer. light a fire under; informal perk up, buck up, pep up.

**en masse adverb** (all) together, as a group, as one, en bloc, as a whole, in a body, wholesale.

**enmesh verb** embroil, entangle, ensnare, snare, trap, entrap, ensnarl, involve, catch up, mix up, bog down, mire.

**enmity noun** hostility, animosity, antagonism, friction, antipathy, animus, acrimony, bitterness, rancour, resentment, aversion, ill feeling, bad feeling, ill will, bad blood, hatred, hate, loathing, odium; malice, spite, spitefulness, venom, malevolence; Brit. informal needle.

– OPPOSITES friendship.

**ennoble verb** dignify, honour, exalt, elevate, raise, enhance, add dignity to, distinguish; magnify, glorify, aggrandize.

– OPPOSITES demean.

**ennui noun** boredom, tedium, listlessness, lethargy, lassitude, languor, weariness, enervation; malaise, dissatisfaction,

melancholy, world-weariness, depression, Weltschmerz.

**enormity** **noun** **1** *the enormity of the task*: immensity, hugeness; size, extent, magnitude, greatness. **2** *the enormity of his crimes*: wickedness, evil, vileness, baseness, depravity; outrageousness, monstrousness, hideousness, heinousness, horror, atrocity; villainy, cruelty, inhumanity, mercilessness, brutality, savagery, viciousness. **3** *the enormities of the regime*: outrage, horror, evil, atrocity, barbarity, abomination, monstrosity, obscenity, iniquity; crime, sin, violation, wrong, offence, disgrace, injustice, abuse.

**enormous** **adjective** huge, vast, immense, gigantic, very big, great, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, tremendous, mighty, monumental, epic, prodigious, mountainous, king-size(d), titanic, towering, elephantine, gargantuan; informal mega, monster, whopping (great), humongous, jumbo, astronomical; Brit. informal whacking (great), ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**enormously** **adverb** **1** *an enormously important factor*: very, extremely, really, exceedingly, exceptionally, tremendously, immensely, hugely; singularly, particularly, eminently; informal terrifically, awfully, terribly, seriously, desperately, ultra, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, darned; informal, dated frightfully. **2** *prices vary enormously*: considerably, greatly, very much, a great deal, a lot.

– OPPOSITES slightly.

**enough** **determiner** *they had enough food*: sufficient, adequate, ample, the necessary; informal plenty of.

– OPPOSITES insufficient.

• **pronoun** *there's enough for everyone*: sufficient, plenty, a sufficient amount, an adequate amount, as much as necessary; a sufficiency, an ample supply; one's fill.

**enquire, inquire** **verb** **1** *I enquired about part-time training courses*: ask, make enquiries, question someone, request information. **2** *the commission is to enquire into alleged illegal payments*: investigate, conduct an enquiry, probe, look into; research, examine, explore, delve into; informal check out.

**enquiring, inquiring** **adjective** inquisitive, curious, interested, questioning, probing, searching; investigative.

**enquiry, inquiry** **noun** **1** *telephone enquiries*: question, query. **2** *an enquiry into alleged security leaks*: investigation, probe, examination, exploration; inquest, hearing.

**enrage** **verb** anger, infuriate, incense, madden, inflame; antagonize, provoke, exasperate; informal drive mad/crazy, drive up the wall, make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, make someone's hackles rise, get someone's back up, get someone's dander up; N. Amer. informal burn up.

– OPPOSITES placate.

**enraged** **adjective** furious, infuriated, very angry, irate, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, ranting, raving, seething, beside oneself; informal mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, boiling, apoplectic, hot under the collar, on the warpath, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied; literary wrathful.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**enrapture** **verb** delight, enchant, captivate, charm, enthrall, entrance, bewitch, beguile, transport, thrill, excite, exhilarate, intoxicate, take someone's breath away; informal bowl someone over, blow someone's mind; literary ravish.

**enrich** **verb** enhance, improve, better, add to, augment; supplement, complement; boost, elevate, raise, lift, refine.

– OPPOSITES spoil.

**enrol** **verb** **1** *they both enrolled for the course*: register, sign on/up, put one's name down, apply, volunteer; matriculate; enter, join. **2** *280 new members were enrolled*: accept, admit, take on, register, sign on/up, recruit, engage; matriculate; impanel.

**en route** **adverb** on the way, in transit, during the journey, along/on the road, on the move; coming, going, proceeding, travelling.

**ensconce** **verb** settle, install, plant, position, seat, sit, sit down; establish; informal park, plonk.

**ensemble** **noun** **1** *a Bulgarian folk ensemble*: group, band; company, troupe, cast, chorus, corps; informal combo. **2** *the buildings present a charming provincial ensemble*: whole, entity, unit, body, set, combination, composite, package; sum, total, totality, entirety, aggregate. **3** *a pink and black ensemble*: outfit, costume, suit; separates, coordinates; informal get-up.

**enshrine** **verb** set down, set out, spell out, express, lay down, set in stone, embody, realize, manifest, incorporate, represent, contain, include, preserve, treasure, immortalize, cherish.

**enshroud** **verb** (literary) envelop, veil, shroud, swathe, cloak, cloud, enfold, surround, bury; cover, conceal, obscure, blot out, hide, mask; literary mantle.

**ensign** **noun** flag, standard, colour(s), banner, pennant, pennon, streamer, banderole.

**enslavement** **noun** slavery, servitude, bondage, forced labour; exploitation, oppression, bonds, chains, fetters, shackles, yoke; historical thralldom.

– OPPOSITES liberation.

**ensnare** **verb** capture, catch, trap, entrap, snare, net; entangle, embroil, enmesh.

**ensue** **verb** result, follow, be consequent on, develop, proceed, succeed, emerge, stem, arise, derive, issue; occur, happen, take place, come next/after, transpire, supervene; formal eventuate; literary come to pass, befall.

**ensure** **verb** **1** *ensure that the surface is completely clean*: make sure, make certain,

see to it; check, confirm, establish, verify.

**2 legislation to ensure equal opportunities for all:** secure, guarantee, assure, certify, set the seal on, clinch.

**entail verb** involve, necessitate, require, need, demand, call for; mean, imply; cause, produce, result in, lead to, give rise to, occasion.

**entangle verb 1** *their parachutes became entangled:* twist, intertwine, entwine, tangle, ravel, snarl, knot, coil, mat. **2** *the fish are easily entangled in fine nets:* catch, capture, trap, snare, ensnare, entrap, enmesh. **3** *he was entangled in a lawsuit:* involve, implicate, embroil, mix up, catch up, bog down, mire.

**entanglement noun 1** *their entanglement in the war:* involvement, embroilment.

**2** *romantic entanglements:* affair, relationship, love affair, romance, amour, fling, dalliance, liaison, involvement, intrigue; complication.

**entente noun** understanding, agreement, arrangement, entente cordiale, settlement, deal; alliance, treaty, pact, accord, convention, concordat.

**enter verb 1** *police entered the house:* go in/into, come in/into, get in/into, set foot in, cross the threshold of, gain access to. **2** *a bullet entered his chest:* penetrate, pierce, puncture, perforate; literary transpire. **3** *he entered politics in 2001:* get involved in, join, throw oneself into, engage in, embark on, take up; participate in, take part in, play a part/role in, contribute to. **4** *the planning entered a new phase:* reach, move into, get to, begin, start, commence. **5** *they entered the Army at eighteen:* join, become a member of, enrol in/for, enlist in, volunteer for, sign up for; take up. **6** *she entered a cookery competition:* go in for, put one's name down for, register for, enrol for, sign on/up for; compete in, take part in, participate in. **7** *the cashier entered the details in a ledger:* record, write, set down, put down, take down, note, jot down; put on record, minute, register, log. **8** *please enter your password:* key (in), type (in), tap in. **9** (Law) *he entered a plea of guilty:* submit, register, lodge, record, file, put forward, present.

– OPPOSITES leave.

**enterprise noun 1** *a joint enterprise:* undertaking, endeavour, venture, exercise, activity, operation, task, business, proceeding; project, scheme, plan, programme, campaign. **2** *a woman with enterprise:* initiative, resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism, imagination, ingenuity, inventiveness, originality, creativity; quick-wittedness, native wit, cleverness; enthusiasm, dynamism, drive, ambition, energy; boldness, daring, courage; informal gumption, get-up-and-go, oomph. **3** *a profit-making enterprise:* business, company, firm, venture, organization, operation, concern, corporation, establishment, partnership; informal outfit, set-up.

**enterprising adjective** resourceful,

entrepreneurial, imaginative, ingenious, inventive, creative; quick-witted, clever, bright, sharp, sharp-witted; enthusiastic, dynamic, ambitious, energetic; bold, daring, courageous, adventurous; informal go-ahead.

– OPPOSITES unimaginative.

**entertain verb 1** *he wrote stories to entertain them:* amuse, divert, delight, please, charm, cheer, interest; engage, occupy, absorb, engross. **2** *he entertains foreign visitors:* receive, play host/hostess to, invite (round/over), throw a party for; wine and dine, feast, cater for, feed, treat, welcome, fete. **3** *I would never entertain such an idea:* consider, give consideration to, contemplate, think about, give thought to; countenance, tolerate, support; formal brook.

**entertainer noun** performer, artist, artiste.

**entertaining adjective** delightful, enjoyable, diverting, amusing, pleasing, agreeable, appealing, engaging, interesting, fascinating, absorbing, compelling; humorous, funny, comical, chucklesome; informal fun.

**entertainment noun 1** *he read for entertainment:* amusement, pleasure, leisure, recreation, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, interest, diversion; N. Amer. informal rec. **2** *an entertainment for the emperor:* show, performance, presentation, production, extravaganza, spectacle.

**enthrall verb** captivate, charm, enchant, bewitch, fascinate, beguile, enthrall, delight; win, ensnare, absorb, engross, rivet, grip, transfix, hypnotize, mesmerize, spellbind.

– OPPOSITES bore.

**enthralling adjective** fascinating, entrancing, enchanting, bewitching, captivating, charming, beguiling, delightful; absorbing, engrossing, compelling, riveting, gripping, exciting, spellbinding; informal unputdownable.

**enthuse verb 1** *I enthused about the idea:* rave, be enthusiastic, gush, wax lyrical, be effusive, rhapsodize; praise to the skies; informal go wild/mad/crazy; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo. **2** *he enthuses people:* motivate, inspire, stimulate, encourage, spur (on), galvanize, rouse, excite, stir (up), fire, inspire.

**enthusiasm noun 1** *she worked with enthusiasm:* eagerness, keenness, ardour, fervour, passion, zeal, zest, gusto, energy, verve, vigour, vehemence, fire, spirit, avidity; wholeheartedness, commitment, willingness, devotion, earnestness; informal get-up-and-go. **2** *they put their enthusiasms to good use:* interest, passion, obsession, mania; inclination, preference, penchant, predilection, fancy; pastime, hobby, recreation, pursuit.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**enthusiast noun** fan, devotee, aficionado, lover, admirer, follower; expert, connoisseur, authority, pundit; informal buff, freak, fanatic, nut, fiend, addict, maniac.

**enthusiastic adjective** eager, keen, avid,



ardent, fervent, passionate, zealous, vehement; excited, wholehearted, committed, devoted, fanatical, earnest.

**entice** verb tempt, lure, attract, appeal to; invite, persuade, convince, beguile, coax, woo; seduce, lead on; informal sweet-talk.

**enticement** noun lure, temptation, allure, attraction, appeal, draw, pull, bait; charm, seduction, fascination; informal come-on.

**enticing** adjective tempting, alluring, attractive, appealing, inviting, seductive, beguiling, charming; magnetic, irresistible.

**entire** adjective **1** *I devoted my entire life to him:* whole, complete, total, full; undivided. **2** *only one of the gates is entire:* intact, unbroken, undamaged, unimpaired, unscathed, unspoiled, perfect, in one piece. **3** *they are in entire agreement:* absolute, total, utter, out-and-out, thorough, wholehearted; unqualified, unreserved, outright.

– OPPOSITES partial, broken.

**entirely** adverb **1** *that's entirely out of the question:* absolutely, completely, totally, wholly, utterly, quite; altogether, in every respect, thoroughly, downright, one hundred per cent. **2** *a gift entirely for charitable purposes:* solely, only, exclusively, purely, merely, just, alone.

**entirety** noun whole, total, aggregate, totality, sum total.

– OPPOSITES part.

■ **in its entirety** completely, entirely, totally, fully, wholly; in every respect, in every way, one hundred per cent, all the way, every inch, to the hilt, to the core.

**entitle** verb **1** *this pass entitles you to visit the museum:* qualify, make eligible, authorize, allow, permit; enable, empower. **2** *a chapter entitled 'Comedy and Tragedy':* title, name, call, label, designate, dub; formal denominate.

**entitlement** noun **1** *their entitlement to benefits:* right, prerogative, claim; permission, dispensation, privilege. **2** *your holiday entitlement:* allowance, allocation, quota, ration, limit.

**entity** noun **1** *a single entity:* being, creature, individual, organism, life form; person; body, object, article, thing. **2** *the distinction between entity and nonentity:* existence, being; life, living, animation; substance, essence, reality, actuality.

**entomb** verb inter, lay to rest, bury; informal plant; literary inhume, sepulchre.

**entourage** noun retinue, escort, cortège, train, suite; court, staff, bodyguard; attendants, companions, retainers.

**entrails** plural noun intestines, bowels, guts, viscera, internal organs, vital organs; offal; informal insides, innards.

**entrance**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the main entrance:* entry, way in, access, ingress, approach; door, portal, gate; opening, mouth; entrance hall, foyer, lobby, porch; N. Amer. entryway. **2** *the entrance of Mrs Knight:* appearance, arrival, entry, ingress, coming. **3** *he was refused entrance:* admission, admittance, (right of)

entry, access, ingress.

– OPPOSITES exit, departure.

**entrance**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *I was entranced by her beauty:* enchant, bewitch, beguile, captivate, mesmerize, hypnotize, spellbind; enthrall, engross, absorb, fascinate; stun, overpower, electrify; charm, delight; informal bowl over, knock out. **2** *Orpheus entranced the wild beasts:* cast a spell on, bewitch, hex, spellbind, hypnotize, mesmerize.

**entrant** noun **1** *university entrants:* new member, new arrival, beginner, newcomer, fresher, freshman, recruit; novice, neophyte; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn. **2** *a prize will be awarded to the best entrant:* competitor, contestant, contender, participant; candidate, applicant.

**entrap** verb **1** *fishing lines can entrap wildlife:* trap, snare, ensnare, entangle, enmesh; catch, capture. **2** *he was entrapped by an undercover policeman:* entice, lure, inveigle; bait, decoy, trap; lead on, trick, deceive, dupe, hoodwink; informal set up, frame; Brit. informal fit up.

**entreat** verb implore, beg, plead with, pray, ask, request; bid, enjoin, appeal to, call on, petition, solicit; literary beseech.

**entreaty** noun plea, appeal, request, petition; suit, application, claim; solicitation, supplication; prayer.

**entrée** noun **1** *there are a dozen entrées on the menu:* main course, main dish. **2** *an excellent entrée into the profession:* (means of) entry, entrance, ingress; route, path, avenue, way, key, passport.

**entrench, intrench** verb establish, settle, lodge, set, root, install, plant, embed, seat; informal dig in.

**entrenched, intrenched** adjective ingrained, established, confirmed, fixed, firm, deep-seated, deep-rooted; unshakeable, indelible, ineradicable, inexorable.

**entrepreneur** noun businessman/woman, enterpriser, speculator, tycoon, magnate, mogul; dealer, trader; promoter, impresario; informal wheeler-dealer, whizz-kid, mover and shaker, go-getter, high-flyer.

**entrust** verb **1** *he was entrusted with the task:* charge, invest, endow; burden, encumber, saddle. **2** *the powers entrusted to the Home Secretary:* assign, confer on, bestow on, vest in, consign; delegate, depute, devolve; give, grant, vouchsafe. **3** *she entrusted them to the hospital:* hand over, give custody of, turn over, commit, consign, deliver; formal commend.

**entry** noun **1** *my moment of entry:* appearance, arrival, entrance, ingress, coming. **2** *the entry to the flats:* entrance, way in, access, ingress, approach; door, portal, gate; entrance hall, foyer, lobby; N. Amer. entryway. **3** *he was refused entry:* admission, admittance, entrance, access, ingress. **4** *entries in the cash book:* item, record, note, listing; memo, memorandum; account. **5** *data entry:* recording, archiving, logging, documentation, capture. **6** *we must*

*pick a winner from the entries:* contestant, competitor, contender, entrant, participant; candidate, applicant; submission, entry form, application.

– **OPPOSITES** departure, exit.

**entwine** verb **wind round**, twist round, coil round; weave, intertwine, interlace, interweave; entangle, tangle; twine, braid, plait, knit.

**enumerate** verb **1** *he enumerated four objectives:* list, itemize, set out, give; cite, name, specify, identify, spell out, detail, particularize. **2** (formal) *they enumerated hospital readmission rates:* calculate, compute, count, add up, tally, total, number, quantify; reckon, work out; Brit. tot up.

**enunciate** verb **1** *she enunciated each word slowly:* pronounce, articulate; say, speak, utter, voice, vocalize, sound, mouth. **2** *a document enunciating the policy:* express, state, put into words, declare, profess, set forth, assert, affirm; put forward, air, proclaim.

**envelop** verb **surround**, cover, enfold, engulf, encircle, encompass, cocoon, sheathe, swathe, enclose; cloak, screen, shield, veil, shroud.

**envelope** noun **wrapper**, wrapping, sleeve, cover, covering, casing.

**envenom** verb **1** (old use) *the arrows are envenomed:* poison. **2** *incidents which envenom international relations:* embitter, sour, poison, jaundice, taint; antagonize.

**enviable** adjective **desirable**, desired, favoured, sought-after, admirable, covetable, attractive; fortunate, lucky; informal to die for.

**envious** adjective **jealous**, covetous, desirous; grudging, begrudging, resentful; bitter, green-eyed.

**environ** verb (formal) **surround**, encircle, enclose, ring, envelop.

**environment** noun **1** *birds from many environments:* habitat, territory, domain; surroundings, conditions. **2** *the hospital environment:* situation, setting, milieu, background, backdrop, scene, location; context, framework; sphere, world, realm; ambience, atmosphere. **3** *the impact of pesticides on the environment:* the natural world, nature, the earth, the ecosystem, the biosphere, Mother Nature; wildlife, flora and fauna, the countryside.

#### WORD LINKS

**ecology** the study of the relationships of living things to their environment  
**conservation, environmentalism** the preservation or restoration of the natural environment

**environmentalist** noun conservationist, preservationist, ecologist, nature-lover; informal ecofreak, tree hugger.

**environs** plural noun **surroundings**, surrounding area, vicinity; locality, neighbourhood, district, region; precincts; N. Amer. vicinage.

**envisage** verb **1** *it was envisaged that the hospital would open soon:* foresee, predict, forecast, anticipate, expect, think likely. **2** *I cannot envisage what the future holds:* imagine, contemplate, visualize, envision, picture; conceive of, think of.

**envision** verb **visualize**, imagine, envisage, picture; conceive of, think of, see; intend, mean.

**envoy** noun **ambassador**, emissary, diplomat, consul, attaché, chargé d'affaires, plenipotentiary; nuncio; representative, delegate, proxy, surrogate, liaison, spokesperson; agent, intermediary, mediator; informal go-between; historical legate.

**envy** noun **1** *a pang of envy:* jealousy, covetousness; resentment, bitterness, discontent; the green-eyed monster. **2** *the firm is the envy of Europe:* finest, best, pride, top, cream, pick, jewel, flower, glory, leading light, the crème de la crème.

• verb **1** *I admired and envied her:* be envious of, be jealous of; begrudge, be resentful of. **2** *we envied her lifestyle:* covet, desire, aspire to, wish for, want, long for, yearn for, hanker after, crave.

**ephemeral** adjective **transitory**, transient, fleeting, passing, short-lived, momentary, brief, short; temporary, impermanent, short-term; fly-by-night.

– **OPPOSITES** permanent.

**epic** noun **1** *the epics of Homer:* heroic poem; story, saga, legend, romance, chronicle, myth, fable, tale. **2** *a big Hollywood epic:* long film; informal blockbuster.

• adjective **1** *a traditional epic poem:* heroic, long, grand, monumental, Homeric, Miltonian. **2** *their epic journey:* ambitious, heroic, grand, great, Herculean; very long, monumental.

**epicene** adjective **1** *a sort of epicene beauty:* sexless, asexual, neuter; androgynous. **2** *he gave an epicene titter:* effeminate, unmanly, unmasculine, girly, girlish; informal camp, campy.

– **OPPOSITES** macho.

**epicure** noun **gourmet**, gastronome, gourmand, connoisseur; informal foodie.

**epicurean** noun **hedonist**, sensualist, pleasure-seeker, sybarite, voluptuary, bon viveur; epicure, gourmet, gastronome, connoisseur, gourmand.

• adjective **hedonistic**, sensualist, pleasure-seeking, self-indulgent, sybaritic, voluptuary, lotus-eating; decadent, unrestrained, extravagant, intemperate, immoderate; gluttonous, gourmandizing.

**epidemic** noun **1** *an epidemic of typhoid:* outbreak, plague, pandemic, epizootic.

**2** *a joyriding epidemic:* spate, rash, wave, eruption, outbreak, craze; flood, torrent; upsurge, upturn, increase, growth, rise.

• adjective *the craze is now epidemic:* rife, rampant, widespread, wide-ranging, extensive, pervasive; global, universal, ubiquitous; endemic, pandemic, epizootic.

**epigram** noun **witticism**, quip, jest, pun,

bon mot; saying, maxim, adage, aphorism, apophthegm, epigraph; informal one-liner, wisecrack, (old) chestnut.

**epigrammatic** adjective **concise**, succinct, pithy, aphoristic; incisive, short and sweet; witty, clever, quick-witted, piquant, sharp; informal snappy.

– OPPOSITES expansive.

**epilogue** noun **afterword**, postscript, PS, coda, codicil, appendix, tailpiece, supplement, addendum, postlude, rider, back matter; conclusion.

– OPPOSITES prologue.

**episode** noun **1** *the best episode of his career:* incident, event, occurrence, happening; occasion, interlude, chapter, experience, adventure, exploit; matter, affair, thing.

**2** *the final episode of the series:* instalment, chapter, passage; part, portion, section, component; programme, show. **3** *an episode of illness:* period, spell, bout, attack, phase; informal dose.

**episodic** adjective **1** *episodic wheezing:* intermittent, sporadic, periodic, fitful, irregular, spasmodic, occasional. **2** *an episodic account of the war:* in episodes, in instalments, in sections, in parts.

– OPPOSITES continuous.

**epistle** noun (formal) **letter**, missive, communication, dispatch, note, line; correspondence, news.

**epitaph** noun **elegy**, commemoration, obituary; inscription, legend.

**epithet** noun **sobriquet**, nickname, byname, title, name, label, tag; description, designation; informal moniker, handle; formal appellation, denomination.

**epitome** noun **1** *he was the epitome of respectability:* personification, embodiment, incarnation, paragon; essence, quintessence, archetype, paradigm, typification; exemplar, model, soul, example; height. **2** *an epitome of a larger work:* summary, abstract, synopsis, precis, résumé, outline, digest, summation; abridgement, abbreviation, condensation.

**epitomize** verb **1** *the town epitomizes the pioneer spirit:* embody, encapsulate, typify, exemplify, represent, manifest, symbolize, illustrate, sum up; personify; formal reify.

**2** (old use) *we will epitomize the pamphlet.* See **SUMMARIZE**.

**epoch** noun **era**, age, period, time, span, stage; aeon.

**equable** adjective **1** *an equable man:* even-tempered, calm, composed, collected, self-possessed, relaxed, easy-going; nonchalant, insouciant, mellow, mild, tranquil, placid, stable, level-headed; imperturbable, unexcitable, untroubled, well balanced; informal unflappable, together, laid-back. **2** *an equable climate:* stable, constant, uniform, unvarying, consistent, unchanging, changeless; moderate, temperate.

– OPPOSITES temperamental, extreme.

**equal** adjective **1** *lines of equal length:* identical, uniform, alike, like, the same,

equivalent; matching, comparable, similar, corresponding. **2** *fares equal to a fortnight's wages:* **equivalent**, identical, amounting; proportionate to, commensurate with, on a par with. **3** *equal treatment before the law:* **unbiased**, impartial, non-partisan, fair, just, equitable; unprejudiced, non-discriminatory, egalitarian; neutral, objective, disinterested. **4** *an equal contest:* **evenly matched**, even, balanced, level; on a par, on an equal footing; informal fifty-fifty, level pegging, neck and neck.

– OPPOSITES different, discriminatory.

• noun *they did not treat him as their equal:* **equivalent**, peer, fellow, coequal, like; counterpart, match, parallel.

• verb **1** *two plus two equals four:* **be equal to**, be equivalent to, be the same as; come to, amount to, make, total, add up to. **2** *he equalled the world record:* **match**, reach, parallel, be level with, measure up to. **3** *the fable equals that of any other poet:* **be as good as**, be a match for, measure up to, equate with; be in the same league as, rival, compete with.

■ **equal to** capable of, fit for, up to, good/strong enough for; suitable for, suited to, appropriate for; informal having what it takes.

**equality** noun **1** *we promote equality for women:* **fairness**, equal rights, equal opportunities, **equitability**, **egalitarianism**; impartiality, even-handedness; justice. **2** *equality between supply and demand:* **parity**, similarity, comparability, correspondence; likeness, resemblance; uniformity, evenness, balance, equilibrium, consistency, agreement, congruence, symmetry.

**equalize** verb **1** *attempts to equalize their earnings:* **make equal**, make even, even out/up, level, regularize, standardize, balance, square, match; bring into line. **2** *Villa equalized in the second half:* **level the score**, draw.

**equanimity** noun **composure**, calm, level-headedness, self-possession, cool-headedness, presence of mind; serenity, tranquillity, phlegm, imperturbability, equilibrium; poise, assurance, self-confidence, aplomb, sangfroid, nerve; informal cool.

– OPPOSITES anxiety.

**equate** verb **1** *he equates criticism with treachery:* **identify**, compare, bracket, class, associate, connect, link, relate, ally. **2** *the rent equates to £24 per square foot:* **correspond**, be equivalent, amount; equal. **3** *moves to equate supply and demand:* **equalize**, balance, even out/up, level, square, tally, match; make equal, make even, make equivalent.

**equation** noun **1** *a quadratic equation:* **mathematical problem**, sum, calculation, question. **2** *the equation of success with riches:* **identification**, association, connection, matching; equivalence, correspondence, agreement, comparison. **3** *other factors came into the equation:*



situation, problem, case, question; quandary, predicament.

**equatorial** adjective *tropical*, hot, humid, sultry.

– OPPOSITES *polar*.

**equilibrium** noun **1** *the equilibrium of the economy*: **balance**, symmetry, equipoise, parity, equality; **stability**. **2** *his equilibrium was never shaken*: **composure**, calm, equanimity, sangfroid; level-headedness, cool-headedness, imperturbability, poise, presence of mind; self-possession, self-command; impassivity, placidity, tranquillity, serenity; informal *cool*.

– OPPOSITES *imbalance, agitation*.

**equip** verb **1** *the boat was equipped with a flare gun*: **provide**, furnish, supply, issue, kit out, stock, provision, arm, endow. **2** *the course will equip them for the workplace*: **prepare**, qualify, suit.

**equipment** noun *apparatus, paraphernalia*, articles, appliances, impedimenta; tools, utensils, implements, instruments, hardware, gadgets, gadgetry; stuff, things; kit, tackle; resources, supplies; trappings, appurtenances, accoutrements; informal *gear*; Military *materiel*, baggage.

**equipoise** noun **1** *an equipoise of power*: **equilibrium**, balance, evenness, symmetry, parity, equality, equity; **stability**. **2** *an equipoise to imbalances in savings*: **counterweight**, counterbalance, counterpoise, balance; stabilizer.

– OPPOSITES *imbalance*.

**equitable** adjective *fair*, just, impartial, even-handed, unbiased, unprejudiced, egalitarian; disinterested, objective, neutral, non-partisan, open-minded; informal *fair and square*.

– OPPOSITES *unfair*.

**equity** noun **1** *the equity of Finnish society*: **fairness**, justness, impartiality, egalitarianism; objectivity, balance, open-mindedness. **2** *he owns 25% of the equity in the property*: **value**, worth; ownership, rights, proprietorship.

**equivalence** noun *equality*, sameness, interchangeability, comparability, correspondence; uniformity, similarity, likeness, nearness.

**equivalent** adjective *a degree or equivalent qualification*: **equal**, identical; similar, parallel, analogous, comparable, corresponding, commensurate; approximate, near.

• noun *Denmark's equivalent of the Daily Mirror*: **counterpart**, parallel, alternative, match, analogue, twin, opposite number; equal, peer.

**equivocal** adjective *ambiguous*, indefinite, non-committal, vague, imprecise, inexact, inexplicit, hazy; unclear, cryptic, enigmatic; ambivalent, uncertain, unsure, indecisive.

– OPPOSITES *definite*.

**equivocate** verb *prevaricate*, be evasive, be non-committal, be vague, be ambiguous, dodge the issue, beat about the bush, hedge

one's bets, pussyfoot around; vacillate, shilly-shally, waver; temporize, hesitate, stall; Brit. *hum and haw*; informal *sit on the fence*, duck the issue; rare *tergiversate*.

**era** noun *epoch*, age, period, time, span, aeon; generation.

**eradicate** verb *eliminate*, get rid of, remove, obliterate; exterminate, destroy, annihilate, kill, wipe out; abolish, stamp out, extinguish, quash; erase, efface, excise, expunge.

**erase** verb **1** *they erased his name from all lists*: **delete**, rub out, wipe off, blot out, blank out, cancel; efface, expunge, excise, remove, obliterate, eliminate. **2** *the old differences in style were erased*: **destroy**, wipe out, obliterate, eradicate, abolish, stamp out, quash.

**erect** adjective **1** *she held her body erect*: **upright**, straight, vertical, perpendicular; standing. **2** *an erect penis*: **engorged**, enlarged, swollen, tumescent; hard, stiff. **3** *the dog's fur was erect*: **bristling**, standing on end, upright.

– OPPOSITES *bent, flaccid, flat*.

• verb **1** *the bridge was erected in 1973*: **build**, construct, put up; assemble, put together, fabricate. **2** *the party that erected the welfare state*: **establish**, form, set up, found, institute, initiate, create, organize.

– OPPOSITES *demolish, dismantle, lower*.

**erection** noun **1** *the erection of a house*: **construction**, building, assembly, fabrication, elevation. **2** *a bleak concrete erection*: **building**, structure, construction, pile; formal *edifice*. **3** *erect penis*, phallus; tumescence, tumidity.

**hermit** noun (old use) *hermit*, recluse, solitary, ascetic; historical *anchorite*, anchoress.

**erode** verb *wear away/down*, abrade, grind down, crumble; weather; eat away at, dissolve, corrode, rot, decay; undermine, weaken, deteriorate, destroy.

**erosion** noun *wearing away*, abrasion, attrition; weathering; dissolution, corrosion, decay; deterioration, disintegration, destruction; rare *detrition*.

**erotic** adjective *sexually arousing*, sexually stimulating, titillating, suggestive; pornographic, sexually explicit, lewd, smutty, hard-core, soft-core, dirty, racy, risqué, ribald, naughty; sexual, sexy, sensual, amatory; seductive, alluring, tantalizing; informal *blue*, X-rated, steamy, raunchy; euphemistic *adult*.

**err** verb *the judge had erred in ruling that the evidence was inadmissible*: **make a mistake**, be wrong, be in error, be mistaken, blunder, be incorrect, miscalculate, get it wrong; informal *slip up*, screw up, foul up, goof, make a boo-boo, bark up the wrong tree, get the wrong end of the stick; Brit. informal *boob*.

**errand** noun *task*, job, chore, assignment; collection, delivery; mission, undertaking.

**errant** adjective **1** *he fined the errant councillors*: **offending**, guilty, culpable,

misbehaving, delinquent, lawbreaking; troublesome, unruly, disobedient. **2** (old use) *a knight errant*: **travelling**, wandering, itinerant, roaming, roving, voyaging.  
 – OPPOSITES innocent.

**erratic** adjective **unpredictable**, inconsistent, changeable, variable, inconstant, irregular, fitful, unstable, turbulent, unsettled, changing, varying, fluctuating, mutable; unreliable, undependable, volatile, mercurial, capricious, fickle, temperamental, moody.

– OPPOSITES consistent.

**erring** adjective **offending**, guilty, culpable, misbehaving, errant, delinquent, lawbreaking, aberrant, deviant.

**erroneous** adjective **wrong**, incorrect, mistaken, in error, inaccurate, untrue, false, fallacious; unsound, specious, faulty, flawed; informal off beam, way out.  
 – OPPOSITES correct.

**error** noun **mistake**, inaccuracy, miscalculation, blunder, oversight; fallacy, misconception, delusion; misprint, erratum; informal slip-up, bloomer, boo-boo; Brit. informal boob.

■ **in error** wrongly, by mistake, mistakenly, incorrectly; accidentally, by accident, inadvertently, unintentionally, by chance.

**ersatz** adjective **artificial**, substitute, imitation, synthetic, fake, false, faux, mock, simulated; pseudo, sham, bogus, spurious, counterfeit; manufactured, man-made; informal phoney.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**erstwhile** adjective **former**, old, past, one-time, sometime, ex-, late, then; previous; formal quondam.

– OPPOSITES present.

**erudite** adjective **learned**, scholarly, educated, knowledgeable, well read, well informed, intellectual; intelligent, clever, academic, literary; bookish, highbrow, cerebral; informal brainy; dated lettered.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**erupt** verb **1** *the volcano erupted*: **emit** lava, become active, flare up; explode. **2** *lava was erupted*: **emit**, discharge, eject, expel, spew out, pour out, disgorge. **3** *fighting erupted*: **break out**, flare up, start suddenly; ensue, arise, happen. **4** *a boil erupted on her temple*: **appear**, break out, flare up, come to a head, emerge.

**eruption** noun **1** *a volcanic eruption*: discharge, ejection, emission; explosion. **2** *an eruption of violence*: **outbreak**, flare-up, upsurge, outburst, breakout, explosion; wave, spate. **3** *a skin eruption*: **rash**, outbreak, inflammation.

**escalate** verb **1** *prices have escalated*: **increase rapidly**, soar, rocket, shoot up, mount, spiral, climb, go up; informal go through the roof, skyrocket. **2** *the dispute escalated*: **grow**, develop, mushroom, increase, heighten, intensify, accelerate.  
 – OPPOSITES plunge, shrink.

**escalation** noun **1** *an escalation in oil prices*:

**increase**, rise, hike, growth, leap, upsurge, upturn, climb. **2** *an escalation of the conflict*: **intensification**, aggravation, exacerbation, magnification, amplification, augmentation; expansion, build-up; deterioration.

**escapade** noun **exploit**, stunt, caper, antic(s), spree; adventure, venture, mission; deed, feat, trial, experience; incident, occurrence, event.

**escape** verb **1** *he escaped from prison*: **run away/off**, get out, break out, break free, make a break for it, bolt, flee, take flight, make off, take off, abscond, take to one's heels, make one's getaway, make a run for it; disappear, vanish, slip away, sneak away; informal cut and run, skedaddle, scarper, vamoose, do a vanishing act, fly the coop, take French leave, leg it; Brit. informal do a bunk, do a runner; N. Amer. informal go on the lam. **2** *he escaped his pursuers*: **get away from**, escape from, elude, avoid, dodge, shake off; informal give someone the slip. **3** *they escaped injury*: **avoid**, evade, dodge, elude, miss, cheat, sidestep, circumvent, steer clear of; shirk; informal duck. **4** *lethal gas escaped*: **leak (out)**, seep (out), discharge, emanate, issue, flow (out), pour (out), gush (out), spurt (out), spew (out).

● **noun 1** *his escape from prison*: **getaway**, breakout, bolt, flight; disappearance, vanishing act; Brit. informal flit; informal, dated spring. **2** *a narrow escape from death*: **avoidance of**, evasion of, circumvention of. **3** *a gas escape*: **leak**, leakage, spill, seepage, discharge, emanation, outflow, outpouring; gush, stream, spurt. **4** *an escape from boredom*: **distraction**, diversion.

**escapee** noun **runaway**, escaper, absconder; jailbreaker, fugitive; truant; deserter, defector.

**escapism** noun **fantasy**, fantasizing, daydreaming, daydreams, reverie; imagination, flight(s) of fancy, pipe dreams, wishful thinking, wool-gathering; informal pie in the sky.

– OPPOSITES realism.

**eschew** verb **abstain from**, refrain from, give up, forgo, shun, renounce, steer clear of, have nothing to do with, fight shy of; relinquish, reject, disavow, abandon, spurn, wash one's hands of, drop; informal kick, pack in; Brit. informal jack in; formal forswear, abjure.

**escort** noun **1** *a police escort*: **guard**, bodyguard, protector, minder, custodian; attendant, chaperone; entourage, retinue, cortège; protection, defence, convoy. **2** *her escort for the evening*: **companion**, partner; informal date. **3** *an agency dealing with escorts*: **paid companion**, hostess, geisha; gigolo. ● **verb 1** *he was escorted home by the police*: **conduct**, accompany, guide, usher, shepherd, take. **2** *he escorted her in to dinner*: **accompany**, partner, take, bring.

**esoteric** adjective **abstruse**, obscure, arcane, recherché, rarefied, recondite, abstract; enigmatic, inscrutable, cryptic, Delphic; complex, complicated, incomprehensible, opaque, impenetrable, mysterious.

**especial** adjective **1** *especial care is required:* particular, (extra) special, superior, exceptional, extraordinary; unusual, out of the ordinary, uncommon, remarkable, singular. **2** *her especial brand of charm:* distinctive, individual, special, particular, distinct, peculiar, personal, own, unique, specific.

**especially** adverb **1** *work poured in, especially from Kent:* mainly, mostly, chiefly, principally, largely; substantially, particularly, primarily, generally, usually, typically. **2** *a committee especially for the purpose:* expressly, specially, specifically, exclusively, just, particularly, explicitly. **3** *he is especially talented:* exceptionally, particularly, specially, very, extremely, singularly, distinctly, unusually, extraordinarily, uncommonly, uniquely, remarkably, outstandingly, really; informal seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, dead, well.

**espionage** noun *spying, infiltration; eavesdropping, surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence.*

**espousal** noun *adoption, embracing, acceptance; support, championship, encouragement, defence; sponsorship, promotion, endorsement, advocacy, approval.*

**espouse** verb *adopt, embrace, take up, accept, welcome; support, back, champion, favour, prefer, encourage; promote, endorse, advocate.*

– OPPOSITES reject.

**espy** verb (literary) *catch sight of, glimpse, see, spot, spy, notice, observe, discern, pick out, detect; literary behold, descry.*

**essay** noun **1** *he wrote an essay:* article, composition, study, paper, dissertation, thesis, discourse, treatise, disquisition, monograph; commentary, critique; N. Amer. theme. **2** (formal) *his first essay in telecommunications:* attempt, effort, endeavour, try, venture, trial, experiment, undertaking. • verb (formal) *many essayed to travel that way:* attempt, try, strive, venture, endeavour, seek, undertake.

**essence** noun **1** *the very essence of economics:* quintessence, soul, spirit, nature; core, heart, crux, nucleus, substance; principle, fundamental quality, sum and substance, reality, actuality; informal nitty-gritty. **2** *essence of ginger:* extract, concentrate, distillate, elixir, decoction, juice, tincture; scent, perfume, oil.

■ **in essence** essentially, basically, fundamentally, primarily, principally, chiefly, predominantly, substantially; above all, first and foremost; effectively, virtually, to all intents and purposes; intrinsically, inherently.

■ **of the essence.** See **ESSENTIAL** adjective sense 1.

**essential** adjective **1** *it is essential to remove the paint:* crucial, necessary, key, vital, indispensable, important, all-important, of

the essence, critical, imperative, mandatory, compulsory, obligatory; urgent, pressing, paramount, pre-eminent, high-priority.

**2** *the essential simplicity of his style:* basic, inherent, fundamental, quintessential, intrinsic, underlying, characteristic, innate, primary, elementary, elemental; central, pivotal, vital. **3** *the essential English gentleman:* ideal, absolute, complete, perfect, quintessential.

– OPPOSITES unimportant, optional, secondary.

• noun **1** *an essential for broadcasters:* necessity, prerequisite, requisite, requirement, need; condition, precondition, stipulation; sine qua non; informal must. **2** *the essentials of the job:* fundamentals, basics, rudiments, first principles, foundations, bedrock; essence, basis, core, kernel, crux, sine qua non; informal nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts.

**establish** verb **1** *they established an office in Moscow:* set up, start, initiate, institute, form, found, create, inaugurate; build, construct, install. **2** *evidence to establish his guilt:* prove, demonstrate, show, indicate, signal, exhibit, manifest, attest to, evidence, determine, confirm, verify, certify, substantiate.

**established** adjective **1** *established practice:* accepted, traditional, orthodox, habitual, set, fixed, official; usual, customary, common, normal, general, prevailing, accustomed, familiar, expected, routine, typical, conventional, standard. **2** *an established composer:* well known, recognized, esteemed, respected, famous, prominent, noted, renowned.

**establishment** noun **1** *the establishment of a democracy:* foundation, institution, formation, inception, creation, installation; inauguration, start, initiation. **2** *a dressmaking establishment:* business, firm, company, concern, enterprise, venture, organization, operation; factory, plant, shop, office, practice; informal outfit, set-up. **3** *educational establishments:* institution, place, premises, foundation, institute. **4** *they dare to poke fun at the Establishment:* the authorities, the powers that be, the system, the ruling class; informal Big Brother.

**estate** noun **1** *the Balmoral estate:* property, grounds, garden(s), park, parkland, land(s), landholding, manor, territory. **2** *a housing estate:* area, site, development, complex. **3** *a coffee estate:* plantation, farm, holding; forest, vineyard; N. Amer. ranch. **4** *he left an estate worth £610,000:* assets, capital, wealth, riches, holdings, fortune; property, effects, possessions, belongings; Law goods and chattels. **5** (dated) *the estate of matrimony:* state, condition, situation, position, circumstance.

**estate agent** noun *property agent; Brit. house agent; N. Amer. realtor.*

**esteem** noun *she was held in high esteem:* respect, admiration, acclaim, approbation, appreciation, favour, recognition, honour,



reverence; estimation, regard, opinion.

• **verb 1** *such ceramics are highly esteemed:* respect, admire, value, regard, acclaim, appreciate, like, prize, treasure, favour, revere. **2** (formal) *I would esteem it a favour if you could speak to him.* See **DEEM**.

**estimate** **verb 1** *estimate the cost:* calculate roughly, approximate, guess; evaluate, judge, gauge, reckon, rate, determine; informal guesstimate. **2** *we estimate it to be worth £50,000:* consider, believe, reckon, deem, judge, rate, gauge; formal opine.

• **noun 1** *an estimate of the cost:* rough calculation, approximation, estimation, rough guess; costing, quotation, valuation, evaluation; informal guesstimate. **2** *his estimate of Paul's integrity:* evaluation, estimation, judgement, rating, appraisal, opinion, view.

**estimation** **noun 1** *an estimation of economic growth:* estimate, approximation, rough calculation, rough guess, evaluation; informal guesstimate. **2** *he rated highly in Carl's estimation:* assessment, evaluation, judgement; esteem, opinion, view.

**estrangle** **verb** alienate, antagonize, turn away, drive away, distance; sever, set at odds with, drive a wedge between.

**estrangement** **noun** alienation, antagonism, antipathy, disaffection, hostility, unfriendliness; variance, difference; parting, separation, divorce, break-up, split, breach, schism.

**estuary** **noun** (river) mouth, firth; delta.

**et cetera** **adverb** and so on, and so forth, and the rest, and/or the like, and suchlike, among others, et al., etc.; informal and what have you, and whatnot.

**etch** **verb 1** *the metal is etched with acid:* corrode, burn into; mark. **2** *a stone etched with tiny designs:* engrave, carve, inscribe, incise, chase, score, print, mark.

**etching** **noun** engraving, print, impression, block, plate; woodcut, linocut.

**eternal** **adjective 1** *eternal happiness:* everlasting, never-ending, endless, perpetual, undying, immortal, abiding, permanent, enduring, infinite, boundless, timeless. **2** *eternal vigilance:* constant, continual, continuous, perpetual, persistent, sustained, unrelenting, relentless, unrelieved, uninterrupted, unbroken, never-ending, non-stop, round-the-clock, endless, ceaseless.

– **OPPOSITES** transient, intermittent.

**eternally** **adverb 1** *I shall be eternally grateful:* forever, permanently, perpetually, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for eternity, in perpetuity, enduringly; N. Amer. forevermore; informal until doomsday, until the cows come home; old use for aye. **2** *the tenants complain eternally:* constantly, continually, continuously, always, all the time, persistently, repeatedly, regularly; day and night, non-stop; endlessly, incessantly, perpetually; interminably, relentlessly; informal 24-7.

**eternity** **noun 1** *the memory will remain for eternity:* ever, all time, perpetuity. **2** (Theology) *souls destined for eternity:* the afterlife, everlasting life, life after death, the hereafter, the afterworld, the next world; heaven, paradise, immortality. **3** (informal) *I waited an eternity for you:* a long time, an age, ages, a lifetime; hours, years, aeons; forever; informal donkey's years, a month of Sundays; Brit. informal yonks.

**ethereal** **adjective 1** *her ethereal beauty:* delicate, exquisite, dainty, elegant, graceful; fragile, airy, fine, subtle. **2** *theologians discuss ethereal ideas:* celestial, heavenly, spiritual, other-worldly, paradisaical, Elysian. – **OPPOSITES** substantial, earthly.

**ethical** **adjective 1** *an ethical dilemma:* moral, social, behavioural. **2** *an ethical investment policy:* morally correct, right-minded, principled, irreproachable; righteous, high-minded, virtuous, good, moral; clean, lawful, just, honourable, reputable, respectable, noble, worthy; praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, laudable; whiter than white, saintly, impeccable; informal squeaky clean.

**ethics** **plural noun** moral code, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of behaviour), virtues.

**ethnic** **adjective** racial, race-related, ethnological; cultural, national, tribal, ancestral, traditional.

**ethos** **noun** spirit, character, atmosphere, climate, mood, feeling, tenor, essence; disposition, rationale, morality, moral code, principles, standards, ethics.

**etiquette** **noun** protocol, manners, accepted behaviour, rules of conduct, decorum, good form; courtesy, propriety, formalities, niceties, punctilios; custom, convention; informal the done thing; formal politesse.

**etymology** **noun** derivation, word history, development, origin, source.

**eulogize** **verb** extol, acclaim, sing the praises of, praise to the skies, wax lyrical about, rhapsodize about, rave about, enthuse about; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo.

– **OPPOSITES** criticize.

**eulogy** **noun** accolade, panegyric, paean, tribute, compliment, commendation; praise, acclaim; plaudits, bouquets; formal encomium.

– **OPPOSITES** attack.

**euphemism** **noun** polite term, indirect term, substitute, alternative, understatement, genteelism.

**euphemistic** **adjective** polite, substitute, mild, understated, indirect, neutral, evasive; diplomatic, inoffensive, genteel.

**euphonious** **adjective** pleasant-sounding, sweet-sounding, mellow, mellifluous, dulcet, sweet, honeyed, lyrical, silvery, golden, lilting, soothing; harmonious, melodious; informal easy on the ear.

– **OPPOSITES** cacophonous.

**euphoria** **noun** elation, happiness, joy,

delight, glee; excitement, exhilaration, jubilation, exultation; ecstasy, bliss, rapture.

— OPPOSITES misery.

**euphoric** adjective **elated**, happy, joyful, delighted, gleeful; excited, exhilarated, jubilant, exultant; ecstatic, blissful, rapturous, transported, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven; informal on top of the world, over the moon, on a high.

**euthanasia** noun **mercy killing**, assisted suicide.

**evacuate** verb **1** *local residents were evacuated*: **remove**, clear, move out, take away. **2** *they evacuated the bombed town*: **leave**, vacate, abandon, desert, move out of, quit, withdraw from, retreat from, decamp from, flee, depart from, escape from. **3** *police evacuated the area*: **clear**, empty, depopulate. **4** *patients couldn't evacuate their bowels*: **empty (out)**, void, open, move, purge; defecate. **5** *he evacuated the contents of his stomach*: **expel**, eject, discharge, excrete, void, empty (out).

**evacuation** noun **1** *the evacuation of civilians*: **removal**, clearance, shifting; eviction, deportation. **2** *the evacuation of military bases*: **clearance**, depopulation; abandonment, vacation, desertion. **3** *involuntary evacuation of the bowels*: **emptying (out)**, voidance, opening, purging; defecation. **4** *dysenteric evacuations*: **bowel movement/motion**, stools, excrement, excreta, faeces, waste.

**evade** verb **1** *they evaded the guards*: **elude**, avoid, dodge, escape (from), steer clear of, keep at arm's length, sidestep; lose, leave behind, shake off; N. Amer. end-run; informal give someone the slip. **2** *he evaded the question*: **avoid**, dodge, sidestep, bypass, hedge, fence, skirt round, fudge, be evasive about; informal duck, cop out of.

— OPPOSITES confront.

**evaluate** verb **assess**, judge, gauge, rate, estimate, appraise, analyse, weigh up, get the measure of; informal size up, check out.

**evaluation** noun **assessment**, appraisal, judgement, gauging, rating, estimation, consideration, analysis.

**evanescent** adjective (literary) **vanishing**, fading, evaporating, melting away, disappearing; ephemeral, fleeting, short-lived, short-term, transitory, transient, fugitive, temporary.

— OPPOSITES permanent.

**evangelical** adjective **1** *evangelical Christianity*: **scriptural**, biblical; orthodox, fundamentalist. **2** *an evangelical preacher*: **evangelistic**, evangelizing, missionary, crusading, propagandist, propagandizing, proselytizing.

**evangelist** noun **preacher**, missionary, gospel, proselytizer, crusader, propagandist.

**evangelistic** adjective. See **EVANGELICAL** sense 2.

**evangelize** verb **convert**, proselytize, redeem, save, preach to, recruit.

**evaporate** verb **1** *the water evaporated*:

**vaporize**, become vapour, volatilize; dry up. **2** *the rock salt is washed and evaporated*: **dry out**, dehydrate, desiccate, dehumidify. **3** *the feeling has evaporated*: **end**, pass (away), fizzle out, peter out, wear off, vanish, fade, disappear, melt away.

— OPPOSITES condense, wet, materialize.

**evasion** noun **1** *the evasion of immigration control*: **avoidance**, circumvention, dodging, sidestepping. **2** *she grew tired of all the evasion*: **prevarication**, evasiveness, beating about the bush, hedging, pussyfooting, equivocation, vagueness, temporization; Brit. humming and hawing; rare tergiversation.

**evasive** adjective **equivocal**, prevaricating, elusive, ambiguous, non-committal, vague, inexplicit, unclear; roundabout, indirect; informal cagey.

**eve** noun **1** *the eve of the election*: **day before**, evening before, night before; the run-up to. **2** (literary) *a winter's eve*: **evening**, night; literary eventide.

— OPPOSITES morning.

**even** adjective **1** *an even surface*: **flat**, smooth, uniform, featureless; unbroken, undamaged; level, plane. **2** *an even temperature*: **uniform**, constant, steady, stable, consistent, unvarying, unchanging, regular. **3** *they all have an even chance*: **equal**, the same, identical, like, alike, similar, comparable, parallel. **4** *the score was even*: **level**, drawn, tied, all square, balanced; neck and neck; Brit. level pegging; informal even-steven(s). **5** *an even disposition*: **even-tempered**, balanced, stable, equable, placid, calm, composed, poised, cool, relaxed, easy, imperturbable, unexcitable, unruffled, untroubled; informal together, laid-back, unflappable.

— OPPOSITES bumpy, irregular, unequal, moody.

• verb **1** *the canal bottom was evened out*: **flatten**, level (off/out), smooth (off/out), plane; make uniform, make regular. **2** *the union wants to even up our wages*: **equalize**, make equal, level up, balance, square; standardize, regularize.

• adverb **1** *it got even colder*: **still**, yet, more, all the more. **2** *even the best hitters missed the ball*: **surprisingly**, unexpectedly, paradoxically. **3** *she is afraid, even ashamed, to ask for help*: **indeed**, you could say, veritably, in truth, actually, or rather, nay.

**4** *she couldn't even afford food*: **so much as**.

■ **even so** nevertheless, nonetheless, all the same, just the same, anyway, anyhow, still, yet, however, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, be that as it may, in any event, at any rate.

■ **get even** have one's revenge, avenge oneself, take vengeance, even the score, settle the score, hit back, give as good as one gets, pay someone back, repay someone, reciprocate, retaliate, take reprisals, exact retribution; give someone their just deserts; informal get one's own back, give someone a taste of their own medicine, settle someone's hash; literary be revenged.

**even-handed** adjective fair, just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, non-discriminatory; disinterested, detached, objective, neutral.  
– OPPOSITES biased.

**evening** noun **night**, late afternoon, end of day, close of day; twilight, dusk, nightfall, sunset, sundown; literary eve, eventide.

**event** noun **1** *an annual event*: **occurrence**, happening, proceeding, incident, affair, circumstance, occasion, phenomenon; function, gathering; informal bash, do. **2** *the team lost the event*: **competition**, contest, tournament, round, heat, match, fixture; race, game, bout.

**even-tempered** adjective serene, calm, composed, tranquil, relaxed, easy-going, mellow, unworried, untroubled, unruffled, imperturbable, placid, equable, stable, level-headed; informal unflappable, together, laid-back.

– OPPOSITES excitable.

**eventful** adjective **busy**, action-packed, full, lively, active, hectic, strenuous; momentous, significant, important, historic, consequential, fateful.

– OPPOSITES dull.

**eventual** adjective **final**, ultimate, concluding, closing, end; resulting, ensuing, consequent, subsequent.

**eventuality** noun **event**, incident, occurrence, happening, development, phenomenon, situation, circumstance, case, contingency, chance, likelihood, possibility, probability; outcome, result.

**eventually** adverb **in the end**, in due course, by and by, in time, after some time, after a bit, finally, at last; ultimately, in the long run, at the end of the day, one day, some day, sometime, sooner or later.

**eventuate** verb (formal) **1** *you never know what might eventuate*. See **HAPPEN** sense 1. **2** *the fight eventuated in his death*: **result** in, end in, lead to, give rise to, bring about, cause.

**ever** adverb **1** *the best I've ever done*: **at any time**, at any point, on any occasion, under any circumstances, on any account; up till now, until now. **2** *he was ever the optimist*: **always**, forever, eternally, until hell freezes over; informal until the twelfth of never, until the cows come home, until doomsday. **3** *an ever increasing rate of crime*: **continually**, constantly, always, endlessly, perpetually, incessantly, unremittingly. **4** *will she ever learn?* **at all**, in any way.

■ **ever so** (Brit. informal) very, extremely, exceedingly, especially, immensely, particularly, really, truly; N. English right; informal awfully, terribly, desperately, mega, ultra; Brit. informal well, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful.

**everlasting** adjective **1** *everlasting love*: **eternal**, endless, never-ending, perpetual, undying, abiding, enduring, infinite, boundless, timeless. **2** *his everlasting complaints*: **constant**, continual, continuous,

persistent, relentless, unrelieved, uninterrupted, unabating, endless, interminable, never-ending, non-stop, incessant.

– OPPOSITES transient, occasional.

**evermore** adverb **always**, forever, ever, for always, for all time, until hell freezes over, eternally, in perpetuity; ever after, henceforth; Brit. for evermore, forever more; N. Amer. forevermore; informal until the cows come home, until the twelfth of never.

**every** determiner **1** *he exercised every day*: **each**, each and every, every single. **2** *we make every effort to satisfy our clients*: **all possible**, the utmost.

**everybody** pronoun **everyone**, every person, each person, all, one and all, all and sundry, the whole world, the public; informal {every Tom, Dick, and Harry}, every man jack, every mother's son.

**everyday** adjective **1** *the everyday demands of a baby*: **daily**, day-to-day, quotidian.

**2** *everyday drugs like aspirin*: **commonplace**, ordinary, common, usual, regular, familiar, conventional, run-of-the-mill, standard, stock; household, domestic; Brit. common or garden; informal bog-standard.

– OPPOSITES unusual.

**everyone** pronoun **everybody**, every person, each person, all, one and all, all and sundry, the whole world, the public; informal {every Tom, Dick, and Harry}, every man jack, every mother's son.

**everything** pronoun **each item**, each thing, every single thing, the (whole) lot; all; informal the whole caboodle, the whole shebang; N. Amer. informal the whole ball of wax.

– OPPOSITES nothing.

**everywhere** adverb **all over**, all around, in every nook and cranny, far and wide, near and far, high and low, {here, there, and everywhere}; throughout the land, the world over, worldwide; informal all over the place; Brit. informal all over the shop; N. Amer. informal all over the map.

– OPPOSITES nowhere.

**evict** verb **expel**, eject, oust, remove, dislodge, turn out, throw out, drive out; dispossess, expropriate; informal chuck out, kick out, boot out, bounce, give someone the (old) heave-ho, throw someone out on their ear; Brit. informal turf out; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush; dated out.

**eviction** noun **expulsion**, ejection, ousting, removal, dislodgement, displacement, banishment; dispossession, expropriation; Law ouster.

**evidence** noun **1** *they found evidence of his plotting*: **proof**, confirmation, verification, substantiation, corroboration, affirmation, attestation. **2** *the court accepted her evidence*: **testimony**, statement, attestation, declaration, avowal, submission, claim, contention, allegation; Law deposition, representation, affidavit. **3** *evidence of a struggle*: **signs**, indications, pointers, marks, traces, suggestions, hints; manifestation.



• **verb** *the rise of racism is evidenced here:* indicate, show, reveal, display, exhibit, manifest; testify to, confirm, prove, substantiate, endorse, bear out; formal evince.  
– **OPPOSITES** disprove.

■ **in evidence** noticeable, conspicuous, obvious, perceptible, visible, on view, plain to see; palpable, tangible, unmistakable, undisguised, prominent, striking, glaring; informal as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile, staring someone in the face.

**evident** adjective obvious, apparent, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible, visible, discernible, clear, plain, manifest, patent; palpable, tangible, distinct, pronounced, marked, striking, glaring, blatant; unmistakable, indisputable; informal as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile, as clear as day.

**evidently** adverb **1** *he was evidently dismayed: obviously*, clearly, plainly, visibly, manifestly, patently, distinctly, markedly; unmistakably, undeniably, undoubtedly, as sure as eggs is eggs. **2** *evidently, she believed herself superior: seemingly*, apparently, as far as one can tell, from all appearances, on the face of it; it seems (that), it appears (that).

**evil** adjective **1** *an evil deed: wicked*, bad, wrong, immoral, sinful, foul, vile, dishonourable, corrupt, iniquitous, depraved, villainous, nefarious, vicious, malicious; malevolent, sinister, demonic, devilish, diabolical, fiendish, dark; monstrous, shocking, despicable, atrocious, heinous, odious, contemptible, horrible, execrable; informal low-down, dirty. **2** *an evil spirit: harmful*, hurtful, injurious, detrimental, deleterious, inimical, bad, mischievous, pernicious, malignant, malign, baleful; destructive, ruinous. **3** *evil weather: unpleasant*, disagreeable, nasty, horrible, foul, filthy, vile, inclement.

– **OPPOSITES** good, beneficial, pleasant.

• **noun** **1** *the evil in our midst: wickedness*, bad, badness, wrongdoing, sin, immorality, vice, iniquity, degeneracy, corruption, depravity, villainy, nefariousness, malevolence; formal turpitude. **2** *nothing but evil would ensue: harm*, pain, misery, sorrow, suffering, trouble, disaster, misfortune, catastrophe, affliction, woe, hardship. **3** *the evils of war: abomination*, atrocity, obscenity, outrage, enormity, crime, monstrosity, barbarity.

**evince** verb (formal) reveal, show, make plain, manifest, indicate, display, exhibit, demonstrate, evidence, attest to; convey, communicate, proclaim, bespeak.  
– **OPPOSITES** conceal.

**eviscerate** verb (formal) disembowel, gut, draw, dress.

**evocative** adjective reminiscent, suggestive, redolent; expressive, vivid, graphic, powerful, haunting, moving, poignant.

**evoke** verb bring to mind, put one in mind

of, conjure up, summon (up), invoke, elicit, induce, kindle, stimulate, stir up, awaken, arouse; recall, echo, capture.

**evolution** noun **1** *the evolution of Bolshevism: development*, advancement, growth, rise, progress, expansion, evolvement; transformation, adaptation, modification, revision. **2** *his interest in evolution: Darwinism*, natural selection.

**evolve** verb develop, progress, advance; mature, grow, expand, spread; alter, change, transform, adapt, metamorphose; humorous transmogrify.

**exacerbate** verb aggravate, worsen, inflame, compound; intensify, increase, heighten, magnify, add to, amplify, augment; informal add fuel to the fire/flames.

– **OPPOSITES** reduce.

**exact** adjective **1** *an exact description: precise*, accurate, correct, faithful, close, true; literal, strict, faultless, perfect, impeccable; explicit, detailed, minute, meticulous, thorough; informal on the nail, on the mark; Brit. informal spot on, bang on; N. Amer. informal on the money, on the button. **2** *an exact manager: careful*, meticulous, painstaking, punctilious, conscientious, scrupulous, exacting; methodical, organized, orderly.  
– **OPPOSITES** inaccurate, careless.

• **verb** **1** *she exacted high standards from them: demand*, require, insist on, request, impose, expect; extract, compel, force, squeeze. **2** *they exacted a terrible vengeance on him: inflict*, impose, administer, apply.

**exacting** adjective **1** *an exacting training routine: demanding*, stringent, testing, challenging, onerous, arduous, laborious, taxing, gruelling, punishing, hard, tough. **2** *an exacting boss: strict*, stern, firm, demanding, tough, harsh; inflexible, uncompromising, unyielding, unsparing.

– **OPPOSITES** easy, easy-going.

**exactly** adverb **1** *it's exactly as I expected it to be: precisely*, entirely, absolutely, completely, totally, just, quite, in every way, in every respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt; informal to a T; N. Amer. informal on the money. **2** *write the quotation out exactly: accurately*, precisely, correctly, unerringly, faultlessly, perfectly; verbatim, word for word, letter for letter, to the letter, faithfully.

**exaggerate** verb overstate, overemphasize, overestimate, magnify, amplify, aggrandize, inflate; embellish, embroider, elaborate, overplay, dramatize; hyperbolize, stretch the truth; Brit. overpitch; informal lay it on thick, make a mountain out of a molehill, blow out of all proportion, make a big thing of.

– **OPPOSITES** understate.

**exaggerated** adjective overstated, inflated, magnified, amplified, aggrandized, excessive; hyperbolic, elaborate, overdone, overplayed, overdramatized, highly coloured, melodramatic, sensational; informal over the top, OTT.

**exaggeration** noun overstatement, overemphasis, magnification, amplification,

aggrandizement; dramatization, elaboration, embellishment, embroidery, hyperbole, overkill, gilding the lily.

**exalt** verb **1** *they exalted their hero*: extol, praise, acclaim, esteem; pay homage to, revere, venerate, worship, lionize, idolize, look up to; informal put on a pedestal; formal laud. **2** *this power exalts the peasant*: elevate, promote, raise, advance, upgrade, ennoble, dignify, aggrandize. **3** *his works exalt the emotions*: uplift, elevate, inspire, excite, stimulate, enliven, exhilarate.

– OPPOSITES disparage, lower, depress.

**exaltation** noun **1** *a heart full of exaltation*: elation, joy, rapture, ecstasy, bliss, happiness, delight, gladness. **2** *their exaltation of Shakespeare*: praise, extolment, acclamation, reverence, veneration, worship, adoration, idolization, lionization; formal laudation. **3** *the exaltation of Jesus to God's right hand*: elevation, rise, promotion, advancement, ennoblement.

**exalted** adjective **1** *his exalted office*: high, high-ranking, elevated, superior, lofty, eminent, prestigious, illustrious, distinguished, esteemed. **2** *his exalted aims*: noble, lofty, high-minded, elevated; inflated, pretentious. **3** *she felt spiritually exalted*: elated, exultant, jubilant, joyful, rapturous, ecstatic, blissful, transported, happy, exuberant, exhilarated; informal high.

**exam** noun test, examination, assessment; paper, oral, practical; Brit. viva (voce); N. Amer. quiz.

**examination** noun **1** *artefacts spread out for examination*: scrutiny, inspection, perusal, study, investigation, consideration, analysis, appraisal, evaluation. **2** *a medical examination*: inspection, check-up, assessment, appraisal; probe, test, scan; informal once-over, overhaul. **3** *a school examination*: test, exam, assessment; paper, oral, practical; Brit. viva (voce); N. Amer. quiz. **4** (Law) *the examination of witnesses*: interrogation, questioning, cross-examination, inquisition.

**examine** verb **1** *they examined the bank records*: inspect, scrutinize, investigate, look at, study, scan, sift, probe, appraise, analyse, review, survey; informal check out. **2** *students were examined after a year*: test, quiz, question; assess, appraise. **3** (Law) *name the witnesses to be examined*: interrogate, question, quiz, cross-examine; catechize, give the third degree to, probe, sound out; informal grill, pump.

**examiner** noun tester, questioner, interviewer, assessor, appraiser, marker, inspector; auditor, analyst; adjudicator, judge, scrutineer.

**example** noun **1** *a fine example of Chinese porcelain*: specimen, sample, exemplar, exemplification, instance, case, illustration. **2** *we must follow their example*: precedent, lead, model, pattern, exemplar, ideal, standard; role model. **3** *he was hanged as an example to others*: warning, caution, lesson, deterrent, admonition; moral.

■ **for example** for instance, e.g., by way of illustration, such as, as, like; in particular, namely, viz.

**exasperate** verb infuriate, incense, anger, annoy, irritate, madden, enrage, antagonize, provoke, irk, vex, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, rile, bug, needle, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's back up, get someone's goat, give someone the hump; Brit. informal nark, wind up, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off.

– OPPOSITES please.

**exasperating** adjective infuriating, annoying, irritating, maddening, provoking, irksome, vexatious, trying, displeasing; informal aggravating.

**exasperation** noun irritation, annoyance, vexation, anger, fury, rage, ill humour, crossness, tetchiness, testiness; disgruntlement, discontent, displeasure; informal aggravation.

**excavate** verb **1** *she excavated a narrow tunnel*: dig (out), bore, hollow out, scoop out; burrow, tunnel, sink, gouge. **2** *numerous artefacts have been excavated*: unearth, dig up, uncover, reveal; disinter, exhume.

**excavation** noun **1** *the excavation of a grave*: unearthing, digging up; disinterment, exhumation. **2** *the excavation of a moat*: digging, hollowing out, boring, channelling. **3** *implements found in the excavations*: hole, pit, trench, trough; archaeological site.

**exceed** verb **1** *the cost will exceed £400*: be more than, be greater than, be over, go beyond, overreach, top. **2** *Brazil exceeds America in fertile land*: surpass, outdo, outstrip, outshine, outclass, transcend, top, beat, better, eclipse, overshadow; informal best, leave standing, be head and shoulders above.

**exceeding** (old use) adjective *his exceeding kindness*: great, considerable, exceptional, tremendous, immense, extreme, supreme, outstanding.

• adverb *the Lord has been exceeding gracious*. See EXCEEDINGLY.

**exceedingly** adverb extremely, exceptionally, especially, tremendously, very, really, truly, most; informal terribly, awfully, seriously, mega, ultra; Brit. informal ever so, well, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty; old use exceeding.

**excel** verb **1** *he excelled at football*: shine, be excellent, be outstanding, be skilful, be talented, be pre-eminent, reign supreme; stand out, be the best, be unparalleled, be unequalled, be second to none, be unsurpassed. **2** *she excelled him in her work*: surpass, outdo, outshine, outclass, outstrip, beat, top, transcend, better, pass, eclipse, overshadow; informal best, be head and shoulders above, be a cut above.

**excellence** noun distinction, quality, superiority, brilliance, greatness, merit, calibre, eminence, pre-eminence, supremacy,

peerlessness; skill, talent, virtuosity, accomplishment, mastery.

**excellent** adjective **very good**, superb, outstanding, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful; pre-eminent, perfect, matchless, peerless, supreme, first-rate, first-class, superlative, top-tier, splendid, fine; informal A1, ace, great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic, fabulous, fab, top-notch, class, awesome, magic, wicked, cool, out of this world; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing; Austral. informal bonzer; informal, dated spiffing, capital.

– OPPOSITES inferior.

**except** preposition **every day except Monday**: excluding, not including, excepting, omitting, not counting, but, besides, apart from, aside from, barring, bar, other than, saving; with the exception of; informal outside of; formal save.

– OPPOSITES including.

• **verb** *you're all crooks, present company excepted*: exclude, omit, leave out, count out, disregard.

– OPPOSITES include.

**exception** noun **this case is an exception**: anomaly, irregularity, deviation, special case, peculiarity, abnormality, oddity; misfit; informal freak.

■ **take exception** object, take offence, take umbrage, demur, disagree; resent, argue against, protest against, oppose, complain about; informal kick up a fuss, kick up a stink.

■ **with the exception of**. See **EXCEPT** preposition.

**exceptionable** adjective (formal). See **OBJECTIONABLE**.

**exceptional** adjective **1 the drought was exceptional**: unusual, uncommon, abnormal, atypical, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, rare, unprecedented, unexpected, surprising; odd, strange, freakish, anomalous, peculiar; Brit. out of the common; informal weird, freaky, something else. **2 her exceptional ability**: outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, special, excellent, phenomenal, prodigious; unequalled, unparalleled, unsurpassed, peerless, matchless, first-rate, first-class; informal A1, top-notch.

– OPPOSITES normal, average.

**exceptionally** adverb **1 it was exceptionally cold**: unusually, uncommonly, abnormally, atypically, extraordinarily, unexpectedly, surprisingly; strangely, oddly; informal weirdly, freakily. **2 an exceptionally acute mind**: exceedingly, outstandingly, extraordinarily, remarkably, especially, phenomenally, prodigiously.

**excerpt** noun extract, part, section, piece, portion, snippet, clip, bit; reading, citation, quotation, quote, line, passage; N. Amer. cite.

**excess** noun **1 an excess of calcium**: surplus, surfeit, over-abundance, superabundance, glut, superfluity; too much. **2 the excess is turned into fat**: remainder, rest, residue; leftovers, remnants; surplus, extra, difference. **3 a life of excess**: overindulgence, intemperance, immoderation, profligacy,

lavishness, extravagance, decadence, self-indulgence.

– OPPOSITES lack, restraint.

• **adjective** *excess skin oils*: surplus, superfluous, redundant, unwanted, unneeded, excessive; extra.

■ **in excess of** more than, over, above, upwards of, beyond.

**excessive** adjective **1 excessive alcohol consumption**: immoderate, intemperate, imprudent, overindulgent, unrestrained, uncontrolled, lavish, extravagant; superfluous. **2 the cost is excessive**: exorbitant, extortionate, unreasonable, outrageous, undue, uncalled for, extreme, inordinate, unwarranted, disproportionate, too much; informal over the top, OTT.

**excessively** adverb **inordinately**, unduly, unnecessarily, unreasonably, ridiculously, overly; very, extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, impossibly; immoderately, intemperately, too much.

**exchange** noun **1 the exchange of ideas**: interchange, trade, trading, swapping, traffic, trafficking; old use truck. **2 a broker on the exchange**: stock exchange, money market, bourse. **3 an acrimonious exchange**: conversation, dialogue, chat, talk, discussion; debate, argument, altercation; informal confab; Brit. informal row, barney; formal confabulation, colloquy.

• **verb** *we exchanged shirts*: trade, swap, switch, change, interchange; old use truck.

■ **exchange blows** fight, brawl, scuffle, tussle, engage in fisticuffs; informal scrap; Brit. informal have a punch-up.

■ **exchange words** argue, quarrel, squabble, have an argument/disagreement; informal have a slangy match.

**excise**<sup>1</sup> noun **the excise on spirits**: duty, tax, levy, tariff.

**excise**<sup>2</sup> verb **1 the tumours were excised**: cut out/off/away, take out, extract, remove; technical resect. **2 all unnecessary detail should be excised**: delete, cross out/through, strike out, score out, cancel, put a line through; erase; Computing, informal kill; Printing delete.

**excitable** adjective **temperamental**, mercurial, volatile, emotional, sensitive, highly strung, unstable, nervous, tense, edgy, twitchy, uneasy, neurotic; informal uptight, jumpy, wired.

– OPPOSITES placid.

**excite** verb **1 the prospect of a holiday excited me**: thrill, exhilarate, animate, enliven, rouse, stir, stimulate, galvanize, electrify, inspire; informal buck up, pep up, ginger up, give someone a buzz/kick; N. Amer. informal give someone a charge. **2 she wore a chiffon nightgown to excite him**: arouse (sexually), stimulate, titillate, inflame; informal turn someone on, get someone going, float someone's boat. **3 his clothes excited envy**: provoke, stir up, rouse, arouse, kindle, trigger (off), spark off, incite, cause; literary enkindle.

– OPPOSITES bore, depress.

**excited** adjective **1 they were excited**



*about the prospect:* **thrilled**, exhilarated, animated, enlivened, electrified; enraptured, intoxicated, feverish, enthusiastic; informal high (as a kite), fired up. **2 (sexually) aroused**, stimulated, titillated, inflamed; informal turned on, hot, horny, sexed up; Brit. informal randy; N. Amer. informal squirrely.

**excitement** noun **1** *the excitement of seeing a leopard in the wild:* **thrill**, pleasure, delight, joy; informal kick, buzz; N. Amer. informal charge. **2** *excitement in her eyes:* **exhilaration**, elation, animation, enthusiasm, eagerness, anticipation, feverishness; informal pep, vim, zing. **3 (sexual) arousal**, passion, stimulation, titillation.

**exciting** adjective **1** *an exciting story:* **thrilling**, exhilarating, stirring, rousing, stimulating, intoxicating, electrifying, invigorating; gripping, compelling, powerful, dramatic. **2 (sexually) arousing**, (sexually) stimulating, titillating, erotic, sexual, sexy; informal raunchy, steamy.

**exclaim** verb **cry (out)**, declare, blurt out; call (out), shout, yell; dated ejaculate.

**exclamation** noun **cry**, call, shout, yell, interjection; dated ejaculation.

**exclude** verb **1** *women were excluded from many scientific societies:* **keep out**, deny access to, shut out, debar, disbar, bar, ban, prohibit. **2** *the clause excluded any judicial review:* **eliminate**, rule out, preclude; formal except. **3** *the price excludes postage:* **be exclusive of**, not include. **4** *he excluded his name from the list:* **leave out**, omit, miss out.

– OPPOSITES admit, include.

**exclusion** noun **1** *the exclusion of women from the society:* **barring**, keeping out, debarment, debarring, disbarring, banning, prohibition. **2** *the exclusion of other factors:* **elimination**, ruling out, precluding. **3** *the exclusion of pupils:* **expulsion**, ejection, throwing out; suspension.

– OPPOSITES acceptance, inclusion.

**exclusive** adjective **1** *an exclusive club:* **select**, chic, high-class, elite, fashionable, stylish, elegant, premier, grade A; expensive; Brit. upmarket; N. Amer. high-toned; informal posh, ritzy, classy; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal tony. **2** *a room for your exclusive use:* **sole**, unshared, unique, only, individual, personal, private. **3** *prices exclusive of VAT:* **not including**, excluding, leaving out, omitting, excepting. **4** *mutually exclusive alternatives:* **incompatible**, irreconcilable.

– OPPOSITES inclusive.

• noun *a six-page exclusive:* **scoop**, exposé, special, coup.

**excoriate** verb **1** (Medicine) *the skin had been excoriated:* **abrade**, rub away/raw, scrape, scratch, chafe; strip away, skin. **2** (formal) *he was excoriated in the press.* See **CRITICIZE**.

**excrement** noun **faeces**, excreta, stools, droppings; waste matter, ordure, dung; informal poo, doings; Brit. informal cack, whoopsies, jobbies; N. Amer. informal poop.

#### WORD LINKS

**scatological** obsessed with excrement and excretion  
**coprophagy** the eating of excrement

**excrecence** noun **1** *an excrecence on his leg:* **growth**, lump, swelling, nodule, outgrowth. **2** *the new buildings were an excrecence:* **eyesore**, blot on the landscape, monstrosity.

**excrete** verb **expel**, pass, void, discharge, eject, evacuate; defecate, urinate.

– OPPOSITES ingest.

**excruciating** adjective **agonizing**, severe, acute, intense, violent, racking, searing, piercing, stabbing, raging; unbearable, unendurable; informal splitting, killing.

**excursion** noun **trip**, outing, jaunt, expedition, journey, tour; day trip/out, drive, run, ride; informal junket, spin.

**excusable** adjective **forgivable**, pardonable, defensible, justifiable; venial.

– OPPOSITES unforgivable.

**excuse** verb **1** *eventually she excused him:* **forgive**, pardon, absolve, exonerate, acquit; informal let someone off (the hook); formal exculpate. **2** *such conduct can never be excused:* **justify**, defend, condone, vindicate; forgive, overlook, disregard, ignore, tolerate, sanction. **3** *she has been excused from her duties:* **let off**, release, relieve, exempt, absolve, free.

– OPPOSITES punish, blame, condemn.

• noun **1** *that's no excuse for stealing:* **justification**, defence, reason, explanation, mitigating circumstances, mitigation, vindication. **2** *an excuse to get away:* **pretext**, ostensible reason, pretence; Brit. get-out; informal story, alibi. **3** (informal) *that pathetic excuse for a man!* **travesty of**, poor specimen of; informal apology for.

**execrable** adjective **appalling**, awful, dreadful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, abysmal, lamentable, egregious; disgusting, detestable, disgraceful, reprehensible, abhorrent, loathsome, odious, hateful, vile; informal diabolical, lousy, God-awful; Brit. informal chronic, shocking, pants.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**execrate** verb **1** *the men were execrated as corrupt:* **revile**, denounce, decry, condemn, vilify; detest, loathe, abhor, despise; formal abominate, excoriate. **2** (old use) *he execrated aloud.* See **SWEAR** sense 3.

**execute** verb **1** *he was convicted and executed:* **put to death**, kill; hang, behead, guillotine, electrocute, shoot; informal string up; N. Amer. send to the (electric) chair; N. Amer. informal fry. **2** *the corporation executed a series of financial deals:* **carry out**, accomplish, bring off/about, achieve, complete, engineer; informal pull off; formal effectuate. **3** *a well-executed act:* **perform**, present, render; stage.

**execution** noun **1** *the execution of the plan:* **implementation**, carrying out, accomplishment, bringing off/about, engineering, attainment, realization.

**2** the execution of the play: performance, presentation, rendition, rendering, staging. **3** thousands were sentenced to execution: capital punishment, the death penalty; the gibbet, the gallows, the noose, the rope, the scaffold, the guillotine, the firing squad; N. Amer. the (electric) chair.

**executioner** noun **hangman**, official killer; historical headsman.

**executive** adjective *executive powers*:

administrative, decision-making, managerial; law-making.

• **noun 1** top-level bank executives: chief, head, director, senior official, senior manager, CEO, chief executive officer; informal boss, exec, suit. **2** the executive has increased in number: administration, management, directorate; government, legislative body.

**exegesis** noun interpretation, explanation, exposition, explication.

**exemplar** noun epitome, perfect example, model, paragon, ideal, exemplification, textbook example, embodiment, essence, quintessence.

**exemplary** adjective **1** her exemplary behaviour: perfect, ideal, model, faultless, flawless, impeccable, irreproachable; excellent, outstanding, admirable, commendable, laudable, above/beyond reproach. **2** exemplary jail sentences: serving as a deterrent, cautionary, warning, admonitory; rare monitory. **3** her works are exemplary of certain feminist arguments: typical, characteristic, representative, illustrative.

– OPPOSITES deplorable.

**exemplify** verb **1** this story exemplifies current trends: typify, epitomize, be a typical example of, be representative of, symbolize. **2** he exemplified his point with an anecdote: illustrate, give an example of, demonstrate.

**exempt** adjective they are exempt from all charges: free, not liable/subject, exempted, excepted, excused, absolved.

– OPPOSITES subject to.

• **verb** he had been exempted from military service: excuse, free, release, exclude, give/grant immunity, spare, absolve; informal let off (the hook); N. Amer. informal grandfather.

**exemption** noun immunity, exception, dispensation, indemnity, exclusion, freedom, release, relief, absolution; informal let-off.

**exercise** noun **1** exercise improves your heart: physical activity, a workout, working-out; gymnastics, sports, games, physical education, PE, physical training, PT, aerobics, jogging, running; callisthenics; Brit. informal physical jerks. **2** translation exercises: task, piece of work, problem, assignment; Music étude. **3** the exercise of professional skill: use, utilization, employment; practice, application. **4** military exercises: manoeuvres, operations; war games. • **verb 1** she exercised every day: work out, do exercises, train; informal pump iron. **2** he

must learn to exercise patience: use, employ, make use of, utilize; practise, apply. **3** the problem continued to exercise him: worry, trouble, concern, make anxious, bother, disturb, perturb, distress, preoccupy, prey on someone's mind, make uneasy; informal bug, do someone's head in.

**exert** verb **1** he exerted considerable pressure on me: bring to bear, apply, exercise, employ, use, utilize, deploy. **2** he had been exerting himself: make an/every effort, try hard, strive, endeavour, do one's best/utmost, give one's all, push oneself, drive oneself, work hard; informal go all out, pull out all the stops, bend over backwards, do one's damndest, move heaven and earth, work one's socks off; N. Amer. informal do one's darnedest, bust one's chops; Austral. informal go for the doctor.

**exertion** noun **1** she was panting with the exertion: effort, strain, struggle, toil, endeavour, hard work, labour; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal yakka; literary travail. **2** the exertion of pressure: use, application, exercise, employment, utilization.

**exhale** verb **1** she exhaled her cigarette smoke: breathe out, blow out, puff out. **2** the jungle exhaled mists of early morning: give off, emanate, send forth, emit.

– OPPOSITES inhale.

**exhaust** verb **1** the effort had exhausted him: tire (out), wear out, overtire, fatigue, weary, drain, run someone into the ground; informal do in, take it out of one, wipe out, knock out, shatter; Brit. informal knacker; N. Amer. informal poop, tucker out. **2** the country has exhausted its reserves: use up, run through, go through, consume, finish, deplete, spend, empty, drain; informal blow.

– OPPOSITES invigorate, replenish.

**exhausted** adjective **1** I'm exhausted: tired out, worn out, weary, dog-tired, bone-tired, ready to drop, drained, fatigued, enervated; informal done in, all in, dead beat, shattered, bushed, knocked out, wiped out, bushwhacked; Brit. informal knackered, whacked (out), jiggered; N. Amer. informal pooped, tuckered out, fried, whipped; Austral./NZ informal stonkered. **2** exhausted reserves: used up, consumed, finished, spent, depleted; empty, drained.

**exhausting** adjective tiring, wearying, taxing, fatiguing, wearing, enervating, draining; arduous, strenuous, onerous, demanding, gruelling; informal killing, murderous; Brit. informal knackerung.

**exhaustion** noun **1** sheer exhaustion forced Paul to give up: extreme tiredness, overtiredness, fatigue, weariness. **2** the exhaustion of fuel reserves: consumption, depletion, using up, expenditure; draining, emptying.

**exhaustive** adjective comprehensive, all-inclusive, complete, full, encyclopedic, thorough, in-depth; detailed, meticulous, painstaking.

– OPPOSITES perfunctory.

**exhibit** verb **1** the paintings were exhibited at Sotheby's: put on display/show, display,

show, put on public view, showcase; set out, lay out, array, arrange. **2** *Luke exhibited signs of jealousy:* **show**, reveal, display, manifest; express, indicate, demonstrate, present; formal evince.

• **noun 1** *an exhibit at the British Museum:* object on display, item, piece. **2** (N. Amer.) *people flocked to the exhibit.* See **EXHIBITION** sense 1.

**exhibition** **noun 1** *an exhibition of French sculpture:* (public) display, show, showing, presentation, demonstration, exposition, showcase; N. Amer. exhibit. **2** *a convincing exhibition of concern:* display, show, demonstration, manifestation, expression.

**exhibitionist** **noun** *posturer, poser, self-publicist; extrovert; informal show-off; N. Amer. informal showboat.*

**exhilarate** **verb** thrill, excite, intoxicate, elate, delight, enliven, animate, invigorate, energize, stimulate; informal give someone a thrill/buzz; N. Amer. informal give someone a charge.

**exhilaration** **noun** elation, euphoria, exultation, exaltation, joy, happiness, delight, joyousness, jubilation, rapture, ecstasy.

**exhort** **verb** urge, encourage, call on, enjoin, charge, press; bid, appeal to, entreat, implore; formal adjure; literary beseech.

**exhortation** **noun 1** *no amount of exhortation had any effect:* urging, encouragement, persuasion, pressure; admonishment, warning. **2** *the government's exhortations:* entreaty, appeal, call, charge, injunction; admonition, warning.

**exhume** **verb** disinter, dig up, disentomb.  
– OPPOSITES bury.

**exigency** **noun 1** *the exigencies of the continuing war:* need, demand, requirement, necessity. **2** *financial exigency:* urgency, crisis, difficulty, pressure.

**exiguous** **adjective** (formal) meagre, inadequate, insufficient, small, scanty, paltry, negligible, modest, deficient, miserly, niggardly, beggarly; informal measly, stingy, piddling.

– OPPOSITES ample, generous.

**exile** **noun 1** *his exile from the land of his birth:* banishment, expulsion, expatriation, deportation. **2** *political exiles:* émigré, expatriate; displaced person, DP, refugee, deportee; informal expat.

• **verb** *he was exiled from his country:* expel, banish, expatriate, deport, drive out, throw out, outlaw.

**exist** **verb 1** *animals existing in the distant past:* live, be alive, be living; be, have being, have existence. **2** *the liberal climate that existed during his presidency:* prevail, occur, be found, be in existence; be the case. **3** *she had to exist on a low income:* survive, subsist, live, support oneself; manage, make do, get by, scrape by, make ends meet.

**existence** **noun 1** *the industry's continued existence:* actuality, being, existing, reality; survival, continuation. **2** *her suburban*

*existence:* way of life/living, life, lifestyle.

**3** (old use) *malevolent existences:* being, entity, creation.

■ **in existence 1** *there are several million unidentified species in existence:* alive, existing, extant, existent. **2** *the only copy still in existence:* surviving, remaining, undestroyed, in circulation.

**existent** **adjective** in existence, alive, existing, living, extant; surviving, remaining, undestroyed.

**exit** **noun 1** *the fire exit:* way out, door, egress, escape route; doorway, gate, gateway, portal.

**2** *take the second exit:* turning, turn-off, turn; N. Amer. turnout. **3** *his sudden exit:* departure, leaving, withdrawal, going, decamping, retreat; flight, exodus, escape.

– OPPOSITES entrance, arrival.

• **verb** *the doctor had just exited:* leave, go (out), depart, withdraw, retreat.

– OPPOSITES enter.

**exodus** **noun** mass departure, withdrawal, evacuation, leaving; migration, emigration; flight, escape, fleeing.

**exonerate** **verb 1** *the inquiry exonerated them:* absolve, clear, acquit, find innocent, discharge; formal exculpate. **2** *the pope exonerated the king from his oath:* release, discharge, free, liberate; excuse, exempt, except, dispense; informal let off.

– OPPOSITES convict.

**exorbitant** **adjective** extortionate, excessively high, excessive, prohibitive, outrageous, unreasonable, inflated, unconscionable, huge, enormous; Brit. over the odds; informal steep, stiff, over the top, a rip-off; Brit. informal daylight robbery.

– OPPOSITES reasonable.

**exorcize** **verb 1** *exorcizing a spirit:* drive out, cast out, expel. **2** *they exorcized the house:* purify, cleanse, purge; rare lustrate.

**exordium** **noun** (formal) introduction, opening, preface, prelude, foreword, preamble, prologue; informal intro; formal proem, prolegomenon.

– OPPOSITES conclusion.

**exotic** **adjective 1** *exotic birds:* foreign, non-native, tropical. **2** *exotic places:* foreign, faraway, far-off, far-flung, distant. **3** *Linda's exotic appearance:* striking, colourful, eye-catching; unusual, unconventional, out of the ordinary, foreign-looking, extravagant, outlandish; informal offbeat, off the wall.

– OPPOSITES native, nearby, conventional.

**expand** **verb 1** *metals expand when heated:* increase in size, become larger, enlarge; swell, dilate, inflate; lengthen, stretch, thicken, fill out; rare intumescere. **2** *the company is expanding:* grow, become/make larger, become/make bigger, increase in size/scope; extend, augment, broaden, widen, develop, diversify, build up; branch out, spread, proliferate. **3** *the minister expanded on the proposals:* elaborate on, enlarge on, go into detail about, flesh out, develop, expatiate on. **4** *she expanded and flourished:* relax, unbend, become relaxed, grow friendlier, loosen up.



– OPPOSITES shrink, contract.

**expanse** noun area, stretch, sweep, tract, swathe, belt, region; sea, carpet, blanket, sheet.

**expansion** noun **1** *expansion and contraction*: enlargement, swelling, dilation; lengthening, elongation, stretching, thickening. **2** *the expansion of the company*: growth, increase in size, enlargement, extension, development; spread, proliferation, multiplication. **3** *an expansion of a lecture given last year*: elaboration, enlargement, amplification, development.

– OPPOSITES contraction.

**expansive** adjective **1** *expansive moorland*: extensive, sweeping, rolling. **2** *expansive coverage*: wide-ranging, extensive, broad, wide, comprehensive, thorough. **3** *Cara became engagingly expansive*: communicative, forthcoming, sociable, friendly, outgoing, affable, chatty, talkative, garrulous, loquacious, voluble.

**expatiate** verb *speak/write at length*, go into detail, expound, dwell, dilate, expand, enlarge, elaborate; formal perorate.

**expatriate** noun *expatriates working overseas*: emigrant, non-native, émigré, (economic) migrant; informal expat.

– OPPOSITES national.

• adjective *expatriate workers*: emigrant, living abroad, non-native, émigré; informal expat.

– OPPOSITES indigenous.

• verb **1** *he was not tempted to expatriate himself*: settle abroad, live abroad. **2** *he was expatriated*: exile, deport, banish, expel.

**expect** verb **1** *I expect she'll be late*: suppose, presume, think, believe, imagine, assume, surmise; informal guess, reckon; N. Amer. informal figure. **2** *a 10 per cent rise was expected*: anticipate, await, look for, hope for, look forward to; contemplate, bargain for/on, bank on; predict, forecast, envisage, envision. **3** *we expect total loyalty*: require, ask for, call for, want, insist on, demand.

**expectancy** noun **1** *feverish expectancy*: anticipation, expectation, eagerness, excitement. **2** *life expectancy*: likelihood, probability, outlook, prospect.

**expectant** adjective **1** *expectant fans*: eager, excited, agog, waiting with bated breath, hopeful; in suspense, on tenterhooks.

**2** *an expectant mother*: pregnant; informal expecting, in the family way, peggery; Brit. informal up the duff/spout, in the (pudding) club; technical gravid; old use with child, in a delicate/interesting condition.

**expectation** noun **1** *her expectations were unrealistic*: supposition, assumption, presumption, conjecture, surmise, calculation, prediction. **2** *tense with expectation*: anticipation, expectancy, eagerness, excitement, suspense.

**expecting** adjective (informal). See **EXPECTANT** sense 2.

**expedient** adjective *a politically expedient strategy*: convenient, advantageous, in one's

own interests, useful, of use, beneficial, of benefit, helpful; practical, pragmatic, politic, prudent, wise, judicious, sensible.

• noun *a temporary expedient*: measure, means, method, stratagem, scheme, plan, move, tactic, manoeuvre, device, contrivance, ploy, machination, dodge; Austral. informal lurk.

**expedite** verb *speed up*, accelerate, hurry, hasten, step up, quicken, precipitate, dispatch; advance, facilitate, ease, make easier, further, promote, aid, push through, urge on, boost, stimulate, spur on, help along.

– OPPOSITES delay.

**expedition** noun **1** *an expedition to the South Pole*: journey, voyage, tour, odyssey; exploration, safari, trek, hike. **2** (informal) *a shopping expedition*: trip, excursion, outing, jaunt. **3** *all members of the expedition*: group, team, party, crew, band, squad. **4** (formal) *use all expedition possible*: speed, haste, swiftness, quickness, rapidity, briskness; literary fleetness, celerity.

**expeditious** adjective *speedy*, swift, quick, rapid, fast, brisk, efficient; prompt, punctual, immediate, instant; literary fleet.

– OPPOSITES slow.

**expel** verb **1** *she was expelled from her party*: throw out, bar, ban, debar, drum out, oust, remove, get rid of, dismiss; Military cashier; informal chuck out, sling out, kick/boot out; Brit. informal turf out; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush; dated out. **2** *he was expelled from the country*: banish, exile, deport, evict, expatriate, drive out, throw out. **3** *Dolly expelled a hiss*: let out, discharge, eject, issue, send forth.

– OPPOSITES admit.

**expend** verb **1** *they had already expended \$75,000*: spend, pay out, disburse, dole out, dish out, get through, waste, fritter (away), dissipate; informal fork out, shell out, lay out, cough up, blow, splurge; Brit. informal splash out, stump up; N. Amer. informal ante up. **2** *children expend a lot of energy*: use (up), utilize, consume, eat up, deplete, get through.

– OPPOSITES save, conserve.

**expendable** adjective **1** *an accountant decided he was expendable*: dispensable, replaceable, non-essential, inessential, unnecessary, not required, superfluous, disposable. **2** *an expendable satellite launcher*: disposable, throwaway, one-use, single-use.

– OPPOSITES indispensable.

**expenditure** noun **1** *the expenditure of funds*: spending, paying out, outlay, disbursement, doling out, waste, wasting, frittering (away), dissipation. **2** *reducing public expenditure*: outgoings, costs, payments, expenses, overheads, spending.

– OPPOSITES saving, income.

**expense** noun **1** *Nigel resented the expense*: cost, price, charge, outlay, fee, tariff, levy, payment; humorous damage. **2** *regular expenses*: outgoing, payment, outlay,

expenditure, charge, bill, overhead.

**3** *pollution controls come at the expense of jobs: sacrifice, cost, loss.*

**expensive** adjective costly, dear, high-priced, overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate; informal steep, pricey, costing an arm and a leg, costing the earth, costing a bomb.

– OPPOSITES cheap, economical.

**experience** noun **1** *qualifications and experience: skill, (practical) knowledge, understanding; background, record, history; maturity, worldliness, sophistication; informal know-how.* **2** *an enjoyable experience:*

*incident, occurrence, event, happening, episode; adventure, exploit, escapade.* **3** *his first experience of business: involvement in, participation in, contact with, acquaintance with, exposure to, observation of, awareness of, insight into.*

• *verb some policemen experience harassment: undergo, encounter, meet, come into contact with, come across, come up against, face, be faced with.*

#### WORD LINKS

empirical based on experience rather than theory or logic

**experienced** adjective **1** *an experienced pilot: knowledgeable, skilful, skilled, expert, accomplished, adept, adroit, master, consummate; proficient, trained, competent, capable, well trained, well versed; seasoned, practised, mature, veteran.* **2** *she deluded herself that she was experienced: worldly (wise), sophisticated, suave, urbane, mature, knowing; informal streetwise.*

– OPPOSITES novice, naive.

**experiment** noun **1** *carrying out experiments: test, investigation, trial, examination, observation; assessment, evaluation, appraisal, analysis, study.* **2** *these results have been established by experiment: research, experimentation, observation, analysis, testing.*

• *verb they experimented with new ideas: conduct experiments, carry out trials/tests, conduct research; test, trial, try out, assess, appraise, evaluate.*

**experimental** adjective **1** *the experimental stage: exploratory, investigational, trial, test, pilot; speculative, conjectural, hypothetical, tentative, preliminary, untested, untried.* **2** *experimental music: innovative, innovatory, new, original, radical, avant-garde, alternative, unorthodox, unconventional, left-field; informal way-out.*

**expert** noun *he is an expert in kendo: specialist, authority, pundit; adept, maestro, virtuoso, (past) master, wizard; connoisseur, aficionado; informal ace, buff, pro, whizz, hotshot; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack.*

• *adjective an expert chess player: skilful, skilled, adept, accomplished, talented, fine; master, masterly, brilliant, virtuoso, magnificent, outstanding, great, exceptional, excellent, first-class, first-rate, top-tier,*

*superb; proficient, good, able, capable, experienced, practised, knowledgeable; informal wizard, ace, crack, mean.*

– OPPOSITES incompetent.

**expertise** noun *skill, skilfulness, expertness, prowess, proficiency, competence; knowledge, mastery, ability, aptitude, facility, capability; informal know-how.*

**expiate** verb *atone for, make amends for, make up for, do penance for, pay for, redress, redeem, offset, make good.*

**expire** verb **1** *my contract has expired: run out, become invalid, become void, lapse; end, finish, stop, come to an end, terminate.*

**2** *the spot where he expired: die, pass away/on, breathe one's last; informal kick the bucket, bite the dust, croak, buy it; Brit. informal snuff it, peg out, pop one's clogs; old use de cease, depart this life.* **3** (technical) *afterwards the breath is expired: breathe out, exhale, blow out, expel.*

**expiry** noun **1** *the expiry of the lease: lapse, expiration.* **2** *the expiry of his term of office: end, finish, termination, conclusion.* **3** (old use) *the sad expiry of their friend: death, demise, passing (away/on), dying; formal de cease.*

**explain** verb **1** *a technician explained the procedure: describe, give an explanation of, make clear/intelligible, spell out, put into words; elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify, throw light on; gloss, interpret.* **2** *nothing could explain his new-found wealth: account for, give a reason for; justify, give a justification for, give an excuse for, vindicate, legitimize.*

**explanation** noun **1** *an explanation of the ideas contained in the essay: clarification, simplification; description, report, statement; elucidation, exposition, expounding, explication; gloss, interpretation, commentary, exegesis.* **2** *I owe you an explanation: account, reason; justification, excuse, alibi, defence, vindication.*

**explanatory** adjective *explaining, descriptive, describing, illustrative, illuminative, elucidatory.*

**expletive** noun *swear word, oath, curse, obscenity, profanity, four-letter word, dirty word; informal cuss word, cuss; formal imprecation; (expletives) bad language, foul language, strong language, swearing; Brit. informal industrial language.*

**explicable** adjective *explainable, understandable, comprehensible, accountable, intelligible, interpretable.*

**explicate** verb *explain, make explicit, clarify, make plain/clear, spell out; interpret, elucidate, expound, illuminate, throw light on.*

**explicit** adjective **1** *explicit instructions: clear, plain, straightforward, crystal clear, easily understandable; precise, exact, specific, unequivocal, unambiguous; detailed, comprehensive, exhaustive.*

**2** *sexually explicit material: uncensored,*

graphic, candid, full-frontal.

– OPPOSITES vague.

**explode** verb **1** *a bomb has exploded: blow up, detonate, go off, burst (apart), fly apart.* **2** *exploding the first atomic device: detonate, set off, let off, discharge.* **3** *he exploded in anger: lose one's temper, blow up, get angry, become enraged; informal fly off the handle, hit the roof, blow one's cool/top, go wild, go bananas, see red, go off the deep end; Brit. informal go spare, go crackers; N. Amer. informal blow one's lid/stack.* **4** *the city's exploding population: increase suddenly/rapidly, mushroom, snowball, escalate, multiply, burgeon, rocket.* **5** *exploding the myths about men: disprove, refute, rebut, invalidate, negate, negative, controvert, repudiate, discredit, debunk, belie, give the lie to; informal shoot full of holes, blow out of the water; formal confute.*

– OPPOSITES defuse.

**exploit** verb **1** *we should exploit this new technology: utilize, use, make use of, turn/put to good use, make the most of, capitalize on, benefit from; informal cash in on.* **2** *exploiting the workers: take advantage of, abuse, impose on, treat unfairly, misuse, ill-treat; informal walk (all) over, take for a ride, rip off.*  
 • **noun** *his exploits brought him notoriety: feat, deed, act, adventure, stunt, escapade; achievement, accomplishment, attainment; informal lark, caper.*

**exploitation** noun **1** *the exploitation of mineral resources: utilization, use.* **2** *the exploitation of the poor: taking advantage, abuse, misuse, ill-treatment, unfair treatment, oppression.*

**exploration** noun **1** *the exploration of space: investigation, study, survey, research, inspection, examination, scrutiny, observation; consideration, analysis, review.* **2** *explorations into the mountains: expedition, trip, journey, voyage; old use peregrination; (explorations) travels.*

**exploratory** adjective investigative, investigational, explorative, probing, fact-finding; experimental, trial, test, preliminary, provisional.

**explore** verb **1** *they explored all the possibilities: investigate, look into, consider; examine, research, survey, scrutinize, study, review, go over with a fine-tooth comb; informal check out.* **2** *exploring Iceland's north-west: travel over, tour, range over; survey, take a look at, inspect, investigate, reconnoitre; informal recce, give something a/the once-over.*

**explorer** noun traveller, discoverer, voyager, adventurer; surveyor, scout, prospector.

**explosion** noun **1** *Edward heard the explosion: detonation, eruption, blowing up; bang, blast, boom.* **2** *an explosion of anger: outburst, flare-up, outbreak, eruption, storm, rush, surge; fit, paroxysm, attack.* **3** *the explosion of human populations: sudden/rapid increase, mushrooming,*

*snowballing, escalation, multiplication, burgeoning, rocketing.*

**explosive** adjective **1** *explosive gases: volatile, inflammable, flammable, combustible, incendiary.* **2** *Marco's explosive temper: fiery, stormy, violent, volatile, angry, passionate, tempestuous, turbulent, touchy, irascible, hot-headed, short-tempered.* **3** *an explosive situation: tense, (highly) charged, overwrought; dangerous, perilous, hazardous, sensitive, delicate, unstable, volatile.* **4** *explosive population growth: sudden, dramatic, rapid; mushrooming, snowballing, escalating, rocketing, accelerating.*  
 • **noun** bomb, incendiary device.

**exponent** noun **1** *an exponent of free-trade policies: advocate, supporter, proponent, upholder, backer, defender, champion; promoter, propagandist, campaigner, fighter, crusader, enthusiast, apologist.* **2** *a karate exponent: practitioner, performer, player.*  
 – OPPOSITES critic, opponent.

**export** verb **1** *exporting raw materials: sell overseas/abroad, send overseas/abroad, trade internationally.* **2** *he is trying to export his ideas to America: transmit, spread, disseminate, circulate, communicate, pass on; literary bruit about/abroad.*  
 – OPPOSITES import.

**expose** verb **1** *at low tide the sands are exposed: reveal, uncover, lay bare.* **2** *he was exposed to asbestos: make vulnerable, subject, lay open, put at risk, put in jeopardy.* **3** *they were exposed to liberal ideas: introduce to, bring into contact with, make aware of, familiarize with, acquaint with.* **4** *he was exposed as a liar: uncover, reveal, unveil, unmask, detect, find out; discover, bring to light, bring into the open, make known; denounce, condemn; informal spill the beans on, blow the whistle on.*  
 – OPPOSITES cover.

**exposé** noun revelation, disclosure, exposure; report, feature, piece, column; informal scoop.

– OPPOSITES cover-up.

**exposed** adjective unprotected, unsheltered, open to the elements/weather; vulnerable, defenceless, undefended, pregnable.  
 – OPPOSITES sheltered.

**exposition** noun **1** *a lucid exposition: explanation, description, elucidation, explication, interpretation; account, commentary, appraisal, assessment, discussion, exegesis.* **2** *the exposition will feature 200 exhibits: exhibition, (trade) fair, display, show, presentation, demonstration; N. Amer. exhibit.*

**expository** adjective explanatory, descriptive, describing, elucidatory, explicatory, explicative, interpretative, exegetic.

**expostulate** verb remonstrate, disagree, argue, take issue, protest, reason, express disagreement, raise objections.

**exposure** noun **1** *the exposure of the lizard's vivid blue tongue: revealing,*



revelation, uncovering, baring, laying bare. **2** *exposure to harmful chemicals*: subjection, vulnerability, laying open. **3** *suffering from exposure*: frostbite, cold, hypothermia. **4** *exposure to great literature*: introduction to, experience of, contact with, familiarity with, acquaintance with, awareness of. **5** *the exposure of a banking scandal*: uncovering, revelation, disclosure, unveiling, unmasking, discovery, detection; denunciation, condemnation. **6** *we're getting a lot of exposure*: publicity, publicizing, advertising, public interest/attention, media interest/attention; informal hype. **7** *the exposure is perfect*: outlook, aspect, view; position, setting, location.

**expound** verb **1** *he expounded his theories*: present, put forward, set forth, propose, propound; explain, detail, spell out, describe. **2** *a treatise expounding Paul's teachings*: explain, interpret, explicate, elucidate; comment on, give a commentary on. **■ expound on** elaborate on, expand on, expatiate on, discuss at length.

**express**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *community leaders expressed their anger*: communicate, convey, indicate, show, demonstrate, reveal, make manifest, put across/over, get across/over; articulate, put into words, utter, voice, give voice to; state, assert, proclaim, profess, air, make public, give vent to; formal evince. **2** *all the juice is expressed*: squeeze out, press out, extract.

**■ express oneself** communicate one's thoughts/opinions/views, put thoughts into words, speak one's mind, say what's on one's mind.

**express**<sup>2</sup> adjective *an express bus*: rapid, swift, fast, quick, speedy, high-speed; non-stop, direct.

– OPPOSITES slow.

• **noun** *an overnight express*: express train, fast train, direct train.

**express**<sup>3</sup> adjective **1** *express reference to confidential matters*: explicit, clear, direct, obvious, plain, distinct, unambiguous, unequivocal; specific, precise, crystal clear, certain, categorical. **2** *one express purpose*: sole, specific, particular, exclusive, specified, fixed.

– OPPOSITES implied.

**expression** noun **1** *the free expression of opposition views*: utterance, uttering, voicing, pronouncement, declaration, articulation, assertion, setting forth; dissemination, circulation, communication, spreading, promulgation. **2** *an expression of sympathy*: indication, demonstration, show, exhibition, token; communication, illustration, revelation. **3** *an expression of harassed fatigue*: look, appearance, air, manner, countenance, mien. **4** *a time-worn expression*: idiom, phrase, idiomatic expression; proverb, saying, adage, maxim, axiom, aphorism, saw, motto, platitude, cliché. **5** *these pieces are very different in expression*: emotion, feeling, spirit, passion, intensity; style, intonation, tone. **6** *essential oils obtained by expression*: squeezing,

pressing, extraction, extracting.

**expressionless** adjective **1** *his face was expressionless*: inscrutable, deadpan, poker-faced; blank, vacant, emotionless, unemotional, inexpressive; glazed, stony, wooden, impassive. **2** *a flat, expressionless tone*: dull, dry, toneless, monotonous, boring, tedious, flat, wooden, unmodulated, unvarying, devoid of feeling/emotion.

– OPPOSITES expressive, lively.

**expressive** adjective **1** *an expressive shrug*: eloquent, meaningful, demonstrative, suggestive. **2** *an expressive song*: emotional, full of emotion/feeling, passionate, poignant, moving, stirring, evocative, powerful, emotionally charged. **3** *his diction is very expressive of his Englishness*: indicative, demonstrative, demonstrating, showing, suggesting.

– OPPOSITES expressionless, unemotional.

**expressly** adverb **1** *he was expressly forbidden to discuss the matter*: explicitly, clearly, directly, plainly, distinctly, unambiguously, unequivocally; absolutely; specifically, categorically, pointedly, emphatically. **2** *a machine expressly built for spraying paint*: solely, specifically, particularly, specially, exclusively, just, only, explicitly.

**expropriate** verb seize, take (away/over), appropriate, take possession of, requisition, commandeer, claim, acquire, sequester, confiscate; Law distrain.

**expulsion** noun **1** *expulsion from the party*: removal, debarment, dismissal, exclusion, discharge, ejection, drumming out. **2** *the expulsion of bodily wastes*: discharge, ejection, excretion, voiding, evacuation, elimination, passing.

– OPPOSITES admission.

**expunge** verb erase, remove, delete, rub out, wipe out, efface; cross out, strike out, blot out, blank out; destroy, obliterate, eradicate, eliminate.

**expurgate** verb censor, bowdlerize, blue-pencil, cut, edit; clean up, sanitize, make acceptable, make palatable, water down.

**exquisite** adjective **1** *exquisite antique glass*: beautiful, lovely, elegant, fine; magnificent, superb, excellent, wonderful, well-crafted, well-made, perfect; delicate, fragile, dainty, subtle. **2** *exquisite taste*: discriminating, discerning, sensitive, selective, fastidious; refined, cultivated, cultured, educated. **3** *exquisite agony*: intense, acute, keen, piercing, sharp, severe, racking, excruciating, agonizing, harrowing, searing; unbearable, unendurable.

• **noun** (dated) *even among these snappy dressers, he was an exquisite*: dandy, fop, glamour boy; informal dude, snappy dresser, natty dresser; informal, dated swell, blade; dated beau.

**extant** adjective still existing, in existence, existent, surviving, remaining, undestroyed.

**extemporary, extemporaneous** adjective *an extemporaneous address*. See EXTEMPORE.

**extempore** adjective *an extempore speech:* **impromptu**, spontaneous, unscripted, ad lib, extemporaneous; improvised, unrehearsed, unplanned, unprepared, off the top of one's head; informal off-the-cuff; formal ad libitum.

— OPPOSITES rehearsed.

• **adverb** *he was speaking extempore:* **spontaneously**, extemporaneously, ad lib, without preparation, without rehearsal, off the top of one's head; informal off the cuff; formal ad libitum.

**extemporize** verb **improvise**, ad lib, play it by ear, think on one's feet; informal busk it, wing it.

**extend** verb **1** *he attempted to extend his dominions:* **expand**, enlarge, increase, make larger/bigger; lengthen, widen, broaden. **2** *the garden extends down to the road:* **continue**, carry on, run on, stretch (out), reach, lead. **3** *we have extended our range of services:* **widen**, expand, broaden; augment, supplement, increase, add to, enhance, develop. **4** *extending the life of parliament:* **prolong**, lengthen, increase; stretch out, protract, spin out, string out. **5** *extend your arms and legs:* **stretch out**, spread out, reach out, straighten out. **6** *he extended a hand in greeting:* **hold out**, reach out, hold forth; offer, give, outstretch, proffer. **7** *we wish to extend our thanks to Mr Bayes:* **offer**, proffer, give, grant, bestow, accord.

— OPPOSITES reduce, narrow, shorten.

■ **extend to** include, take in, incorporate, encompass.

**extended** adjective **prolonged**, protracted, long-lasting, long-drawn-out, spun out, dragged out, strung out, lengthy, long.

**extension** noun **1** *they are planning a new extension:* **addition**, add-on, adjunct, annexe, wing, supplementary building; N. Amer. ell. **2** *an extension of knowledge:* **expansion**, increase, enlargement, widening, broadening, deepening; augmentation, enhancement, development, growth, continuation. **3** *an extension of opening hours:* **prolongation**, lengthening, increase. **4** *I need an extension of time:* **postponement**, deferral, delay, more/extra time.

**extensive** adjective **1** *a mansion with extensive grounds:* **large**, large-scale, sizeable, substantial, considerable, ample, expansive, great, vast. **2** *extensive knowledge:* **comprehensive**, thorough, exhaustive; broad, wide, wide-ranging, catholic.

**extent** noun **1** *two acres in extent:* **area**, size, expanse, length; proportions, dimensions. **2** *the full extent of her father's illness:* **degree**, scale, level, magnitude, scope; size, breadth, width, reach, range.

**extenuate** verb **excuse**, mitigate, palliate, make allowances/excuses for, defend, vindicate, justify; diminish, lessen, moderate, qualify, play down.

**extenuating** adjective **mitigating**, excusing, exonerative, palliating, palliative, justifying, justificatory, vindicating; formal exculpatory.

**exterior** adjective *the exterior walls:* **outer**,

outside, outermost, outward, external.

• **noun** *the exterior of the building:* **outside**, outer surface, external surface, outward appearance, facade.

— OPPOSITES interior.

**exterminate** verb **kill**, put to death, take/end the life of, dispatch; slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, eliminate, eradicate, annihilate; murder, assassinate, execute; informal do away with, bump off, do in, top, take out, blow away; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, waste; literary slay.

**extermination** noun **killing**, murder, assassination, putting to death, execution, dispatch, slaughter, massacre, liquidation, elimination, eradication, annihilation; literary slaying.

**external** adjective **1** *an external wall:* **outer**, outside, outermost, outward, exterior. **2** *an external examiner:* **outside**, independent, non-resident, from elsewhere.

— OPPOSITES internal, in-house.

**extinct** adjective **1** *an extinct species:* **vanished**, lost, died out, no longer existing, no longer extant, wiped out, destroyed, gone. **2** *an extinct volcano:* **inactive**.

— OPPOSITES extant, dormant.

**extinction** noun **dying out**, disappearance, vanishing; extermination, destruction, elimination, eradication, annihilation.

**extinguish** verb **1** *the fire was extinguished:* **douse**, put out, stamp out, smother, beat out, dampen down. **2** *all hope was extinguished:* **destroy**, end, finish off, put an end to, bring to an end, terminate, remove, annihilate, wipe out, erase, eliminate, eradicate, obliterate; informal take out, rub out.

— OPPOSITES light.

**extirpate** verb **weed out**, destroy, eradicate, stamp out, root out, wipe out, eliminate, suppress, crush, put down, put an end to, get rid of.

**extol** verb **praise enthusiastically**, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, sing the praises of, praise to the skies, acclaim, eulogize, rhapsodize over, rave about, enthuse about/over; informal go wild about, go on about; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo; formal laud; old use panegyryze.

— OPPOSITES criticize.

**extort** verb **obtain by force**, obtain by threat(s), blackmail someone for, extract, exact, wring, wrest, screw, squeeze; N. Amer. & Austral. informal put the bite on someone for.

**extortion** noun **demanding money with menaces**, blackmail, extraction; N. Amer. informal shaken down; formal extortion.

**extortionate** adjective **1** *extortionate prices:* **exorbitant**, excessively high, excessive, outrageous, unreasonable, inordinate, inflated; informal over the top, OTT. **2** *an extortionate clause:* **grasping**, bloodsucking, avaricious, greedy; exacting, harsh, severe, oppressive; informal money-grubbing.

**extortionist** noun **racketeer**, extortioner, extorter, blackmailer; informal bloodsucker.

**extra** adjective *extra income:* **additional**,

more, added, supplementary, further, auxiliary, ancillary, subsidiary, secondary.

• **adverb** **1** *working extra hard*: **exceptionally**, particularly, specially, especially, very, extremely; unusually, extraordinarily, uncommonly, remarkably, outstandingly, amazingly, incredibly, really; informal seriously, mucho, awfully, terribly; Brit. jolly, dead, well; informal, dated frightfully. **2** *postage is charged extra*: **in addition**, additionally, as well, also, too, besides, on top (of that); old use withal.

• **noun** **1** *an optional extra*: **addition**, supplement, adjunct, addendum, add-on. **2** *a film extra*: **walk-on**, supernumerary, spear-carrier.

**extract** **verb** **1** *he extracted the cassette*: **take out**, draw out, pull out, remove, withdraw; free, release, extricate. **2** *extracting money*: **wrest**, exact, wring, screw, squeeze, obtain by force, obtain by threat(s), extort, blackmail someone for; N. Amer. & Austral. informal put the bite on someone for. **3** *the roots are crushed to extract the juice*: **squeeze out**, express, press out, obtain. **4** *the table is extracted from the report*: **excerpt**, select, reproduce, copy, take. **5** *ideas extracted from a variety of theories*: **derive**, develop, evolve, deduce, infer, obtain; formal educe.

– **OPPOSITES** insert.

• **noun** **1** *an extract from his article*: **excerpt**, passage, citation, quotation; (**excerpts**) analects. **2** *an extract of the ginseng root*: **decoction**, distillation, distillate, abstraction, concentrate, essence, juice.

**extraction** **noun** **1** *the extraction of gall bladder stones*: **removal**, taking out, drawing out, pulling out, withdrawal; freeing, release, extrication. **2** *the extraction of grape juice*: **squeezing**, expressing, pressing, obtaining. **3** *a man of Irish extraction*: **descent**, ancestry, parentage, ancestors, family, antecedents; lineage, line, origin, derivation, birth; genealogy, heredity, stock, pedigree, blood, bloodline; roots, origins.

– **OPPOSITES** insertion.

**extradition** **noun** **deportation**, repatriation, expulsion.

**extraneous** **adjective** **1** *extraneous considerations*: **irrelevant**, immaterial, beside the point, unrelated, unconnected, inapposite, inapplicable. **2** *extraneous noise*: **external**, outside, exterior.

**extraordinary** **adjective** **1** *an extraordinary coincidence*: **remarkable**, exceptional, amazing, astonishing, astounding, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal; striking, outstanding, momentous, impressive, singular, memorable, unforgettable, unique, noteworthy; out of the ordinary, unusual, uncommon, rare, surprising; informal fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome; literary wondrous. **2** *extraordinary speed*: **very great**, tremendous, enormous, immense, prodigious, stupendous, monumental; informal almighty.

**extravagance** **noun** **1** *a fit of extravagance*:

**profligacy**, unthriftiness, improvidence, wastefulness, prodigality, lavishness.

**2** *the costliest brands are an extravagance*: **luxury**, indulgence, self-indulgence, treat, extra, non-essential. **3** *the extravagance of the decor*: **ornateness**, elaborateness, embellishment, ornamentation; ostentation, over-elaborateness. **4** *the extravagance of his compliments*: **excessiveness**, exaggeration, outrageousness, immoderation, excess.

**extravagant** **adjective** **1** *an extravagant lifestyle*: **spendthrift**, profligate, unthrifty, improvident, wasteful, prodigal, lavish.

**2** *extravagant gifts*: **expensive**, costly, dear, high-priced, high-cost; valuable, precious; informal pricey, costing the earth, costing a bomb. **3** *extravagant prices*: **exorbitant**, extortionate, excessive, high, unreasonable. **4** *extravagant praise*: **excessive**, immoderate, exaggerated, gushing, unrestrained, effusive, fulsome. **5** *decorated in an extravagant style*: **ornate**, elaborate, decorated, ornamented, fancy; over-elaborate, ostentatious, exaggerated, baroque, rococo; informal flash, flashy.

– **OPPOSITES** thrifty, cheap, plain.

**extravaganza** **noun** **spectacular**, display, spectacle, show, pageant.

**extreme** **adjective** **1** *extreme danger*: **utmost**, very great, greatest (possible), maximum, maximal, highest, supreme, great, acute, enormous, severe, high, exceptional, extraordinary. **2** *extreme measures*: **drastic**, serious, desperate, dire, radical, far-reaching, momentous, consequential; heavy, sharp, severe, austere, harsh, tough, strict, rigorous, oppressive, draconian; Brit. swingeing. **3** *extreme views*: **radical**, extremist, immoderate, fanatical, revolutionary, rebel, subversive, militant. **4** *extreme sports*: **dangerous**, hazardous, risky, high-risk, adventurous. **5** *the extreme north-west*: **furthest**, farthest, furthestmost, farthermost, very, utmost; old use outmost.

– **OPPOSITES** slight, moderate.

• **noun** **1** *the two extremes*: **opposite**, antithesis, (opposite) pole, antipode. **2** *this attitude is taken to its extreme in the following quote*: **limit**, extremity, highest/greatest degree, maximum, height, top, zenith, peak.

**extremely** **adverb** **very**, exceedingly, exceptionally, especially, extraordinarily, in the extreme, tremendously, immensely, vastly, hugely, intensely, acutely, singularly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly, supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily; informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, hellish, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful, darned; informal, dated devilish, frightfully; old use exceeding.

– **OPPOSITES** slightly.

**extremist** **noun** **fanatic**, radical, zealot, fundamentalist, hardliner, militant, activist; informal ultra.

– **OPPOSITES** moderate.



**extremity** noun **1** *the eastern extremity:*

limit, end, edge, side, farthest point, boundary, border, frontier; perimeter, periphery, margin; literary bourn, marge.

**2** *she lost feeling in her extremities:* hands

and feet, fingers and toes, limbs. **3** *the extremity of the violence:* intensity, magnitude, acuteness, ferocity, vehemence, fierceness, violence, severity, seriousness, strength, power, powerfulness, vigour, force, forcefulness. **4** *in extremity he will send for her:* dire straits, trouble, difficulty, hard times, hardship, adversity, misfortune, distress; crisis, emergency, disaster, catastrophe, calamity; predicament, plight, mess, dilemma; informal fix, pickle, jam, spot.

**extricate** verb extract, free, release, disentangle, get out, remove, withdraw, disengage; informal get oneself off the hook.

**extrinsic** adjective external, extraneous, exterior, outside, outward.

— OPPOSITES intrinsic.

**extrovert** noun *like most extroverts he was a good dancer:* outgoing person, sociable person, socializer, life and soul of the party.

— OPPOSITES introvert.

•adjective *his extrovert personality:* outgoing, extroverted, sociable, gregarious, genial, affable, friendly, unreserved.

— OPPOSITES introverted.

**extrude** verb force out, thrust out, express, eject, expel, release, emit.

**exuberant** adjective **1** *exuberant guests dancing on the terrace:* ebullient, buoyant, cheerful, jaunty, light-hearted, high-spirited, exhilarated, excited, elated, exultant, euphoric, joyful, cheery, merry, jubilant, vivacious, enthusiastic, irrepressible, energetic, animated, full of life, lively, vigorous; Brit. Tiggerish; informal bubbly, bouncy, chipper, chirpy, full of beans; literary blithe, blithesome. **2** *an exuberant welcome:* effusive, extravagant, fulsome, expansive, gushing, gushy, demonstrative.

— OPPOSITES gloomy, restrained.

**exude** verb **1** *milkweed exudes a milky sap:* give off/out, discharge, release, emit, issue; ooze, weep, secrete, excrete. **2** *slime exudes from the fungus:* ooze, seep, issue, escape, discharge, flow, leak. **3** *he exuded self-confidence:* emanate, radiate, ooze, emit; display, show, exhibit, manifest, transmit.

**exult** verb **1** *her opponents exulted when she left:* rejoice, be joyful, be happy, be delighted, be elated, be ecstatic, be overjoyed, be cock-a-hoop, be jubilant, be rapturous, be in raptures, be thrilled, jump for joy, be on cloud nine, be in seventh heaven; celebrate, cheer; informal be over the moon, be on top of the world; Austral. informal be wrapped; literary joy; old use jubilate. **2** *he exulted in his triumph:* rejoice at/in, take delight in, find/take pleasure in, enjoy, revel in, glory in, delight in, relish, savour; be/feel proud of, congratulate oneself on.

**exultant** adjective jubilant, thrilled, triumphant, delighted, exhilarated, happy, overjoyed, joyous, joyful, gleeful, cock-a-

hoop, excited, rejoicing, ecstatic, euphoric, elated, rapturous, in raptures, enraptured, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven; informal over the moon; N. Amer. informal wiggled out.

**exultation** noun jubilation, rejoicing, happiness, pleasure, joy, gladness, delight, glee, elation, cheer, euphoria, exhilaration, delirium, ecstasy, rapture, exuberance.

**eye** noun **1** *he rubbed his eyes:* eyeball; informal peeper; literary orb. **2** *sharp eyes:* eyesight, vision, sight, powers of observation, (visual) perception. **3** *an eye for a bargain:* appreciation, awareness, alertness, perception, consciousness, feeling, instinct, intuition, nose. **4** *his watchful eye:* watch, observance, gaze, stare, regard; observation, surveillance, vigilance, contemplation, scrutiny. **5** *to desert was despicable in their eyes:* opinion, (way of) thinking, mind, view, viewpoint, attitude, standpoint, perspective, belief, judgement, assessment, analysis, estimation. **6** *the eye of a needle:* hole, opening, aperture, eyelet, slit, slot. **7** *the eye of the storm:* centre, middle, heart, core.

•verb **1** *he eyed the stranger suspiciously:* look at, observe, view, gaze at, stare at, regard, contemplate, survey, scrutinize, consider, glance at; watch, keep an eye on, keep under observation; informal have/take a gander at, check out, size up; Brit. informal have/take a butcher's at, have/take a dekkio at, have/take a shufti at, clock; N. Amer. informal eyeball; literary behold. **2** *eyeing young women in the street:* ogle, leer at, stare at, make eyes at; informal eye up, give someone the glad eye; Brit. informal gawp at; Austral./NZ informal perv on.

■ see eye to eye agree, concur, be in agreement, be of the same mind/opinion, be in accord, think as one; be on the same wavelength, get on/along.

#### WORD LINKS

**ocular**, **ophthalmic** relating to the eye

**ophthalmology** the branch of medicine concerned with the eye

**optometry** the occupation of measuring eyesight and detecting eye disease

**optician** (N. Amer. **optometrist**) a person qualified to prescribe glasses etc. and to detect eye disease

**astigmatism** a defect in an eye, preventing proper focusing

**glaucoma** increased pressure in the eyeball, causing loss of sight

**cataract** a cloudy area on the lens of an eye, causing blurred vision

**nystagmus** rapid involuntary movements of the eyes

**eye-catching** adjective striking, arresting, conspicuous, dramatic, impressive, spectacular, breathtaking, dazzling, amazing, stunning, sensational, remarkable, distinctive, unusual, out of the ordinary.

**eyesore** noun ugly sight, blot (on the landscape), mess, scar, blight, disfigurement, blemish, monstrosity; informal sight.

**eyewitness** noun observer, onlooker, witness, bystander, spectator, watcher, viewer, passer-by; literary beholder.

## Ff

## f

**fable** noun **1** *the fable of the wary fox*: tale, parable, allegory, apologue. **2** *the fables of ancient Greece*: myth, legend, saga, epic, folk tale, folk story, fairy tale, mythos, mythus; folklore, mythology. **3** *it's a fable that I have a taste for fancy restaurants*: falsehood, fib, fabrication, made-up story, invention, fiction, falsification, fairy story/tale, cock and bull story; lie, untruth, half-truth, exaggeration; story, rumour, myth; informal tall story; Brit. informal porky (pie).

**fabled** adjective **1** *a fabled god-giant of Irish myth*: legendary, mythical, mythic, mythological, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale; fictitious, imaginary, imagined, made up. **2** *the fabled quality of French wine*: celebrated, renowned, famed, famous, well known, prized, noted, notable, acclaimed, esteemed, prestigious, of repute, of high standing.

**fabric** noun **1** *the finest silk fabric*: cloth, material, textile, tissue. **2** *the fabric of the building*: structure, framework, frame, form, composition, construction, foundations.

## WORD LINKS

draper, mercer a person who sells fabrics

**fabricate** verb **1** *he fabricated research data*: falsify, fake, counterfeit; invent, make up. **2** *fabricating a pack of lies*: concoct, make up, dream up, invent, trump up; informal cook up. **3** *you will have to fabricate an exhaust system*: make, create, manufacture, produce; construct, build, assemble, put together, form, fashion.

**fabrication** noun **1** *the story was a complete fabrication*: invention, concoction, (piece of) fiction, falsification, lie, untruth, falsehood, fib, myth, made-up story, fairy story/tale, cock and bull story; white lie, half-truth, exaggeration; informal tall story, whopper; Brit. informal porky (pie). **2** *the lintels are galvanized after fabrication*: manufacture, creation, production; construction, building, assembly, forming, fashioning.

**fabulous** adjective **1** *fabulous salaries*: tremendous, stupendous, prodigious, phenomenal, remarkable, exceptional; astounding, amazing, fantastic, breathtaking, staggering, unthinkable, unimaginable, incredible, unbelievable, unheard of, untold, undreamed of, beyond

one's wildest dreams; informal mind-boggling, mind-blowing. **2** (informal) *we had a fabulous time*. See EXCELLENT. **3** *a fabulous horse-like beast*: mythical, legendary, mythic, mythological, fabled, folkloric, fairy-tale; fictitious, imaginary, imagined, made up.

**facade** noun **1** *a half-timbered facade*: front, frontage, face, elevation, exterior, outside. **2** *a facade of bonhomie*: show, front, appearance, pretence, simulation, affectation, semblance, illusion, act, masquerade, charade, mask, cloak, veil, veneer.

**face** noun **1** *a beautiful face*: countenance, physiognomy, features; informal mug; Brit. informal mush, dial, clock, phiz, phizog, boat race; N. Amer. informal puss, pan; literary visage, lineaments. **2** *her face grew sad*: (facial) expression, look, appearance, air, manner, bearing, countenance, mien. **3** *he made a face at the sourness of the drink*: grimace, scowl, wry face, wince, frown, glower, pout, moue. **4** *a cube has six faces*: side, aspect, flank, surface, plane, facet, wall, elevation. **5** *a watch face*: dial, display. **6** *changing the face of the industry*: (outward) appearance, aspect, nature, image. **7** *he put on a brave face*: front, show, display, act, appearance, facade, exterior, mask, masquerade, pretence, pose, veneer. **8** *criticism should never cause the recipient to lose face*: respect, honour, esteem, regard, admiration, approbation, acclaim, approval, favour, appreciation, popularity, prestige, standing, status, dignity; self-respect, self-esteem.

• verb **1** *the hotel faces the sea*: look out on, front on to, look towards, be facing, look over/across, overlook, give on to, be opposite (to). **2** *you'll just have to face facts*: accept, become reconciled to, get used to, become accustomed to, adjust to, acclimatize oneself to; learn to live with, cope with, deal with, come to terms with, become resigned to. **3** *he faces a humiliating rejection*: be confronted by, be faced with, encounter, experience, come into contact with, come up against. **4** *the problems facing our police force*: beset, worry, distress, trouble, bother, confront; harass, oppress, vex, irritate, exasperate, strain, stress, tax; torment, plague, blight, bedevil, curse; formal discommode. **5** *he faced the challenge boldly*: brave, face up to, encounter, meet (head-

on), confront; oppose, resist, withstand. **6** *a wall faced with flint*: **cover**, clad, veneer, overlay, surface, dress, laminate, coat, line. ■ **on the face of it** ostensibly, to all appearances, to all intents and purposes, at first glance, on the surface, superficially; apparently, seemingly, outwardly, it seems (that), it would seem (that), it appears (that), it would appear (that), as far as one can see/tell, by all accounts.

**facelift** **noun** **1** *she's planning to have a facelift*: **cosmetic surgery**, plastic surgery. **2** (informal) *the theatre is reopening after a facelift*: **renovation**, redecoration, refurbishment, revamp, makeover, overhaul, modernization, refit, restoration, repair, redevelopment, rebuilding, reconstruction.

**facet** **noun** **1** *the many facets of the gem*: **surface**, face, side, plane. **2** *other facets of his character*: **aspect**, feature, side, dimension, characteristic, detail, point, ingredient, strand; component, constituent, element.

**facetious** **adjective** **flippant**, flip, glib, frivolous, tongue-in-cheek, joking, jokey, jocular, playful, sportive, teasing, mischievous; witty, amusing, funny, droll, comic, comical, light-hearted; formal jocose.

– OPPOSITES serious.

**facile** **adjective** **1** *a facile explanation*: **simplistic**, superficial, oversimplified; shallow, glib, jejune, naive; N. Amer. dime-store. **2** *he achieved a facile victory*: **effortless**, easy, undemanding, unexacting, painless, trouble-free; Brit. informal easy-peasy.

**facilitate** **verb** **make easy/easier**, ease, make possible, make smooth/smooother, smooth the way for; enable, assist, help (along), aid, oil the wheels of, expedite, speed up, accelerate, forward, advance, promote, further, encourage.

– OPPOSITES impede.

**facility** **noun** **1** *car-parking facilities*: **provision**, space, means, potential, equipment. **2** *the camera has a zoom facility*: **feature**, option, setting; mode. **3** *a wealth of local facilities*: **amenity**, resource, service, advantage, convenience, benefit. **4** *a medical facility*: **establishment**, centre, place, station, location, premises, site, post, base; informal joint, outfit, set-up. **5** *his facility for drawing*: **aptitude**, talent, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, genius; ability, proficiency, competence, capability, capacity, faculty; expertness, adeptness, prowess, mastery, artistry. **6** *I was turning out poetry with facility*: **ease**, effortlessness, no difficulty, no trouble, facileness; deftness, adroitness, dexterity, proficiency, mastery.

**facing** **noun** **1** *green velvet facings*: **covering**, trimming, lining, interfacing. **2** *brick facing on a concrete core*: **cladding**, veneer, skin, surface, facade, front, coating, covering, dressing, overlay, lamination, plating; N. Amer. siding.

**facsimile** **noun** **copy**, reproduction, duplicate, photocopy, mimeograph, replica, likeness, carbon copy, print,

reprint, offprint, autotype; fax, telefax; trademark Xerox, photostat.

– OPPOSITES original.

**fact** **noun** **1** *it is a fact that the water is polluted*: **reality**, actuality, certainty; truth, verity, gospel. **2** *every fact was double-checked*: **detail**, piece of information, particular, item, specific, element, point, factor, feature, characteristic, ingredient, circumstance, aspect, facet; (**facts**) information. **3** *an accessory after the fact*: **event**, happening, occurrence, incident, act, deed.

– OPPOSITES lie, fiction.

■ **in fact** actually, in actuality, in actual fact, really, in reality, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, to tell the truth; old use in sooth, verily.

**faction** **noun** **1** *a faction of the Liberal Party*: **clique**, coterie, caucus, cabal, bloc, camp, group, grouping, sector, section, wing, arm, branch, set; ginger group, pressure group. **2** *the council was split by faction*: **infighting**, dissension, dissent, dispute, discord, strife, conflict, friction, argument, disagreement, controversy, quarrelling, wrangling, bickering, squabbling, disharmony, disunity, schism.

**factionious** **adjective** **divided**, split, schismatic, discordant, conflicting, argumentative, disagreeing, disputatious, quarrelling, quarrelsome, clashing, warring, at loggerheads, at odds, rebellious, mutinous.

– OPPOSITES harmonious.

**factitious** **adjective** **bogus**, fake, specious, false, counterfeit, fraudulent, spurious, sham, mock, feigned, affected, pretended, contrived, engineered; informal phoney, pseudo, pretend; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**factor** **noun** **element**, part, component, ingredient, strand, constituent, point, detail, item, feature, facet, aspect, characteristic, consideration, influence, circumstance.

**factory** **noun** **works**, plant, yard, mill, industrial unit; workshop, shop; old use manufactory.

**factotum** **noun** **odd-job man**, handyman, man/maid of all work, jack of all trades, man/girl Friday; Austral. knockabout; informal (Mr) Fixit.

**factual** **adjective** **truthful**, true, accurate, authentic, historical, genuine, fact-based; true-to-life, correct, exact, honest, faithful, literal, verbatim, word for word, unbiased, objective, unvarnished; formal veridical.

– OPPOSITES fictitious.

**faculty** **noun** **1** *the faculty of speech*: **power**, capability, capacity, facility, wherewithal, means; (**faculties**) senses, wits, reason, intelligence. **2** *an unusual faculty for unearthing contributors*: **ability**, proficiency, competence, capability, potential, capacity, facility; aptitude, talent, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, genius; expertise, expertness, adeptness, adroitness, dexterity, prowess, mastery, artistry. **3** *the arts faculty*: **department**, school, division, section.



**4** *the vicar introduced certain ornaments without the faculty to do so:* **authorization**, authority, power, right, permission, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, endorsement, clearance; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light, say-so.

**fad** **noun** *craze, vogue, trend, fashion, mode, enthusiasm, passion, obsession, mania, rage, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fancy, whim, fascination; informal thing.*

**faddy** **adjective** (Brit. informal) *fussy, finicky, faddish, over-particular, over-fastidious, dainty; informal picky, pernickety; N. Amer. informal persnickety; old use nice.*

**fade** **verb** **1** *the paintwork has faded:* become pale, become bleached, lose colour, discolour; grow dull, grow dim. **2** *sunlight had faded the picture:* bleach, wash out, blanch, whiten, dim, dull. **3** *remove the flower heads as they fade:* wither, wilt, droop, shrivel, die. **4** *the afternoon light began to fade: (grow) dim,* grow faint, fail, dwindle, die away, wane, disappear, vanish, decline, melt away; literary evanesce. **5** *the Communist movement was fading away:* decline, die out, diminish, deteriorate, decay, crumble, collapse, fail, fall, sink, slump, go downhill; informal go to pot, go to the dogs; old use retrograde.

– OPPOSITES brighten, increase.

**fag**<sup>1</sup> (Brit. informal) **noun** *it's too much of a fag!* chore, slog, grind, bother, bore; informal pain, sweat.

– OPPOSITES pleasure.

• **verb** *we fagged away all day:* toil, slave, slog, labour, grind, work hard; informal work one's socks off; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal bullock; literary travail.

■ **fag someone out** exhaust, tire (out), wear out, fatigue, overtire, weary; informal do in, wipe out, knock out, shatter; Brit. informal knacker; N. Amer. informal poop, tucker out.

**fag**<sup>2</sup> **noun** (Brit. informal) *he was smoking a fag:* cigarette, filter tip, king-size; informal ciggy, cig, smoke, cancer stick, coffin nail; Brit. informal snout, roll-up.

**fagged** **adjective** (informal) *exhausted, tired (out), worn out, fatigued, weary, drained, washed out; informal done in, all in, dead beat, dead on one's feet, shattered, bushed; Brit. informal knackered; N. Amer. informal tuckered, pooped.*

**fail** **verb** **1** *the enterprise had failed:* be unsuccessful, not succeed, fall through, fall flat, collapse, founder, backfire, meet with disaster, come to nothing/naught; informal flop, bomb. **2** *he failed his examination:* be unsuccessful in, not pass; not make the grade; informal flunk. **3** *his friends had failed him:* let down, disappoint; desert, abandon, betray, be disloyal to; literary forsake. **4** *the crops failed:* not grow, wither. **5** *the daylight failed:* fade, dim, die away, wane, disappear, vanish. **6** *the ventilation system failed:* break (down), stop working, cut out, crash; malfunction, go wrong; informal conk

out, go on the blink; Brit. informal pack up, play up. **7** *Ceri's health was failing:* deteriorate, degenerate, decline, fade, wane, ebb. **8** *900 businesses are failing a week:* collapse, crash, go under, go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation, cease trading, be wound up; informal fold, flop, go bust, go broke, go to the wall.

– OPPOSITES succeed, pass, thrive, work.

■ **without fail** without exception, unfailingly, regularly, invariably, predictably, conscientiously, religiously, whatever happened.

**failing** **noun** *Jeanne accepted him despite his failings:* fault, shortcoming, weakness, imperfection, defect, flaw, frailty, foible, idiosyncrasy, vice.

– OPPOSITES strength.

• **preposition** *failing financial assistance, you will be bankrupt:* in the absence of, lacking, notwithstanding.

**failure** **noun** **1** *the failure of the assassination attempt:* lack of success, non-fulfilment, defeat, collapse, foundering. **2** *all his schemes had been a failure:* fiasco, debacle, catastrophe, disaster; informal flop, washout, dead loss; N. Amer. informal snafu, clinker. **3** *she was regarded as a failure:* loser, underachiever, ne'er-do-well, disappointment; informal no-hoper, dead loss. **4** *a failure in duty:* negligence, remissness, dereliction; omission, oversight. **5** *a crop failure:* inadequacy, insufficiency, deficiency. **6** *the failure of the camera:* breaking down, breakdown, malfunction; crash. **7** *company failures:* collapse, crash, bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation, closure.

– OPPOSITES success.

**faint** **adjective** **1** *a faint mark:* indistinct, vague, unclear, indefinite, ill-defined, imperceptible, unobtrusive; pale, light, faded. **2** *a faint cry:* quiet, muted, muffled, stifled; feeble, weak, whispered, murmured, indistinct; low, soft, gentle. **3** *a faint possibility:* slight, slender, slim, small, tiny, negligible, remote, vague, unlikely, improbable; informal minuscule. **4** *faint praise:* unenthusiastic, half-hearted, weak, feeble. **5** *I suddenly felt faint:* dizzy, giddy, light-headed, unsteady; informal woozy.

– OPPOSITES clear, loud, strong.

• **verb** *she thought he would faint:* pass out, lose consciousness, black out, keel over, swoon; informal flake out, conk out, zonk out, go out like a light.

• **noun** *a dead faint:* blackout, fainting fit, loss of consciousness, swoon; Medicine syncope.

**faint-hearted** **adjective** *timid, timorous, nervous, nervy, easily scared, fearful, afraid; cowardly, craven, spineless, pusillanimous, lily-livered; informal chicken, chicken-hearted, yellow, yellow-bellied, gutless, sissy, wimpy, wimpish; old use recreant.*

– OPPOSITES brave.

**fair**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** *the courts were generally fair:* just, equitable, honest, upright, honourable, trustworthy; impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, neutral, even-handed; lawful, legal,

legitimate; informal legit, on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up. **2** *fair weather*: fine, dry, bright, clear, sunny, cloudless; warm, balmy, clement, benign, pleasant. **3** *fair winds*: favourable, advantageous, benign; on one's side, in one's favour. **4** *fair hair*: blond(e), yellowish, golden, flaxen, light, light brown, tow-coloured, ash blonde; fair-haired, light-haired, golden-haired.

**5** *fair skin*: pale, light, light-coloured, white, creamy. **6** (old use) *the fair maiden's heart*. See **BEAUTIFUL**. **7** *a fair achievement*: reasonable, passable, tolerable, satisfactory, acceptable, respectable, decent, all right, good enough, pretty good, not bad, average, middling; informal OK, so-so.

– **OPPOSITES** inclement, unfavourable, dark.

■ **fair and square** honestly, fairly, without cheating, by the book; lawfully, legally, legitimately; informal on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

**fair**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a country fair*: fete, gala, festival, carnival. **2** *an antiques fair*: market, bazaar, mart, exchange, sale; old use emporium. **3** *a new art fair*: exhibition, display, show, presentation, exposition; N. Amer. exhibit.

**fairly** **adverb** **1** *all pupils were treated fairly*: justly, equitably, impartially, without bias, without prejudice, even-handedly; lawfully, legally, legitimately, by the book; equally, the same. **2** *the pipes are in fairly good condition*: reasonably, passably, tolerably, adequately, moderately, quite, relatively, comparatively; informal pretty, kind of, sort of. **3** *he fairly hauled her along the street*: positively, really, veritably, simply, actually, absolutely; practically, almost, nearly, all but; informal plain.

**fair-minded** **adjective** fair, just, even-handed, equitable, impartial, non-partisan, unbiased, unprejudiced; honest, honourable, trustworthy, upright, decent; informal on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

**fairly** **noun** **sprite**, pixie, elf, imp, brownie, puck, leprechaun, pishogue, nixie; literary faerie, fay.

**fairy tale, fairy story** **noun** **1** *the film was inspired by a fairy tale*: folk tale, folk story, traditional story, myth, legend, fantasy, fable. **2** (informal) *she accused him of telling fairy tales*: (white) lie, fib, half-truth, untruth, falsehood, (tall) story, fabrication, invention, piece of fiction; informal whopper, cock and bull story; Brit. informal porky (pie).

**faith** **noun** **1** *he justified his boss's faith in him*: trust, belief, confidence, conviction; optimism, hopefulness, hope. **2** *she gave her life for her faith*: religion, church, sect, denomination, (religious) persuasion, (religious) belief, ideology, creed, teaching, doctrine.

– **OPPOSITES** mistrust.

■ **break faith with** be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, be untrue to, betray, play someone false, break one's promise to, fail, let down; double-cross, deceive, cheat, stab in the back; informal do the dirty on.

■ **keep faith with** be loyal to, be faithful

to, be true to, stand by, stick by, keep one's promise to.

**faithful** **adjective** **1** *his faithful assistant*:

loyal, constant, true, devoted, true-blue, unswerving, staunch, steadfast, dedicated, committed; trusty, trustworthy, dependable, reliable. **2** *a faithful copy*: accurate, precise, exact, errorless, unerring, faultless, true, close, strict; realistic, authentic; informal on the mark, on the nail; Brit. informal spot on, bang on; N. Amer. informal on the money.

– **OPPOSITES** inaccurate.

**faithless** **adjective** **1** *her faithless lover*:

unfaithful, disloyal, inconstant, false, untrue, adulterous, traitorous; fickle, flighty, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable; deceitful, two-faced, double-crossing; informal cheating, two-timing, back-stabbing; literary perfidious. **2** *the natives were faithless*: unbelieving, non-believing, irreligious, disbelieving, agnostic, atheistic; pagan, heathen; rare nullifidian.

**fake** **noun** **1** *the sculpture was a fake*: forgery, counterfeit, copy, pirate(d) copy, sham, fraud, hoax, imitation, mock-up, dummy, reproduction; informal phoney, rip-off, dupe. **2** *that doctor is a fake*: charlatan, quack, mountebank, sham, fraud, humbug, impostor, hoaxer, cheat, (confidence) trickster, fraudster; informal phoney, con man, con artist.

• **adjective** **1** *fake banknotes*: counterfeit, forged, fraudulent, sham, imitation, pirate(d), false, bogus; invalid; informal phoney, dud. **2** *fake diamonds*: imitation, artificial, synthetic, simulated, reproduction, faux, replica, ersatz, man-made, dummy, false, mock, bogus; informal pretend, phoney, pseudo. **3** *a fake accent*: feigned, faked, put-on, assumed, invented, affected, pseudo; unconvincing, artificial, mock; informal phoney, pseud; Brit. informal cod.

– **OPPOSITES** genuine, authentic.

• **verb** **1** *the certificate was faked*: forge, counterfeit, falsify, mock up, copy, pirate, reproduce, replicate; doctor, alter, tamper with. **2** *he faked a yawn*: feign, pretend, simulate, put on, make-believe, affect.

**fall** **verb** **1** *bombs began to fall*: drop, descend, come down, go down; plummet, plunge, sink, dive, tumble; cascade. **2** *he tripped and fell*: topple over, tumble over, keel over, fall down/over, go head over heels, go headlong, collapse, take a spill, pitch forward; trip (over), stumble, slip; informal come a cropper; Brit. informal go for six. **3** *the river began to fall*: subside, recede, ebb, flow back, fall away, go down, sink. **4** *inflation will fall*: decrease, decline, diminish, fall off, drop off, lessen, dwindle; plummet, plunge, slump, sink; depreciate, cheapen, devalue; informal go through the floor, nosedive, crash. **5** *those who fell in the war*: die, perish, lose one's life, be killed, be slain, be lost, meet one's death; informal bite the dust, croak, buy it; Brit. informal snuff it; old use de cease. **6** *the town fell to the barbarians*: surrender, yield, submit, give in, capitulate, succumb; be taken by, be defeated by, be conquered by,

be overwhelmed by. **7** *Easter falls on 23rd April: occur*, take place, happen, come about; arise; literary come to pass. **8** *night fell: come*, arrive, appear, arise, materialize. **9** *she fell ill: become*, grow, get, turn. **10** *more tasks may fall to him: be the responsibility of*, be the duty of, be borne by, be one's job; come someone's way.

– OPPOSITES rise, flood, increase.

• **noun** **1** *an accidental fall: tumble*, trip, spill, topple, slip; collapse; informal nosedive, header, cropper. **2** *a fall in sales: decline*, fall-off, drop, decrease, cut, dip, reduction, downswing; plummet, plunge, slump; informal nosedive, crash. **3** *the fall of the Roman Empire: downfall*, collapse, ruin, ruination, failure, decline, deterioration, degeneration; destruction, overthrow, demise. **4** *the fall of the city: surrender*, capitulation, yielding, submission; defeat. **5** *a steep fall down to the ocean: descent*, declivity, slope, slant, incline; N. Amer. downgrade. **6** *the fall of man: sin*, wrongdoing, transgression, error, offence, lapse, fall from grace. **7** *rafting trips below the falls: waterfall*, cascade, cataract; rapids, white water.

– OPPOSITES increase, rise, ascent.

■ **fall apart** fall/come to pieces, fall/come to bits, come apart (at the seams); disintegrate, fragment, break up, break apart, crumble, decay, perish; informal bust.

■ **fall asleep** doze off, drop off, go to sleep; informal nod off, go off, drift off, crash (out), flake out, conk out, go out like a light; N. Amer. informal sack out.

■ **fall back** retreat, withdraw, back off, draw back, pull back, pull away, move away.

■ **fall back on** resort to, turn to, look to, call on, have recourse to; rely on, depend on, lean on.

■ **fall behind** **1** *the other walkers fell behind: lag* (behind), trail (behind), be left behind, drop back, bring up the rear; straggle, dally, dawdle, hang back. **2** *they fell behind on their payments: get into debt, get into arrears, default*.

■ **fall for** (informal) **1** *she fell for John: fall in love with, become infatuated with, lose one's heart to, take a fancy to, be smitten by, be attracted to; informal fancy, have the hots for*. **2** *she won't fall for that trick: be deceived by, be duped by, be fooled by, be taken in by, believe, trust, be convinced by; informal go for, buy, swallow* (hook, line, and sinker).

■ **fall in** **1** *the roof fell in: collapse, cave in, crash in, fall down; give way, crumble, disintegrate*. **2** *the troops fell in: get in formation, get in line, line up, take one's position; Military dress*.

■ **fall in with** **1** *he fell in with a bad crowd: get involved with, take up with, join up with, go around with, string along with, make friends with; informal hang out/about with*. **2** *he won't fall in with their demands: comply with, go along with, support, cooperate with, obey, yield to, submit to, bow to, defer to, adhere to, conform to; agree to, agree with, accept, concur with*.

■ **fall off**. See **FALL** verb sense 4.

■ **fall on** attack, assail, assault, fly at, set

about, set upon; pounce on, ambush, surprise, rush, storm, charge; informal jump, lay into, pitch into, beat someone up; Brit. informal have a go at.

■ **fall out** **1** *let's not fall out: quarrel, argue, row, fight, squabble, bicker, have words, disagree, be at odds, clash, wrangle, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads, be at each other's throats; informal scrap, argufy, argy-bargy*. **2** *the soldiers fell out: move out of formation, move out of line; stand at ease*.

■ **fall short of** fail to meet, fail to reach, fail to live up to; be deficient, be inadequate, be insufficient, be wanting, be lacking, disappoint; informal not come up to scratch.

■ **fall through** fail, be unsuccessful, come to nothing, miscarry, abort, go awry, collapse, founder, come to grief; informal fizzle out, flop, fold, come a cropper, go down like a lead balloon.

**fallacious** adjective erroneous, false, untrue, wrong, incorrect, flawed, inaccurate, mistaken, misinformed, misguided; specious, spurious, bogus, fictitious, fabricated, made up; groundless, unfounded, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated; informal phoney, full of holes, off beam.

– OPPOSITES correct.

**fallacy** noun misconception, misbelief, delusion, mistaken impression, misapprehension, misinterpretation, misconstruction, error, mistake; untruth, inconsistency, myth.

**fallen** adjective **1** *fallen heroes: dead*, perished, killed, slain, slaughtered, murdered; lost, late, lamented, departed, gone; formal deceased; rare demised. **2** (dated) *fallen women: immoral, loose, promiscuous, unchaste, sinful, impure, sullied, tainted, dishonoured, ruined*.

**fallible** adjective prone to error, liable to err; imperfect, flawed, weak.

**fallow** adjective **1** *fallow farmland: uncultivated, unploughed, untilled, unplanted, unsown; unused, dormant, resting, empty, bare*. **2** *a fallow trading period: inactive, dormant, quiet, slack, slow, stagnant; barren, unproductive*.

– OPPOSITES cultivated, busy.

**false** adjective **1** *a false report: incorrect, untrue, wrong, erroneous, fallacious, flawed, distorted, inaccurate, imprecise; untruthful, fictitious, concocted, fabricated, invented, made up, trumped up, unfounded, spurious; counterfeit, forged, fraudulent*. **2** *a false friend: faithless, unfaithful, disloyal, untrue, inconstant, treacherous, traitorous, two-faced, double-crossing, deceitful, dishonest, duplicitous, untrustworthy, unreliable; untruthful; informal cheating, two-timing, back-stabbing; literary perfidious*. **3** *false pearls: fake, artificial, imitation, synthetic, simulated, reproduction, faux, replica, ersatz, man-made, dummy, mock; informal phoney, pretend, pseudo*.

– OPPOSITES correct, truthful, faithful, genuine.

**falsehood** noun **1** *a downright falsehood:*



lie, untruth, fib, falsification, fabrication, invention, fiction, story, cock and bull story, flight of fancy; half truth; informal tall story, tall tale, fairy story, fairy tale, whopper; Brit. informal porky (pie); humorous terminological inexactitude. **2** *he accused me of falsehood: lying, mendacity, untruthfulness, fibbing, fabrication, invention, perjury, telling stories; deceit, deception, pretence, artifice, double-crossing, treachery; literary perfidy.*

– OPPOSITES truth, honesty.

**falsify** verb **1** *she falsified the accounts: forge, fake, counterfeit, fabricate; alter, change, doctor, tamper with, fudge, manipulate, adulterate, corrupt, misrepresent, misreport, distort, warp, embellish, embroider.* **2** *the theory is falsified by the evidence: disprove, refute, rebut, deny, debunk, negate, negative, invalidate, contradict, controvert, confound, demolish, discredit; informal shoot full of holes, blow out of the water; formal confute, gainsay.*

**falsity** noun untruthfulness, untruth, fallaciousness, falseness, falsehood, fictitiousness, inaccuracy; mendacity, fabrication, dishonesty, deceit.

**falter** verb **1** *the government faltered: hesitate, delay, drag one's feet, stall; waver, vacillate, be indecisive, be irresolute, blow hot and cold; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal sit on the fence, dilly-dally, shilly-shally.* **2** *she faltered over his name: stumble, stutter, stammer; hesitate, flounder.*

**fame** noun renown, celebrity, stardom, popularity, prominence; note, distinction, esteem, importance, account, consequence, greatness, eminence, prestige, stature, repute; notoriety, infamy.

– OPPOSITES obscurity.

**famed** adjective famous, celebrated, well known, prominent, noted, notable, renowned, respected, esteemed, acclaimed; notorious, infamous.

– OPPOSITES unknown.

**familiar** adjective **1** *a familiar task: well known, recognized, accustomed; common, commonplace, everyday, day-to-day, ordinary, habitual, usual, customary, routine, standard, stock, mundane, run-of-the-mill; literary wonted.* **2** *are you familiar with the subject? acquainted, conversant, versed, knowledgeable, well informed; skilled, proficient; at home with, no stranger to, au fait with, au courant with; informal well up on, in the know about, genned up on, clued up on.* **3** *a familiar atmosphere: informal, casual, relaxed, easy, comfortable; friendly, unceremonious, unreserved, open, natural, unpretentious.* **4** *he is too familiar with the teachers: overfamiliar, presumptuous, disrespectful, forward, bold, impudent, impertinent.*

– OPPOSITES formal.

**familiarity** noun **1** *he wants greater familiarity with politics: acquaintance with, awareness of, experience of, insight into, conversancy with, converseance with; knowledge of, understanding of,*

comprehension of, grasp of, skill in, proficiency in. **2** *she was affronted by his familiarity: overfamiliarity, presumption, presumptuousness, forwardness, boldness, audacity, cheek, impudence, impertinence, disrespect; liberties.* **3** *our familiarity allows us to tease each other: closeness, intimacy, attachment, affinity, friendliness, friendship, amity; informal chumminess, palliness; Brit. informal mateyness.*

**familiarize** verb acquaint, make familiar, make conversant; accustom, habituate, instruct, teach, educate, school, prime, introduce; informal clue up, put in the picture, give the low-down, fill in.

**family** noun **1** *I met his family: relatives, relations, (next of) kin, kinsfolk, kindred, one's (own) flesh and blood, nearest and dearest, people, connections; extended family; clan, tribe; informal folks.* **2** *he had the right kind of family: ancestry, parentage, pedigree, genealogy, background, family tree, descent, lineage, bloodline, blood, extraction, stock; forebears, forefathers, antecedents, roots, origins.* **3** *she is married with a family: children, little ones, youngsters; offspring, progeny, descendants, scions, heirs; brood; law issue; informal kids, kiddies, tots.* **4** *the weaver bird family: taxonomic group, order, class, genus, species; stock, strain, line; Zoology phylum.*

**family tree** noun ancestry, genealogy, descent, lineage, line, bloodline, pedigree, background, extraction, derivation; family, dynasty, house; forebears, forefathers, antecedents, roots, origins.

**famine** noun **1** *a nation threatened by famine: scarcity of food, food shortages.* **2** *the cotton famine: shortage, scarcity, lack, dearth, deficiency, insufficiency, shortfall, scantiness, paucity, poverty, drought.*

– OPPOSITES plenty.

**famished** adjective ravenous, hungry, starving, starved, empty, unfed; informal peckish.

– OPPOSITES full.

**famous** adjective well known, prominent, famed, popular; renowned, noted, eminent, distinguished, esteemed, celebrated, respected; of distinction, of repute; illustrious, acclaimed, great, legendary, lionized; notorious, infamous.

– OPPOSITES unknown.

**fan**<sup>1</sup> noun *a ceiling fan: air-cooler, air conditioner, ventilator, blower, aerator.* • verb **1** *she fanned her face: cool, aerate, ventilate; freshen, refresh.* **2** *they fanned public fears: intensify, increase, agitate, inflame, exacerbate; stimulate, stir up, whip up, fuel, kindle, spark, arouse.* **3** *the police squad fanned out: spread, branch; outspread.*

**fan**<sup>2</sup> noun *a basketball fan: enthusiast, devotee, admirer, lover; supporter, follower, disciple, adherent, zealot; expert, connoisseur, aficionado; informal buff, fiend, freak, nut, addict, fanatic, groupie; N. Amer. informal jock.*

**fanatic** noun **1** *a religious fanatic: zealot,*

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extremist, militant, dogmatist, devotee, adherent; sectarian, bigot, partisan, radical, diehard, ultra; informal **maniac**. **2** (informal) *a keep-fit fanatic*. See **FAN**<sup>2</sup>.

**fanatical adjective 1** *they are fanatical about their faith*: zealous, extremist, extreme, militant, dogmatic, radical, diehard; intolerant, single-minded, blinkered, inflexible, uncompromising. **2** *he was fanatical about tidiness*: **enthusiastic**, eager, keen, fervent, ardent, passionate; obsessive, obsessed, fixated, compulsive; informal wild, gung-ho, nuts, crazy; Brit. informal potty.

**fancier noun a pigeon fancier**: **enthusiast**, lover, hobbyist; expert, connoisseur, aficionado; breeder; informal buff.

**fantastic adjective 1 a fanciful story**: fantastic, far-fetched, unbelievable, extravagant; ridiculous, absurd, preposterous; imaginary, made-up, make-believe, mythical, fabulous; informal tall, hard to swallow. **2 a fanciful girl**: **imaginative**, inventive; whimsical, impractical, dreamy, quixotic; in a world of one's own. **3 a fanciful building**: **ornate**, exotic, fancy, imaginative, extravagant, fantastic; curious, bizarre, eccentric, unusual.

— **OPPOSITES** literal, practical.

**fancy verb 1** (Brit. informal) *I fancied a change of scene*: **wish for**, want, desire; long for, yearn for, crave, thirst for, hanker after, dream of, covet; informal have a yen for; old use be desirous of. **2** (Brit. informal) *she fancied him*: **be attracted to**, find attractive, be infatuated with, be taken with, desire; lust after, burn for; informal have a crush on, have the hots for, be crazy about, have a thing about, have a soft spot for, carry a torch for. **3 I fancied I could see lights**: **think**, imagine, believe, be of the opinion, be under the impression; informal reckon.

• **adjective fancy clothes**: **elaborate**, ornate, ornamental, decorative, adorned, embellished, intricate; ostentatious, showy, flamboyant; luxurious, lavish, extravagant, expensive; informal flash, flashy, bling-bling, jazzy, ritzy, snazzy, posh, classy; Brit. informal swish.

— **OPPOSITES** plain.

• **noun 1 his fancy to own a farm**: **desire**, urge, wish; inclination, whim, impulse, notion, whimsy; yearning, longing, hankering, craving; informal yen, itch. **2 I've a fancy they want to be alone**: **idea**, notion, thought, supposition, opinion, belief, impression, understanding; feeling, suspicion, hunch, inkling.

**fanfare noun 1 a fanfare announced her arrival**: **trumpet call**, flourish, fanfaronade; old use trump. **2 the project was greeted with great fanfare**: **fuss**, commotion, show, display, ostentation, flashiness, pageantry, splendour; informal ballyhoo, hype, pizzazz, razzle-dazzle, glitz.

**fantasize verb daydream**, dream, muse, make-believe, pretend, imagine; build castles in the air, build castles in Spain, live in a dream world.

**fantastic adjective 1 a fantastic notion**: **fanciful**, extravagant, extraordinary, irrational, wild, absurd, far-fetched, nonsensical, incredible, unbelievable, unthinkable, implausible, improbable, unlikely, doubtful, dubious; strange, peculiar, odd, queer, weird, eccentric, whimsical, capricious; visionary, romantic; informal crazy, cockeyed, off the wall. **2 his fantastic accuracy**: **tremendous**, remarkable, great, terrific, impressive, outstanding, phenomenal. **3 fantastic shapes**: **strange**, weird, bizarre, outlandish, queer, peculiar, grotesque, freakish, surreal, exotic; elaborate, ornate, intricate. **4** (informal) *a fantastic car*: **marvellous**, wonderful, sensational, outstanding, superb, excellent, first-rate, first-class, dazzling, out of this world, breathtaking; informal great, terrific, fabulous, fab, mega, super, ace, magic, cracking, cool, wicked, awesome; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing; Austral./NZ informal bonzer; Brit. informal, dated spiffing.

— **OPPOSITES** rational, ordinary.

**fantasy noun 1 a mix of fantasy and realism**: **imagination**, fancy, invention, make-believe; creativity, vision; daydreaming, reverie. **2 his fantasy about being famous**: **dream**, daydream, pipe dream, fanciful notion, wish; fond hope, chimera, delusion, illusion; informal pie in the sky.

— **OPPOSITES** realism.

**far adverb 1 we are far from the palace**: **a long way**, a great distance, a good way; afar. **2 her charm far outweighs any flaws**: **much**, considerably, markedly, immeasurably, greatly, significantly, substantially, appreciably, noticeably; to a great extent, by a long way, by far, by a mile, easily.

— **OPPOSITES** near.

• **adjective 1 far places**: **distant**, faraway, far-off, remote, out of the way, far-flung, outlying. **2 the far side of the campus**: **further**, more distant; opposite.

— **OPPOSITES** near.

■ **by far** by a great amount, by a good deal, by a long way, by a mile, far and away; undoubtedly, without doubt, without question, positively, absolutely, easily; significantly, substantially, appreciably, much; Brit. by a long chalk.

■ **far and away**. See **BY FAR**.

■ **far and wide** everywhere, {here, there, and everywhere}, all over (the world), throughout the land, worldwide; informal all over the place.

■ **far from staff were far from happy**: not, not at all, nowhere near; the opposite of.

■ **go far** be successful, succeed, prosper, flourish, thrive, get on (in the world), make good, set the world on fire; informal make a name for oneself, make one's mark, go places, do all right for oneself, find a place in the sun.

■ **go too far** go over the top, go to extremes, go overboard.

■ **so far 1 nobody has noticed so far**: until now, up to now, up to this point, as yet, thus far, hitherto, up to the present, to date. **2 his**

*liberalism only extends so far:* to a certain extent, up to a point, to a degree, within reason, within limits.

**faraway** *adjective* **1** *faraway places:* distant, far off, far, remote, far-flung, outlying, exotic; obscure, out of the way, off the beaten track. **2** *a faraway look in her eyes:* dreamy, daydreaming, abstracted, absent-minded, distracted, preoccupied, vague; lost in thought, somewhere else, not with us, in a world of one's own; informal miles away.  
– OPPOSITES nearby.

**farce** *noun* **1** *the stories approach farce:* slapstick (comedy), burlesque, vaudeville, buffoonery. **2** *the trial was a farce:* mockery, travesty, absurdity, sham, pretence, masquerade, charade, joke, waste of time; informal shambles.  
– OPPOSITES tragedy.

**farical** *adjective* **1** *the idea is farical:* ridiculous, preposterous, ludicrous, absurd, laughable, risible, nonsensical; senseless, pointless, useless; silly, foolish, idiotic, stupid, hare-brained; informal crazy; Brit. informal barmy, daft. **2** *farical goings-on:* madcap, zany, slapstick, comic, comical, clownish, amusing; hilarious, uproarious; informal wacky.

**fare** *noun* **1** *we paid the fare:* ticket price; price, cost, charge, fee, toll, tariff. **2** *the taxi picked up a fare:* passenger, traveller, customer; Brit. informal punter. **3** *they eat simple fare:* food, meals, sustenance, nourishment, nutriment, foodstuffs, provender, eatables, provisions; cooking, cuisine; diet, table; informal grub, nosh, eats, chow, scoff; formal comestibles, victuals.  
• *verb how are you faring?* get on, get along, cope, manage, do, muddle through/along, survive; informal make out.

**farewell** *exclamation* *farewell, Patrick!* goodbye, so long, adieu; au revoir, ciao; informal bye, bye-bye, cheerio, see you (later), later(s); Brit. informal ta-ta, cheers; informal, dated toodle-oo, toodle-pip.  
• *noun an emotional farewell:* goodbye, valediction, adieu; leave-taking, parting, departure; send-off.

**far-fetched** *adjective* improbable, unlikely, implausible, unconvincing, dubious, doubtful, incredible, unbelievable, unthinkable; contrived, fanciful, unrealistic, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous; informal hard to swallow, fishy.  
– OPPOSITES likely.

**farm** *noun* *a farm of 100 acres:* smallholding, farmstead, plantation, estate; farmland; Brit. grange, croft; Scottish steading; N. Amer. ranch; Austral./NZ station.  
• *verb 1 he farmed locally:* be a farmer, cultivate the land, work the land; rear livestock. **2** *they farm the land:* cultivate, till, work, plough, dig, plant. **3** *the family farms sheep:* breed, rear, keep, raise, tend.  
■ *farm something out* contract out, outsource, subcontract, delegate.

**farmer** *noun* agriculturalist, agronomist, smallholder, grazier; farmland; Brit. crofter;

N. Amer. rancher; historical yeoman.

**farming** *noun* agriculture, cultivation, husbandry; agronomy, agribusiness; Brit. crofting.

**far out** *adjective* (informal). See UNCONVENTIONAL.

**farrago** *noun* hotchpotch, mishmash, ragbag, potpourri, jumble, mess, confusion, melange, gallimaufry, hash, assortment, miscellany, mixture, conglomeration, medley; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**far-reaching** *adjective* extensive, wide-ranging, comprehensive, widespread, all-embracing, overarching, across the board, sweeping, blanket, wholesale; important, significant, radical, major, consequential.  
– OPPOSITES limited.

**far-sighted** *adjective* prescient, visionary, percipient, shrewd, discerning, judicious, canny, prudent.

**farther** *adverb & adjective.* See FURTHER.

**farthest** *adjective.* See FURTHEST.

**fascinate** *verb* interest, captivate, engross, absorb, enchant, enthrall, entrance, transfix, rivet, mesmerize, engage, compel; lure, tempt, entice, draw; charm, attract, intrigue, divert, entertain.  
– OPPOSITES bore.

**fascinating** *adjective* interesting, captivating, engrossing, absorbing, enchanting, enthralling, spellbinding, riveting, engaging, compelling, compulsive, gripping, thrilling; alluring, tempting, irresistible; charming, attractive, intriguing, diverting, entertaining.

**fascination** *noun* interest, preoccupation, passion, obsession, compulsion; allure, lure, charm, attraction, intrigue, appeal, pull, draw.

**fascism** *noun* authoritarianism, totalitarianism, dictatorship, despotism, autocracy; Nazism, rightism; nationalism, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, jingoism, isolationism; neo-fascism, neo-Nazism.

**fascist** *noun* *he was branded a fascist:* authoritarian, totalitarian, autocrat, extreme right-winger, rightist; Nazi, blackshirt; nationalist, xenophobe, racist, anti-Semite, jingoist; neo-fascist, neo-Nazi.  
– OPPOSITES liberal.

• *adjective a fascist regime:* authoritarian, totalitarian, dictatorial, despotic, autocratic, undemocratic, illiberal; Nazi, extreme right-wing, rightist, militarist; nationalist(ic), xenophobic, racist, jingoistic.  
– OPPOSITES democratic.

**fashion** *noun* **1** *the fashion for tight clothes:* vogue, trend, craze, rage, mania, fad; style, look; tendency, convention, custom, practice; informal thing. **2** *the world of fashion:* clothes, clothing design, couture; informal the rag trade. **3** *it needs to be run in a sensible fashion:* manner, way, method, mode, style; system, approach.

• *verb the model was fashioned from lead:* construct, build, make, manufacture, fabricate, produce; cast, shape, form, mould, sculpt; forge, hew, carve.



■ **after a fashion** to a certain extent, in a way, somehow (or other), in a manner of speaking, in its way.

■ **in fashion** fashionable, in vogue, up to date, up to the minute, all the rage, chic, à la mode; informal trendy, with it, cool, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, now, sharp, groovy; N. Amer. tony, fly; Brit. informal, dated all the go.

■ **out of fashion** unfashionable, dated, old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, outmoded, behind the times; unstylish, unpopular, passé, démodé; informal old hat, out, square, out of the ark.

**f fashionable** adjective **chic**, stylish, in vogue, voguish, in fashion, popular, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, modern, all the rage, modish, à la mode, trendsetting; informal trendy, classy, with it, cool, funky, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, now, sharp, groovy, snazzy; N. Amer. informal tony, fly; Brit. informal, dated all the go.

**fast<sup>1</sup>** adjective **1 a fast pace**: **speedy**, quick, swift, rapid; fast-moving, high-speed, turbo, sporty; accelerated, express, blistering, breakneck, pell-mell; hasty, hurried; informal nippy, zippy, scorching, blinding, supersonic; Brit. informal cracking; literary fleet. **2 he held the door fast**: **secure**, fastened, tight, firm, closed, shut, to; immovable, unbudgeable. **3 a fast colour**: **indelible**, lasting, permanent, stable. **4 fast friends**: **loyal**, devoted, faithful, firm, steadfast, staunch, true, boon, bosom, inseparable; constant, enduring, unswerving. **5 a fast woman**: **promiscuous**, licentious, dissolute, debauched, impure, unchaste, wanton, abandoned, of easy virtue; sluttish, whorish; intemperate, immoderate, shameless, sinful, immoral; informal easy, tarty; Brit. informal slaggy; N. Amer. informal roundheeled; dated loose.

– OPPOSITES slow, loose, temporary, chaste.

• **adverb 1 she drove fast**: **quickly**, rapidly, swiftly, speedily, briskly, at speed, at full tilt; hastily, hurriedly, in a hurry, post-haste, pell-mell; like a shot, like a flash, on the double, at the speed of light; informal double quick, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), nippily, like (greased) lightning, hell for leather, like mad, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; literary apace. **2 his wheels were stuck fast**: **securely**, firmly, immovably, fixedly. **3 he's fast asleep**: **deeply**, sound, completely. **4 she lived fast and dangerously**: **wildly**, dissolutely, intemperately, immoderately, recklessly, self-indulgently, extravagantly.

– OPPOSITES slowly.

**fast<sup>2</sup>** verb **we must fast and pray**: **eat nothing**, abstain from food, refrain from eating, go without food, go hungry, starve oneself; go on hunger strike.

– OPPOSITES eat.

**fasten** verb **1 he fastened the door**: **bolt**, lock, secure, make fast, chain, seal. **2 they fastened splints to his leg**: **attach**, fix, affix, clip, pin, tack; stick, bond, join. **3 he fastened his horse**

**to a tree**: **tie (up)**, bind, tether, truss, fetter, lash, hitch, anchor, strap, rope. **4 the dress fastens at the front**: **button (up)**, zip (up), do up, close. **5 his gaze fastened on me**: **focus**, fix, be riveted, concentrate, zero in, zoom in, direct at. **6 critics fastened on the end of the report**: **single out**, concentrate on, focus on, pick out, fix on, seize on.

– OPPOSITES unlock, remove, open, untie, undo.

**fastidious** adjective **scrupulous**, punctilious, painstaking, meticulous; perfectionist, fussy, finicky, over-particular; critical, overcritical, hypercritical, hard to please, exacting, demanding; informal pernickety, nit-picking, choosy, picky; N. Amer. informal pernickety.

– OPPOSITES lax.

**fat** adjective **1 a fat man**: **plump**, stout, overweight, large, chubby, portly, flabby, paunchy, pot-bellied, beer-bellied, meaty, of ample proportions; obese, corpulent, gross, fleshy; informal tubby, roly-poly, beefy, porky, blubbery, chunky; Brit. informal podgy, fubsy; old use pursy. **2 fat bacon**: **fatty**, greasy, oily, oleaginous; formal pinguid. **3 a fat book**: **thick**, big, chunky, substantial; long. **4 (informal) a fat salary**: **large**, substantial, sizeable, considerable; generous, lucrative.

– OPPOSITES thin, lean, small.

• **noun 1 whale fat**: **blubber**, fatty tissue, adipose tissue. **2 he was running to fat**: **fatness**, plumpness, stoutness, chubbiness, tubbiness, portliness, podginess, flabbiness; obesity, corpulence; informal flab, blubber. **3 eggs in sizzling fat**: **oil**, grease; lard, suet, butter, margarine.

**fatal** adjective **1 a fatal disease**: **deadly**, lethal, mortal, death-dealing; terminal, incurable, untreatable, inoperable, malignant; literary deathly. **2 a fatal mistake**: **disastrous**, devastating, ruinous, catastrophic, calamitous, dire; costly; formal grievous.

– OPPOSITES harmless, beneficial.

**fatalism** noun **passive acceptance**, resignation, stoicism.

**fatality** noun **death**, casualty, mortality, victim; fatal accident.

**fate** noun **1 what has fate in store for me?** **destiny**, providence, the stars, chance, luck, serendipity, fortune, kismet, karma. **2 my fate was in their hands**: **future**, destiny, outcome, end, lot. **3 a similar fate would befall other killers**: **death**, demise, end; retribution, sentence. **4 the Fates will decide**: the weird sisters, the Parcae, the Moirai. • **verb his daughter was fated to face the same problem**: **be predestined**, be preordained, be destined, be meant, be doomed; be sure, be certain, be bound, be guaranteed.

**fateful** adjective **1 that fateful day**: **decisive**, critical, crucial, pivotal; momentous, important, key, significant, historic, portentous. **2 the fateful defeat of 1402**: **disastrous**, ruinous, calamitous, devastating, tragic, terrible.

– OPPOSITES unimportant.

**father** noun **1 his mother and father**: **male**

**parent**, patriarch, paterfamilias; informal dad, daddy, pop, pa, old man; Brit. informal, dated **pater**. **2** (literary) *the religion of my fathers*: **ancestor**, forefather, forebear, predecessor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor. **3** *the father of democracy*: **originator**, initiator, founder, inventor, creator, maker, author, architect. **4** *the city fathers*: **leader**, elder, patriarch, official. **5** *our heavenly Father*: **God**, Lord (God). **6** *pray for me, Father*: **priest**, pastor, parson, clergyman, cleric, minister, preacher; informal reverend, padre.

– **OPPOSITES** child, mother, descendant.

• **verb** **1** *he fathered six children*: **be the father of**, sire, bring into the world, spawn, breed; literary beget; old use engender. **2** *he fathered a strand of applied economics*: **establish**, institute, originate, initiate, invent, found, create.

## WORD LINKS

**paternal** relating to a father

**paternity** fatherhood

**patriarchy** a form of social organization in which the father is head of the family

**patrilineal** based on relationship with the father or male line of descent

**patricide** the killing of one's father

**fatherland** **noun** native land, native country, homeland, mother country, motherland, land of one's birth.

**fatherly** **adjective** paternal, fatherlike; protective, supportive, encouraging, affectionate, caring, sympathetic, indulgent.

**fathom** **verb** **1** *Charlie tried to fathom her expression*: **understand**, comprehend, work out, make sense of, grasp, divine, puzzle out, get to the bottom of; interpret, decipher, decode; informal make head or tail of, tumble to, crack; Brit. informal twig, suss (out), savvy. **2** *fathoming the ocean*: **measure the depth of**, sound, plumb.

**fatigue** **noun** **1** *his face was grey with fatigue*: **tiredness**, weariness, exhaustion, enervation, prostration. **2** (Military) *kitchen fatigues*: **menial work**, drudgery, chores; informal skivvying.

– **OPPOSITES** energy.

• **verb** *the troops were fatigued*: **tire (out)**, exhaust, wear out, drain, weary, wash out, overtire, prostrate, enervate; informal knock out, take it out of, do in, fag out, whack, poop, shatter, bush, wear to a frazzle; Brit. informal knacker.

– **OPPOSITES** invigorate.

**fatness** **noun** **plumpness**, stoutness, heaviness, chubbiness, portliness, rotundity, flabbiness, paunchiness; obesity, corpulence; informal tubbiness, podginess.

– **OPPOSITES** thinness.

**fatten** **verb** **1** *fattening livestock*: **make fat**, **fatter**, feed (up), build up. **2** *we're sending her home to fatten up*: **put on weight**, gain weight, get heavier, grow fatter, fill out.

– **OPPOSITES** slim.

**fatty** **adjective** greasy, oily, fat, oleaginous.

– **OPPOSITES** lean.

**fatuous** **adjective** silly, foolish, stupid,

inane, idiotic, vacuous, asinine; pointless, senseless, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd; informal dumb, gormless; Brit. informal daft.

– **OPPOSITES** sensible.

**fault** **noun** **1** *he has his faults*: **defect**, failing, imperfection, flaw, blemish, shortcoming, weakness, frailty, foible, vice.

**2** *engineers have located the fault*: **defect**, flaw, imperfection, bug; error, mistake, inaccuracy; informal glitch, gremlin. **3** *it was not my fault*: **responsibility**, liability, culpability, blameworthiness, guilt. **4** *don't blame one child for another's faults*: **misdeed**, wrongdoing, offence, misdemeanour, misconduct, indiscretion, peccadillo, transgression.

– **OPPOSITES** merit, strength.

• **verb** *you couldn't fault any of the players*:

**find fault with**, criticize, attack, censure, condemn, reproach; complain about, quibble about, moan about; informal knock, slam, gripe about, beef about, pick holes in; Brit. informal slag off, have a go at, slate.

■ **at fault** to blame, blameworthy, culpable; responsible, guilty, in the wrong.

■ **to a fault** excessively, unduly, overly, immoderately, needlessly.

**fault-finding** **noun** criticism, captiousness, cavilling, quibbling; complaining, grumbling, carping, moaning; informal griping, grouching, bellyaching.

– **OPPOSITES** praise.

**faultless** **adjective** perfect, flawless, without fault, error-free, impeccable, accurate, precise, exact, correct, exemplary.

– **OPPOSITES** flawed.

**faulty** **adjective** **1** *a faulty electric blanket*:

**malfunctioning**, broken, damaged, defective, not working, out of order; informal on the blink, acting up, kaput, bust; Brit. informal knackered, playing up, duff; N. Amer. informal on the fritz. **2** *her logic is faulty*: **defective**, flawed, unsound, inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, fallacious, wrong.

– **OPPOSITES** working, sound.

**faux pas** **noun** gaffe, blunder, mistake, indiscretion, impropriety, solecism; informal boo-boo; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal blooper.

**favour** **noun** **1** *will you do me a favour?* good turn, service, good deed, (act of) kindness, courtesy. **2** *she looked on him with favour*: **approval**, approbation, goodwill, kindness, benevolence. **3** *they showed favour to one of the players*: **favouritism**, bias, partiality, partisanship. **4** *you shall receive the king's favour*: **patronage**, backing, support, assistance. **5** (old use) *you shall wear my favours*: **ribbon**, rosette, badge, token; keepsake, souvenir, memento.

– **OPPOSITES** disservice, disapproval.

• **verb** **1** *the party favours electoral reform*:

**advocate**, recommend, approve of, be in favour of, support, back, champion; campaign for, stand up for, press for, lobby for, promote; informal plug, push for. **2** *Robyn favours loose clothes*: **prefer**, go (in) for, choose, opt for, select, pick, plump for, be

partial to, like. **3** *father always favoured George: show favouritism towards*, have a bias towards, think more highly of. **4** *the conditions favoured the other team: benefit*, be to the advantage of, help, assist, aid, be of service to, do someone a favour. **5** *he favoured Lucy with a smile: oblige*, honour, gratify, humour, indulge. **6** (informal) *Travis favours our father: resemble*, look like, be similar to, bear a resemblance to, remind one of, take after; informal be the spitting image of, be a dead ringer for.

– OPPOSITES oppose, dislike, hinder.

■ **in favour of** on the side of, pro, (all) for, giving support to, approving of, sympathetic to.

**favourable** adjective **1** *a favourable assessment of his ability: approving*, commendatory, complimentary, flattering, glowing, enthusiastic; good, pleasing, positive; informal rave. **2** *conditions are favourable: advantageous*, beneficial, in one's favour, good, right, suitable, fitting, appropriate; propitious, auspicious, promising, encouraging. **3** *a favourable reply: positive*, affirmative, assenting, agreeing, approving; encouraging, reassuring.

– OPPOSITES critical, disadvantageous, negative.

**favourably** adverb positively, approvingly, sympathetically, enthusiastically, appreciatively.

**favoured** adjective preferred, favourite, recommended, chosen, choice.

**favourite** adjective *his favourite aunt: best-loved*, most-liked, favoured, dearest; preferred, chosen, choice.

• noun **1** *Brutus was Caesar's favourite: (first) choice*, pick, preference, pet, darling, the apple of one's eye; informal golden boy; Brit. informal blue-eyed boy/girl; N. Amer. informal fair-haired boy/girl. **2** *the favourite fell at the first fence: expected winner*, front runner.

**favouritism** noun *partiality*, partisanship, unfair preference, preferential treatment, favour, prejudice, bias, inequality, unfairness, discrimination.

**fawn**<sup>1</sup> adjective *a fawn carpet: beige*, yellowish-brown, pale brown, buff, sand, oatmeal, café au lait, camel, ecru, taupe, stone, mushroom.

**fawn**<sup>2</sup> verb *they were fawning over the President: be obsequious to*, be sycophantic to, curry favour with, pay court to, play up to, crawl to, ingratiate oneself with, dance attendance on; informal suck up to, make up to, be all over, creep, grovel; Austral./NZ informal smooch to.

**fawning** adjective *obsequious*, servile, sycophantic, flattering, ingratiating, unctuous, oleaginous, grovelling, crawling; informal bootlicking, smarmy.

**fear** noun **1** *she felt fear at entering the house: terror*, fright, fearfulness, horror, alarm, panic, agitation, trepidation, dread, consternation, dismay, distress; anxiety, worry, angst, unease, uneasiness,

apprehension, apprehensiveness, nervousness, nerves, perturbation, foreboding; informal the creeps, the willies, the heebie-jeebies, jitteriness, twitchiness, butterflies (in the stomach), (blue) funk.

**2** *she overcame her fears: phobia*, aversion, antipathy, dread, bugbear, bogey, nightmare, horror, terror; anxiety, neurosis; informal hang-up. **3** (old use) *the love and fear of God: awe*, wonder, wonderment; reverence, veneration, respect. **4** *there's no fear of me leaving you alone: likelihood*, likeliness, prospect, possibility, chance, probability; risk, danger.

• verb **1** *she feared her husband: be afraid of*, be fearful of, be scared of, be apprehensive of, dread, live in fear of, be terrified of; be anxious about, worry about, feel apprehensive about. **2** *he fears heights: have a phobia about*, have a horror of, take fright at. **3** *he feared to tell them: be too afraid*, be too scared, hesitate, dare not. **4** *they feared for his health: worry about*, feel anxious about, feel concerned about, have anxieties about. **5** (old use) *all who fear the Lord: stand in awe of*, revere, reverence, venerate, respect. **6** *I fear that you may be right: suspect*, have a (sneaking) suspicion, be inclined to think, be afraid, have a hunch, think it likely.

**fearful** adjective **1** *they are fearful of being overheard: afraid*, frightened, scared (stiff), scared to death, terrified, petrified; alarmed, panicky, nervy, nervous, tense, apprehensive, uneasy, worried (sick), anxious; informal jittery, jumpy; Brit. informal in a (blue) funk; old use afeared, affrighted. **2** *the guards were fearful: nervous*, trembling, quaking, cowed, daunted; timid, timorous, faint-hearted, nervy; informal jittery, jumpy, twitchy, keyed up, in a cold sweat, trepidations, a bundle of nerves, like a cat on a hot tin roof; Brit. informal having kittens, like a cat on hot bricks; N. Amer. informal spooky. **3** *a fearful accident: terrible*, dreadful, awful, appalling, frightful, ghastly, horrific, horrible, horrifying, horrendous, terribly bad, shocking, atrocious, abominable, hideous, monstrous, gruesome. **4** (informal) *he was in a fearful hurry: (very) great*, extreme, real, dreadful; informal terrible.

**fearfully** adverb **1** *she opened the door fearfully: apprehensively*, uneasily, nervously, timidly, timorously, hesitantly, with one's heart in one's mouth. **2** (informal) *Stephanie looked fearfully glamorous: extremely*, exceedingly, exceptionally, remarkably, uncommonly, extraordinarily, tremendously, incredibly, very, really; Scottish unco; informal awfully, terribly, dreadfully; Brit. well, ever so, dead; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; dated frightfully.

**fearless** adjective *bold*, brave, courageous, intrepid, valiant, valorous, gallant, plucky, lionhearted, heroic, daring, audacious, indomitable, doughty; unafraid, undaunted, unflinching; informal gutsy, spunky, ballsy, feisty.

– OPPOSITES timid, cowardly.



**fearsome** adjective frightening, horrifying, terrifying, menacing, chilling, spine-chilling, hair-raising, alarming, unnerving, daunting, formidable, forbidding, dismaying, disquieting, disturbing; informal scary.

**feasible** adjective practicable, practical, workable, achievable, attainable, realizable, viable, realistic, sensible, reasonable, within reason; suitable, possible, expedient, constructive; informal doable.

– OPPOSITES impractical.

**feast** noun **1** *a wedding feast*: banquet, celebration meal, lavish dinner; treat, entertainment; revels, festivities; informal blowout, spread; Brit. informal nosh-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano, slap-up meal.

**2** *the feast of St Stephen*: (religious) festival, feast day, saint's day, holy day, holiday.

**3** *a feast for the eyes*: treat, delight, joy, pleasure.

• verb **1** *they feasted on lobster*: gorge on, dine on, eat one's fill of, overindulge in, binge on; eat, devour, consume, partake of; informal stuff one's face with, stuff oneself with, pig oneself on, pig out on. **2** *they feasted the deputation*: hold a banquet for, throw a feast/party for, wine and dine, entertain lavishly, regale, treat, fete.

**feat** noun achievement, accomplishment, attainment, coup, triumph; undertaking, enterprise, venture, operation, exercise, endeavour, effort, performance, exploit.

**feather** noun plume, quill, flight feather, tail feather; Ornithology covert, plumule; (feathers) plumage, feathering, down.

**feature** noun **1** *a typical feature of French music*: characteristic, attribute, quality, property, trait, hallmark, trademark; aspect, facet, factor, ingredient, component, element, theme; peculiarity, idiosyncrasy, quirk. **2** *her delicate features*: face, countenance, physiognomy; informal mug, kisser; Brit. informal mush, phiz, phizog; N. Amer. informal puss, pan; literary visage, lineaments. **3** *she made a feature of her garden sculptures*: centrepiece, (special) attraction, highlight, focal point, focus (of attention). **4** *a series of short features*: article, piece, item, report, story, column, review, commentary, write-up.

• verb **1** *Radio Ulster is featuring a week of live concerts*: present, promote, make a feature of, give prominence to, focus attention on, spotlight, highlight. **2** *she is to feature in a major advertising campaign*: star, appear, participate, play a part.

**febrile** adjective feverish, hot, burning, flushed, sweating; rare pyretic.

**feckless** adjective good-for-nothing, irresponsible, lazy, idle, slothful, indolent, shiftless; useless, worthless, incompetent, inept, ne'er-do-well; informal no-good, no-account.

**fecund** adjective fertile, fruitful, productive, high-yielding; rich, lush, flourishing, thriving; formal fructuous.

– OPPOSITES barren.

**federal** adjective confederate, federated,

federative; combined, allied, united, amalgamated, integrated.

**federate** verb confederate, combine, unite, unify, merge, amalgamate, integrate, join (up), band together, team up.

**federation** noun confederation, confederacy, federacy, league; combination, alliance, coalition, union, syndicate, guild, consortium, partnership, cooperative, association, amalgamation.

**fee** noun payment, wage, salary, allowance; price, cost, charge, tariff, rate, amount, sum, figure: (fees) remuneration, dues, earnings, pay; formal emolument.

**feeble** adjective **1** *he was very old and feeble*: weak, weakly, weakened, frail, infirm, delicate, sickly, ailing, unwell, poorly, enfeebled, enervated, debilitated, incapacitated, decrepit. **2** *a feeble argument*: ineffective, ineffectual, inadequate, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory, poor, weak, flimsy. **3** *he's too feeble to stand up to his boss*: cowardly, craven, faint-hearted, spineless, spiritless, lily-livered; timid, timorous, fearful, unassertive, weak, ineffectual; informal wimpy, sissy, sissified, gutless, chicken; Brit. informal wet. **4** *a feeble light*: faint, dim, weak, pale, soft, subdued, muted.

– OPPOSITES strong, brave.

**feed** verb **1** *a large family to feed*: give food to, provide (food) for, cater for, cook for; suckle, breastfeed, bottle-feed; dated victual. **2** *the baby spends all day feeding*: eat, snack; informal nosh, graze. **3** *too many cows feeding in a small area*: graze, browse, crop, pasture. **4** *the birds feed on a varied diet*: live on/off, exist on, subsist on, eat, consume. **5** *feeding one's self-esteem*: strengthen, fortify, support, bolster, reinforce, boost, fuel, encourage. **6** *she fed secrets to the Russians*: supply, provide, give, deliver, furnish, issue. • noun **1** *feed for goats and sheep*: fodder, food, forage, pasturage, herbage, provender; formal comestibles. **2** (informal) *they halted for their feed*: meal, lunch, dinner, supper; Brit. tea; informal nosh, scoff; formal repast.

**feel** verb **1** *she felt the fabric*: touch, stroke, caress, fondle, finger, thumb, handle. **2** *she felt a breeze on her back*: perceive, sense, detect, discern, notice, be aware of, be conscious of. **3** *the patient does not feel pain*: experience, undergo, go through, bear, endure, suffer. **4** *he felt his way towards the door*: grope, fumble, scrabble, pick. **5** *feel the temperature of the water*: test, try (out), assess, gauge. **6** *he feels that he should go to the meeting*: believe, think, consider (it right), be of the opinion, hold, maintain, judge; informal reckon, figure. **7** *I feel that he is only biding his time*: sense, have a (funny) feeling, get the impression, have a hunch, intuit. **8** *the air feels damp*: seem, appear, strike one as.

• noun **1** *the divers worked by feel*: (sense of) touch, tactile sense, feeling (one's way).

**2** *the feel of the paper*: texture, surface, finish; weight, thickness, consistency,

quality. **3** *the feel of a room: atmosphere, ambience, aura, mood, feeling, air, impression, character, tenor, spirit, flavour; informal vibrations, vibes.* **4** *a feel for languages: aptitude, knack, flair, bent, talent, gift, faculty, ability.*

■ **feel for** sympathize with, be sorry for, pity, feel pity for, feel sympathy for, feel compassion for, be moved by; commiserate with, condole with.

■ **feel like** want, would like, wish for, desire, fancy, feel in need of, long for; informal yen for, be dying for.

**f** **feeler** noun **1** *the fish has two feelers on its head: antenna, tentacle, tactile/sensory organ; Zoology antennule.* **2** *the minister put out feelers: tentative enquiry/proposal, advance, approach, overture, probe.*

**feeling** noun **1** *a loss of feeling in the hands: (sense of) touch, feel, tactile sense.* **2** *a feeling of nausea: sensation, sense, consciousness.* **3** *I had a feeling that I would win: (sneaking) suspicion, notion, inkling, hunch, funny feeling, feeling in one's bones, fancy, idea; presentiment, premonition; informal gut feeling.* **4** *the strength of her feeling: love, affection, fondness, tenderness, warmth, warmness, emotion, sentiment; passion, ardour, desire.* **5** *out of touch with public feeling: sentiment, emotion; opinion, attitude, belief, ideas, views.* **6** *he had hurt her feelings: sensibilities, sensitivities, self-esteem, pride.* **7** *my feeling is that it is true: opinion, belief, view, impression, intuition, instinct, hunch, estimation, guess.* **8** *a feeling of peace: atmosphere, ambience, aura, air, feel, mood, impression, spirit, quality, flavour; informal vibrations, vibes.* **9** *a remarkable feeling for language: aptitude, knack, flair, bent, talent, gift, faculty, ability.*  
• **adjective** *she was a feeling child: sensitive, warm, warm-hearted, tender, tender-hearted, caring, sympathetic, kind, compassionate, understanding, thoughtful.*

**feign** verb **1** *she lay still and feigned sleep: simulate, fake, sham, affect, give the appearance of, make a pretence of.* **2** *he's not really ill, he's only feigning: pretend, put it on, fake, sham, bluff, masquerade, play-act; informal kid.*

**feigned** adjective pretended, simulated, affected, artificial, insincere, put-on, fake, false, sham; informal pretend, phoney.  
– OPPOSITES sincere.

**feint** noun bluff, blind, ruse, deception, subterfuge, hoax, trick, ploy, device, dodge, sham, pretence, cover, smokescreen, distraction, contrivance; informal red herring.

**felicitations** plural noun congratulations, good/best wishes, (kind) regards, blessings, compliments, respects.

**felicitous** adjective **1** *his nickname was particularly felicitous: apt, well chosen, fitting, suitable, appropriate, apposite, pertinent, germane, relevant.* **2** *the room's only felicitous feature: favourable, advantageous, good, pleasing.*

– OPPOSITES inappropriate, unfortunate.

**felicity** noun **1** *domestic felicity: happiness, joy, joyfulness, joyousness, bliss, delight, cheerfulness; contentedness, satisfaction, pleasure.* **2** *David expressed his feelings with his customary felicity: eloquence, aptness, appropriateness, suitability, suitability, applicability, fitness, relevance, pertinence.*  
– OPPOSITES unhappiness, inappropriateness.

**feline** adjective *she moved with feline grace: catlike, graceful, sleek, sinuous.*  
• **noun** *her pet feline: cat, kitten; informal puss, pussy (cat); Brit. informal moggie, mog; old use grimalkin.*

**fell**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *all the dead sycamores had to be felled: cut down, chop down, hack down, saw down, clear.* **2** *she felled him with one punch: knock down/over, knock to the ground, strike down, bring down, floor, prostrate; knock out, knock unconscious; informal deck, flatten, down, lay out, KO; Brit. informal knock for six.*

**fell**<sup>2</sup> adjective (literary) *a fell intent: murderous, savage, violent, vicious, fierce, ferocious, barbarous, barbaric, monstrous, cruel, ruthless; old use sanguinary.*

■ **at/in one fell swoop** all at once, together, at the same time, in one go.

**fellow** noun **1** (informal) *he's a decent sort of fellow: man, boy; person, individual, soul; informal guy, geezer, lad, fella, character, customer, devil, bastard; Brit. informal chap, bloke; N. Amer. informal dude, hombre; Austral./NZ informal digger; informal, dated body, dog, cove.* **2** (informal) *she longed to have a fellow: boyfriend, lover.* **3** *he exchanged glances with his fellows: companion, friend, comrade, partner, associate, co-worker, colleague; informal chum, pal, buddy; Brit. informal mate.* **4** *some peasants were wealthier than their fellows: peer, equal, contemporary, confrère; old use compeer.*

■ **fellow feeling** sympathy, empathy, feeling, compassion, care, concern, solicitude, solicitousness, warmth, tenderness, (brotherly) love; pity, sorrow, commiseration.

**fellowship** noun **1** *a community bound together in fellowship: companionship, companionship, sociability, comradeship, camaraderie, friendship, mutual support; togetherness, solidarity; informal chumminess, palliness; Brit. informal mateyness.* **2** *the church fellowship: association, society, club, league, union, guild, affiliation, alliance, fraternity, brotherhood, sorority, sodality.*

**female** adjective *typical female attributes: feminine, womanly, ladylike; old use feminal.*  
– OPPOSITES male.

• **noun** *the victim was an elderly female.* See WOMAN sense 1.

**feminine** adjective **1** *a very feminine young woman: womanly, girlish, girlie; old use feminal.* **2** *he enjoyed feminine company: female.*

– OPPOSITES masculine, manly.

**femininity** noun womanliness, feminineness, womanly/feminine qualities.

**feminism** noun the women's movement, the feminist movement, women's liberation, female emancipation, women's rights; informal women's lib.

**femme fatale** noun seductress, temptress, siren; informal vamp.

**fen** noun marsh, marshland, salt marsh, fenland, wetland, (peat) bog, swamp, swampland; N. Amer. moor.

**fence** noun **1** a gap in the fence: barrier, paling, railing, enclosure, barricade, stockade, palisade. **2** (informal) a fence dealing mainly in jewellery: receiver (of stolen goods), dealer.

• verb **1** they fenced off many acres: enclose, surround, circumscribe, encircle, circle, encompass; isolate; literary engirdle; old use compass. **2** he fenced in his chickens: confine, pen in, coop up, shut in/up, separate off; enclose, surround; N. Amer. corral. **3** the man fenced but Jim persisted: be evasive, be vague, be non-committal, equivocate, prevaricate, stall, vacillate, hedge, pussyfoot around, sidestep the issue; informal duck the question/issue.

■ (sitting) on the fence (informal) undecided, uncommitted, uncertain, unsure, vacillating, wavering, dithering, hesitant, doubtful, ambivalent, in two minds, in a quandary; neutral, impartial, non-partisan, open-minded; Brit. humming and hawing.

**fend** verb they were unable to fend off the invasion: ward off, head off, stave off, hold off, repel, repulse, resist, fight off, defend oneself against, prevent, stop, block, intercept, hold back.

■ fend for oneself take care of oneself, look after oneself, provide for oneself, shift for oneself, manage by oneself, cope alone, stand on one's own two feet.

**feral** adjective **1** feral dogs: wild, untamed, undomesticated, untrained. **2** a feral snarl: fierce, ferocious, vicious, savage, predatory, menacing, bloodthirsty.

– OPPOSITES tame, pet.

**ferment** verb **1** the beer continues to ferment: brew; effervesce, fizz, foam, froth. **2** an environment that ferments disorder: cause, bring about, give rise to, generate, engender, spawn, instigate, provoke, incite, excite, stir up, whip up, foment; literary beget, enkindle.

• noun **1** a ferment of revolutionary upheaval: fever, furor, frenzy, tumult, storm, rumpus; turmoil, upheaval, unrest, disquiet, uproar, agitation, turbulence, disruption, confusion, disorder, chaos, mayhem; informal kerfuffle, hoo-ha, to-do; Brit. informal aggro. **2** (old use) the action of a ferment: fermenting agent/substance, enzyme; yeast, bacteria, leaven.

**ferocious** adjective **1** ferocious animals: fierce, savage, wild, predatory, aggressive, dangerous. **2** a ferocious attack: brutal, vicious, violent, bloody, barbaric, savage, sadistic, ruthless, cruel, merciless, heartless, bloodthirsty, murderous; literary fell; old use sanguinary. **3** (informal) a ferocious headache: intense, strong, powerful, fierce, severe, extreme, acute, unbearable; informal hellish.

– OPPOSITES gentle, mild.

**ferocity** noun savagery, brutality, barbarity, fierceness, violence, bloodthirstiness, murderousness; ruthlessness, cruelty, pitilessness, mercilessness, heartlessness.

**ferret** verb **1** she ferreted in her handbag: rummage, feel, grope, forage, fish, poke about/around; search through, hunt through, rifle through; Austral./NZ informal fossick through. **2** ferreting out misdemeanours: unearth, uncover, discover, detect, search out, bring to light, track down, dig up, root out, nose out; informal get wise to; Brit. informal rumble.

**ferry** noun the ferry from Dover to Calais: passenger boat/ship, ferry boat, car ferry; ship, boat, vessel; dated packet (boat).

• verb **1** ferrying passengers to and from the Continent: transport, convey, carry, ship, run, take, bring, shuttle. **2** the boat ferried hourly across the river: go back and forth, shuttle, run.

**fertile** adjective **1** the soil is fertile: fecund, fruitful, productive, high-yielding, rich, lush; formal fructuous. **2** fertile couples: able to conceive, able to have children; technical fecund. **3** a fertile brain: imaginative, inventive, innovative, creative, visionary, original, ingenious; productive, prolific.

– OPPOSITES barren.

**fertilization** noun conception, impregnation, insemination; pollination, propagation.

**fertilize** verb **1** the field was fertilized: feed, mulch, compost, manure, dress, top-dress. **2** these orchids are fertilized by insects: pollinate, cross-pollinate, cross-fertilize.

**fertilizer** noun manure, plant food, compost, dressing, top dressing, dung.

**fervent** adjective impassioned, passionate, intense, vehement, ardent, sincere, fervid, heartfelt; enthusiastic, zealous, fanatical, wholehearted, avid, eager, keen, committed, dedicated, devout; informal mad keen; literary perfervid.

– OPPOSITES apathetic.

**fervid** adjective fervent, ardent, passionate, impassioned, intense, vehement, wholehearted, heartfelt, sincere, earnest; literary perfervid.

**fervour** noun passion, ardour, intensity, zeal, vehemence, emotion, warmth, earnestness, avidity, eagerness, keenness, enthusiasm, excitement, animation, vigour, energy, fire, spirit, zest, fervency, ardency.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**fester** verb **1** his deep wound festered: suppurate, become septic, form pus, weep; Medicine maturate, be purulent; old use rankle. **2** rubbish festered: rot, moulder, decay, decompose, putrefy, go bad/off, spoil, deteriorate. **3** their resentment festered:

rankle, eat/gnaw away at one's mind, brew, smoulder.

**festival** noun **1** the town's autumn festival: fete, fair, gala (day), carnival, fiesta, jamboree, celebrations, festivities,



eisteddfod. **2** *fasting precedes the festival*: holy day, feast day, saint's day, commemoration, day of observance.

**festive** adjective jolly, merry, joyous, joyful, happy, jovial, light-hearted, cheerful, jubilant, convivial, high-spirited, mirthful, uproarious; celebratory, holiday, carnival; Christmassy; old use festal.

**festivity** noun **1** *food plays an important part in the festivities*: celebration, festival, entertainment, party, jamboree; merrymaking, feasting, revelry, jollification; revels, fun and games; informal bash, shindig, shindy; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano. **2** *the festivity of the Last Night of the Proms*: jollity, merriment, gaiety, cheerfulness, cheer, joyfulness, jubilation, conviviality, high spirits, revelry.

**festoon** noun *festoons of paper flowers*: garland, chain, lei, swathe, swag, loop.

• verb *the room was festooned with streamers*: decorate, adorn, ornament, trim, deck (out), hang, loop, drape, drape, swathe, garland, wreath, bedeck; informal do up/out, get up, trick out; literary bedizen, furbelow.

**fetch** verb **1** *he went to fetch a doctor*: (go and) get, go for, call for, summon, pick up, collect, bring, carry, convey, transport. **2** *the land could fetch a million pounds*: sell for, bring in, raise, realize, yield, make, command, cost, be priced at; informal go for, pull in.

■ **fetch up** (informal) end up, finish up, turn up, appear, materialize, find itself; informal wind up, show up.

**fetching** adjective attractive, appealing, sweet, pretty, lovely, delightful, charming, prepossessing, captivating, enchanting, irresistible; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal divine, heavenly; Brit. informal fit, smashing; old use comely, fair.

**fete** noun (Brit.) gala (day), bazaar, fair, festival, fiesta, jubilee, carnival; fund-raiser, charity event.

**fetid** adjective stinking, smelly, foul-smelling, malodorous, reeking, pungent, acrid, high, rank, foul, noxious; Brit. informal niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; N. Amer. informal funky; literary noisome, miasmic, miasmal.

– OPPOSITES fragrant.

**fetish** noun **1** *he developed a rubber fetish*: fixation, obsession, compulsion, mania; weakness, fancy, fascination, fad; informal thing, hang-up. **2** *a voodoo fetish*: juju, talisman, charm, amulet; totem, idol, image, effigy; old use periapt.

**fetter** verb **1** *the captive was fettered*: shackle, manacle, handcuff, clap in irons, put in chains, chain (up); informal cuff; literary enfetter. **2** *these obligations fetter the company's powers*: restrict, restrain, constrain, limit; hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct, hamstring, inhibit, check, curb, trammel.

**fetters** plural noun shackles, manacles, handcuffs, irons, leg irons, chains, restraints; informal cuffs, bracelets; historical bilboes.

**fettle** noun shape, trim, (physical) fitness, (state of) health; condition, form, (state of) repair, (working) order; Brit. informal nick.

**fetus** noun embryo, fertilized egg, unborn baby/child.

**feud** noun *tribal feuds*: vendetta, conflict; rivalry, hostility, enmity, strife, discord; quarrel, argument, falling-out.

• verb *he feuded with his teammates*:

quarrel, fight, argue, bicker, squabble, fall out, dispute, clash, differ, be at odds; informal scrap.

**fever** noun **1** *he developed fever*: feverishness, high temperature, febrility; Medicine pyrexia; informal temperature. **2** *a fever of excitement*: ferment, frenzy, furore; ecstasy, rapture.

**3** *World Cup fever*: excitement, frenzy, agitation, passion.

#### WORD LINKS

febrile having a fever

febrifuge a medicine used to reduce fever

**fevered** adjective **1** *her fevered brow*: feverish, febrile, hot, burning; rare pyretic. **2** *a fevered imagination*: excited, agitated, frenzied, overwrought, fervid.

**feverish** adjective **1** *she's really feverish*: febrile, fevered, hot, burning; rare pyretic. **2** *feverish excitement*: frenzied, frenetic, hectic, agitated, excited, restless, nervous, worked up, overwrought, frantic, furious, hysterical, wild, uncontrolled, unrestrained.

**few** determiner *police are revealing few details*: not many, hardly any, scarcely any; a small number of, a small amount of, one or two, a handful of; little.

– OPPOSITES many.

• adjective *comforts here are few*: scarce, scant, meagre, insufficient, in short supply; thin on the ground, few and far between, infrequent, uncommon, rare.

– OPPOSITES plentiful.

■ **a few** a small number, a handful, one or two, a couple, two or three; not many, hardly any.

**fiancée, fiancé** noun betrothed, wife-to-be, husband-to-be, bride-to-be, future wife/husband, prospective spouse; informal intended.

**fiasco** noun failure, disaster, catastrophe, debacle, shambles, farce, mess, wreck; informal flop, washout; Brit. informal cock-up; N. Amer. informal snafu; Austral./NZ informal fizzer.

– OPPOSITES success.

**fiat** noun decree, edict, order, command, commandment, injunction, proclamation, mandate, dictum, diktat.

**fib** noun *you're telling a fib*: lie, untruth, falsehood, made-up story, invention, fabrication, deception, (piece of) fiction; (little) white lie, half-truth; informal tall story/tale, whopper; Brit. informal porky (pie).

– OPPOSITES truth.

• verb *she had bunked off school, fibbing about a sore throat*: lie, tell a fib, tell a lie, invent a story, make up a story; informal kid.

**fibre** noun **1** *fibres from the murderer's*

**jumper:** thread, strand, filament; technical fibril. **2 natural fibres:** material, cloth, fabric. **3 a man with no fibre.** See **MORAL FIBRE**. **4 you need more fibre in your diet:** roughage, bulk.

**fickle** adjective capricious, changeable, variable, volatile, mercurial; inconstant, undependable, unsteady, unfaithful, faithless, flighty, giddy, skittish; technical labile; literary mutable.

— OPPOSITES constant.

**fiction** noun **1 the traditions of British fiction:** novels, stories, creative writing, literature.

**2 the president dismissed the allegation as absolute fiction:** fabrication, invention, lies, fibs, untruth, falsehood, fantasy, nonsense.

— OPPOSITES fact.

**fictional** adjective fictitious, invented, imaginary, made up, make-believe, unreal, fabricated, mythical.

— OPPOSITES real.

**fictitious** adjective **1 a fictitious name:** false, fake, fabricated, sham; bogus, spurious, assumed, affected, adopted, feigned, invented, made up; informal pretend, phoney.

**2 a fictitious character.** See **FICTIONAL**.

— OPPOSITES genuine.

**fiddle** (informal) noun **1 she played the fiddle:** violin, viola. **2 a VAT fiddle:** fraud, swindle, confidence trick; informal racket, con trick, flimflam.

• verb **1 he fiddled with a beer mat:** fidget, play, toy, twiddle, fuss, fool about/around; finger, thumb, handle; informal mess about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around. **2 he fiddled with the dials:** adjust, tinker, play about/around, meddle, interfere. **3 fiddling the figures:** falsify, manipulate, massage, rig, distort, misrepresent, doctor, alter, tamper with, interfere with; informal fix, flimflam, cook (the books).

**fiddling** adjective (informal) trivial, petty, trifling, insignificant, unimportant, inconsequential, negligible, paltry, footling, minor, small, incidental, of little/no account; informal piddling, piffing.

— OPPOSITES important.

**fidelity** noun **1 fidelity to her husband:** faithfulness, loyalty, constancy; true-heartedness, trustworthiness, dependability, reliability; formal troth. **2 fidelity to your king:** loyalty, allegiance, obedience, constancy, homage; historical fealty. **3 the fidelity of the reproduction:** accuracy, exactness, precision, preciseness, correctness; strictness, closeness, faithfulness, authenticity.

— OPPOSITES disloyalty.

**fidget** verb **1 the audience began to fidget:** wriggle, squirm, twitch, jiggle, shuffle, be agitated; informal be jittery. **2 she fidgeted with her scarf:** play, fuss, toy, twiddle, fool about/around; informal fiddle, mess about/around. **3 she seemed to fidget him:** make uneasy, worry, agitate, bother, upset, ruffle.

• noun **1 his convulsive fidgets:** twitch, wriggle, squirm, jiggle, shuffle, tic, spasm.

**2 what a fidget you are!** restless person,

bundle of nerves. **3 that woman gives me the fidgets:** restlessness, nervousness, fidgetiness; informal the jitters, twitchiness.

**fidgety** adjective restless, restive, on edge, uneasy, nervous, nervy, keyed up, anxious, agitated; informal jittery, twitchy.

**field** noun **1 a large ploughed field:** meadow, pasture, paddock, grassland, pastureland, sward; literary lea, mead; old use glebe. **2 a football field:** pitch, ground, sports field, playing field, recreation ground. **3 the field of biotechnology:** area, sphere, discipline, province, department, domain, sector, branch, subject; informal bailiwick. **4 your field of vision:** scope, range, sweep, reach, extent. **5 she is well ahead of the field:** competitors, entrants, competition; applicants, candidates, possibles.

• verb **1 she fielded the ball:** catch, stop, retrieve; return, throw back. **2 they had fielded an ineligible player:** put in, send out, play, put up. **3 they can field an army of about one million:** deploy, position, range, dispose.

**4 he fielded some awkward questions:** deal with, handle, cope with, answer, reply to, respond to.

• adjective **1 field experience:** practical, hands-on, applied, experiential, empirical. **2 field artillery:** mobile, portable, transportable, movable, manoeuvrable, light.

**fiend** noun **1 a fiend had taken possession of him:** demon, devil, evil spirit, bogie, cademon; informal spook. **2 a fiend bent on global evil-doing:** brute, beast, villain, barbarian, monster, ogre, sadist, evildoer; informal swine. **3 (informal) a drug fiend:** addict, abuser, user; informal junkie, —head/freak. **4 (informal) I'm a fiend for Mexican food:** enthusiast, maniac; devotee, fan, lover; informal fanatic, addict, buff, freak, nut.

**fiendish** adjective **1 a fiendish torturer:** wicked, cruel, vicious, evil, malevolent, villainous; brutal, savage, barbaric, barbarous, inhuman, murderous, ruthless, merciless; dated dastardly. **2 a fiendish plot:** cunning, clever, ingenious, crafty, canny, wily, devious, shrewd; informal foxy, sneaky. **3 a fiendish puzzle:** difficult, complex, challenging, complicated, intricate, involved, knotty, thorny.

**fierce** adjective **1 a fierce black mastiff:** ferocious, savage, vicious, aggressive. **2 fierce competition:** aggressive, cut-throat, competitive; keen, intense, strong, relentless. **3 fierce, murderous jealousy:** intense, powerful, vehement, passionate, impassioned, fervent, fervid, ardent. **4 a fierce wind:** powerful, strong, violent, forceful; stormy, blustery, gusty, tempestuous. **5 a fierce pain:** severe, extreme, intense, acute, awful, dreadful; excruciating, agonizing, piercing.

— OPPOSITES gentle, mild.

**fiery** adjective **1 fiery breath:** burning, blazing, flaming; on fire, ablaze; literary afire. **2 a fiery red:** bright, brilliant, vivid, intense, deep, rich. **3 her fiery spirit:** passionate, impassioned, ardent, fervent, fervid,

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spirited; quick-tempered, volatile, explosive, aggressive, determined, resolute.

**fiesta** *noun* festival, carnival, holiday, celebration, party.

**fight** *verb* 1 *two men were fighting: brawl*, exchange blows, attack/assault each other, hit/punch each other; struggle, grapple, wrestle; informal scrap, have a dust-up, have a set-to; Brit. informal have a punch-up; N. Amer. informal rough-house; Austral./NZ informal stoush, go the knuckle. 2 *he fought in the First World War: (do) battle*, go to war, take up arms, be a soldier; engage, meet, clash, skirmish. 3 *a war fought for freedom: engage* in, wage, conduct, prosecute, undertake. 4 *they are always fighting: quarrel*, argue, row, bicker, squabble, fall out, have a row/fight, wrangle, be at odds, disagree, differ, have words, bandy words, be at each other's throats, be at loggerheads; informal scrap; old use altercation. 5 *fighting against wage reductions: campaign*, strive, battle, struggle, contend, crusade, agitate, lobby, push, press. 6 *they will fight the decision: oppose*, contest, contend with, confront, challenge, combat, dispute, quarrel with, argue against/with, strive against, struggle against. 7 *Donaldson fought the urge to put his tongue out: repress*, restrain, suppress, stifle, smother, hold back, fight back, keep in check, curb, control, rein in, choke back; informal keep the lid on, cork up.

• **noun** 1 *a fight outside a club: brawl*, fracas, melee, rumpus, skirmish, sparring match, struggle, scuffle, altercation, scrum, clash, disturbance; fisticuffs; informal scrap, dust-up, set-to, shindy, shindig; Brit. informal punch-up, bust-up, ruck; N. Amer. informal rough house, brannigan; Austral./NZ informal stoush; Law, dated affray; rare broil. 2 *a heavyweight fight: boxing match*, bout, match. 3 *Britain's fight against Germany: battle*, engagement, clash, conflict, struggle; war, campaign, crusade, action, hostilities. 4 *a fight with my girlfriend: argument*, quarrel, squabble, row, wrangle, disagreement, falling-out, contretemps, altercation, dispute; informal tiff, spat, scrap, slanging match; Brit. informal barney, ding-dong, bust-up. 5 *their fight for control of the company: struggle*, battle, campaign, push, effort. 6 *she had no fight left in her: will to resist*, resistance, spirit, courage, pluck, pluckiness, grit, strength, backbone, determination, resolution, resolve, resoluteness, aggression, aggressiveness; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal sand, moxie.

■ **fight back** 1 *use your pent-up anger to fight back*: retaliate, counter-attack, strike back, hit back, respond, reciprocate, return fire, give tit for tat; formal requite something. 2 *she fought back tears*. See **FIGHT** verb sense 7.

■ **fight someone/something off** *repel*, repulse, beat off/back, ward off, fend off, keep/hold at bay, drive away/back, force back.

■ **fight shy of** *flinch from*, demur from, recoil from; have scruples about, have misgivings about, have qualms about,

be averse to, be chary of, be loath to, be reluctant to, be disinclined to, be afraid to, hesitate to, balk at; informal boggle at; old use disrelish.

**fightback** *noun* (Brit.) counter-attack, counteroffensive; rally, recovery; informal comeback.

**fighter** *noun* 1 *a guerrilla fighter: soldier*, fighting man/woman, warrior, combatant, serviceman, servicewoman, trooper; Brit. informal squaddie; old use man-at-arms. 2 *the fighter was knocked to the ground: boxer*, pugilist, prizefighter; wrestler; informal scrapper, pug.

**fighting** *adjective* *a fighting man: violent*, combative, aggressive, pugnacious, truculent, belligerent, bellicose.

– OPPOSITES peaceful.

• **noun** 200 *were injured in the fighting: violence*, hostilities, conflict, action, combat; warfare, war, battles, skirmishing, rioting; Law, dated affray.

– OPPOSITES peace.

**figment** *noun* invention, creation, fabrication; hallucination, illusion, delusion, fancy, vision.

**figurative** *adjective* *metaphorical*, non-literal, symbolic, allegorical, representative, emblematic.

– OPPOSITES literal.

**figure** *noun* 1 *the production figure: statistic*, number, quantity, amount, level, total, sum; (figures) data, information. 2 *the second figure was 9: digit*, numeral, numerical symbol. 3 *he can't put a figure on it: price*, cost, amount, value, valuation. 4 *I'm good at figures: arithmetic*, mathematics, sums, calculations, computation, numbers; Brit. informal maths; N. Amer. informal math. 5 *her petite figure: physique*, build, frame, body, proportions, shape, form. 6 *a dark figure emerged: silhouette*, outline, shape, form. 7 *a figure of authority: person*, personage, individual, man, woman, character, personality; representative, embodiment, personification, epitome. 8 *life-size figures: human representation*, effigy. 9 *geometrical figures: shape*, pattern, design, motif. 10 *see figure 4: diagram*, illustration, drawing, picture, plate.

• **verb** 1 *a beast figuring in Egyptian legend: feature*, appear, be featured, be mentioned, be referred to, have prominence. 2 *a way to figure the values: calculate*, work out, total, reckon, compute, determine, assess, put a figure on; Brit. tot up. 3 (informal) *I figured that I didn't have a chance: suppose*, think, believe, consider, expect, take it, suspect, sense; assume, dare say, conclude, take it as read, presume, deduce, infer, gather; N. Amer. guess. 4 (informal) *'Rosemary's away.' 'That figures.'* *make sense*, seem reasonable, stand to reason, be to be expected, be logical, follow, ring true.

■ **figure on** (N. Amer. informal) *they figured on paying about \$100: plan on*, count on, rely on, bank on, bargain on, depend on, pin one's hopes on; anticipate, expect to.



■ **figure something out** (informal) *he tried to figure out how to switch on the lamp*: work out, fathom, puzzle out, decipher, ascertain, make sense of, think through, get to the bottom of; understand, comprehend, see, grasp, get the hang of, get the drift of; informal twig, crack; Brit. informal suss out.

**filament** noun fibre, thread, strand; technical fibril.

**file**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *he opened the file*: folder, portfolio, binder, document case. **2** *we have files on all the major companies*: dossier, document, record, report; data, information, documentation, annals, archives. **3** *the computer file was searched*: document, text; databank, database.

• **verb** **1** *file the documents correctly*: categorize, classify, organize, put in place/ order, order, arrange, catalogue, record, store, archive. **2** *Debbie has filed for divorce*: apply, register, ask. **3** *two women have filed a civil suit against him*: bring, press, lodge, place; formal prefer.

**file**<sup>2</sup> noun *a file of boys*: line, column, row, string, chain, procession; Brit. informal crocodile.

• **verb** *we filed out into the car park*: walk, march, parade, troop.

**file**<sup>3</sup> verb *she filed her nails*: smooth, buff, rub (down), polish, shape; scrape, abrade, rasp, sandpaper.

**filial** adjective dutiful, devoted, compliant, respectful, affectionate, loving.

**filibuster** noun *many hours in committee are characterized by filibuster*: delaying tactics, stonewalling, procrastination, obstruction, temporizing.

• **verb** *the opposition are filibustering*: waste time, stall, play for time, stonewall, procrastinate, buy time, employ delaying tactics.

**filigree** noun tracery, fretwork, latticework, scrollwork, lacework.

**fill** verb **1** *he filled a bowl with cereal*: make/ become full, fill up, fill to the brim, top up, charge. **2** *guests filled the parlour*: crowd into, throng, pack (into), occupy, squeeze into, cram (into); overcrowd, overfill. **3** *he began filling his shelves*: stock, pack, load, supply, replenish, restock, refill. **4** *fill all the holes with a wood-repair compound*: block up, stop (up), plug, seal, caulk. **5** *the perfume filled the room*: pervade, permeate, suffuse, be diffused through, penetrate, infuse, perfuse. **6** *he was going to fill a government post*: occupy, hold, take up; informal hold down. **7** *we had just filled a big order*: carry out, complete, fulfil, execute, discharge; formal effectuate.

– **OPPOSITES** empty.

■ **fill in** substitute, deputize, stand in, cover, take over, act as stand-in, take the place of; informal sub, step into someone's shoes/boots; N. Amer. informal pinch-hit.

■ **fill someone in** inform of, advise of, tell about, acquaint with, apprise of, brief on, update with; informal put in the picture about, bring up to speed on.

■ **fill something in** (Brit.) complete, answer, fill up; N. Amer. fill out.

■ **fill out** grow fatter, become plumper, flesh out, put on weight, get heavier.

■ **fill something out** **1** *this account needs to be filled out*: expand, enlarge, add to, elaborate on, flesh out; supplement, extend, develop, amplify. **2** (N. Amer.) *he filled out the forms*. See **FILL SOMETHING IN**.

**filling** noun *filling for cushions*: stuffing, padding, wadding, filler.

• **adjective** *a filling meal*: substantial, hearty, ample, satisfying, square; heavy, stodgy.

**fillip** noun stimulus, stimulation, boost, incentive, impetus; tonic, spur, push, aid, help; informal shot in the arm.

**film** noun **1** *a film of sweat*: layer, coat, coating, covering, cover, sheet, patina, overlay. **2** *Emma was watching a film*: movie, picture, feature (film), motion picture; informal flick, pic, talkie; dated moving picture. **3** *she would like to work in film*: cinema, movies, the pictures, the silver screen, celluloid.

• **verb** **1** *he immediately filmed the next scene*: record, shoot, capture, video. **2** *his eyes had filmed over*: cloud, mist, haze; become blurred, blur; old use blear.

#### WORD LINKS

cinematic relating to films and the cinema  
cinematography the art of camerawork in film-making  
cineaste, cinephile a film expert or enthusiast

**film star** noun (film) actor/actress, movie star, leading man/woman, leading lady, lead; celebrity, star, starlet, superstar; informal celeb; informal, dated matinee idol.

**filmy** adjective diaphanous, transparent, see-through, translucent, sheer, gossamer; delicate, fine, light, thin, silky.

– **OPPOSITES** thick, opaque.

**filter** noun *a carbon filter*: strainer, sifter; sieve, riddle; gauze, netting.

• **verb** **1** *the farmers filter the water*: sieve, strain, sift, filtrate, riddle; clarify, purify, refine, treat. **2** *the rain had filtered through her jacket*: seep, percolate, leak, trickle, ooze.

**filth** noun **1** *stagnant pools of filth*: dirt, muck, grime, mud, mire, sludge, slime, ooze; excrement, excreta, dung, manure, ordure, sewage; rubbish, refuse, dross; pollution, contamination, filthiness, uncleanness, foulness, nastiness; N. Amer. garbage; informal crud, grunge; Brit. informal grot, gunge; N. Amer. informal trash. **2** *I felt sick after reading that filth*: pornography, pornographic literature/ films, dirty books, smut, obscenity, indecency; informal porn, porno.

**filthy** adjective **1** *the room was filthy*: dirty, mucky, grimy, muddy, slimy, unclean; foul, squalid, sordid, nasty, soiled, sullied; polluted, contaminated, unhygienic, unsanitary; informal cruddy, grungy; Brit. informal grotty; literary besmirched. **2** *his face*

*was filthy: unwashed*, unclean, dirty, grimy, smeared, grubby, muddy, mucky, black, blackened, stained; literary begrimed. **3** *filthy jokes: obscene*, indecent, dirty, smutty, rude, improper, coarse, bawdy, vulgar, lewd, racy, off colour, earthy, ribald, risqué, 'adult', pornographic, explicit; informal blue, porn, porno, X-rated; N. Amer. informal raw. **4** *you filthy brute! despicable*, contemptible, nasty, low, base, mean, vile, obnoxious; informal dirty (rotten), low-down, no-good. **5** *he was in a filthy mood: bad*, foul, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, cross, fractious, peevish; informal snappish, snappy; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery.

– OPPOSITES clean.

• **adverb** *filthy rich: very*, extremely, tremendously, immensely, remarkably, excessively, exceedingly; informal stinking, awfully, terribly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn.

**final** **adjective** **1** *the final year of study:*

**last**, closing, concluding, finishing, end, terminating, ultimate, eventual.

**2** *their decisions are final: irrevocable*, unalterable, absolute, conclusive, irrefutable, incontrovertible, indisputable, unchallengeable, binding.

– OPPOSITES first, provisional.

• **noun** *the FA Cup final: decider*, final game/match.

– OPPOSITES qualifier.

**finale** **noun** *climax*, culmination; end, ending, finish, close, conclusion, termination; denouement, last act, final scene.

– OPPOSITES beginning.

**finality** **noun** *conclusiveness*, decisiveness, decision, definiteness, definitiveness, certainty, certitude; irrevocability, irrefutability, incontrovertibility.

**finalize** **verb** *conclude*, complete, clinch, settle, work out, secure, wrap up, wind up, put the finishing touches to; reach an agreement on, agree on, come to terms on; informal sew up.

**finally** **adverb** **1** *she finally got her man to the altar: eventually*, ultimately, in the end, after a long time, at (long) last; in the long run, in the fullness of time. **2** *finally, wrap the ribbon round the edge: lastly*, last, in conclusion, to conclude, to end. **3** *this should finally dispel that common misconception: conclusively*, irrevocably, decisively, definitively, for ever, for good, once and for all.

**finance** **noun** **1** *he knows about finance:*

**financial affairs**, money matters, fiscal matters, economics, money management, commerce, business, investment. **2** *short-term finance: funds*, assets, money, capital, resources, cash, reserves, revenue, income; funding, backing, sponsorship.

• **verb** *the project was financed by grants:*

**fund**, pay for, back, capitalize, endow, subsidize, invest in; underwrite, guarantee, sponsor, support; N. Amer. informal bankroll.

**financial** **adjective** *monetary*, money,

economic, pecuniary, fiscal, banking, commercial, business, investment.

**financier** **noun** *investor*, speculator, banker, capitalist, industrialist, businessman, businesswoman, stockbroker; informal money man.

**find** **verb** **1** *I found the book I wanted: locate*, spot, pinpoint, unearth, obtain; search out, nose out, track down, root out; come across/upon, run across/into, chance on, light on, happen on, stumble on, encounter; informal bump into; literary espy, descry. **2** *they have found a cure for rabies: discover*, invent, come up with, hit on. **3** *the police found her purse: retrieve*, recover, get back, regain, repossess. **4** *I hope you find peace: obtain*, acquire, get, procure, come by, secure, gain, earn, achieve, attain. **5** *I found the courage to speak: summon (up)*, gather, muster (up), screw up, call up. **6** *caffeine is found in coffee and tea: be (present)*, occur, exist, be existent, appear. **7** *you'll find that it's a lively area: discover*, become aware, realize, observe, notice, note, perceive, learn. **8** *I find their decision strange: consider*, think, believe to be, feel to be, look on as, view as, see as, judge, deem, regard as. **9** *he was found guilty: judge*, adjudge, adjudicate, deem, rule, declare, pronounce. **10** *her barb found its mark: arrive at*, reach, attain, achieve; hit, strike.

– OPPOSITES lose.

• **noun** **1** *an archaeological find: discovery*, acquisition, asset. **2** *this table is a real find: good buy*, bargain, boon.

■ **find out** *discover*, become aware, learn, detect, discern, perceive, observe, notice, note, get/come to know, realize; bring to light, reveal, expose, unearth, disclose; informal figure out, cotton on, catch on, tumble, get wise, savvy; Brit. informal twig, rumble, suss.

**finding** **noun** **1** *the finding of the leak: discovery*, location, locating, detection, detecting, uncovering. **2** *the tribunal's findings: conclusion*, decision, verdict, pronouncement, judgement, ruling, rule, decree, order, recommendation; Law determination; N. Amer. resolve.

**fine** **adjective** **1** *a fine collection of Regency furniture | fine wines: excellent*, first-class, first-rate, great, exceptional, outstanding, quality, superior, splendid, magnificent, exquisite, choice, select, premium, prime, supreme, superb, wonderful, superlative, of high quality, second to none; informal A1, top-notch, splendid. **2** *a fine lady: worthy*, admirable, praiseworthy, laudable, estimable, upright, upstanding, respectable. **3** *the initiative is fine, but it's not enough on its own: all right*, acceptable, suitable, good (enough), passable, satisfactory, adequate, reasonable, tolerable; informal OK. **4** *I feel fine: in good health*, well, healthy, all right, (fighting) fit, as fit as a fiddle/flea, blooming, thriving, in good shape/condition, in fine fettle; informal OK, in the pink. **5** *a fine day: fair*, dry, bright, clear, sunny, without a cloud in the sky,

warm, balmy, summery. **6** *a fine old house*: impressive, imposing, striking, splendid, grand, majestic, magnificent, stately. **7** *fine clothes*: elegant, stylish, expensive, smart, chic, fashionable; fancy, sumptuous, lavish, opulent; informal flashy, swanky, ritzy, plush. **8** *a fine mind*: keen, quick, alert, sharp, bright, brilliant, astute, clever, intelligent, perspicacious. **9** *fine china*: delicate, fragile, dainty. **10** *fine hair*: thin, light, delicate, wispy, flyaway. **11** *a fine point*: sharp, keen, acute, sharpened, razor-sharp. **12** *fine material*: sheer, light, lightweight, thin, flimsy; diaphanous, filmy, gossamer, silky, transparent, translucent, see-through. **13** *a fine gold chain*: pure, sterling, solid, unmixed, unblended, one hundred per cent. **14** *fine sand*: fine-grained, powdery, powdered, dusty, ground, crushed; technical comminuted; old use pulverulent. **15** *fine detailed work*: intricate, delicate, detailed, elaborate, dainty, meticulous. **16** *a fine distinction*: subtle, ultra-fine, nice, hair-splitting. **17** *people's finer feelings*: elevated, lofty, exalted; refined, sensitive, cultivated, cultured, civilized, sophisticated. **18** *fine taste*: discerning, discriminating, refined, cultivated, cultured, critical.

– OPPOSITES poor, unsatisfactory, ill, inclement, thick, coarse.

• **adverb** (informal) *you're doing fine*: well, all right, not badly, satisfactorily, adequately, nicely, tolerably; informal OK, good.

– OPPOSITES badly.

• **verb 1** *it can be fined right down to the required shape*: thin, make/become thin, narrow, taper, attenuate. **2** *additives for fining wine*: clarify, clear, purify, refine, filter.

**fine**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *heavy fines*: (financial) penalty, sanction, fee, charge; formal mulct; Brit. historical amercement.

• **verb** *they were fined for breaking environmental laws*: penalize, impose a fine on, charge; formal mulct; Brit. historical amerce.

**finery** **noun** *regalia*, best clothes, (Sunday) best; informal glad rags, best bib and tucker.

**finesse** **noun 1** *masterly finesse*: skill, skilfulness, expertise, subtlety, flair, panache, elan, polish, artistry, virtuosity, mastery. **2** *a modicum of finesse*: tact, tactfulness, discretion, diplomacy, delicacy, sensitivity, perceptiveness, savoir faire. **3** *a clever finesse*: winning move, trick, stratagem, ruse, manoeuvre, artifice, machination.

**finger** **noun** *he wagged his finger at her*: digit, thumb, index finger, forefinger; informal pinkie.

• **verb 1** *she fingered her brooch uneasily*: touch, feel, handle, stroke, rub, caress, fondle, toy with, play (about/around) with, fiddle with. **2** (N. Amer. informal) *no one fingered the culprit*: identify, recognize, pick out, spot; inform on, point the finger at; informal rat on, squeal on, tell on, blow the whistle on, snitch on, peach on; Brit. informal grass on.

**finicky** **adjective** *fussy, fastidious, punctilious, over-particular, difficult,*

*exacting, demanding; informal picky, choosy, pernicky; N. Amer. informal persnickety; old use nice.*

**finish** **verb 1** *Mrs Porter had just finished the task*: complete, end, conclude, stop, cease, terminate, bring to a conclusion/end/close, wind up; crown, cap, round off, put the finishing touches to; accomplish, discharge, carry out, do, get done, fulfil; informal wrap up, sew up, polish off. **2** *Sarah has finished school*: leave, give up, drop; stop, discontinue, have done with, complete; informal pack in, quit. **3** *Hitch finished his dinner*: consume, eat, devour, drink, finish off, polish off, gulp (down); use (up), exhaust, empty, drain, get through, run through; informal down. **4** *the programme has finished*: end, come to an end, stop, conclude, come to a conclusion/end/close, cease. **5** *some items were finished in a black lacquer*: varnish, lacquer, veneer, coat, stain, wax, shellac, enamel, glaze.

– OPPOSITES start, begin, continue.

• **noun 1** *the finish of filming*: end, ending, completion, conclusion, close, closing, cessation, termination; final part/stage, finale, denouement; informal sewing up, polishing off. **2** *a gallop to the finish*: finishing line/post, tape. **3** *an antiquated paint finish*: veneer, lacquer, lamination, glaze, coating, covering; surface, texture.

– OPPOSITES start, beginning.

■ **finish someone/something off 1** *the executioners finished them off*: kill, take/end the life of, execute, terminate, exterminate, liquidate, get rid of; informal wipe out, do in, bump off, take out, dispose of, do away with; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, waste. **2** *financial difficulties finished off the business*: overwhelm, overcome, defeat, get the better of, worst, bring down; informal drive to the wall, best.

**finished** **adjective 1** *the finished job*: completed, concluded, terminated, over (and done with), at an end; accomplished, executed, discharged, fulfilled, done; informal wrapped up, sewn up, polished off; formal effectuated. **2** *a finished performance*: accomplished, polished, flawless, faultless, perfect; expert, proficient, masterly, impeccable, virtuoso, skilful, skilled, professional. **3** *he was finished*: ruined, defeated, beaten, wrecked, doomed, bankrupt, broken; informal washed up, through.

– OPPOSITES incomplete.

**finite** **adjective** *limited, restricted, fixed, determinate.*

**fire** **noun 1** *a fire broke out*: blaze, conflagration, inferno; flames, burning, combustion. **2** *an electric fire*: heater, radiator, convector. **3** *he lacked fire*: dynamism, energy, vigour, animation, vitality, vibrancy, exuberance, zest, elan; passion, ardour, zeal, spirit, verve, vivacity, vivaciousness; enthusiasm, eagerness, gusto, fervour, fervency; informal pep, vim, go, get-up-and-go, oomph. **4** *rapid machine-gun fire*: gunfire, firing, flak, bombardment.



**5** *they directed their fire at the prime minister: criticism, censure, condemnation, denunciation, opprobrium, admonishments, brickbats; hostility, antagonism, animosity; informal flak.*

• **verb 1** *howitzers firing shells: launch*, shoot, discharge, let fly with. **2** *someone fired a gun: shoot, discharge, let off, set off.* **3** (informal) *he was fired: dismiss, discharge, give someone their notice, lay off, let go, get rid of, axe, cashier; informal sack, give someone the sack, boot out, give someone the boot/bullet, give someone the elbow/push, give someone their marching orders; Brit. informal give someone their cards.* **4** *the engine fired: start, get started, get going.* **5** (old use) *I fired the straw: light, ignite, set fire to, set on fire, set alight, set ablaze; informal torch; literary enkindle, inflame.* **6** *the stories fired my imagination: stimulate, stir up, excite, awaken, arouse, rouse, inflame, animate, inspire, motivate.*

■ **catch fire** ignite, catch light, burst into flames, go up in flames.

■ **on fire 1** *the restaurant was on fire: burning, alight, ablaze, blazing, aflame, in flames; literary afire.* **2** *she was on fire with passion: ardent, passionate, fervent, excited, eager, enthusiastic.*

#### WORD LINKS

**arson** the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property

**pyromania** an obsessive desire to set fire to things

**incendiary** a bomb designed to cause fires

**kindling**, **tinder** material used to light a fire

**Prometheus** (in Greek mythology) a

demigod who stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans

**salamander** a mythical creature said to live in fire

**firearm** noun *gun, weapon; informal shooter; N. Amer. informal piece, rod, shooting iron.*

**firebrand** noun *radical, revolutionary, agitator, rabble-rouser, incendiary, subversive, troublemaker.*

**fireproof** adjective *non-flammable, incombustible, fire resistant, flame resistant, flame retardant, heatproof.*

– OPPOSITES inflammable.

**firm**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *the ground is fairly firm: hard, solid, unyielding, resistant; solidified, hardened, compacted, compressed, dense, stiff, rigid, frozen, set.* **2** *firm foundations: secure, secured, stable, steady, strong, fixed, fast, set, taut, tight; immovable, irremovable, stationary, motionless.* **3** *a firm handshake: strong, vigorous, sturdy, forceful.* **4** *I was very firm about what I wanted: resolute, determined, decided, resolved, steadfast; adamant, emphatic, insistent, single-minded; sure, certain, definite.* **5** *a firm Labour supporter: wholehearted* unfaltering, unwavering, unflinching, unswerving, unbending; *hard-line*, committed, dyed-in-the-wool. **6** *firm friends: close, good, boon, intimate, inseparable, dear, special,*

*fast; constant, devoted, loving, faithful, long-standing, steady, steadfast.* **7** *firm plans: definite, fixed, settled, decided, established, confirmed, agreed; unalterable, unchangeable, irreversible.*

– OPPOSITES soft, unstable, limp, indefinite.

**firm**<sup>2</sup> noun *an accountancy firm: company, business, concern, enterprise, organization, corporation, conglomerate, office, bureau, agency, consortium; informal outfit, set-up.*

**firmament** noun (literary) *the sky, heaven; the skies; literary the heavens, the empyrean, the welkin.*

**first** adjective **1** *the first chapter: earliest, initial, opening, introductory.* **2** *first principles: fundamental, basic, rudimentary, primary; key, cardinal, central, chief, vital, essential.* **3** *our first priority: foremost, principal, highest, greatest, paramount, top, uppermost, prime, chief, leading, main, major; overriding, predominant, prevailing, central, core, dominant; informal number-one.* **4** *first prize: top, best, prime, premier, winner's, winning.*

– OPPOSITES last, closing.

• **adverb 1** *the room they had first entered: at first, to begin with, first of all, at the outset, initially.* **2** *she would eat first: before anything else, first and foremost, now.* **3** *she wouldn't go—she'd die first! in preference, sooner, rather, more willingly.*

• **noun 1** *from the first, surrealism was theatrical: the (very) beginning, the start, the outset, the commencement; informal the word go, the off.* **2** (informal) *it was a first for both of us: novelty, new/first experience.*

**first-class** adjective *superior, first-rate, high-quality, top-quality, top-tier, high-grade, five-star; prime, premier, premium, grade A, best, finest, select, exclusive, excellent, superb; informal tip-top, A1, top-notch.*

– OPPOSITES poor.

**first-hand** adjective *direct, immediate, personal, hands-on, experiential, empirical.*

– OPPOSITES vicarious, indirect.

**first name** noun *forename, Christian name, given name.*

– OPPOSITES surname.

**first-rate** adjective *top-quality, high-quality, top-grade, top-tier, first-class, second to none, fine; superlative, excellent, superb, outstanding, exceptional, exemplary, marvellous, magnificent, splendid; informal tip-top, top-notch, ace, A1, super, great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic; Brit. informal top-hole, smashing; informal, dated capital.*

**fiscal** adjective *tax, budgetary; financial, economic, monetary, money.*

**fish** verb **1** *some people were fishing in the lake: go fishing, angle, trawl.* **2** *she fished for her purse: search, delve, look, hunt; grope, fumble, ferret (about/around), root about/around, rummage (about/around/round).* **3** *I'm not fishing for compliments: angle for, look for, seek, hope for, solicit, cast about/around/round, be after.*

■ **fish something out** pull out, haul out, remove, extricate, extract, retrieve.

## WORD LINKS

**piscine** relating to fish  
**piscatorial** relating to fishing  
**ichthyology** the study of fish  
**mariculture, pisciculture** the controlled breeding and rearing of fish  
**piscivorous** fish-eating  
**roe, spawn** fish eggs  
**milt** the semen of a male fish  
**fry** young fish

**fisherman** noun angler, rod; old use fisher.

**fishy** adjective **1** *a fishy smell*: fishlike, piscine. **2** *round fishy eyes*: expressionless, inexpressive, vacant, lacklustre, glassy. **3** (informal) *there was something fishy going on*: suspicious, questionable, dubious, doubtful, suspect; odd, queer, peculiar, strange; informal funny, shady, crooked, bent; Brit. informal dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.

**fission** noun **splitting**, division, dividing, rupture, breaking, severance.  
 – OPPOSITES fusion.

**fissure** noun **opening**, crevice, crack, cleft, breach, crevasse, chasm; break, fracture, fault, rift, rupture, split.

**fist** noun **clenched hand**; informal duke, meat hook; Brit. informal bunch of fives.

**fit<sup>1</sup>** adjective **1** *fit for human habitation* | *he is a fit subject for such a book*: suitable, good enough; relevant, pertinent, apt, appropriate, suited, apposite, fitting; old use meet. **2** *is he fit to look after a child?* competent, able, capable; ready, prepared, qualified, trained, equipped. **3** (informal) *you look fit to commit murder!* ready, prepared, all set, in a fit state, likely, about; informal psyched up. **4** *he looked tanned and fit*: healthy, well, in good health, in (good) shape, in (good) trim, in good condition, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle/flea; athletic, muscular, strong, robust, hale and hearty.  
 – OPPOSITES unsuitable, incapable, unwell.

• **verb 1** *my overcoat should fit you*: be the right/correct size (for), be big/small enough (for), fit like a glove. **2** *have your carpets fitted professionally*: lay, put in place/position, position, place, fix. **3** *cameras fitted with a backlight button*: equip, provide, supply, fit out, furnish. **4** *concrete slabs were fitted together*: join, connect, put together, piece together, attach, unite, link. **5** *a sentence that fits his crimes*: be appropriate to, suit, match, correspond to, tally with, go with, accord with, correlate to, be congruous with, be congruent with, be consonant with. **6** *an MSc fits you for a professional career*: qualify, prepare, make ready, train, groom.  
 • **noun** *the degree of fit between a school's philosophy and practice*: correlation, correspondence, agreement, consistency, equivalence, match, similarity, compatibility, concurrence.

■ **fit** in conform, be in harmony, blend in, be in line, be assimilated into.

■ **fit someone/something out/up** equip, provide, supply, furnish, kit out, rig out.

■ **fit someone up** (Brit. informal) falsely incriminate; informal frame, set up.

**fit<sup>2</sup>** noun **1** *an epileptic fit*: convulsion, spasm, paroxysm, seizure, attack; Medicine ictus. **2** *a fit of the giggles*: outbreak, outburst, attack, bout, spell. **3** *my mother would have a fit if she knew*: tantrum, fit of temper, outburst of anger/rage, frenzy; informal paddy, stress; N. Amer. informal blowout; formal boutade.  
 ■ **in/by fits and starts** spasmodically, intermittently, sporadically, erratically, irregularly, fitfully, haphazardly.

**fitful** adjective intermittent, sporadic, spasmodic, broken, disturbed, disrupted, patchy, irregular, uneven, unsettled.

**fitness** noun **1** *polo requires tremendous fitness*: good health, strength, robustness, vigour, athleticism, toughness, physical fitness, muscularity; good condition, good shape, well-being. **2** *his fitness for active service*: suitability, capability, competence, ability, aptitude; readiness, preparedness, eligibility.

**fitted** adjective **1** *a fitted sheet*: shaped, contoured, fitting tightly/well. **2** *a fitted wardrobe*: built-in, integral, integrated, fixed. **3** *he wasn't fitted for the job*: (well) suited, right, suitable; equipped, fit; informal cut out.

**fitting** noun **1** *a light fitting*: attachment, connection, part, piece, component, accessory. **2** *bathroom fittings*: furnishings, furniture, fixtures, fittings, equipment, appointments, appurtenances. **3** *the fitting of catalytic converters*: installation, installing, putting in, fixing.

• **adjective** *a fitting conclusion*: apt, appropriate, suitable, apposite; fit, proper, right, seemly, correct; old use meet.

– OPPOSITES unsuitable.

**five** cardinal number quintet, fivesome; quintuplets.

## WORD LINKS

**quintuple** consisting of five parts or things  
**quintennial** lasting for or recurring every five years

**pentad** a group or set of five

**pentagon** a five-sided figure

**pentagram, pentangle** a five-pointed star

**pentameter** a line of verse consisting of five metrical feet

**pentathlon** an athletic event consisting of five different activities

**fix** verb **1** *signs were fixed to lamp posts*:

fasten, attach, affix, secure; join, connect, couple, link; install, implant, embed; stick, glue, pin, nail, screw, bolt, clamp, clip. **2** *his words are fixed in my memory*: stick, lodge, embed. **3** *his eyes were fixed on the ground*: focus, direct, level, point, train. **4** *techniques of fixing audience's attention*: attract, draw; hold, grip, engage, captivate, rivet. **5** *he fixed my washing machine*: repair, mend, put right, put to rights, get working, restore (to working order); overhaul, service, renovate, recondition. **6** *James fixed it for his parents to watch the show from the wings*: arrange, organize, contrive, manage, engineer; informal swing, wangle. **7** (informal) *Laura was fixing*

*her hair*: arrange, put in order, adjust; style, groom, comb, brush; informal do. **8** (informal) *Chris will fix supper*: prepare, cook, make, get; informal rustle up; Brit. informal knock up. **9** *let's fix a date for the meeting*: decide on, select, choose, resolve on; determine, settle, set, arrange, establish, allot; designate, name, appoint, specify. **10** *chemicals are used to fix the dye*: make permanent, make fast, set. **11** (informal) *the fight was fixed*: rig, arrange fraudulently; tamper with, influence; informal fiddle.

• **noun** (informal) **1** *they are in a bit of a fix*: predicament, plight, difficulty, awkward situation, corner, tight spot; mess, mare's nest, dire straits; informal pickle, jam, hole, scrape, bind, sticky situation. **2** *he needed his fix*: dose; informal hit. **3** *a quick fix for the coal industry*: solution, answer, resolution, way out, remedy, cure; informal magic bullet. **4** *the result was a complete fix*: fraud, swindle, trick, charade, sham; informal set-up, fiddle.

■ **fix something up** organize, arrange, make arrangements for, fix, sort out.

**fixated** adjective obsessed, preoccupied, obsessive; focused, keen, gripped, engrossed, immersed, wrapped up, enthusiastic, fanatical; informal hooked, wild, nuts, crazy; Brit. informal potty.

**fixation** noun obsession, preoccupation, mania, addiction, compulsion; informal thing, bug, craze, fad.

**fixed** adjective **1** *there are fixed ropes on the rock face*: fastened, secure, fast, firm; riveted, moored, anchored. **2** *a fixed period of time*: predetermined, set, established, arranged, specified, decided, agreed, determined, confirmed, prescribed, definite, defined, explicit, precise.

**fixture** noun **1** *fixtures and fittings*: fixed appliance, installation, unit. **2** (Brit.) *their first fixture of the season*: match, race, game, competition, contest, sporting event.

**fizz** verb **1** *the mixture fizzed like mad*: effervesce, sparkle, bubble, froth; literary spume. **2** *all the screens were fizzing*: crackle, buzz, hiss, fizz, crepitate.

• **noun** **1** *the fizz in champagne*: effervescence, sparkle, fizziness, bubbles, bubbiness, gassiness, carbonation, froth. **2** (informal) *they all had another glass of fizz*: sparkling wine, champagne; informal bubbly, champers, sparkler. **3** (informal) *their set is a little lacking in fizz*: ebullience, exuberance, liveliness, life, vivacity, animation, vigour, energy, verve, dash, spirit, sparkle, zest; informal pizzazz, pep, zip, oomph. **4** *the fizz of the static*: crackle, crackling, buzz, buzzing, hiss, hissing, white noise; literary susurration.

**fizzle** verb *the loudspeaker fizzled*: crackle, buzz, hiss, fizz, crepitate.  
• **noun** **1** *electric fizzle*. See **FIZZ** noun sense 4. **2** *the whole thing turned out to be a fizzle*: failure, fiasco, debacle, disaster; Brit. damp squib; informal flop, washout, let-down, dead loss; N. Amer. informal snafu.  
■ **fizzle out** peter out, die off, ease off, cool off; tail off, wither away.

**fizzy** adjective effervescent, sparkling, carbonated, gassy, bubbly, frothy; mousseux, pétillant, spumante, frizzante.

– **OPPOSITES** still, flat.

**flab** noun (informal) **fat**, excessive weight, fatness, plumpness; paunch, pot belly, beer gut.

**flabbergast** verb (informal). See **ASTONISH**.

**flabbiness** noun fat, fatness, fleshiness, plumpness, chubbiness, portliness, obesity, corpulence; softness, looseness, flaccidity, droopiness, sag; informal flab, tubbiness.

**flabby** adjective **1** *his flabby stomach*: soft, loose, flaccid, slack, untuned, drooping, sagging. **2** *a flabby woman*: fat, fleshy, overweight, plump, chubby, portly, rotund, broad in the beam, of ample proportions, obese, corpulent; informal tubby, roly-poly, well covered, well upholstered.

– **OPPOSITES** firm, thin.

**flaccid** adjective **1** *your muscles are sagging, they're flaccid*: soft, loose, flabby, slack, lax; drooping, sagging. **2** *his play seemed flaccid*: lacklustre, lifeless, listless, uninspiring, unanimated, tame.

– **OPPOSITES** firm, spirited.

**flag**<sup>1</sup> noun *the Irish flag*: banner, standard, ensign, pennant, banderole, streamer, jack, gonfalon; colours; Brit. pendant.

• **verb** *flag the misspelt words*: indicate, identify, point out, mark, label, tag, highlight.

■ **flag someone/something down** hail, wave down, signal to stop, stop, halt.

#### WORD LINKS

vexillology the study of flags

**flag**<sup>2</sup> noun *stone flags*. See **FLAGSTONE**.

**flag**<sup>3</sup> verb **1** *they were flagging towards the finish*: tire, grow tired/weary, weaken, grow weak, wilt, droop. **2** *my energy flags in the afternoon*: fade, decline, wane, ebb, diminish, decrease, lessen, dwindle; wither, melt away, peter out, die away/down.

– **OPPOSITES** revive.

**flagon** noun jug, vessel, bottle, carafe, flask, decanter, tankard, ewer, pitcher.

**flagrant** adjective blatant, glaring, obvious, overt, conspicuous, barefaced, shameless, brazen, undisguised, unconcealed; outrageous, scandalous, shocking, disgraceful, dreadful, terrible, gross.

**flagstone** noun paving slab, paving stone, slab, flag, sett.

**flail** verb **1** *he fell headlong, his arms flailing*: wave, swing, thrash about, flap about. **2** *I was flailing about in the water*: flounder, struggle, thrash, writhe, splash. **3** *he flailed their shoulders with his cane*: thrash, beat, strike, flog, whip, lash, scourge, cane; informal wallop, whack.

**flair** noun **1** *a flair for publicity*: aptitude, talent, gift, instinct, (natural) ability, facility, skill, bent, feel. **2** *she dressed with flair*: style, stylishness, panache, dash, elan, poise, elegance; (good) taste, discernment, discrimination; informal class.



**flak** noun **1** *my aircraft had been damaged by flak:* anti-aircraft fire, shelling, gunfire; bombardment, barrage, salvo, volley. **2** (informal) *he has come in for a lot of flak:* criticism, censure, disapproval, disapprobation, hostility, complaints; opprobrium, obloquy, calumny, vilification, abuse, brickbats; Brit. informal stick, verbal; formal castigation, excoriation, calumny.

**flake**<sup>1</sup> noun *flakes of pastry:* sliver, wafer, shaving, paring; chip, scale, spillikin; fragment, scrap, shred; technical lamina. •verb *the paint was flaking:* peel (off), chip, blister, come off (in layers).

**flake**<sup>2</sup> verb

■ **flake out** (informal) *she flaked out in her chair:* fall asleep, go to sleep, drop off; collapse, faint, pass out, lose consciousness, black out, swoon; informal conk out, nod off; N. Amer. informal sack out, zone out.

**flaky** adjective *flaking, peeling, scaly, blistering, scabrous.*

**flamboyant** adjective **1** *her flamboyant personality:* ostentatious, exuberant, confident, lively, animated, vibrant, vivacious. **2** *flamboyant jewellery:* colourful, brightly coloured, bright, vibrant, vivid; dazzling, eye-catching, bold; showy, gaudy, garish, lurid, loud; informal jazzy, flashy, bling-bling; dated gay. **3** *a flamboyant architectural style:* elaborate, ornate, fancy; baroque, rococo.  
– OPPOSITES restrained.

**flame** noun **1** *a sheet of flames:* fire, blaze, conflagration, inferno. **2** *the flames of her anger:* passion, warmth, ardour, fervour, fervency, fire, intensity. **3** (informal) *an old flame:* sweetheart, boyfriend, girlfriend, lover, partner; informal steady; dated beau. •verb **1** *logs crackled and flamed:* burn, blaze, be ablaze, be alight, be on fire, be in flames, be aflame, flare. **2** *Erica's cheeks flamed:* become red, go red, blush, flush, redden, grow pink/crimson/scarlet, colour, glow. ■ **in flames** on fire, burning, alight, flaming, blazing, ignited; literary afire.

**flameproof** adjective **non-flammable**, non-inflammable, flame-resistant, fire-resistant, flame-retardant, unflammable.  
– OPPOSITES flammable.

**flaming** adjective **1** *a flaming bonfire:*

blazing, ablaze, burning, on fire, in flames, aflame; literary afire. **2** *flaming hair:* bright, brilliant, vivid; red, reddish-orange, ginger. **3** *a flaming row:* furious, violent, vehement, frenzied, angry, passionate. **4** *in a flaming temper:* furious, enraged, fuming, seething, incensed, infuriated, angry, raging; informal livid; literary wrathful. **5** (informal) *where's that flaming ambulance?* wretched; informal damned, damnable, blasted, blessed, confounded; Brit. informal flipping, blinking, blooming, bleeding, effing; Brit. informal, dated bally, ruddy; dated cursed, accursed.

**flammable** adjective **inflammable**, burnable, combustible.

**flank** noun **1** *the horse's flanks:* side, haunch,

quarter, thigh. **2** *the southern flank of the Eighth Army:* side, wing; face, aspect.

•verb *the garden is flanked by two rivers:* edge, bound, line, border, fringe.

**flannel** noun **1** (Brit.) *she dabbed her face with a flannel:* facecloth, cloth; N. Amer. washcloth, washrag; Austral. washer. **2** (Brit. informal) *don't accept any flannel from salespeople:* smooth talk, flattery, blarney, blandishments, honeyed words; prevarication, equivocation, evasion, doublespeak; informal spiel, soft soap, sweet talk, baloney, hot air; Brit. informal waffle; Austral./NZ informal guyver.

•verb (Brit. informal) *she can tell if you're flannelling:* use flattery, talk blarney; prevaricate, equivocate, be evasive, blather, stall; Brit. hum and haw; informal soft-soap, sweet-talk; Brit. informal waffle; N. Amer. informal fast-talk; rare tergiversate.

**flap** verb **1** *the mallards flapped their wings:* beat, flutter, agitate, wave, wag, swing. **2** *the flag flapped in the breeze:* flutter, fly, blow, swing, sway, ripple, stir. **3** (informal) *a deliberate ploy to make us flap:* panic, go into a panic, become flustered, be agitated, fuss; informal be in a state, be in a tizzy.

•noun **1** *pockets with buttoned flaps:* fold, overlap, covering; lappet. **2** *a few flaps of the wing:* flutter, fluttering, beat, beating, waving. **3** (informal) *I'm in a frightful flap:* panic, fluster; informal state, dither, twitter, blue funk, stew, tizzy; N. Amer. informal twit. **4** (informal) *she created a flap with her controversial statement:* fuss, commotion, stir, hubbub, storm, uproar; controversy, brouhaha, furor; informal to-do, ballyhoo, hoo-ha, kerfuffle.

**flare** noun **1** *the flare of the match:* blaze, flash, dazzle, burst, flicker. **2** *a flare set off by the crew:* distress signal, rocket, Very light, beacon, light, signal. **3** *a flare of anger:* burst, rush, eruption, explosion, spasm, access.

•verb **1** *the match flared:* blaze, flash, flare up, flame, burn; glow, flicker. **2** *her nostrils flared:* spread, broaden, widen; dilate.

■ **flare up** **1** *the wooden houses flared up like matchsticks:* burn, blaze, go up in flames. **2** *there are numerous disputes, any one of which might flare up into a major conflict:* erupt, explode, blow up, break out, escalate. **3** *I flared up at him:* lose one's temper, become enraged, fly into a temper, go berserk; informal blow one's top, fly off the handle, go mad, go bananas, hit the roof, go up the wall, go off the deep end, lose one's rag, flip (one's lid), explode, have a fit; Brit. informal go spare, go crackers, do one's nut; N. Amer. informal flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack, have a conniption fit.

**flash** verb **1** *a torch flashed:* light up, shine, flare, blaze, gleam, glint, sparkle, burn; blink, wink, flicker, shimmer, twinkle, glimmer, glisten, scintillate; literary glister, coruscate. **2** (informal) *he was flashing his money about:* show off, flaunt, flourish, display, parade. **3** *racing cars flashed past:* zoom, streak, tear, shoot, dash, dart, fly, whistle, hurtle, rush, bolt, race, speed,

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career, whizz, whoosh, buzz; informal belt, zap; Brit. informal bomb, bucket; N. Amer. informal barrel.

• **noun 1** *a flash of light*: flare, blaze, burst; gleam, glint, sparkle, flicker, shimmer, twinkle, glimmer. **2** *a basic uniform with no flashes*: emblem, insignia, badge; stripe, bar, chevron. **3** *a sudden flash of inspiration*: burst, outburst, wave, rush, surge, flush.

• **adjective** (informal) *a flash sports car*. See **FLASHY**.

■ **in/like a flash** instantly, suddenly, abruptly, immediately, all of a sudden; quickly, rapidly, swiftly, speedily; in an instant/moment, in a (split) second, in a trice, in the blink of an eye; informal in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson.

**flashy** **adjective** (informal) **ostentatious**, flamboyant, showy, conspicuous, extravagant, expensive; vulgar, tasteless, brash, lurid, garish, loud, gaudy; informal snazzy, fancy, swanky, flash, jazzy, glitzy, bling-bling.

– **OPPOSITES** understated.

**flask** **noun** bottle, container; hip flask, vacuum flask; trademark Thermos.

**flat**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** *a flat surface*: level, horizontal; smooth, even, uniform, regular, plane. **2** *the sea was flat*: calm, still, pacific, glassy, undisturbed, without waves, like a millpond. **3** *a flat wooden box*: shallow, low-sided. **4** *a pair of flat sandals*: low, low-heeled, without heels. **5** *his voice was flat*: monotonous, toneless, droning, boring, dull, tedious, uninteresting, unexciting, soporific; bland, dreary, colourless, featureless, emotionless, expressionless, lifeless, spiritless, lacklustre. **6** *he felt flat and weary*: depressed, dejected, dispirited, despondent, downhearted, disheartened, low, low-spirited, down, unhappy, blue; without energy, enervated, sapped, weary, tired out, worn out, exhausted, drained; informal down in the mouth/dumps. **7** *the market was flat*: slow, inactive, sluggish, slack, quiet, depressed. **8** (Brit.) *a flat battery*: expired, dead, finished, used up, run out. **9** *a flat tyre*: deflated, punctured, burst. **10** *a flat fee*: fixed, set, regular, unchanging, unvarying, invariable. **11** *a flat denial*: outright, direct, absolute, definite, positive, straight, plain, explicit; firm, resolute, adamant, assertive, emphatic, categorical, unconditional, unqualified, unequivocal.

– **OPPOSITES** vertical, uneven.

• **adverb** **1** *she lay down flat on the floor*: stretched out, outstretched, spreadeagled, sprawling, prone, supine, prostrate, recumbent. **2** (informal) *she turned me down flat*: outright, absolutely, firmly, resolutely, adamantly, emphatically, insistently, categorically, unconditionally, unequivocally.

■ **flat out** hard, as hard as possible, for all one's worth, to the full/limit, all out; at full speed, as fast as possible, at full tilt; informal like crazy, like mad, like the wind, like a bomb; Brit. informal like billy-o, like the clappers.

**flat**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *a two-bedroom flat*: apartment, set of rooms, penthouse; rooms; Austral. home unit; N. Amer. informal crib.

**flatten** **verb** **1** *Tom flattened the crumpled paper*: smooth out, even (out), level (out/off). **2** *the cows flattened the grass*: compress, press down, crush, squash, compact, trample. **3** *tornadoes can flatten buildings in seconds*: demolish, raze (to the ground), tear down, knock down, destroy, wreck, devastate, obliterate; N. Amer. informal total. **4** (informal) *Flynn flattened him with a single punch*: knock down/over, knock to the ground, fell, floor, prostrate; informal deck; Brit. informal knock for six. **5** *I flattened a drunken heckler*: humiliate, crush, quash, squash, take down a peg or two, put someone in their place; informal put down, cut down to size.

**flatter** **verb** **1** *it amused him to flatter her*: compliment, praise, express admiration for, say nice things about, pay court to, fawn on; cajole, humour, flannel, blarney; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, play up to; formal laud. **2** *I was flattered to be asked*: honour, gratify, please, delight; informal tickle pink. **3** *a hairstyle that flattered her*: suit, become, look good on, go well with; informal do something for.

– **OPPOSITES** insult, offend.

**flatterer** **noun** sycophant, groveller, fawner, lackey; informal crawler, toady, bootlicker, yes man, lickspittle; formal encomiast.

**flattering** **adjective** **1** *flattering remarks*: complimentary, praising, favourable, commending, admiring, applauding, appreciative, good; honeyed, sugary, cajoling, flannelling, silver-tongued, honey-tongued; fawning, oily, obsequious, ingratiating, servile, sycophantic; informal sweet-talking, soft-soaping, crawling, bootlicking; formal encomiastic. **2** *it was very flattering to be nominated*: pleasing, gratifying, honouring, gladdening. **3** *her most flattering dress*: becoming, enhancing.

**flattery** **noun** praise, adulation, compliments, blandishments, honeyed words; fawning, blarney, cajolery; informal sweet talk, soft soap, buttering up, toadying; Brit. informal flannel; formal laudation.

**flatulence** **noun** **1** *medications that help with flatulence*: (intestinal) gas, wind; informal farting; formal flatus. **2** *the flatulence of his latest recordings*: pomposity, pompousness, pretension, pretentiousness, grandiloquence, bombast, turgidity.

**flaunt** **verb** show off, display ostentatiously, make a (great) show of, put on show/display, parade; brag about, crow about, vaunt; informal flash.

**flavour** **noun** **1** *the flavour of prosciutto*: taste, savour, tang. **2** *salami can give extra flavour*: flavouring, seasoning, tastiness, tang, relish, bite, piquancy, pungency, spice, spiciness, zest; informal zing, zip. **3** *a strong international flavour*: character, quality, feel, feeling, ambience, atmosphere, aura, air, mood, tone; spirit, essence,

nature; informal vibe. **4** *this excerpt will give a flavour of the report*: **impression**, suggestion, hint, taste.

• **verb** *spices for flavouring food*: **add flavour to**, add flavouring to, season, spice (up), add piquancy to, ginger up, enrich; informal pep up.

**flavouring** **noun** **1** *this cheese is often combined with other flavourings*: **seasoning**, spice, herb, additive; condiment, dressing. **2** *vanilla flavouring*: **essence**, extract, concentrate, distillate.

**flaw** **noun** **defect**, blemish, fault, imperfection, deficiency, weakness, weak spot/point, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing, foible; Computing bug; informal glitch.

– **OPPOSITES** strength.

**flawed** **adjective** **1** *a flawed mirror*: **faulty**, defective, unsound, imperfect; broken, cracked, torn, scratched, deformed, distorted, warped, buckled; Brit. informal duff. **2** *the findings were flawed*: **unsound**, defective, faulty, distorted, inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, imprecise, fallacious, misleading.

– **OPPOSITES** flawless, sound.

**flawless** **adjective** **perfect**, unblemished, unmarked, unimpaired; whole, intact, sound, unbroken, undamaged, mint, pristine; impeccable, immaculate, consummate, accurate, correct, faultless, error-free, unerring; exemplary, model, ideal, copybook.

– **OPPOSITES** flawed.

**flay** **verb** **1** *the saint was flayed alive*: **skin**, strip the skin off; Medicine excoriate. **2** *he flayed his critics*. See **CRITICIZE**.

**fleck** **noun** *flecks of pale blue*: **spot**, mark, dot, speck, speckle, freckle, patch, smudge, streak, blotch, dab; informal splosh, splodge; rare macula.

• **verb** *the deer's flanks were flecked with white*: **spot**, mark, dot, speckle, bespeckle, freckle, stipple, stud, bestud, blotch, mottle, streak, splash, spatter, bespatter, scatter, sprinkle; Scottish & Irish slabber; informal splosh, splodge.

**fledgling** **noun** *a woodpecker fledgling*: **chick**, baby bird, nestling.

• **adjective** *fledgling industries*: **emerging**, emergent, sunrise, dawning, embryonic, infant, nascent; developing, in the making, budding, up-and-coming, rising.

– **OPPOSITES** declining, mature.

**flee** **verb** **1** *she fled to her room*: **run (away) off**, run for it, make a run for it, take flight, be gone, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, beat a (hasty) retreat, make a quick exit, make one's getaway, escape; informal beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, turn tail, scam; Brit. informal scarper; N. Amer. informal light out, bug out, cut out, peel out; Austral. informal shoot through; old use fly. **2** *they fled the country*: **run away from**, leave, escape from; informal skip, quit; old use fly.

**fleece** **noun** *a sheep's fleece*: **wool**, coat.

• **verb** (informal) *we were fleeced by a ticket tout*. See **SWINDLE** verb.

**fleecy** **adjective** **fluffy**, woolly, downy, soft, fuzzy, furry, velvety, shaggy; technical floccose, pilose.

– **OPPOSITES** coarse.

**fleet**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *the fleet set sail*: **navy**, naval force, (naval) task force, armada, flotilla, squadron, convoy.

**fleet**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** (literary) *as fleet as a greyhound*: **nimble**, agile, lithe, lissom, acrobatic, supple, light-footed, light on one's feet, spry, sprightly; quick, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk, smart; informal nippy, zippy, twinkle-toed.

**fleeting** **adjective** **brief**, short, short-lived, quick, momentary, cursory, transient, ephemeral, fugitive, passing, transitory; literary evanescent.

– **OPPOSITES** lasting.

**flesh** **noun** **1** *you need more flesh on your bones*: **muscle**, meat, tissue, brawn; informal beef. **2** *she carries too much flesh*: **fat**, weight; Anatomy adipose tissue; informal blubber, flab. **3** *a fruit with juicy flesh*: **pulp**, soft part, marrow, meat. **4** *the pleasures of the flesh*: **the body**, human nature, physicality, carnality, animality; sensuality, sexuality.

■ **one's (own) flesh and blood** family, relative(s), relation(s), blood relation(s), kin, kinsfolk, kinsman, kinsmen, kinswoman, kinswomen, kindred, nearest and dearest, people; informal folks.

■ **flesh out** put on weight, gain weight, get heavier, grow fat/fatter, fatten up, get fat, fill out.

■ **flesh something out** expand (on), elaborate on, add to, build on, add flesh to, put flesh on (the bones of), add detail to, expatiate on, supplement, reinforce, augment, fill out, enlarge on.

■ **in the flesh** in person, before one's (very) eyes, in front of one; in real life, live; physically, bodily, in bodily/human form, incarnate.

**fleshy** **adjective** **carnal**, physical, animal, bestial; sexual, sensual, erotic, lustful.

– **OPPOSITES** spiritual, noble.

**fleshy** **adjective** **plump**, chubby, portly, fat, obese, overweight, stout, corpulent, paunchy, well padded, well covered, well upholstered, rotund; informal tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy, fubby; N. Amer. informal corn-fed; Austral./NZ nuggety; rare abdominous.

– **OPPOSITES** thin.

**flex**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *you must flex your elbow*: **bend**, crook, hook, cock, angle, double up. **2** *Rachel flexed her cramped muscles*: **tighten**, tauten, tense (up), tension, contract.

– **OPPOSITES** straighten, relax.

**flex**<sup>2</sup> **noun** (Brit.) *an electric flex*: **cable**, wire, lead; N. Amer. cord.

**flexibility** **noun** **1** *the flexibility of wood*: **pliability**, suppleness, pliancy, plasticity; elasticity, stretchiness, springiness, spring, resilience, bounce; informal give.



**2** the flexibility of an endowment loan: adaptability, adjustability, variability, versatility, open-endedness, freedom, latitude. **3** the flexibility shown by the local authority: willingness to compromise, accommodation, amenability, cooperation, tolerance.

– OPPOSITES rigidity, inflexibility, intransigence.

**flexible adjective 1** flexible tubing: pliable, supple, bendable, pliant, plastic; elastic, stretchy, whippy, springy, resilient, bouncy; informal bendy; old use flexile. **2** a flexible arrangement: adaptable, adjustable, variable, versatile, open-ended, open, free. **3** the need to be flexible towards tenants: accommodating, amenable, willing to compromise, cooperative, tolerant, easy-going.

– OPPOSITES rigid, inflexible, intransigent.

**flick noun** a flick of the wrist: jerk, snap, flip, whisk.

• **verb 1** he flicked the switch: click, snap, flip, jerk. **2** the horse flicked its tail: swish, twitch, wave, wag, waggle, shake.

■ **flick through** thumb (through), leaf through, flip through, skim through, scan, look through, browse through, dip into, glance at/through, peruse, run one's eye over.

**flicker verb 1** the lights flickered: glimmer, glint, flare, dance, gutter; twinkle, sparkle, blink, wink, flash, scintillate; literary glister, coruscate. **2** his eyelids flickered: flutter, quiver, tremble, shiver, shudder, spasm, jerk, twitch.

**flight noun 1** the history of flight: aviation, flying, air transport, aerial navigation, aeronautics. **2** a flight to Rome: plane trip/journey, trip/journey by air. **3** the flight of a cricket ball: trajectory, path through the air, track, orbit. **4** a flight of birds: flock, skein, covey, swarm, cloud. **5** his headlong flight from home: escape, getaway, hasty departure, exit, exodus, decamping, breakout, bolt, disappearance; Brit. informal flit. ■ **take flight** flee, run (away/off), run for it, make a run for it, be gone, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, beat a (hasty) retreat, make a quick exit, make one's getaway, escape; informal beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, turn tail, scam; Brit. informal scarper; N. Amer. informal light out, bug out, cut out, peel out; Austral. informal shoot through; old use fly.

**flighty adjective** fickle, inconstant, mercurial, whimsical, capricious, skittish, volatile, impulsive; irresponsible, giddy, reckless, wild, careless, thoughtless.

– OPPOSITES steady, responsible.

**flimsy adjective 1** a flimsy building: insubstantial, fragile, breakable, frail, shaky, unstable, wobbly, tottery, rickety, ramshackle, makeshift; jerry-built, badly built, shoddy, gimcrack. **2** a flimsy garment: thin, light, fine, filmy, floaty, diaphanous, sheer, delicate, insubstantial, wispy,

gossamer, gauzy. **3** flimsy evidence: weak, feeble, poor, inadequate, insufficient, thin, unsubstantial, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory.

– OPPOSITES sturdy, thick, sound.

**flinch verb 1** he flinched at the noise: wince, start, shudder, quiver, jerk, shy. **2** he never flinched from his duty: shrink from, recoil from, shy away from, swerve from, demur from; dodge, evade, avoid, duck, balk at, jib at, quail at, fight shy of.

**fling verb** he flung the axe into the river: throw, toss, sling, hurl, cast, pitch, lob; informal chuck, heave, bung, buzz; dated shy. • **noun** she had a brief fling with him: affair, love affair, relationship, romance, affaire (de cœur), amour, flirtation, dalliance, liaison, entanglement, involvement, attachment.

**flip verb 1** the wave flipped the dinghy over | the plane flipped on to its back: overturn, turn over, tip over, roll (over), upturn, capsize; upend, invert, knock over; keel over, topple over, turn turtle; old use overset. **2** he flipped the key through the air: throw, flick, toss, fling, sling, pitch, cast, spin, lob; informal chuck, bung; dated shy. **3** I flipped the transmitter switch: flick, click, snap. ■ **flip through** thumb (through), leaf through, flick through, skim through, scan, look through, browse through, dip into, glance at/through, peruse, run one's eye over.

**flippancy noun** frivolity, levity, facetiousness; disrespect, irreverence, impudence, cheek, impertinence; Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sassiness; dated waggery. – OPPOSITES seriousness, respect.

**flippant adjective** frivolous, facetious, tongue-in-cheek; disrespectful, irreverent, impudent, cheeky, impertinent; informal flip, saucy, waggish; N. Amer. informal sassy. – OPPOSITES serious, respectful.

**flirt verb 1** it amused him to flirt with her: trifle with, toy with, tease, lead on. **2** those conservatives who flirted with fascism: dabble in, toy with, trifle with, amuse oneself with, play with, tinker with, dip into, scratch the surface of. **3** he is flirting with danger: dice with, court, risk, not fear. • **noun** Anna was quite a flirt: tease, trifler, philanderer, coquette, heartbreaker; old use fizgig.

**flirtation noun** coquetry, teasing, trifling.

**flirtatious adjective** coquettish, flirty, kittenish, teasing.

**flit verb** dart, dance, skip, play, dash, trip, flutter, bob, bounce.

**float verb 1** oil floats on water: stay afloat, stay on the surface, be buoyant, be buoyed up. **2** the balloon floated in the air: hover, levitate, be suspended, hang, defy gravity. **3** a cloud floated across the moon: drift, glide, sail, slip, slide, waft. **4** they have just floated that idea: suggest, put forward, come up with, submit, moot, propose, advance; informal run something up the flagpole. **5** the company was floated on the Stock Exchange:

**launch**, get going, get off the ground, offer, sell, introduce.

– OPPOSITES sink, rush, withdraw.

**floating** adjective **1** *floating seaweed*:

**afloat**, buoyant. **2** *floating gas balloons*:

**hovering**, levitating, suspended, hanging,

defying gravity. **3** *floating voters*:

**uncommitted**, undecided, in two minds, torn, split, uncertain, unsure, wavering, vacillating, indecisive, blowing hot and cold, undeclared; informal sitting on the fence. **4** *a floating population*: **unsettled**, transient, temporary, variable, fluctuating; migrant, wandering, nomadic, on the move, migratory, travelling, drifting, roving, roaming, itinerant, vagabond. **5** *a floating exchange rate*: **variable**, changeable, changing, fluid, fluctuating.

– OPPOSITES sunken, grounded, committed, settled, fixed.

**flock** noun **1** *a flock of sheep*: **herd**, **drove**. **2** *a flock of birds*: **flight**, congregation, covey, clutch. **3** *flocks of people*: **crowd**, throng, horde, mob, rabble, mass, multitude, host, army, pack, swarm, sea; informal gaggle.

• **verb** **1** *people flocked around Jesus*: **gather**, collect, congregate, assemble, converge, mass, crowd, throng, cluster, swarm; formal foregather. **2** *tourists flock to the place*: **stream**, go in large numbers, swarm, crowd, troop.

**flog** verb **1** *the thief was flogged*: **whip**, scourge, flagellate, lash, birch, switch, cane, thrash, beat, tan/whip someone's hide. **2** (Brit. informal) *he is flogging his old car*: sell, put up for sale, offer for sale, trade in, peddle; informal push.

**flood** noun **1** *inundation*, deluge; torrent, overflow, flash flood, freshet; Brit. spate. **2** *a flood of tears*: **outpouring**, torrent, rush, stream, gush, surge, cascade. **3** *a flood of complaints*: **succession**, series, string, chain; barrage, volley, battery; avalanche, torrent, stream, tide, spate, storm, shower, cascade.

– OPPOSITES trickle.

• **verb** **1** *the whole town was flooded*: **inundate**, swamp, deluge, immerse, submerge, drown, engulf. **2** *the river could flood*: **overflow**, burst its banks, brim over, run over. **3** *imports are flooding the domestic market*: **glut**, swamp, saturate, oversupply. **4** *refugees flooded in*: **pour**, stream, flow, surge, swarm, pile, crowd.

– OPPOSITES trickle.

**floor** noun **1** *he sat on the floor*: **ground**, flooring. **2** *the second floor*: **storey**, level, deck, tier.

• **verb** **1** *he floored his attacker*: **knock down**, knock over, bring down, fell, prostrate; informal lay out. **2** (informal) *the question floored him*: **baffle**, defeat, confound, perplex, puzzle, nonplus, mystify; informal beat, flummox, stump, fox, make someone scratch their head; N. Amer. informal buffalo; old use pose.

**flop** verb **1** *he flopped into a chair*: **collapse**, slump, crumple, subside, sink, drop. **2** *his*

*hair flopped over his eyes*: **hang** (down), dangle, droop, sag, loll. **3** (informal) *the play flopped*: **be unsuccessful**, fail, not work, fall flat, founder, misfire, backfire, be a disappointment, do badly, lose money, be a disaster; informal bomb, go to the wall, come a cropper, bite the dust, blow up in someone's face; N. Amer. informal tank.

– OPPOSITES succeed.

• **noun** (informal) *the play was a flop*: **failure**, disaster, debacle, catastrophe, loser; Brit. damp squib; informal flopperoo, washout, also-ran, dog, lemon, non-starter; N. Amer. informal clinker.

– OPPOSITES success.

**floppy** adjective **limp**, flaccid, slack, flabby, relaxed; drooping, droopy; loose, flowing.

– OPPOSITES erect, stiff.

**florid** adjective **1** *a florid complexion*: **ruddy**, red, red-faced, rosy, rosy-cheeked, pink; flushed, blushing, high-coloured; old use sanguine. **2** *florid plasterwork*: **ornate**, fancy, elaborate, embellished, curlicued, extravagant, flamboyant, baroque, rococo, fussy, busy. **3** *florid English*: **flowery**, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, grandiloquent, ornate, fancy, bombastic, elaborate, turgid, pleonastic; informal highfalutin; rare fustian.

– OPPOSITES pale, plain.

**flotsam** noun **wreckage**, lost cargo, floating remains; rubbish, debris, detritus, waste, dross, refuse, scrap; N. Amer. trash, garbage; informal dreck, junk; Brit. informal grot.

**flounce**<sup>1</sup> verb *she flounced off to her room*: **storm**, stride, sweep, stomp, stamp, march, strut, stalk.

**flounce**<sup>2</sup> noun *a lace flounce*: **frill**, ruffle, ruff, peplum, jabot, furbelow, ruche.

**flounder** verb **1** *people were floundering in the water*: **struggle**, thrash, flail, twist and turn, splash, stagger, stumble, reel, lurch, blunder, squirm, writhe. **2** *she floundered, not knowing quite what to say*: **struggle mentally**, be out of one's depth, have difficulty, be confounded, be confused; informal scratch one's head, be flummoxed, be clueless, be foxed, be fazed, be floored, be beaten.

**flourish** verb **1** *ferns flourish in the shade*: **grow**, thrive, prosper, do well, burgeon, increase, multiply, proliferate; spring up, shoot up, bloom, blossom, bear fruit, burst forth, run riot. **2** *the arts flourished*: **thrive**, prosper, bloom, be in good health, be vigorous, be in its heyday; progress, make progress, advance, make headway, develop, improve; evolve, make strides, move forward (in leaps and bounds), expand; informal be in the pink, go places, go great guns, get somewhere. **3** *he flourished the sword at them*: **brandish**, wave, shake, wield; swing, twirl, swish; display, exhibit, flaunt, show off.

– OPPOSITES die, wither, decline.

**flout** verb **defy**, refuse to obey, disobey, break, violate, fail to comply with, fail to observe, contravene, infringe, breach,

transgress against; ignore, disregard; informal cock a snook at.

– OPPOSITES observe.

**flow** verb **1** *the water flowed down the channel*: run, course, glide, drift, circulate; trickle, seep, ooze, dribble, drip, drizzle, spill; stream, swirl, surge, sweep, gush, cascade, pour, roll, rush. **2** *many questions flow from today's announcement*: result, proceed, arise, follow, ensue, derive, stem, accrue; originate, emanate, spring, emerge; be caused by, be brought about by, be produced by, be consequent on.

• **noun** *a good flow of water*: movement, motion, current, flux, circulation; trickle, ooze, percolation, drip; stream, swirl, surge, gush, rush, spate, tide.

**flower** noun **1** *blue flowers*: bloom, blossom, floweret, floret. **2** *the flower of the nation's youth*: best, finest, pick, choice, cream, the crème de la crème, elite.

**WORD LINKS**

**floral** relating to flowers

**florist** a person who sells flowers

**floriculture** the cultivation of flowers

**flowery** adjective **1** *flowery fabrics*: floral, flower-patterned. **2** *flowery language*: florid, flamboyant, ornate, fancy, convoluted; high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, baroque, orotund, overblown, pleonastic; informal highfalutin, purple; rare fustian.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**flowing** adjective **1** *long flowing hair*: loose, free, unconfined, draping. **2** *the new model will have soft, flowing lines*: sleek, streamlined, aerodynamic, smooth, clean; elegant, graceful; technical faired. **3** *he writes in an easy, flowing style*: fluent, fluid, free-flowing, effortless, easy, natural, smooth.

– OPPOSITES stiff, curly, jagged, halting.

**fluctuate** verb *vary, change, differ, shift, alter, waver, swing, oscillate, alternate, rise and fall, go up and down, see-saw, yo-yo, be unstable.*

**fluctuation** noun *variation, change, shift, alteration, swing, movement, oscillation, alternation, rise and fall, see-sawing, yo-yoing, instability, unsteadiness.*

– OPPOSITES stability.

**flue** noun *duct, tube, shaft, vent, pipe, passage, channel, conduit; funnel, chimney, smokestack.*

**fluent** adjective **1** *a fluent speech*: articulate, eloquent, expressive, communicative, coherent, cogent, illuminating, vivid. **2** *fluent in French*: articulate; (**be fluent in**) have a (good) command of. **3** *a very fluent running style*: free-flowing, smooth, effortless, easy, natural, fluid; graceful, elegant; regular, rhythmic.

– OPPOSITES inarticulate, jerky.

**fluff** noun **1** *fluff on her sleeve*: fuzz, lint, dust; N. Amer. dustballs, dust bunnies. **2** (informal) *he only made a few fluffs*: mistake, error, slip, slip of the tongue; wrong note; informal slip-up; formal lapsus linguae.

• **verb** (informal) *Penney fluffed the shot | he fluffed his only line*: bungle, make a mess of, fumble, miss, deliver badly, muddle up, forget; informal mess up, make a hash of, make a botch of, foul up, bitch up, screw up; Brit. informal make a muck of, make a pig's ear of, cock up, make a Horlicks of; N. Amer. informal flub, goof up.

– OPPOSITES succeed in.

**fluffy** adjective *fleecy, woolly, fuzzy, hairy, feathery, downy, furry; soft.*

– OPPOSITES rough.

**fluid** noun *the fluid seeps up the tube*: liquid, watery substance, solution; gas, gaseous substance, vapour.

– OPPOSITES solid.

• **adjective** **1** *a fluid substance*: free-flowing; liquid, liquefied, melted, molten, runny, running; gaseous, gassy. **2** *his plans were still fluid*: adaptable, flexible, adjustable, open-ended, open, open to change, changeable, variable. **3** *the fluid state of affairs*: fluctuating, changeable, subject/likely to change, (ever-)shifting, inconstant; unstable, unsettled, turbulent, volatile, mercurial, protean. **4** *he stood up in one fluid movement*: smooth, fluent, flowing, effortless, easy, continuous; graceful, elegant.

– OPPOSITES solid, firm, static, jerky.

**fluke** noun *chance, coincidence, accident, twist of fate; piece of luck, stroke of good luck/fortune.*

**fluky** adjective *lucky, fortunate, providential, timely, opportune, serendipitous, expedient, heaven-sent, auspicious, propitious, felicitous; chance, fortuitous, accidental, unintended; Brit. informal jammy.*

– OPPOSITES planned.

**flummox** verb (informal) *baffle, perplex, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, nonplus; informal faze, stump, beat, fox, make someone scratch their head, be all Greek to, floor; N. Amer. informal discombobulate, buffalo.*

**flunkey** noun **1** *a flunkey brought us drinks*: liveried servant, lackey, steward, butler, footman, valet, attendant, page. **2** *government flunkies searched his offices*: minion, lackey, hireling, subordinate, underling, servant; creature, instrument, cat's paw; informal stooge, gofer; Brit. informal poodle, dogsbody, skivvy.

**flurry** noun **1** *a flurry of snow*: swirl, whirl, eddy, billow, shower, gust. **2** *a flurry of activity*: burst, outbreak, spurt, fit, spell, bout, rash, eruption; fuss, stir, bustle, hubbub, commotion, disturbance, furore; informal to-do, flap. **3** *a flurry of imports*: spate, wave, flood, deluge, torrent, stream, tide, avalanche; series, succession, string, outbreak, rash, explosion, run, rush.

– OPPOSITES dearth, trickle.

• **verb** *snow flurried through the door*: swirl, whirl, eddy, billow, gust, blast, blow, rush.

**flush** verb **1** *she flushed in embarrassment*: blush, redden, go pink, go red, go crimson, go scarlet, colour (up); old use mantle.



**2 fruit helps to flush toxins from the body:** rinse, wash, sluice, swill, cleanse, clean; Brit. informal sloosh. **3 they flushed out the snipers:** drive, chase, force, dislodge, expel, frighten, scare.

– OPPOSITES pale.

• **noun 1 a flush crept over her face:** blush, reddening, high colour, colour, rosiness, pinkness, ruddiness, bloom. **2 the first flush of manhood:** bloom, glow, freshness, radiance, vigour, rush.

– OPPOSITES paleness.

**flush<sup>2</sup> adjective** (informal) **1 the company was flush with cash:** well supplied, well provided, well stocked, replete, overflowing, bursting, brimful, brimming, loaded, overloaded, teeming, stuffed, swarming, thick, solid; full of, abounding in, rich in, abundant in; informal awash, jam-packed, chock-full of; Austral./NZ informal chocker.

**2 the years when cash was flush:** plentiful, abundant, in abundance, copious, ample, profuse, superabundant; informal a gogo, galore; literary plentiful, bounteous.

– OPPOSITES lacking, low (on).

**flushed adjective 1 flushed faces:** red, pink, ruddy, glowing, reddish, pinkish, rosy, florid, high-coloured, healthy-looking, aglow, burning, feverish; blushing, red-faced, embarrassed, shamefaced. **2 flushed with success:** elated, excited, thrilled, exhilarated, happy, delighted, overjoyed, joyous, gleeful, jubilant, exultant, ecstatic, euphoric, rapturous; informal blissed out, over the moon, high, on a high; N. Amer. informal wiggled out.

– OPPOSITES pale, dismayed.

**fluster verb she was flustered by his presence:** unsettle, make nervous, unnerve, agitate, ruffle, upset, bother, put on edge, disquiet, disturb, worry, perturb, disconcert, confuse, throw off balance, confound, nonplus; informal rattle, faze; Brit. informal send into a spin; N. Amer. informal discombobulate.

– OPPOSITES calm.

• **noun 1 was in a terrible fluster:** panic, state of anxiety, nervous state, frenzy, fret; informal dither, flap, tizz, tizzy, twitter, state, sweat; N. Amer. informal twit.

– OPPOSITES state of calm.

**fluted adjective grooved, channelled, furrowed, ribbed, corrugated, ridged.**

– OPPOSITES smooth, plain.

**flutter verb 1 butterflies fluttered around:** flit, hover, flutter, dance. **2 a tern was fluttering its wings:** flap, move up and down, beat, quiver, agitate, vibrate. **3 she fluttered her eyelashes:** flicker, bat. **4 flags fluttered:** flap, wave, ripple, undulate, quiver; fly. **5 her heart fluttered:** beat weakly, beat irregularly, palpitate, miss/skip a beat, quiver, go pit-a-pat; Medicine exhibit arrhythmia; rare quop.

• **noun 1 the flutter of wings:** beating, flapping, quivering, agitation, vibrating.

**2 a flutter of dark eyelashes:** flicker, bat.

**3 the flutter of the flags:** flapping, waving, rippling. **4 a flutter of nervousness:** tremor, wave, rush, surge, flash, stab, flush, tremble,

quiver, shiver, frisson, chill, thrill, tingle, shudder, ripple, flicker. **5** (Brit. informal) *he enjoys a flutter on the horses:* bet, wager, gamble; Brit. informal punt.

**flux noun change, changeability, variability, inconstancy, fluidity, instability, variation, unsteadiness, fluctuation, shift, movement, oscillation, alternation, rise and fall, see-sawing, yo-yoing.**

– OPPOSITES stability.

**fly<sup>1</sup> verb 1 a bird flew overhead:** wing its way, pass, wing, glide, soar, wheel; hover, hang; take wing, take to the air, mount. **2 they flew to Paris:** travel, jet. **3 military planes flew in food supplies:** airlift, lift, jet, drop, transport. **4 he could fly a plane:** pilot, operate, control, manoeuvre, steer. **5 the ship was flying a quarantine flag:** display, show, exhibit; have hoisted. **6 flags flew in the town:** flutter, flap, wave. **7 doesn't time fly?** go quickly, fly by/past, pass swiftly, slip past, rush past.

**8 the runners flew by.** See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

**9** (old use) *the beaten army had to fly.* See **FLEE** sense 1. **10** (dated) *they had to fly the country.* See **FLEE** sense 2.

■ **fly at** attack, assault, pounce on, set upon, set about, weigh into, let fly at, turn on, round on, lash out at, hit out at, belabour, fall on; informal lay into, tear into, lace into, sail into, pitch into, wade into, let someone have it, jump; Brit. informal have a go at; N. Amer. informal light into.

■ **let fly.** See **LET**.

**fly<sup>2</sup> adjective** (Brit. informal) *she's fly enough not to get conned:* shrewd, sharp, astute, acute, canny, worldly-wise, knowing, clever; informal streetwise, not born yesterday, smart, no fool, nobody's fool; Brit. informal suss, knowing how many beans make five; Scottish & N. English informal pawky.

– OPPOSITES naive.

**fly-by-night adjective unreliable, undependable, untrustworthy, disreputable; dishonest, deceitful, dubious, unscrupulous; informal iffy, shady, shift, slippery, crooked; Brit. informal dodgy, bent; Austral./NZ informal shonky.**

– OPPOSITES reliable, honest.

**flier, flyer noun 1 frequent flyers:** air

traveller, air passenger, airline customer.

**2 flyers killed in the war:** pilot, airman, airwoman; N. Amer. informal jock; dated aviator, aeronaut. **3 flyers promoting a new sandwich bar:** handbill, bill, handout, leaflet, circular, advertisement; N. Amer. dodger.

**flying adjective 1 a flying beetle:** winged; airborne, in the air, in flight. **2 a flying visit:** brief, short, lightning, fleeting, hasty, rushed, hurried, quick, whistle-stop, cursory, perfunctory; informal quickie.

– OPPOSITES long.

**foam noun the foam on the waves:** froth, spume, surf; fizz, effervescence, bubbles, head; lather, suds.

• **verb the water foamed:** froth, spume; fizz, effervesce, bubble; lather; ferment, rise; boil, seethe, simmer.

**foamy adjective frothy, foaming, spumy,**

bubbly, aerated, bubbling; sudsy; whipped, whisked.

### fob verb

■ **fob someone off** *I wasn't going to be fobbed off with excuses:* put off, stall, give someone the runaround, deceive; placate, appease.

■ **fob something off on** *he fobbed off the chairmanship on Clifford:* impose, palm off, unload, dump, get rid of, foist, offload; saddle someone with something, land someone with something, lumber someone with something.

**focus** noun **1** *schools are a focus of community life:* centre, focal point, central point, centre of attention, hub, pivot, nucleus, heart, cornerstone, linchpin, cynosure.

**2** *the focus is on helping people:* emphasis, accent, priority, attention, concentration.

**3** *the main focus of this chapter:* subject, theme, concern, subject matter, topic, issue, thesis, point, thread; substance, essence, gist, matter. **4** *the resulting light beams are brought to a focus at the eyepiece:* focal point, point of convergence.

• **verb 1** *he focused his binoculars on the tower:* direct; aim, point, turn, train. **2** *the investigation will focus on areas of social need:* concentrate, centre, zero in, zoom in; address itself to, pay attention to, pinpoint, revolve around.

■ **in focus** sharp, crisp, distinct, clear, well defined, well focused.

■ **out of focus** blurred, unfocused, indistinct, blurry, fuzzy, hazy, misty, cloudy, lacking definition, nebulous.

**foe** noun (literary) **enemy**, adversary, opponent, rival, antagonist, combatant, challenger, competitor, opposer, opposition, competition, other side.

— OPPOSITES friend.

**fog** noun **mist**, smog, murk, haze, haar; N. English (sea) **fret**; informal **pea-souper**; literary **brume**, **fume**.

• **verb 1** *the windscreen fogged up | his breath fogged the glass:* steam up, mist over, cloud over, film over, make/become misty. **2** *his brain was fogged with sleep:* muddle, daze, stupefy, fuddle, befuddle, bewilder, confuse, befog; literary **bedim**, **becloud**.

— OPPOSITES demist, clear.

**foggy** adjective **1** *the weather was foggy:* misty, smoggy, hazy, murky. **2** *she was foggy with sleep | a foggy memory:* muddled, fuddled, befuddled, confused, at sea, bewildered, dazed, stupefied, numb, groggy, fuzzy, bleary; dark, dim, hazy, shadowy, cloudy, blurred, obscure, vague, indistinct, unclear; informal **dopey**, **woolly**, **woozy**, out of it.

— OPPOSITES clear.

**foible** noun **weakness**, failing, shortcoming, flaw, imperfection, blemish, fault, defect, limitation; quirk, kink, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, peculiarity.

— OPPOSITES strength.

**foil**<sup>1</sup> verb *their escape attempt was foiled:* thwart, frustrate, counter, baulk, impede, obstruct, hamper, hinder, snooker, cripple,

scotch, derail, smash; stop, block, prevent, defeat; informal **do for**, **put paid to**, **stymie**, **cook someone's goose**; Brit. informal **scupper**, **nobble**, **queer**, **put the mockers on**.

— OPPOSITES assist.

**foil**<sup>2</sup> noun *the wine was a perfect foil to pasta:* contrast, complement, antithesis, relief.

**foist** verb **impose**, force, thrust, offload, unload, dump, palm off, fob off; pass off, get rid of; saddle someone with, land someone with, lumber someone with.

**fold**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I folded the cloth:* double (over/up), crease, turn under/up/over, bend; tuck, gather, pleat. **2** *fold the cream into the chocolate mixture:* mix, blend, stir gently.

**3** *he folded her in his arms:* enfold, wrap, envelop; take, gather, clasp, squeeze, clutch; embrace, hug, cuddle, cradle. **4** *the firm folded last year:* fail, collapse, founder; go bankrupt, become insolvent, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up, be closed (down), be shut (down); informal crash, go bust, go broke, go under, go to the wall, go belly up.

• **noun** *there was a fold in the paper:* crease, knife-edge; wrinkle, crinkle, pucker, furrow; pleat, gather.

**fold**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *the sheep were in their fold:* enclosure, pen, paddock, pound, compound, ring; N. Amer. corral. **2** *Lloyd George returned to the Liberal fold:* community, group, body, company, mass, throng, flock, congregation, assembly.

**folder** noun **file**, binder, ring binder, portfolio, document case, envelope, sleeve, wallet.

**foliage** noun **leaves**, leafage; greenery, vegetation, verdure.

**folk** noun (informal) **1** *the local folk:* people, individuals, {men, women, and children}, (living) souls, mortals; citizenry, inhabitants, residents, populace, population; informal **peeps**; formal **denizens**. **2** *my folks came from the north:* relatives, relations, blood relations, family, nearest and dearest, people, kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, kin, kith and kin, kindred, flesh and blood.

**folklore** noun **mythology**, lore, oral history, tradition, folk tradition; legends, fables, myths, folk tales, folk stories, old wives' tales; mythos.

**follow** verb **1** *we'll let the others follow:* come behind, come after, go behind, go after, walk behind. **2** *he was expected to follow his father in the business:* take the place of, replace, succeed, take over from; informal step into someone's shoes, fill someone's shoes/boots. **3** *people used to follow the band around:* accompany, go along with, go around with, travel with, escort, attend, trail around with, string along with; informal tag along with. **4** *the KGB man followed her everywhere:* shadow, trail, stalk, track, dog, hound; informal tail. **5** *do follow the instructions:* obey, comply with, conform to, adhere to, stick to, keep to, act in accordance with, abide by, observe, heed, pay attention to. **6** *penalties may*

*follow from such behaviour:* **result**, arise, be a consequence of, be caused by, be brought about by, be a result of, come after, develop, ensue, emanate, issue, proceed, spring, flow, originate, stem. **7 I couldn't follow what he said:** **understand**, comprehend, apprehend, take in, grasp, fathom, appreciate, see; informal make head or tail of, get, figure out, savvy, get one's head around, get one's mind around, get the drift of; Brit. informal suss out.

**8 he followed his master in his poetic style:** **imitate**, copy, mimic, ape, reproduce, mirror, echo; emulate, take as an example, take as a model, adopt the style of, model oneself on, take a leaf out of someone's book. **9 he follows Manchester United:** **be a fan of**, be a supporter of, support, be a follower of, be an admirer of, be a devotee of, be devoted to.

– **OPPOSITES** lead, flout, misunderstand.

■ **follow something through** complete, bring to completion, see something through; continue with, carry on with, keep on with, keep going with, stay with; informal stick something out.

■ **follow something up** investigate, research, look into, dig into, delve into, make enquiries into, enquire about, ask questions about, pursue, chase up; informal check out; N. Amer. informal scope out.

**follower** **noun** **1** *the president's closest followers:* **acolyte**, assistant, attendant, companion, henchman, minion, lackey, servant; informal hanger-on, sidekick; old use liegeman. **2** *a follower of Caravaggio:* **imitator**, emulator, copier, mimic; pupil, disciple; informal copycat. **3** *a follower of Christ:* **disciple**, apostle, supporter, defender, champion; believer, worshipper. **4** *followers of Scottish football:* **fan**, enthusiast, admirer, devotee, lover, supporter, adherent; N. Amer. informal rooter.

– **OPPOSITES** leader, opponent.

**following** **noun** *his devoted following:* **admirers**, supporters, backers, fans, adherents, devotees, advocates, patrons, public, audience, circle, retinue, train.

– **OPPOSITES** opposition.

• **adjective** **1** *the following day:* **next**, ensuing, succeeding, subsequent. **2** *the following questions:* below, further on, underneath; these; formal hereunder, hereinafter.

– **OPPOSITES** preceding, aforementioned.

**folly** **noun** foolishness, foolhardiness, stupidity, idiocy, lunacy, madness, rashness, recklessness, imprudence, injudiciousness, irresponsibility, thoughtlessness, indiscretion; informal craziness; Brit. informal daftness.

– **OPPOSITES** wisdom.

**foment** **verb** instigate, incite, provoke, agitate, excite, stir up, whip up, encourage, urge, fan the flames of.

**fond** **adjective** **1** *she was fond of dancing:* **keen** on, partial to, addicted to, enthusiastic about, passionate about; attached to, attracted to, enamoured of, in love with, having a soft spot for; informal into, hooked on, gone on, sweet on, struck on. **2** *his fond father:* **adoring**, devoted, doting, loving,

caring, affectionate, warm, tender, kind, attentive. **3** *a fond hope:* **unrealistic**, naive, foolish, over-optimistic, deluded, delusory, absurd, vain, Panglossian.

– **OPPOSITES** indifferent, unfeeling, realistic.

**fondle** **verb** caress, stroke, pat, pet, finger, tickle, play with; maul, molest; informal paw, grope, feel up, touch up, cop a feel of.

**fondness** **noun** **1** *they look at each other with such fondness:* **affection**, love, liking, warmth, tenderness, kindness, devotion, endearment, attachment, friendliness. **2** *a fondness for spicy food:* **liking**, love, taste, partiality, keenness, inclination, penchant, predilection, relish, passion, appetite; weakness, soft spot; informal thing, yen.

– **OPPOSITES** hatred.

**food** **noun** **1** *French food:* **nourishment**, sustenance, nutriment, fare, bread, daily bread; cooking, cuisine; foodstuffs, edibles, provender, refreshments, meals, provisions, rations; solids; informal eats, eatables, nosh, grub, chow, scoff, nibbles; Brit. informal tuck; N. Amer. informal chuck; formal comestibles; literary viands; dated victuals; old use commons, meat, aliment. **2** *food for the cattle:* **fodder**, feed, provender, forage.

#### WORD LINKS

**alimentary** relating to food or nutrition  
**gourmet, gastronome, gourmand** a connoisseur of good food

**foodie** **noun** (informal) **gourmet**, epicure, gastronome, gourmand.

**fool** **noun** **1** *you've acted like a complete fool:* **idiot**, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, dolt, dullard, simpleton, clod; informal dope, ninny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, coot, goon, dummy, dum-dum, fathead, numbskull, underhead, pudding-head, thickhead, airhead, lamebrain, cretin, moron, nerd, imbecile, pea-brain, birdbrain, jerk, dipstick, donkey, noodle; Brit. informal nit, nitwit, twit, clot, goat, plonker, berk, prat, plank, pillock, wally, git, dork, twerp, charlie, muppet, twonk, mug, herb; Scottish informal nyaff, balloon, sumph, gowk; N. Amer. informal schmuck, bozo, boob, turkey, schlepper, chowderhead, dumbhead, goofball, goof, goofus, galoot, lummo, klutz, putz, hoser, schlemiel, sap, meatball; Austral./NZ informal drongo, dill, alec, galah, boofhead. **2** *she made a fool of me:* **laughing stock**, dupe, butt, gull; informal stooge, sucker, mug, fall guy; N. Amer. informal sap. **3** (historical) *the fool in King James's court:* **jester**, court jester, clown, buffoon, joker, zany, merry andrew.

• **verb** **1** *he'd been fooled by a schoolboy:* **deceive**, trick, hoax, dupe, take in, mislead, delude, hoodwink, bluff, gull; swindle, defraud, cheat, double-cross; informal con, bamboozle, pull a fast one on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes, put one over on, have on, diddle, fiddle, rip off, do, sting, shaft; Brit. informal sell a pup to; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker, stiff, euchre, hornswoggle; Austral. informal pull a swifty on; literary cozen. **2** *I'm not fooling, I promise:*



pretend, make believe, feign, put on an act, act, sham, fake; joke, jest; informal kid; Brit. informal have someone on.

■ **fool around** 1 *someone's been fooling around with the controls*: fiddle, play (about/around), toy, trifle, meddle, tamper, interfere, monkey about/around; informal mess about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around. 2 (N. Amer. informal) *my husband's been fooling around*: philander, womanize, flirt, have an affair, commit adultery; informal play around, mess about/around, carry on, play the field, sleep around; Brit. informal play away.

f

**foolery** noun clowning, fooling, tomfoolery, buffoonery, silliness, foolishness, stupidity, idiocy; antics, capers; informal larking around, larks, shenanigans; Brit. informal monkey tricks; N. Amer. informal didoes; old use harlequinade.

**foolhardy** adjective reckless, rash, irresponsible, impulsive, hot-headed, impetuous, daredevil, devil-may-care, death-or-glory, madcap, hare-brained, precipitate, hasty, overhasty; literary temerarious.

– OPPOSITES prudent.

**foolish** adjective stupid, silly, idiotic, witless, brainless, mindless, unintelligent, thoughtless, half-baked, imprudent, incautious, injudicious, unwise; ill-advised, ill-considered, impolitic, rash, reckless, foolhardy; informal dumb, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, thick, gormless, hare-brained, crackbrained, pea-brained, wooden-headed; Brit. informal barmy, daft; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded.

– OPPOSITES sensible, wise.

**foolishness** noun folly, stupidity, idiocy, imbecility, silliness, inanity, lack of sense, thoughtlessness, imprudence, injudiciousness, irresponsibility, indiscretion, foolhardiness, rashness, recklessness; Brit. informal daftness.

– OPPOSITES sense, wisdom.

**foolproof** adjective infallible, dependable, reliable, trustworthy, certain, sure, guaranteed, safe, sound, tried and tested; watertight, airtight, flawless, perfect; informal sure-fire; formal efficacious.

– OPPOSITES flawed.

**foot** noun 1 *my feet hurt*: informal tootsies, trotters, plates of meat; N. Amer. informal dogs. 2 *the animal's foot*: paw, hoof, trotter, pad. 3 *the foot of the hill*: bottom, base, lowest part; end; foundation.

■ **foot the bill** (informal) pay, settle up; informal pick up the tab, cough up, fork out, shell out, come across; N. Amer. informal pick up the check.

## WORD LINKS

**chiropody, podiatry** medical treatment of the feet

**pedicure** a cosmetic treatment of the feet and toenails

**pedometer** an instrument for estimating the distance travelled on foot

**footing** noun 1 *Jenny lost her footing*: foothold, toehold, grip, purchase. 2 *a solid financial footing*: basis, base, foundation. 3 *on an equal footing*: standing, status,

position; condition, arrangement, basis; relationship, terms.

**footling** adjective trivial, trifling, petty, insignificant, inconsequential, unimportant, minor, small, time-wasting; informal piddling, piffling, fiddling.

– OPPOSITES important, large.

**footnote** noun note, marginal note, annotation, comment, gloss; aside, incidental remark, digression.

**footprint** noun footmark, footstep, mark, impression; pug, slot; (footprints) track(s), spoor.

**footstep** noun 1 *he heard a footstep*: footfall, step, tread, stomp, stamp. 2 *footsteps in the sand*: footprint, footmark, mark, impression; (footsteps) track(s), spoor.

**fop** noun dandy, poseur, man about town; informal snappy dresser, natty dresser, trendy; informal, dated swell; dated beau, popinjay; old use coxcomb.

**foppish** adjective dandyish, dandified, dapper, dressy; affected, preening, vain; effeminate, girly, niminy-piminy, mincing; informal natty, sissy, camp, campy; Brit. informal poncey.

**forage** verb hunt, search, look, rummage (about/around/round), ferret (about/around), root about/around, scratch about/around, nose around/about/round, scavenge; Brit. informal rootle around.

• noun 1 *forage for the horses*: fodder, feed, food, provender. 2 *a nightly forage for food*: hunt, search, look, quest, rummage, scavenge.

**foray** noun 1 *his first foray into documentary film-making*: venture; experience of, encounter with. 2 *the garrison made a foray against Richard's camp*: raid, attack, assault, incursion, swoop, strike, onslaught, sortie, sally, push, thrust. 3 *a brief foray into town*: expedition, trip, visit, outing.

**forbear** verb refrain, abstain, desist, keep, restrain oneself, stop oneself, hold back, withhold; resist the temptation to; eschew, avoid, decline to.

– OPPOSITES persist.

**forbearance** noun tolerance, patience, resignation, endurance, fortitude, stoicism; leniency, clemency, indulgence; restraint, self-restraint, self-control.

**forbearing** adjective patient, tolerant, easy-going, lenient, clement, forgiving, understanding, accommodating, indulgent; long-suffering, resigned, stoic; restrained, self-controlled.

– OPPOSITES impatient, intolerant.

**forbid** verb prohibit, ban, outlaw, make illegal, veto, proscribe, disallow, embargo, bar, debar, interdict; law enjoin, restrain.

– OPPOSITES permit.

**forbidden** adjective prohibited, verboten, taboo; illegal, illicit, against the law; Islam haram; informal not on, out, no go; formal non licet. See also FORBID.

– OPPOSITES permitted.

**forbidding** adjective 1 *a forbidding manner*:

**hostile**, unwelcoming, unfriendly, off-putting, unsympathetic, unapproachable, grim, stern, hard, tough, frosty. **2** *the dark castle looked forbidding*: **threatening**, ominous, menacing, sinister, brooding, daunting, fearsome, frightening, chilling, disturbing, disquieting.

– OPPOSITES friendly, inviting.

**force** **noun** **1** *he pushed with all his force*: **strength**, power, energy, might, effort, exertion; impact, pressure, weight, impetus.

**2** *they used force to achieve their aims*:

**coercion**, compulsion, constraint, duress, oppression, harassment, intimidation, threats; informal arm-twisting. **3** *the force of the argument*: **cogency**, weight, effectiveness, soundness, validity, strength, power, significance, influence, authority; informal punch; formal efficacy. **4** *a force for good*: **agency**, power, influence, instrument, vehicle, means. **5** *a peace-keeping force*: **body**, body of people, group, outfit, party, team; detachment, unit, squad; informal bunch.

– OPPOSITES weakness.

• **verb** **1** *he was forced to pay*: **compel**, coerce, make, constrain, oblige, impel, drive, pressurize, pressure, press, push, press-gang, bully, dragoon, bludgeon; informal put the screws on, lean on, twist someone's arm.

**2** *the door had to be forced*: **break open**, burst open, knock down, smash down, kick in.

**3** *water was forced through a hole*: **propel**, push, thrust, shove, drive, press, pump.

**4** *they forced a confession out of the kids*: **extract**, elicit, exact, extort, wrest, wring, drag, screw, squeeze.

■ **in force** **1** *the law is now in force*: effective, in operation, operative, operational, in action, valid. **2** *her fans were out in force*: in great numbers, in hordes, in full strength.

**forced** **adjective** **1** *forced entry*: **violent**, forcible. **2** *forced repatriation*: **enforced**, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, involuntary, imposed, required, stipulated, dictated, ordained, prescribed. **3** *a forced smile*: **strained**, unnatural, artificial, false, feigned, simulated, contrived, laboured, stilted, studied, mannered, affected, unconvincing, insincere, hollow; informal phoney, pretend, put on.

– OPPOSITES voluntary, natural.

**forceful** **adjective** **1** *a forceful personality*: **dynamic**, energetic, assertive, authoritative, vigorous, powerful, strong, pushy, driving, determined, insistent, commanding, dominant, domineering; informal bossy, in-your-face, go-ahead, feisty. **2** *a forceful argument*: **cogent**, convincing, compelling, strong, powerful, potent, weighty, effective, well founded, telling, persuasive, irresistible, eloquent, coherent.

– OPPOSITES weak, submissive, unconvincing.

**forcible** **adjective** **1** *forcible entry*: **forced**, violent. **2** *forcible repatriation*. See **FORCED** sense 2. **3** *a forcible argument*. See **FORCEFUL** sense 2.

**forebear** **noun** ancestor, forefather,

antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor.

– OPPOSITES descendant.

**forebode** **verb** (literary) **presage**, augur, portend, herald, warn of, forewarn of, foreshadow, be an omen of, indicate, signify, signal, promise, threaten, spell, denote; literary betoken, foretoken.

**foreboding** **noun** **1** *a feeling of foreboding*: **apprehension**, anxiety, trepidation, disquiet, unease, uneasiness, misgiving, suspicion, worry, fear, fearfulness, dread, alarm; informal the willies, the heebie-jeebies, the jitters. **2** *their forebodings proved justified*: **premonition**, presentiment, bad feeling, sneaking suspicion, funny feeling, intuition; old use presage.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**forecast** **verb** *they forecast record profits*: **predict**, prophesy, prognosticate, foretell, foresee, forewarn of.

• **noun** *a gloomy forecast*: **prediction**, prophecy, forewarning, prognostication, augury, divination, prognosis.

**forefather** **noun** **forebear**, ancestor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor.

– OPPOSITES descendant.

**forefront** **noun** **vanguard**, van, spearhead, head, lead, front, fore, front line, cutting edge.

– OPPOSITES rear, background.

**forego** **verb**. See **FORGO**.

**foregoing** **adjective** **preceding**, aforesaid, aforementioned, previously mentioned, earlier, above; previous, prior, antecedent.

– OPPOSITES following.

**foreground** **noun** **1** *the foreground of the picture*: **front**, fore. **2** *in the foreground of the political drama*: **forefront**, vanguard, van, spearhead, head, lead, front, fore, front line, cutting edge.

**forehead** **noun** brow, temple.

**foreign** **adjective** **1** *foreign branches of UK banks*: **overseas**, exotic, distant, external, alien, non-native. **2** *the concept is very foreign to us*: **unfamiliar**, unknown, unheard of, strange, alien; novel, new.

– OPPOSITES domestic, native, familiar.

**foreigner** **noun** **alien**, non-native, stranger, outsider; immigrant, settler, newcomer, incomer.

– OPPOSITES native.

#### WORD LINKS

• **xenophobia** an irrational fear or dislike of foreigners

**deport** expel a foreigner from a country

**naturalize** admit a foreigner to the citizenship of a particular country

**foreman**, **forewoman** **noun** **supervisor**, overseer, superintendent, team leader; foreperson; Brit. chargehand, captain, ganger, gangmaster; Scottish griever; N. Amer. informal ramrod, straw boss; Austral. informal pannikin boss; Mining overman.

**foremost** **adjective** **leading**, principal, premier, prime, top, top-level, greatest, best, supreme, pre-eminent, outstanding,

most important, most prominent, most influential, most illustrious, most notable; N. Amer. ranking; informal number-one.

– OPPOSITES minor.

**foreordained** adjective predetermined, preordained, ordained, predestined, destined, fated.

**forerunner** noun **1** *archosaurs were the forerunners of dinosaurs*: predecessor, precursor, antecedent, ancestor, forebear; prototype. **2** *a headache may be the forerunner of other complaints*: prelude, herald, harbinger, precursor, sign, signal, indication, warning.

– OPPOSITES descendant.

**foresee** verb anticipate, predict, forecast, expect, envisage, envision, see; foretell, prophesy, prognosticate; Scottish spae; literary foreknow.

**foreshadow** verb signal, indicate, signify, mean, be a sign of, suggest, herald, be a harbinger of, warn of, portend, prefigure, presage, promise, point to, anticipate; informal spell; literary forebode, foretoken, betoken; old use foreshow.

**foresight** noun forethought, planning, farsightedness, vision, anticipation, prudence, care, caution, precaution, readiness, preparedness; N. Amer. forehandedness.

– OPPOSITES hindsight.

**forest** noun wood(s), woodland, trees, plantation; jungle, rainforest; old use greenwood.

#### WORD LINKS

■ **syllan** relating to woods or forests

**forestall** verb pre-empt, get in before, steal a march on; anticipate, second-guess; nip in the bud, thwart, frustrate, foil, stave off, ward off, fend off, avert, preclude, obviate, prevent; informal beat someone to it.

**forestry** noun forest management, tree growing, agroforestry; technical arboriculture, silviculture.

**foretaste** noun sample, taster, taste, preview, specimen, example; indication, suggestion, hint, whiff; warning, forewarning, omen; informal try-out.

**foretell** verb **1** *the locals can foretell a storm*: predict, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate; foresee, anticipate, envisage, envision, see; Scottish spae. **2** *dreams can foretell the future*: indicate, foreshadow, prefigure, anticipate, warn of, point to, signal, portend, augur, presage, be an omen of; literary forebode, foretoken, betoken; old use foreshow.

**forethought** noun anticipation, planning, forward planning, provision, precaution, prudence, care, caution; foresight, farsightedness, vision.

– OPPOSITES impulse, recklessness.

**forever** adverb **1** *their love would last forever*: for always, evermore, for ever and ever, for good, for all time, until the end of time, until hell freezes over, eternally; Brit. for evermore; N. Amer. forevermore;

informal until the cows come home, until doomsday, until kingdom come; old use for aye. **2** *he was forever banging into things*: always, continually, constantly, perpetually, incessantly, endlessly, persistently, repeatedly, regularly; non-stop, day and night, {morning, noon, and night}; all the time, the entire time; Scottish aye; informal 24-7.

– OPPOSITES never, occasionally.

**forewarn** verb warn, warn in advance, give advance warning, give fair warning, give notice, apprise, inform; alert, caution, put someone on their guard; informal tip off; Brit. informal tip someone the wink.

**forewarning** noun omen, sign, indication, portent, presage, warning, harbinger, foreshadowing, augury, signal, promise, threat, straw in the wind, writing on the wall, hint; literary foretoken.

**foreword** noun preface, introduction, prologue, preamble; informal intro; formal exordium, prolegomenon, proem.

– OPPOSITES conclusion.

**forfeit** verb *latecomers will forfeit their places*: lose, be deprived of, surrender, relinquish, sacrifice, give up, yield, renounce, forgo; informal pass up, lose out on.

– OPPOSITES retain.

■ **noun** *they are liable to a forfeit*: penalty, sanction, punishment, penance; fine; confiscation, loss, relinquishment, forfeiture, surrender; Law sequestration.

**forfeiture** noun confiscation, loss; relinquishment, giving up, surrender, sacrifice; Law sequestration; historical attainder.

**forge**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *a smith forged swords*: hammer out, beat into shape, fashion. **2** *they forged a partnership*: build, construct, form, create, establish, set up. **3** *he forged her signature*: fake, falsify, counterfeit, copy, imitate, reproduce, replicate, simulate; informal pirate.

**forge**<sup>2</sup> verb *they forged through swamps*: advance, press on, push on, soldier on, march on, push forward, make progress, make headway.

■ **forge ahead** advance rapidly, progress quickly, make rapid progress, increase speed, put a spurt on, accelerate.

**forged** adjective fake, faked, false, counterfeit, imitation, copied, pirate(d); sham, bogus; informal phoney, dud.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**forgery** noun counterfeiter, faker, copyist, imitator, pirate.

**forgery** noun **1** *guilty of forgery*:

counterfeiting, falsification, faking, copying, pirating. **2** *the painting was a forgery*: fake, counterfeit, fraud, sham, imitation, replica, copy, pirate copy; informal phoney.

**forget** verb **1** *he forgot her address*: fail to remember, fail to recall, fail to think of. **2** *I forgot to close the door*: neglect, fail, omit. **3** *you can forget that idea*: stop thinking about, put out of one's mind, shut out, blank



out, pay no heed to, not worry about, ignore, overlook, take no notice of.

– OPPOSITES remember.

**forgetful** adjective 1 *I'm so forgetful these days:* **absent-minded**, amnesic, amnesiac, vague, disorganized, dreamy, abstracted, scatterbrained, with a mind/memory like a sieve; informal scatty. 2 *forgetful of the time:* **heedless**, careless, unmindful; inattentive to, negligent about, oblivious to, unconcerned about, indifferent to, not bothered about.

– OPPOSITES reliable, heedful.

**forgetfulness** noun **absent-mindedness**, amnesia, poor memory, a lapse of memory, vagueness, abstraction; informal scattiness.

**forgivable** adjective **pardonable**, excusable, condonable, understandable, tolerable, permissible, allowable, justifiable.

**forgive** verb 1 *she would not forgive him:* **pardon**, excuse, exonerate, absolve; make allowances for, harbour no grudge against, bury the hatchet with; let bygones be bygones; informal let off (the hook); formal exculpate. 2 *you must forgive his rude conduct:* **excuse**, overlook, disregard, ignore, pass over, make allowances for, allow; turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to, wink at, blink at, indulge, tolerate.

– OPPOSITES blame, punish.

**forgiveness** noun **pardon**, absolution, exoneration, remission, dispensation, indulgence, clemency, mercy; reprove, amnesty; informal let-off; old use shrift.

– OPPOSITES mercilessness, punishment.

**forgiving** adjective **merciful**, lenient, compassionate, magnanimous, humane, soft-hearted, forbearing, tolerant, indulgent, understanding.

– OPPOSITES merciless, vindictive.

**forgo, forego** verb **do without**, go without, give up, waive, renounce, surrender, relinquish, part with, drop, sacrifice, abstain from, refrain from, eschew, cut out; informal swear off; formal forswear, abjure.

– OPPOSITES keep.

**fork** verb **split**, branch (off), divide, subdivide, separate, part, diverge, go in different directions, bifurcate; technical furcate, divaricate, ramify.

**forked** adjective **split**, branching, branched, bifurcate(d), Y-shaped, V-shaped, pronged, divided; technical divaricate.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**forlorn** adjective 1 *he sounded forlorn:* **unhappy**, sad, miserable, sorrowful, dejected, despondent, disconsolate, wretched, abject, down, downcast, dispirited, downhearted, crestfallen, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum, mournful, despairing, doleful, woebegone; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up; formal lachrymose.

2 *a forlorn garden:* **desolate**, deserted, abandoned, forsaken, forgotten, neglected.

3 *a forlorn attempt:* **hopeless**, with no chance of success; useless, futile, pointless, purposeless, vain, unavailing, nugatory; old

use bootless.

– OPPOSITES happy, busy, cared for, hopeful, sure-fire.

**form** noun 1 *the general form of the landscape | form is less important than content:*

**shape**, configuration, formation, structure, construction, arrangement, appearance, exterior, outline, format, layout, design.

2 *the human form:* **body**, shape, figure, stature, build, frame, physique, anatomy; informal vital statistics. 3 *the infection takes different forms:* **manifestation**, appearance, embodiment, incarnation, semblance, shape, guise.

4 *sponsorship is a form of advertising:* **kind**, sort, type, class, classification, category, variety, genre, brand, style; species, genus, family. 5 *put the mixture into a form:* **mould**, cast, shape, matrix, die. 6 *what is the form here?* **etiquette**, social practice, custom, usage, use, modus operandi, habit, protocol, procedure, rules, convention, tradition, fashion, style; formal praxis, wont. 7 *you have to fill in a form:* **questionnaire**, document, coupon, tear-off slip, paper. 8 *what form is your daughter in?* **class**, year; N. Amer. grade. 9 *in top form:* **fitness**, condition, fettle, shape, trim, health; Brit. informal nick. 10 (Brit.) *a wooden form:* **bench**, pew, stall.

– OPPOSITES content.

• verb 1 *the pads are formed from mild steel:* **make**, construct, build, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, put together; create, produce, concoct, devise, contrive, frame, fashion, shape. 2 *he formed a plan:* **formulate**, devise, conceive, work out, think up, lay, draw up, put together, produce, fashion, concoct, forge, hatch, develop; informal dream up. 3 *they plan to form a company:* **set up**, establish, found, launch, float, create, bring into being, institute, start, get going, initiate, bring about, inaugurate. 4 *a mist was forming:* **materialize**, come into being/existence, crystallize, emerge, spring up, develop; take shape, appear, loom, show up, become visible. 5 *the horse may form bad habits:* **acquire**, develop, get, pick up, contract, slip into, get into. 6 *his men formed themselves into an arrowhead:* **arrange**, draw up, line up, assemble, organize, sort, order, range, array, dispose, marshal, deploy. 7 *the parts of society form an integrated whole:* **comprise**, make, make up, constitute, compose, add up to. 8 *the city formed a natural meeting point:* **constitute**, serve as, act as, function as, perform the function of, do duty for, make. 9 *natural objects are most important in forming the mind of the child:* **develop**, mould, shape, train, teach, instruct, educate, school, drill, discipline, prime, prepare, guide, direct, inform, enlighten, inculcate, indoctrinate; formal edify.

■ **good form** good manners, manners, polite behaviour, correct behaviour, convention, etiquette, protocol; informal the done thing.

**formal** adjective 1 *a formal dinner:* **ceremonial**, ceremonious, ritualistic, ritual, conventional, traditional; stately, courtly, solemn, dignified; elaborate, ornate, dressy.

**2** a very formal manner: aloof, reserved, remote, detached, unapproachable; stiff, prim, stuffy, staid, ceremonious, correct, proper, decorous, conventional, precise, exact, punctilious, unbending, inflexible, strait-laced; informal stand-offish. **3** a formal garden: symmetrical, regular, orderly, arranged, methodical, systematic. **4** formal permission: official, legal, authorized, approved, validated, certified, endorsed, documented, sanctioned, licensed, recognized, authoritative. **5** formal education: conventional, mainstream; school, institutional.

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– OPPOSITES informal, casual, colloquial, unofficial.

**formality** noun **1** the formality of the occasion: ceremony, ceremoniousness, ritual, conventionality, red tape, protocol, decorum; stateliness, courtliness, solemnity. **2** his formality was off-putting: aloofness, reserve, remoteness, detachment, unapproachability; stiffness, primness, stuffiness, staidness, correctness, decorum, punctiliousness, inflexibility; informal stand-offishness. **3** we keep the formalities to a minimum: official procedure, bureaucracy, red tape, paperwork. **4** the medical examination is just a formality: routine, routine practice, normal procedure. **5** promotion looks a formality: matter of course, foregone conclusion, inevitability, certainty; informal sure thing.

– OPPOSITES informality.

**format** noun design, style, presentation, appearance, look; form, shape, size; arrangement, plan, structure, scheme, composition, configuration.

**formation** noun **1** the formation of the island's sand ridges: emergence, genesis, development, evolution, shaping, origination. **2** the formation of a new government: establishment, setting up, start, initiation, institution, foundation, inception, creation, inauguration, launch, flotation. **3** the aircraft were flying in tight formation: configuration, arrangement, pattern, array, alignment, positioning, disposition, order.

**formative** adjective **1** at a formative stage: developmental, developing, growing, malleable, impressionable, susceptible. **2** a formative influence: determining, controlling, influential, guiding, decisive, forming, shaping, determinative.

**former** adjective **1** the former bishop: one-time, erstwhile, sometime, ex-, late; previous, foregoing, preceding, earlier, prior, past, last. **2** in former times: earlier, old, past, bygone, olden, long-ago, gone by, long past, of old; literary of yore. **3** the former view: first-mentioned, first.

– OPPOSITES future, next, latter.

**formerly** adverb previously, earlier, before, until now/then, hitherto, née, once, once upon a time, at one time, in the past; formal heretofore.

**formidable** adjective **1** a formidable

curved dagger: intimidating, forbidding, daunting, disturbing, alarming, frightening, disquieting, brooding, awesome, fearsome, ominous, foreboding, sinister, menacing, threatening, dangerous. **2** a formidable task: onerous, arduous, taxing, difficult, hard, heavy, laborious, burdensome, strenuous, back-breaking, uphill, Herculean, monumental, colossal; demanding, tough, challenging, exacting; formal exigent; old use toolsome. **3** a formidable pianist: capable, able, proficient, adept, adroit, accomplished, seasoned, skilful, skilled, gifted, talented, masterly, virtuoso, expert, knowledgeable, qualified; impressive, powerful, mighty, terrific, tremendous, great, complete, redoubtable; informal mean, wicked, deadly, nifty, crack, ace, wizard, magic; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

– OPPOSITES pleasant-looking, comforting, easy, poor, weak.

**formless** adjective shapeless, amorphous, unshaped, indeterminate; structureless, unstructured.

– OPPOSITES shaped, definite.

**formula** noun **1** a legal formula: form of words, set expression, phrase, saying, aphorism. **2** a peace formula: recipe, prescription, blueprint, plan, method, procedure, technique, system. **3** a formula for removing grease: preparation, concoction, mixture, compound, creation, substance.

**formulate** verb **1** the miners formulated a plan: devise, conceive, work out, think up, lay, draw up, put together, form, produce, fashion, concoct, contrive, forge, hatch, prepare, develop; informal dream up. **2** this is how Marx formulated his question: express, phrase, word, put into words, frame, couch, put, articulate, convey, say, state, utter.

**fornication** noun (formal) extramarital sex, extramarital relations, adultery, infidelity, unfaithfulness, cuckoldry; informal hanky-panky, a bit on the side.

**forsake** verb (literary) **1** he forsook his wife: abandon, desert, leave, leave high and dry, turn one's back on, cast aside, break (up) with; jilt, strand, leave stranded, leave in the lurch, throw over; informal walk out on, run out on, dump, ditch. **2** I won't forsake my vegetarian principles: renounce, abandon, relinquish, dispense with, disclaim, disown, disavow, discard, wash one's hands of; give up, drop, jettison, do away with, axe; informal ditch, scrap, scrub, junk; formal forswear.

– OPPOSITES keep to, adopt.

**forswear** verb (formal) renounce, relinquish, reject, forgo, disavow, abandon, deny, repudiate, give up, wash one's hands of; eschew, abstain from, refrain from; informal kick, pack in, quit, swear off; law disaffirm; literary forsake; formal abjure, abnegate.

– OPPOSITES adhere to, persist with, take up.

**fort** noun fortress, castle, citadel, blockhouse, burg; stronghold, redoubt, fortification, bastion; fastness.

**forte** noun strength, strong point, speciality,

strong suit, talent, special ability, skill, bent, gift, *métier*; informal thing.

– OPPOSITES weakness.

**forth** *adverb* **1** *smoke billowed forth*: out, outside, away, off, ahead, forward, into view; into existence. **2** *from that day forth*: onwards, onward, on, forward; for ever, into eternity; until now.

**forthcoming** *adjective* **1** *forthcoming events*: imminent, impending, coming, upcoming, approaching, future; close, (close) at hand, in store, in the wind, in the air, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, on the way, on us, about to happen. **2** *no reply was forthcoming*: available, ready, at hand, accessible, obtainable, at someone's disposal, on offer; informal up for grabs, on tap. **3** *he was not very forthcoming about himself*: communicative, talkative, chatty, loquacious, vocal; expansive, expressive, unreserved, uninhibited, outgoing, frank, open, candid; informal gabby.

– OPPOSITES past, current, uncommunicative.

**forthright** *adjective* frank, direct, straightforward, honest, candid, open, sincere, outspoken, straight, blunt, plain-spoken, no-nonsense, bluff, matter-of-fact, to the point; informal upfront.

– OPPOSITES secretive, evasive.

**forthwith** *adverb* immediately, at once, instantly, directly, right away, straight away, post-haste, without delay, without hesitation; quickly, speedily, promptly; informal pronto.

– OPPOSITES sometime.

**fortification** *noun* rampart, wall, defence, bulwark, palisade, stockade, redoubt, earthwork, bastion, parapet, barricade.

**fortify** *verb* **1** *he rode in haste to fortify his castles*: secure, protect, defend, strengthen. **2** *the wall had been fortified*: strengthen, reinforce, toughen, consolidate, bolster, shore up, brace, buttress. **3** *I'll have a drink to fortify me*: invigorate, strengthen, energize, enliven, liven up, animate, vitalize, rejuvenate, restore, revive, refresh; informal pep up, buck up, give a shot in the arm to.

– OPPOSITES weaken, sedate, subdue.

**fortitude** *noun* courage, bravery, endurance, resilience, mettle, moral fibre, strength of mind, strength of character, strong-mindedness, backbone, spirit, grit, doughiness, steadfastness; informal guts; Brit. informal bottle.

– OPPOSITES faint-heartedness.

**fortress** *noun* fort, castle, citadel, blockhouse, burg; stronghold, redoubt, fortification, bastion; fastness; bunker.

**fortuitous** *adjective* **1** *a fortuitous resemblance*: chance, adventitious, unexpected, unanticipated, unpredictable, unforeseen, unlooked-for, serendipitous, casual, incidental, coincidental, random, accidental, inadvertent, unintentional, unintended, unplanned, unpremeditated. **2** *United were saved by a fortuitous penalty*: lucky, fluky, fortunate, providential, advantageous, timely,

opportune, serendipitous, heaven-sent; Brit. informal jammy.

– OPPOSITES predictable, unlucky.

**fortunate** *adjective* **1** *he was fortunate that the punishment was so slight*: lucky, favoured, blessed, in luck, having a charmed life, charmed; informal sitting pretty; Brit. informal jammy. **2** *in a fortunate position*: favourable, advantageous, providential, auspicious, welcome, heaven-sent, beneficial, propitious, fortuitous, opportune, happy, felicitous. **3** *the society gives generously to less fortunate people*: wealthy, rich, affluent, prosperous, well off, moneyed, well-to-do, well heeled, opulent, comfortable; favoured, privileged.

– OPPOSITES unfortunate, unfavourable, underprivileged.

**fortunately** *adverb* luckily, by good luck, by good fortune, as luck would have it, propitiously; mercifully, thankfully; thank goodness, thank God, thank heavens.

**fortune** *noun* **1** *fortune favoured him*: chance, accident, coincidence, serendipity, destiny, fortuity, providence; N. Amer. happenstance. **2** *a change of fortune*: luck, fate, destiny, predestination, the stars, serendipity, karma, kismet, lot. **3** *an upswing in Sheffield's fortunes*: circumstances, state of affairs, condition, position, situation; plight, predicament. **4** *he made his fortune in steel*: wealth, riches, substance, property, assets, resources, means, possessions, treasure, estate. **5** (informal) *this dress cost a fortune*: huge amount, vast sum, king's ransom, millions, billions; informal small fortune, packet, mint, bundle, pile, wad, arm and a leg, pretty penny, tidy sum, killing, big money; Brit. informal bomb, loadsamoney, shedloads; N. Amer. informal big bucks, gazillions.

– OPPOSITES pittance.

**fortune teller** *noun* clairvoyant, crystal-gazer, psychic, prophet, seer, oracle, soothsayer, augur, diviner, sibyl; palmist, palm-reader; Scottish spaewife.

**forum** *noun* **1** *forums were held for staff to air grievances*: meeting, assembly, gathering, rally, conference, seminar, convention, symposium, colloquium; N. Amer. & NZ caucus; informal get-together; formal colloquy. **2** *a forum for discussion*: setting, place, scene, context, stage, framework, backdrop; medium, means, apparatus, auspices. **3** *the Roman forum*: public meeting place, marketplace, agora.

**forward** *adverb* **1** *the traffic moved forward*: ahead, forwards, onwards, onward, on, further. **2** *the winner stepped forward*: towards the front, out, forth, into view. **3** *from that day forward*: onward, onwards, on, forth; for ever, into eternity; until now.

– OPPOSITES backwards.

• *adjective* **1** *in a forward direction*: moving forwards, moving ahead, onward, advancing, progressing, progressive. **2** *the fortress served as the Austrian army's forward base against the Russians*: front,



advance, foremost, head, leading, frontal.

**3 forward planning:** future, forward-looking, for the future, prospective.

**4 the girls seemed very forward:** bold, brazen, brazen-faced, barefaced, brash, shameless, immodest, audacious, daring, presumptuous, familiar, overfamiliar, pert; informal brass-necked, fresh.

– OPPOSITES backward, rear, shy, late.

• **verb 1** *my mother forwarded me your letter:* send on, post on, redirect, readdress, pass on. **2** *the goods were forwarded by sea:* send, dispatch, transmit, carry, convey, deliver, ship. **3** *Sir William forwarded his plan:* advance, further, promote, assist, carry forward, hasten, hurry along, expedite, accelerate, speed up.

**forward-looking** adjective progressive, enlightened, dynamic, pushing, bold, enterprising, ambitious, pioneering, innovative, modern, avant-garde, positive, reforming, radical; informal go-ahead, go-getting.

– OPPOSITES backward-looking.

**forwards** adverb. See **FORWARD** adverb.

**fossil** noun petrified remains, petrified impression, remnant, relic; Geology reliquiae.

**fossilized** adjective **1** *fossilized remains:* petrified, ossified. **2** *a fossilized idea:* archaic, antiquated, antediluvian, old-fashioned, quaint, outdated, outmoded, behind the times, anachronistic; informal prehistoric.

**foster** verb **1** *he fostered the arts:* encourage, promote, further, stimulate, advance, forward, cultivate, nurture, strengthen, enrich; help, aid, abet, assist, contribute to, support, back. **2** *they started fostering children:* bring up, rear, raise, care for, take care of, look after, nurture, provide for; mother, parent.

– OPPOSITES neglect, suppress.

**foul** adjective **1** *a foul stench:* disgusting, revolting, repulsive, repugnant, abhorrent, loathsome, offensive, sickening, nauseating, nauseous, stomach-churning, stomach-turning, distasteful, obnoxious, objectionable, odious, noxious; N. Amer. vomituous; informal ghastly, gruesome, gross, rank, putrid, yucky, skanky, sick-making; Brit. informal beastly; Austral. informal on the nose; literary miasmatic, noisome, mephitic. **2** *a foul mess:* dirty, filthy, mucky, grimy, grubby, muddy, muddied, unclean, unwashed; squalid, sordid, soiled, sullied, scummy; rotten, defiled, decaying, putrid, putrefied, smelly, fetid; informal cruddy, yucky, icky; Brit. informal manky, gungy, grotty; rare feculent. **3** *he had been foul to her:* unkind, malicious, mean, nasty, unpleasant, unfriendly, horrible, spiteful, cruel, vicious, base, malevolent, despicable, contemptible; informal horrid, rotten; Brit. informal beastly. **4** *foul weather:* inclement, unpleasant, disagreeable, bad; rough, stormy, squally, gusty, windy, blustery, wild, blowy, rainy, wet; Brit. informal filthy. **5** *foul drinking water:* contaminated,

polluted, infected, tainted, impure, filthy, dirty, unclean; rare feculent. **6** *a foul deed:* evil, wicked, bad, wrong, immoral, sinful, vile, dishonourable, corrupt, iniquitous, depraved, villainous, nefarious, vicious, malicious; malevolent, sinister, demonic, devilish, diabolical, fiendish, dark; monstrous, shocking, despicable, atrocious, heinous, odious, contemptible, horrible, execrable; informal low-down, dirty. **7** *foul language:* vulgar, crude, coarse, filthy, dirty, obscene, indecent, indelicate, naughty, lewd, suggestive, smutty, ribald, salacious, scatological, offensive, abusive; informal blue.

**8** *a foul tackle:* unfair, illegal, unsporting, unsportsmanlike, below the belt, dirty.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, kind, fair, clean, righteous, mild, fair.

• **verb 1** *the river had been fouled with waste:* dirty, infect, pollute, contaminate, poison, taint, sully, soil, stain, blacken, muddy, splash, spatter, smear, blight, defile, make filthy. **2** *the vessel had fouled her nets:* tangle up, entangle, snarl, catch, entwine, enmesh, twist.

– OPPOSITES clean up, disentangle.

**foul-mouthed** adjective vulgar, crude, coarse; obscene, rude, smutty, dirty, filthy, indecent, indelicate, offensive, lewd, X-rated, scatological, foul, abusive; informal blue.

**found** verb **1** *he founded his company in 1989:* establish, set up, start, begin, get going, institute, inaugurate, launch, float, form, create, bring into being, originate, develop. **2** *they founded a new city:* build, construct, erect, put up; plan, lay plans for. **3** *their relationship was founded on trust:* base, build, construct; ground in, root in; rest, hinge, depend.

– OPPOSITES dissolve, liquidate, abandon, demolish.

**foundation** noun **1** *the foundations of a wall:* footing, foot, base, substructure, underpinning; bottom, bedrock, substratum. **2** *the report has a scientific foundation:* basis, starting point, base, point of departure, beginning, premise; principles, fundamentals, rudiments; cornerstone, core, heart, thrust, essence, kernel. **3** *there was no foundation for the claim:* justification, grounds, defence, reason, rationale, cause, basis, motive, excuse, call, pretext, provocation. **4** *an educational foundation:* institution, charity, agency.

**founder**<sup>1</sup> noun *the founder of modern physics:* originator, creator, (founding) father, prime mover, architect, engineer, designer, developer, pioneer, author, planner, inventor, mastermind; informal godfather; literary begetter.

**founder**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *the ship foundered:* sink, go to the bottom, go down, be lost at sea; informal go to Davy Jones's locker. **2** *the scheme foundered:* fail, be unsuccessful, not succeed, fall flat, fall through, collapse, backfire, meet with disaster, come to nothing/naught; informal flop, bomb. **3** *their horses foundered in the river bed:* stumble,

trip, trip up, lose one's balance, lose/miss one's footing, slip, stagger, lurch, totter, fall, tumble, topple, sprawl, collapse.

– OPPOSITES succeed.

**foundling** noun **abandoned infant**, waif, stray, orphan, outcast; old use wastrel.

**fountain** noun **1** *a fountain of water*: jet, spray, spout, spurt, well, fount, cascade. **2** *a fountain of knowledge*: source, fount, well; reservoir, fund, mass, mine.

**four** cardinal number **quartet**, foursome, quadruplets.

#### WORD LINKS

**quadruple** consisting of four parts or things  
**quadrennial** lasting for or recurring every four years

**quadrilateral** a plane figure with four sides

**quadruped** a four-legged animal

**quatrain** a verse of four lines

**tetrahedron** a solid with four triangular faces

**tetralogy** a group of four related books, plays, etc.

**tetrad** a group or set of four

**fox** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**vulpine** relating to foxes

**vixen** a female fox

**brush** a fox's tail

**mask** a fox's head as a hunting trophy

**foxy** adjective (informal) **crafty**, wily, artful, guileful, devious, sly, scheming, designing, calculating, Machiavellian; shrewd, astute, clever, canny; deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous; old use subtle.

**foyer** noun **entrance hall**, hall, hallway, entrance, entry, porch, reception area, atrium, concourse, lobby; N. Amer. entryway.

**fracas** noun **disturbance**, brawl, melee, rumpus, skirmish, struggle, scuffle, scrum, clash, fisticuffs, altercation; informal scrap, dust-up, set-to, shindy, shindig; Brit. informal punch-up, bust-up, ruck; N. Amer. informal rough house, brannigan; Austral./NZ informal stoush; Law, dated affray.

**fraction** noun **1** *a fraction of the population*: part, subdivision, division, portion, segment, slice, section, sector; proportion, percentage, ratio, measure. **2** *only a fraction of the collection*: fragment, snippet, snatch, smattering, selection. **3** *he moved a fraction closer*: little, bit, touch, soupçon, trifle, mite, shade, jot; informal smidgen, smidge, tad.

– OPPOSITES whole.

**fractious** adjective **1** *fractious children*: grumpy, bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, crotchety, grouchy, cantankerous, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, pettish, waspish, crabbed, crabby, crusty, prickly, touchy; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit. informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery; Austral./NZ informal snaky. **2** *the fractious parliamentary party*: wayward, unruly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, out of hand, obstreperous,

difficult, headstrong, recalcitrant, intractable; disobedient, insubordinate, disruptive, disorderly, undisciplined; contrary, wilful; formal refractory; old use contumacious.

– OPPOSITES contented, affable, dutiful.

**fracture** noun **1** *the risk of vertebral fracture*: breaking, breakage, cracking, fragmentation, splintering, rupture. **2** *tiny fractures in the rock*: crack, split, fissure, crevice, break, rupture, breach, rift, cleft, chink, interstice; crazing.

• **verb** *the glass fractured*: break, crack, shatter, splinter, split, rupture; informal bust.

**fragile** adjective **1** *fragile porcelain*: breakable, easily broken; delicate, dainty, fine, flimsy; eggshell; formal frangible. **2** *the fragile ceasefire*: tenuous, shaky, insecure, unreliable, vulnerable, flimsy. **3** *she is still very fragile*: weak, delicate, frail, debilitated; ill, unwell, ailing, poorly, sickly, infirm, enfeebled.

– OPPOSITES strong, durable, robust.

**fragment** noun **1** *meteorite fragments*: piece, bit, particle, speck; chip, shard, sliver, splinter; shaving, paring, snippet, scrap, offcut, flake, shred, wisp, morsel; Scottish skelf. **2** *a fragment of conversation*: snatch, snippet, scrap, bit.

• **verb** *explosions caused the chalk to fragment*: break up, break, break into pieces, crack open/apart, shatter, splinter, fracture; disintegrate, fall to pieces, fall apart.

**fragmentary** adjective **incomplete**, fragmented, disconnected, disjointed, broken, discontinuous, piecemeal, scrappy, bitty, sketchy, uneven, patchy.

**fragrance** noun **1** *the fragrance of spring flowers*: sweet smell, scent, perfume, bouquet; aroma, redolence, nose. **2** *a bottle of fragrance*: perfume, scent, eau de toilette, toilet water; eau de cologne, cologne; aftershave.

**fragrant** adjective **sweet-scented**, sweet-smelling, scented, perfumed, aromatic, perfumy; literary redolent.

– OPPOSITES smelly.

**frail** adjective **1** *a frail old lady*: weak, delicate, feeble, enfeebled, debilitated; infirm, ill, ailing, unwell, sickly, poorly, in poor health. **2** *a frail structure*: fragile, breakable, easily damaged, delicate, flimsy, insubstantial, unsteady, unstable, rickety; formal frangible.

– OPPOSITES strong, robust.

**frailty** noun **1** *the frailty of old age*: infirmity, weakness, enfeeblement, debility; fragility, delicacy; ill health, sickness. **2** *his many frailties*: weakness, fallibility; weak point, flaw, imperfection, defect, failing, fault, shortcoming, deficiency, inadequacy, limitation.

– OPPOSITES strength.

**frame** noun **1** *a tubular metal frame*: framework, structure, substructure, skeleton, chassis, shell, casing, body, bodywork; support, scaffolding, foundation. **2** *his tall, slender frame*: body, figure, form,

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shape, physique, build, size, proportions.

**3** a photograph frame: setting, mount, mounting.

• **verb** **1** he had the picture framed: mount, set in a frame. **2** the legislators who frame the regulations: formulate, draw up, draft, plan, shape, compose, put together, form, devise, create, establish, conceive, think up, originate; informal dream up.

■ **frame of mind** mood, state of mind, humour, temper, disposition.

**frame-up** **noun** (informal) conspiracy, plot; trick, trap, entrapment; informal put-up job, fit-up, set-up.

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**framework** **noun** **1** a metal framework: frame, substructure, structure, skeleton, chassis, shell, body, bodywork; support, scaffolding, foundation. **2** the framework of society: structure, shape, fabric, order, scheme, system, organization, construction, configuration, composition; informal make-up.

**franchise** **noun** **1** the extension of the franchise to women: suffrage, the vote, the right to vote, voting rights, enfranchisement. **2** the company lost its TV franchise: warrant, charter, licence, permit, authorization, permission, sanction.

**frank**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** he was quite frank with me: candid, direct, forthright, plain, plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, straight from the shoulder, explicit, to the point, matter-of-fact; open, honest, truthful, sincere; outspoken, bluff, blunt, unsparing, not afraid to call a spade a spade; informal upfront. **2** she looked at Sam with frank admiration: open, undisguised, unconcealed, naked, unmistakable, clear, obvious, transparent, patent, manifest, evident, perceptible, palpable; blatant, barefaced, flagrant.

– OPPOSITES evasive.

**frank**<sup>2</sup> **verb** the envelope had not been franked: stamp, postmark; imprint, print, mark.

**frankly** **adverb** **1** frankly, I'm not very interested: to be frank, to be honest, to tell you the truth, to be truthful, in all honesty, as it happens. **2** he stated the case quite frankly: candidly, directly, plainly, straightforwardly, straight from the shoulder, forthrightly, openly, honestly, without beating about the bush, without mincing one's words, without prevarication, point-blank; bluntly, outspokenly, with no holds barred.

**frantic** **adjective** panic-stricken, panic-struck, panicky, beside oneself, at one's wits' end, distraught, overwrought, worked up, agitated, distressed; frenzied, wild, frenetic, fraught, feverish, hysterical, desperate; informal in a state, in a tizzy/tizz, wound up, het up, in a flap, tearing one's hair out; Brit. informal having kittens, in a flat spin.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**fraternity** **noun** **1** a spirit of fraternity: brotherhood, fellowship, kinship, friendship, (mutual) support, solidarity, community, union, togetherness; sisterhood. **2** the teaching fraternity: profession, body of

workers; band, group, set, circle. **3** (N. Amer.) a college fraternity: society, club, association; group, set.

**fraternize** **verb** associate, mix, consort, socialize, keep company, rub shoulders; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hang around/round, hang out, run around, knock about/around, hobnob, be thick with.

**fraud** **noun** **1** he was arrested for fraud: fraudulence, sharp practice, cheating, swindling, embezzlement, deceit, deception, double-dealing, chicanery. **2** social security frauds: swindle, racket, deception, trick, cheat, hoax; informal scam, con, con trick, rip-off, sting, gyp, diddle, fiddle; N. Amer. informal bunco, hustle, grift. **3** they exposed him as a fraud: impostor, fake, sham, charlatan, quack, mountebank; swindler, fraudster, racketeer, cheat, confidence trickster, liar; informal phoney, con man, con artist.

**fraudulent** **adjective** dishonest, cheating, swindling, corrupt, criminal, illegal, unlawful, illicit; deceitful, double-dealing, duplicitous, dishonourable, unscrupulous, unprincipled; informal crooked, shady, dirty; Brit. informal bent, dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.

– OPPOSITES honest.

**fraught** **adjective** **1** their world is fraught with danger: full of, filled with, rife with; attended by, accompanied by. **2** she sounded a bit fraught: anxious, worried, stressed, upset, distraught, overwrought, worked up, agitated, distressed, distracted, desperate, frantic, panic-stricken, panic-struck, panicky; beside oneself, at one's wits' end, at the end of one's tether; informal wound up, in a state, in a flap, in a cold sweat, tearing one's hair out; Brit. informal having kittens, in a flat spin.

**fray**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** cheap fabric soon frays: unravel, wear, wear thin, wear out/through, become worn. **2** her nerves were frayed: strain, tax, overtax, put on edge.

**fray**<sup>2</sup> **noun** two men started the fray: battle, fight, engagement, conflict, clash, skirmish, altercation, tussle, struggle, scuffle, melee, brawl; informal scrap, dust-up, set-to; Brit. informal punch-up, bust-up; Scottish informal rammy; Law, dated affray.

**frayed** **adjective** **1** a frayed shirt collar: worn, well worn, threadbare, tattered, ragged, holey, moth-eaten, in holes, the worse for wear; informal tatty; N. Amer. informal raggedy. **2** his frayed nerves: strained, fraught, tense, edgy, stressed.

**freak** **noun** **1** a genetically engineered freak: aberration, abnormality, irregularity, oddity; monster, monstrosity, mutant; freak of nature. **2** the accident was a complete freak: anomaly, aberration, rarity, oddity, unusual occurrence; fluke, twist of fate. **3** (informal) they were dismissed as a bunch of freaks: oddity, eccentric, misfit; crank, lunatic; informal oddball, weirdo, nutcase, nut; Brit. informal nutter; N. Amer. informal wacko, kook. **4** (informal) a fitness freak: enthusiast, fan,



devotee, lover, aficionado; informal fiend, nut, fanatic, addict, maniac, buff.

• **adjective** *a freak storm | a freak result:*

**unusual**, anomalous, aberrant, atypical, unrepresentative, irregular, fluky, exceptional, unaccountable, bizarre, queer, peculiar, odd, freakish; unpredictable, unforeseeable, unexpected, unanticipated, surprising; rare, singular, isolated.

– **OPPOSITES** normal.

• **verb** (informal) *he freaked out:* go crazy, go mad, go to pieces, crack, snap, lose control; panic, become hysterical; informal lose it, lose one's cool, crack up; N. Amer. informal go ape, go postal.

**freakish** adjective *freakish weather.* See **FREAK** adjective.

**freaky** adjective (informal). See **ODD** senses 1, 2.

**free** adjective **1** *admission is free:* without

charge, free of charge, for nothing; complimentary, gratis; informal for free, on the house. **2** *she was free of any pressures:*

**unencumbered by**, unaffected by, clear of, without, rid of; exempt from, not liable to, safe from, immune to, excused of; informal sans, minus. **3** *I'm free this afternoon:* **unoccupied**, not busy, available, between appointments; off duty, off work, off, on holiday, on leave; at leisure, with time on one's hands, with time to spare.

**4** *the bathroom's free now:* **vacant**, empty, available, unoccupied, not taken, not in use. **5** *a citizen of a proud free nation:*

**independent**, self-governing, self-governed, self-ruling, self-determining, non-aligned, sovereign, autonomous; democratic. **6** *the killer is still free:* **on the loose**, at liberty, at large; loose, unconfined, unbound, untied, unchained, untethered, unshackled, unfettered, unrestrained. **7** *you are free to leave:* **able to**, in a position to, capable of; **allowed**, permitted. **8** *the free flow of water:*

**unimpeded**, unobstructed, unrestricted, unhampered, clear, open, unblocked. **9** *she was free with her money:* **generous**, liberal, open-handed, unstinting, bountiful; lavish, extravagant, prodigal. **10** *his free and hearty manner:* **frank**, open, candid, direct, plain-spoken; unrestrained, unconstrained, free and easy, uninhibited.

– **OPPOSITES** busy, occupied, captive, mean.

• **verb** **1** *three of the hostages were freed:*

**release**, set free, let go, liberate, discharge, deliver; set loose, let loose, turn loose, untie, unchain, unfetter, unshackle, unleash; literary disenfranchise; historical manumit. **2** *the victims were freed by firefighters:* **extricate**, release, get out, pull out, pull free; rescue, set free. **3** *they wish to be freed from all legal ties:*

**exempt**, except, excuse, relieve, unburden, disburden.

– **OPPOSITES** confine, trap.

■ **free and easy** easy-going, relaxed, casual, informal, unceremonious, unforced, natural, open, spontaneous, uninhibited, friendly; tolerant, liberal; informal laid-back.

■ **a free hand** free rein, carte blanche, freedom, liberty, licence, latitude, leeway.

**freebooter** noun *pirate, marauder, raider;*

*bandit, robber; adventurer, swashbuckler; historical privateer; old use buccaneer, corsair.*

**freedom** noun **1** *a desperate bid for freedom:*

**liberty**, liberation, release, deliverance, delivery, discharge; literary disenfranchisement; historical manumission. **2** *national revolution was the only path to freedom:* **independence**, self-government, self-determination, self rule, home rule, sovereignty, non-alignment, autonomy; democracy. **3** *freedom from local political accountability:* **exemption**, immunity, dispensation; impunity.

**4** *patients have more freedom to choose who treats them:* **right**, entitlement, privilege, prerogative; scope, latitude, leeway, flexibility, space, breathing space, room, elbow room; licence, leave, free rein, a free hand, carte blanche; informal wiggle room.

– **OPPOSITES** captivity, subjection, liability.

**free-for-all** noun *brawl, fight, scuffle, tussle, struggle, confrontation, clash, altercation, fray, fracas, melee, rumpus, disturbance; breach of the peace; informal dust-up, scrap, set-to, shindy; Brit. informal punch-up, bust-up, barney; Scottish informal rammy; Law, dated affray.*

**freely** adverb **1** *may I speak freely?* **openly**, candidly, frankly, directly, without constraint, without inhibition; truthfully, honestly, without beating about the bush, without mincing one's words, without prevarication. **2** *they gave their time and labour freely:* **voluntarily**, willingly, readily; of one's own volition, of one's own accord, of one's own free will, without compulsion.

**freethinker** noun **nonconformist**, individualist, independent, maverick; agnostic, atheist, non-believer, unbeliever.

– **OPPOSITES** conformist.

**free will** noun **self-determination**, freedom of choice, autonomy, liberty, independence.

■ **of one's own free will** voluntarily, willingly, readily, freely, without reluctance, without compulsion, of one's own accord, of one's own volition, of one's own choosing.

**freeze** verb **1** *the stream had frozen:* **ice over**, ice up, solidify. **2** *the campers stifled in summer and froze in winter:* **be very cold**, be numb with cold, turn blue with cold, shiver, be chilled to the bone/marrow. **3** *she froze in horror:* **stop dead**, stop in one's tracks, stop, stand (stock) still, go rigid, become motionless, become paralysed. **4** *the prices of basic foodstuffs were frozen:* **fix**, hold, peg, set; limit, restrict, cap, confine, regulate; hold/keep down.

– **OPPOSITES** thaw.

■ **freeze someone out** (informal) **exclude**, leave out, shut out, cut out, ignore, ostracize, spurn, snub, shun, cut, cut dead, turn one's back on, cold-shoulder, give someone the cold shoulder, leave out in the cold; Brit. send to Coventry; Brit. informal blank.

#### WORD LINKS

**cryonics, cryogenics** the practice or technique of deep-freezing the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure

**cryosurgery** surgery using instruments that freeze and destroy unwanted tissue

**freezing** adjective **1** *a freezing wind*: bitter, bitterly cold, icy, chill, frosty, glacial, wintry, sub-zero; raw, biting, piercing, penetrating, cutting, numbing; arctic, polar, Siberian.

**2** *you must be freezing*: **frozen**, extremely cold, numb with cold, chilled to the bone/marrow, frozen stiff, shivery, shivering; informal frozen to death.

– OPPOSITES balmy, hot.

**freight** noun **1** *freight carried by rail*: goods, cargo, freightage; load, consignment, delivery, shipment; merchandise. **2** *the importance of air freight*: **transportation**, transport, conveyance, freightage, carriage, portage, haulage.

**frenetic** adjective frantic, wild, frenzied, hectic, fraught, feverish, fevered, mad, manic, hyperactive, energetic, intense, fast and furious, turbulent, tumultuous.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**frenzied** adjective frantic, wild, frenetic, hectic, fraught, feverish, fevered, mad, crazed, manic, intense, furious, uncontrolled, out of control.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**frenzy** noun **1** *the crowd worked themselves into a state of frenzy*: **hysteria**, madness, mania, dementedness, delirium, feverishness, fever, wildness, agitation, turmoil, tumult; wild excitement, euphoria, elation, ecstasy. **2** *a frenzy of anger*: **fit**, paroxysm, spasm, bout.

**frequency** noun rate of occurrence, incidence, amount, commonness, prevalence; Statistics distribution.

**frequent** adjective **1** *frequent bouts of chest infection*: **recurrent**, recurring, repeated, periodic, continual, one after another, successive; many, numerous, lots of, several. **2** *a frequent business traveller*: **habitual**, regular.

– OPPOSITES occasional.

• **verb** *he frequented chic supper clubs*: **visit**, patronize, spend time in, visit regularly, be a regular visitor to, haunt; informal hang out at.

**frequenter** noun *habitué*, patron, regular, regular visitor, regular customer, regular client, familiar face.

**frequently** adverb regularly, often, very often, all the time, habitually, customarily, routinely; many times, many a time, lots of times, again and again, time and again, over and over again, repeatedly, recurrently, continually; N. Amer. oftentimes; literary oft, oft-times.

**fresh** adjective **1** *fresh fruit*: **newly picked**, garden-fresh, crisp, unwilted; raw, natural, unprocessed. **2** *a fresh sheet of paper*: **clean**, blank, empty, clear, white; unused, new, pristine, unmarked, untouched. **3** *a fresh approach*: **new**, recent, latest, up to date, modern, modernistic, ultra-modern, newfangled; original, novel, different, innovative, unusual, unconventional, unorthodox; radical, revolutionary; informal

offbeat. **4** *fresh recruits*: **young**, youthful; new, inexperienced, naive, untrained, unqualified, untried, raw; informal wet behind the ears. **5** *he felt fresh and happy to be alive*: **refreshed**, rested, restored, revived; (as) fresh as a daisy, energetic, vigorous, invigorated, full of vim and vigour, lively, vibrant, spry, sprightly, bright, alert, perky; informal full of beans, raring to go, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper. **6** *her fresh complexion*: **healthy**, healthy-looking, clear, bright, youthful, blooming, glowing, unblemished; fair, rosy, rosy-cheeked, pink, ruddy. **7** *the night air was fresh*: **cool**, crisp, refreshing, invigorating, tonic; pure, clean, clear, uncontaminated, untainted.

**8** *a fresh wind*: **chilly**, chill, cool, cold, brisk, bracing, invigorating; strong; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **9** (informal) *that young man has been getting a little too fresh*: **impudent**, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, forward, cheeky, disrespectful, rude, brazen, shameless, pert, bold, (as) bold as brass; informal brass-necked, lippy, mouthy, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy.

– OPPOSITES stale, old, tired, warm.

**freshen** verb **1** *the cold water freshened him*: **refresh**, revitalize, restore, revive, wake up, rouse, enliven, liven up, energize, brace, invigorate; informal buck up, pep up. **2** *he opened a window to freshen the room*: **ventilate**, air, aerate, oxygenate; deodorize, purify, cleanse; refresh, cool. **3** *she went to freshen up before dinner*: **have a wash**, wash oneself, bathe, shower; tidy oneself (up), spruce oneself up, smarten oneself up, groom oneself, primp oneself; N. Amer. wash up; informal titivate oneself, do oneself up, doll oneself up; Brit. informal tart oneself up; formal or humorous perform one's ablutions. **4** (N. Amer.) *the waitress freshened their coffee*: **refill**, top up, fill up, replenish.

**freshman, freshwoman** noun **first-year student**, undergraduate; newcomer, new recruit, starter, probationer; beginner, learner, novice; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal undergrad, rookie; Brit. informal fresher; N. Amer. informal greenhorn.

**fret** verb **1** *she was fretting about Jonathan*: **worry**, be anxious, feel uneasy, be distressed, be upset, upset oneself, concern oneself; agonize, sigh, pine, brood, eat one's heart out. **2** *his absence began to fret her*: **trouble**, bother, concern, perturb, disturb, disquiet, disconcert, distress, upset, alarm, panic, agitate; informal eat away at.

**fretful** adjective distressed, upset, miserable, unsettled, uneasy, ill at ease, uncomfortable, edgy, agitated, worked up, tense, stressed, restive, fidgety; querulous, irritable, cross, fractious, peevish, petulant, out of sorts, bad-tempered, irascible, grumpy, crotchety, captious, testy, tetchy; N. Amer. informal cranky; informal het up, uptight, twitchy, crabby.

**friable** adjective **crumbly**, easily crumbled, powdery, dusty, chalky, soft; dry, crisp, brittle.

**friar** noun monk, brother, religious, coenobite, contemplative; prior, abbot.

**friction** noun **1** a lubrication system which reduces friction: abrasion, rubbing, chafing, grating, rasping, scraping; resistance, drag. **2** there was considerable friction between father and son: discord, strife, conflict, disagreement, dissension, dissent, opposition, contention, dispute, disputation, arguing, argument, quarrelling, bickering, squabbling, wrangling, fighting, feuding, rivalry; hostility, animosity, antipathy, enmity, antagonism, resentment, acrimony, bitterness, bad feeling, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood.

– OPPOSITES harmony.

**friend** noun **1** a close friend: companion, boon companion, bosom friend, best friend, intimate, confidante, confidant, familiar, soul mate, alter ego, second self, playmate, playfellow, classmate, schoolmate, workmate; ally, associate; sister, brother; informal pal, chum, sidekick, crony, main man; Brit. informal mate, china, mucker; N. English informal marrow, marrer; N. Amer. informal buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy; old use compeer. **2** the friends of the Royal Botanic Garden: patron, backer, supporter, benefactor, benefactress, sponsor; well-wisher, defender, champion; informal angel.

– OPPOSITES enemy.

**friendless** adjective alone, all alone, by oneself, solitary, lonely, with no one to turn to, lone, without friends, companionless, unfriended, unpopular, unwanted, unloved, abandoned, rejected, forsaken, shunned, spurned, forlorn; N. Amer. lonesome.

– OPPOSITES popular.

**friendliness** noun affability, amiability, geniality, congeniality, bonhomie, cordiality, good nature, good humour, warmth, affection, demonstrativeness, conviviality, joviality, companionability, sociability, gregariousness, camaraderie, neighbourliness, hospitableness, approachability, accessibility, openness, kindness, kindness, sympathy, amenability, benevolence.

**friendly** adjective **1** a friendly woman:

affable, amiable, genial, congenial, cordial, warm, affectionate, demonstrative, convivial, companionable, sociable, gregarious, outgoing, clubbable, comradely, neighbourly, hospitable, approachable, easy to get on with, accessible, communicative, open, unreserved, easy-going, good-natured, kindly, benign, amenable, agreeable, obliging, sympathetic, well disposed, benevolent; Scottish couthy; informal chummy, pally, clubby; Brit. informal matey; N. Amer. informal buddy-buddy. **2** friendly conversation: amicable, congenial, cordial, pleasant, easy, relaxed, casual, informal, unceremonious; close, intimate, familiar. **3** a friendly wind swept the boat to the shore: favourable, advantageous, helpful; lucky, providential.

– OPPOSITES hostile.

**friendship** noun **1** lasting friendships:

relationship, close relationship, attachment, mutual attachment, association, bond, tie, link, union. **2** old ties of love and friendship: amity, camaraderie, friendliness, comradeship, companionship, fellowship, fellow feeling, closeness, affinity, rapport, understanding, harmony, unity; intimacy, mutual affection.

– OPPOSITES enmity.

**fright** noun **1** she was paralysed with fright: fear, fearfulness, terror, horror, alarm, panic, dread, trepidation, dismay, nervousness, apprehension, apprehensiveness, perturbation, disquiet; informal jitteriness, twitchiness. **2** the experience gave everyone a fright: scare, shock, surprise, turn, jolt, start; the shivers, the shakes; informal the jitters, the heebie-jeebies, the willies, the creeps, the collywobblers, a cold sweat; Brit. informal the (screaming) abdots, butterflies (in one's stomach). **3** (informal) she looked an absolute fright: ugly sight, eyesore, monstrosity; informal mess, sight, state, blot on the landscape.

**frighten** verb scare, startle, alarm, terrify, petrify, shock, chill, panic, shake, disturb, dismay, unnerve, unman, intimidate, terrorize, cow, daunt; strike terror into, put the fear of God into, chill someone to the bone/marrow, make someone's blood run cold; informal scare the living daylights out of, scare stiff, scare someone out of their wits, scare witless, scare to death, scare the pants off, spook, make someone's hair stand on end, make someone jump out of their skin; Brit. informal put the wind up, give someone the heebie-jeebies, make someone's hair curl; Irish informal scare the bejesus out of; old use affright.

**frightening** adjective terrifying, horrifying, alarming, startling, chilling, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, disturbing, unnerving, intimidating, daunting, dismaying, upsetting, harrowing, traumatic; eerie, sinister, fearsome, nightmarish, macabre, menacing; Scottish eldritch; informal scary, spooky, creepy, hairy.

**frightful** adjective **1** a frightful accident:

horrible, horrific, ghastly, horrendous, serious, awful, dreadful, terrible, nasty, grim, dire, unspeakable; alarming, shocking, terrifying, harrowing, appalling, fearful; hideous, gruesome, grisly; informal horrid; formal grievous. **2** (informal) a frightful racket: awful, terrible, dreadful, appalling, ghastly, abominable; unpleasant, disagreeable, lamentable, deplorable, insufferable, unbearable; informal God-awful; Brit. informal beastly.

**frigid** adjective **1** a frigid January night: very cold, bitterly cold, bitter, freezing, frozen, frosty, icy, gelid, chilly, chill, wintry, bleak, sub-zero, arctic, Siberian, polar, glacial; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **2** frigid politeness: stiff, formal, stony, wooden, unemotional, passionless, unfeeling, indifferent, unresponsive, unenthusiastic, austere, distant, aloof, remote, reserved,



unapproachable; frosty, cold, icy, cool, unsmiling, forbidding, unfriendly, unwelcoming, hostile; informal offish, stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES hot, friendly.

**frill** **noun** **1** *a full skirt with a wide frill*: ruffle, flounce, ruff, furbelow, jabot, peplum, ruche, ruching, fringe; old use purfle. **2** *a comfortable flat with no frills*: ostentation, ornamentation, decoration, embellishment, fanciness, fuss, chichi, gilding, excess; trimmings, extras, additions, non-essentials, luxuries, extravagances, superfluities.

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**frilly** **adjective** ruffled, flounced, frilled, crimped, ruched, trimmed, lacy, frothy; fancy, ornate.

**fringe** **noun** **1** *the city's northern fringe*: perimeter, periphery, border, borderline, margin, rim, outer edge, edge, extremity, limit; outer limits, limits, borders, bounds, outskirts, marches; literary marge, bourn. **2** *blue curtains with a yellow fringe*: edging, edge, border, trimming, frill, flounce, ruffle, tassels; old use purfle.

– OPPOSITES middle.

• **adjective** *fringe theatre*: unconventional, unorthodox, alternative, avant-garde, experimental, innovative, left-field, innovative, radical, extreme; peripheral; off Broadway; informal offbeat, way out.

– OPPOSITES mainstream.

• **verb** **1** *a robe of gold, fringed with black velvet*: trim, edge, hem, border, bind, braid; decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish, finish; old use purfle. **2** *the lake is fringed by a belt of trees*: border, edge, bound, skirt, line, surround, enclose, encircle, circle, girdle, encompass, ring; literary gird.

**fringe benefit** **noun** extra, added extra, additional benefit, privilege; informal perk; formal perquisite.

**frillery** **noun** **1** *a functional building with not a hint of frippery*: ostentation, showiness, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation, ornament, decoration, trimming, gilding, prettification, gingerbread; finery; informal bells and whistles. **2** *stalls full of fripperies*: trinket, bauble, knick-knack, gewgaw, gimcrack, bibelot, ornament, novelty, trifle; N. Amer. kickshaw; old use gaud.

**frisk** **verb** **1** *the spaniels frisked around my ankles*: frolic, gambol, cavort, caper, cut capers, scamper, skip, dance, romp, trip, prance, leap, spring, hop, jump, bounce. **2** *the officer frisked him*: search, body-search, check.

**frisky** **adjective** lively, bouncy, bubbly, perky, active, energetic, animated, zestful, full of vim and vigour; playful, coltish, skittish, spirited, high-spirited, in high spirits, exuberant; Brit. Tiggerish; informal full of beans, sparky, zippy, peppy, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed; literary frolicsome.

**fritter** **verb** squander, waste, misuse, misspend, dissipate; overspend, spend like water, be prodigal with, run through, get through; informal blow, splurge, pour/chuck

something down the drain; Brit. informal, dated blue.

– OPPOSITES save.

**frivolity** **noun** light-heartedness, levity, joking, jocularly, gaiety, fun, frivolousness, silliness, foolishness, flightiness, skittishness; superficiality, shallowness, vacuity, empty-headedness.

**frivolous** **adjective** **1** *a frivolous girl*: skittish, flighty, giddy, silly, foolish, superficial, shallow, light-minded, irresponsible, thoughtless, feather-brained, empty-headed, pea-brained, birdbrained, vacuous, vapid; informal dizzy, dippy; N. Amer. informal ditzzy.

**2** *frivolous remarks*: flippant, glib, facetious, joking, jokey, light-hearted; fatuous, inane, senseless, thoughtless; informal flip. **3** *new rules to stop frivolous lawsuits*: time-wasting, pointless, trivial, trifling, minor, petty, insignificant, unimportant.

– OPPOSITES sensible, serious.

**frizzle** **1** *verb a hamburger frizzled in the pan*: sizzle, crackle, fizz, hiss, spit, sputter, crack, snap; fry, cook.

**frizzle** **2** *verb their hair was powdered and frizzled*: curl, coil, crimp, crinkle, kink, wave, frizz.

– OPPOSITES straighten.

**frizzy** **adjective** curly, curled, corkscrew, ringlety, crimped, crinkly, kinky, frizzed; permed; N. Amer. informal nappy.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**frock** **noun** dress, gown, robe, shift; garment, costume.

**frog** **noun**

#### WORD LINKS

batrachian, anuran relating to frogs  
tadpole the larva of a frog

**frolic** **verb** *children frolicked on the sand*: play, amuse oneself, romp, disport oneself, frisk, gambol, cavort, caper, cut capers, scamper, skip, dance, prance, leap about, jump about; dated sport.

• **noun** *the youngsters enjoyed their frolic*: antic, caper, game, romp, escapade; (frolics) fun (and games), high jinks, merrymaking, amusement, skylarking.

**frolicsome** **adjective** (literary) playful, frisky, fun-loving, jolly, merry, gleeful, light-hearted, exuberant, high-spirited, spirited, lively, perky, skittish, coltish, kittenish; mischievous, impish, roguish; informal peppy, zippy, full of beans.

**front** **noun** **1** *the front of the boat*: fore, foremost part, forepart, anterior, forefront, nose, head; bow, prow; foreground. **2** *a shop front*: frontage, face, facing, facade; window. **3** *the battlefield surgeons who work at the front*: front line, firing line, vanguard, van; trenches. **4** *the front of the queue*: head, beginning, start, top, lead. **5** *she kept up a brave front*: appearance, air, face, manner, demeanour, bearing, pose, exterior, veneer, (outward) show, act, pretence, affectation. **6** *the shop was a front for his real business*: cover, cover-up, false front, blind, disguise,

facade, mask, cloak, screen, smokescreen, camouflage. **7** (informal) *he's got a lot of front: self-confidence, boldness, forwardness, pushiness, audacity, temerity, presumption, presumptuousness, cockiness, daring; informal nerve, face, neck, brass neck.*

– OPPOSITES rear, back.

• **adjective** *the front runners: leading*, lead, first, foremost; in first place.

– OPPOSITES last.

• **verb** *the houses fronted on a reservoir:*

**overlook**, look out on/over, face (towards), lie opposite (to); have a view of, command a view of.

■ **in front** ahead, to/at the fore, at the head, up ahead, in the vanguard, in the van, in the lead, leading, coming first; at the head of the queue; informal up front.

**frontier** **noun** *border, boundary, borderline, dividing line, demarcation line; perimeter, limit, edge, rim; marches, bounds.*

**frost** **noun** **1** *hedges covered with frost: ice crystals, ice, rime, verglas; hoar frost, ground frost, black frost; informal Jack Frost; old use hoar.* **2** *there was frost in his tone: coldness, coolness, frostiness, ice, iciness, frigidity; hostility, unfriendliness, stiffness; informal stand-offishness.*

**frosty** **adjective** **1** *a frosty morning: freezing, cold, icy-cold, bitter, bitterly cold, chill, wintry, frigid, glacial, arctic; frozen, icy, gelid; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky; literary froze, rimy.* **2** *her frosty gaze: cold, frigid, icy, glacial, unfriendly, inhospitable, unwelcoming, forbidding, hostile, stony, stern, hard.*

**froth** **noun** *the froth on top of the beer:*

foam, head; bubbles, frothiness, fizz, effervescence; lather, suds; scum; literary spume.

• **verb** *the liquid frothed up: bubble, fizz, effervesce, foam, lather; churn, seethe; literary spume.*

**frothy** **adjective** **1** *a frothy liquid: foaming, foamy, bubbling, bubbly, fizzy, sparkling, effervescent, gassy, carbonated; sudsy; literary spumy, spumous.* **2** *a frothy pink evening dress: frilly, flouncy, lacy.* **3** *a frothy woman's magazine: lightweight, light, superficial, shallow, slight, insubstantial; trivial, trifling, frivolous.*

**frown** **verb** **1** *she frowned at him: scowl, glower, glare, lour, make a face, look daggers, give someone a black look; knit/furrow one's brows; informal give someone a dirty look.* **2** *public displays of affection were frowned on: disapprove of*, view with disfavour, dislike, look askance at, not take kindly to, take a dim view of, take exception to, object to, have a low opinion of.

– OPPOSITES smile.

**frowsty** **adjective** (Brit.) *stuffy, airless, unventilated, fusty, close, muggy, stifling; stale, musty, smelly; N. Amer. funky.*

– OPPOSITES airy.

**frowzy** **adjective** **1** *a frowzy old biddy:*

scruffy, unkempt, untidy, dishevelled, messy, slovenly, slatternly, bedraggled, down

at heel, badly dressed, dowdy; N. Amer. informal raggedy. **2** *a frowzy room: dingy, gloomy, dull, drab, dark, dim; stuffy, close, musty, stale, stifling; shabby, seedy, run down; Brit. frowsty, fuggy.*

**frozen** **adjective** **1** *the frozen ground: icy, ice-covered, ice-bound, frosty, frosted, gelid; frozen solid, hard, (as) hard as iron; literary rimy.* **2** *his hands were frozen: freezing, icy, very cold, chilled to the bone/marrow, numb, numbed, frozen stiff.*

– OPPOSITES boiling.

**frugal** **adjective** **1** *a hard-working, frugal man: thrifty, economical, careful, cautious, prudent, provident, un wasteful, sparing, scrimping; abstemious, abstinent, austere, self-denying, ascetic, monkish, spartan; parsimonious, miserly, niggardly, cheese-paring, penny-pinching, close-fisted; N. Amer. forehanded; informal tight-fisted, tight, stingy.* **2** *their frugal breakfast: meagre, scanty, scant, paltry, skimpy; plain, simple, spartan, inexpensive, cheap, economical.*

– OPPOSITES extravagant, lavish.

**fruit** **noun** *the fruits of their labours: reward, benefit, profit, product, return, yield, legacy, issue; result, outcome, upshot, consequence, effect.*

#### WORD LINKS

**carpology** the study of fruits and seeds  
**costermonger** a person selling fruit and vegetables in the street  
**pomiculture** fruit-growing  
**pomology** the science of fruit-growing  
**frugivorous** fruit-eating  
**frutitarian** a person who eats only fruit

**fruitful** **adjective** **1** *a fruitful tree: fertile, fecund, prolific, high-yielding; fruit-bearing, fruiting.* **2** *fruitful discussions: productive, constructive, useful, of use, worthwhile, helpful, beneficial, valuable, rewarding, profitable, advantageous, gainful, successful, effective, effectual, well spent.*

– OPPOSITES barren, futile.

**fruition** **noun** *fulfilment, realization, actualization, materialization, achievement, attainment, accomplishment, resolution; success, completion, consummation, conclusion, close, finish, perfection, maturity, maturation, ripening, ripeness; implementation, execution, performance.*

**fruitless** **adjective** *futile, vain, in vain, to no avail, to no effect, idle; pointless, useless, worthless, wasted, hollow; ineffectual, ineffective, inefficacious; unproductive, unrewarding, profitless, unsuccessful, unavailing, barren, for naught; abortive; old use bootless.*

– OPPOSITES productive.

**fruity** **adjective** **1** *his fruity voice: deep, rich, resonant, full, mellow, clear, strong, vibrant.* **2** (Brit. informal) *a fruity story: bawdy, racy, risqué, naughty, spicy, earthy, ribald, suggestive, titillating; rude, indelicate, vulgar, indecent, improper, dirty, smutty, coarse, off colour; N. Amer. gamy; euphemistic adult; informal blue, near the knuckle,*

nudge-nudge, raunchy; Brit. informal saucy.

**frumpy** adjective **dowdy**, frumpish, unfashionable, old-fashioned; drab, dull, shabby, scruffy; Brit. informal mumsy.  
– OPPOSITES fashionable.

**frustrate** verb **1** *his plans were frustrated*: thwart, defeat, foil, block, stop, put a stop to, counter, spoil, check, baulk, disappoint, forestall, dash, scotch, quash, crush, derail, snooker; obstruct, impede, hamper, hinder, hamstring, stand in the way of, spike someone's guns; informal stymie, foul up, screw up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for; Brit. informal scupper. **2** *the delays frustrated him*: exasperate, infuriate, annoy, anger, vex, irritate, irk, try someone's patience; disappoint, discontent, dissatisfy, discourage, dishearten, dispirit; informal aggravate, bug, miff, hack off.  
– OPPOSITES help, facilitate.

**frustration** noun **1** *he clenched his fists in frustration*: exasperation, annoyance, anger, vexation, irritation; disappointment, dissatisfaction, discontentment, discontent; informal aggravation. **2** *the frustration of his attempts to introduce changes*: thwarting, defeat, prevention, foiling, blocking, spoiling, circumvention, forestalling, disappointment, derailment; obstruction, hampering, hindering; failure, collapse.

**fuddled** adjective **stupefied**, addled, befuddled, confused, muddled, bewildered, dazed, stunned, muzzy, groggy, foggy, fuzzy, vague, disorientated, disoriented, all at sea; informal dopey, woozy, woolly-minded, fazed, not with it; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

**fuddy-duddy** noun (informal) (old) fogey, conservative, traditionalist, conformist; fossil, dinosaur, troglodyte; Brit. museum piece; informal stick-in-the-mud, square, stuffed shirt, dodo.

**fudge** verb **1** *the minister tried to fudge the issue*: evade, avoid, dodge, skirt, duck, gloss over; hedge, prevaricate, vacillate, be non-committal, stall, beat about the bush, equivocate; Brit. hum and haw; informal cop out, sit on the fence; rare tergiversate. **2** *the government has been fudging figures*: adjust, manipulate, massage, put a spin on, juggle, misrepresent, misreport, bend; tamper with, tinker with, interfere with, doctor, falsify, distort; informal cook, fiddle with.  
• noun *the latest proposals are a fudge*: compromise, cover-up; informal cop-out.

**fuel** noun **1** *the car ran out of fuel*: petrol, diesel; power source; N. Amer. gasoline, gas. **2** *she added more fuel to the fire*: firewood, wood, kindling, logs; coal, coke, anthracite; oil, paraffin, kerosene; heat source. **3** *we all need fuel to keep our bodies going*: nourishment, food, sustenance, nutriment, nutrition. **4** *his antics added fuel to the Republican cause*: encouragement, ammunition, stimulus, incentive; provocation, goading.  
• verb **1** *power stations fuelled by low-grade coal*: power, fire, run. **2** *the rumours fuelled anxiety among opposition backbenchers*: fan,

feed, stoke up, inflame, intensify, stimulate, encourage, provoke, incite, whip up; sustain, keep alive.

**fug** noun (Brit. informal) stuffiness, fustiness, frowstiness, staleness, stuffy atmosphere.

**fuggy** adjective (Brit. informal) stuffy, smoky, close, muggy, stale, fusty, unventilated, airless, stifling, heavy.

– OPPOSITES airy.

**fugitive** noun *a hunted fugitive*: escapee, runaway, deserter, absconder; refugee.

• adjective **1** *a fugitive criminal*: escaped, runaway, on the run, on the loose, at large; wanted; informal AWOL; N. Amer. informal on the lam. **2** *the fugitive nature of life*: fleeting, transient, transitory, ephemeral, fading, momentary, short-lived, short, brief, passing, impermanent, here today and gone tomorrow; literary evanescent.

**fulfil** verb **1** *he fulfilled a lifelong ambition to visit Israel*: achieve, attain, realize, actualize, make happen, succeed in, bring to completion, bring to fruition, satisfy. **2** *she failed to fulfil her duties*: carry out, perform, accomplish, execute, do, discharge, conduct; complete, finish, conclude, perfect. **3** *they fulfilled the criteria*: meet, satisfy, comply with, conform to, fill, answer.

**fulfilled** adjective satisfied, content, contented, happy, pleased; serene, placid, untroubled, at ease, at peace.

– OPPOSITES discontented.

**full** adjective **1** *her glass was full*: filled, filled up, filled to capacity, filled to the brim, brimming, brimful. **2** *streets full of people*: crowded, packed, crammed, congested; teeming, swarming, thick, thronged, overcrowded, overrun; abounding, bursting, overflowing; informal jam-packed, wall-to-wall, stuffed, chock-a-block, chock-full, bursting at the seams, packed to the gunwales, awash. **3** *all the seats were full*: occupied, taken, in use, unavailable. **4** *I'm full*: replete, full up, satisfied, well fed, sated, satiated, surfeited; gorged, glutted; informal stuffed. **5** *she'd had a full life*: eventful, interesting, exciting, lively, action-packed, busy, energetic, active. **6** *a full list of available facilities*: comprehensive, thorough, exhaustive, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, all-embracing, in depth; complete, entire, whole, unabridged, uncut. **7** *a fire engine driven at full speed*: maximum, top, greatest, highest. **8** *she had a full figure*: plump, well rounded, rounded, buxom, shapely, ample, curvaceous, voluptuous, womanly, Junoesque; informal busty, curvy, well upholstered, well endowed; N. Amer. informal zaftig. **9** *a full skirt*: loose-fitting, loose, baggy, voluminous, roomy, capacious, billowing. **10** *his full baritone voice*: resonant, rich, sonorous, deep, vibrant, full-bodied, strong, fruity, clear. **11** *the full flavour of a Bordeaux*: rich, intense, full-bodied, strong, deep.

– OPPOSITES empty, hungry, selective, thin.

• adverb **1** *she looked full into his face*: directly, right, straight, squarely, square,



dead, point-blank; informal bang, slap (bang), plumb. **2** *you knew full well I was leaving:* very, perfectly, quite; informal darn, damn, damned; Brit. informal jolly, bloody; N. Amer. informal darned.

■ **in full** in its entirety, in toto, in total, unabridged, uncut.

■ **to the full** fully, thoroughly, completely, to the utmost, to the limit, to the maximum, for all one's worth.

**full-blooded** adjective *a full-blooded price war:* uncompromising, all-out, out-and-out, no-holds-barred, committed, vigorous, strenuous, intense; unrestrained, uncontrolled, unbridled, hard-hitting, pulling no punches; informal full-on.  
– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**full-blown** adjective *fully developed*, full-scale, full-blooded, fully fledged, complete, total, thorough, entire; advanced.

**full-bodied** adjective *full-flavoured*, flavourful, flavoursome, full of flavour, rich, mellow, fruity, robust, strong, well-matured.

– OPPOSITES tasteless.

**full-grown** adjective *adult*, mature, grown-up, of age; fully grown, fully developed, fully fledged, in one's prime, in full bloom, ripe.

– OPPOSITES infant.

**fullness** noun **1** *the fullness of the information they provide:* comprehensiveness, completeness, thoroughness, exhaustiveness, all-inclusiveness. **2** *the fullness of her body:* plumpness, roundness, roundedness, shapeliness, curvaceousness, voluptuousness, womanliness; informal curviness. **3** *the recording has a fullness and warmth:* resonance, richness, intensity, depth, vibrancy, strength, clarity.  
■ **in the fullness of time** in due course, when the time is ripe, eventually, in time, in time to come, one day, some day, sooner or later; ultimately, finally, in the end.

**full-scale** adjective **1** *a full-scale model:* full-size, life-size. **2** *a full-scale public inquiry:* thorough, comprehensive, extensive, exhaustive, complete, all-out, all-encompassing, all-inclusive, all-embracing, thoroughgoing, wide-ranging, sweeping, in-depth, far-reaching.

– OPPOSITES small-scale.

**fully** adverb **1** *I fully agree with him:* completely, entirely, wholly, totally, quite, utterly, perfectly, altogether, thoroughly, in all respects, in every respect, without reservation, without exception, to the hilt. **2** *fully two minutes must have passed:* at least, no less than, no fewer than, easily, without exaggeration.

– OPPOSITES partly, nearly.

**fully fledged** adjective *trained*, qualified, proficient, experienced; mature, fully developed, full grown; Brit. time-served.

– OPPOSITES novice.

**fulminate** verb *protest*, rail, rage, rant, thunder, storm, vociferate, declaim, inveigh,

speak out; denounce, decry, condemn, criticize, censure, disparage, attack, execrate, arraign; informal mouth off about, kick up a stink about; formal excoriate.

**fulmination** noun *protest*, objection, complaint, rant, tirade, diatribe, harangue, invective, railing, obloquy; denunciation, condemnation, criticism, censure, attack, broadside, brickbats; formal excoriation; literary philippic.

**fulsome** adjective *excessive*, extravagant, overdone, immoderate, inordinate, over-appreciative, flattering, adulatory, fawning, unctuous, ingratiating, cloying, saccharine; enthusiastic, effusive, rapturous, glowing, gushing, profuse, generous, lavish; informal over the top, OTT, smarmy.

**fumble** verb **1** *he fumbled for his keys:* grope, fish, search, feel, scrabble around. **2** *he fumbled about in the dark:* stumble, blunder, flounder, lumber, stagger, totter, lurch; feel one's way, grope one's way. **3** *the keeper fumbled the ball:* miss, drop, mishandle; misfield. **4** *he fumbled his lines:* mess up, make a mess of, bungle, mismanage, mishandle, spoil; informal make a hash of, fluff, botch, muff; Brit. informal cock up; N. Amer. informal flub.

• noun **a fumble from the goalkeeper:** slip, mistake, error, gaffe; informal slip-up, boo-boo; Brit. informal cock-up, boob.

**fume** noun **1** *a fire giving off toxic fumes:* smoke, vapour, gas, effluvia; exhaust; pollution. **2** *stale wine fumes:* smell, odour, stink, reek, stench; Brit. informal pong, niff; Scottish informal guff; N. Amer. informal funk; literary miasma.

• verb **1** *fragments of lava were fuming and sizzling:* emit smoke, emit gas, smoke; old use reek. **2** *Ella was still fuming at his arrogance:* be furious, be enraged, be very angry, seethe, be livid, be incensed, boil, be beside oneself, spit; rage, rant and rave; informal be hot under the collar, foam at the mouth, see red.

**fumigate** verb *disinfect*, purify, sterilize, sanitize, decontaminate, cleanse, clean out.  
– OPPOSITES soil.

**fun** noun **1** *I joined in with the fun:* enjoyment, entertainment, amusement, pleasure; jollification, merrymaking; recreation, diversion, leisure, relaxation; good time, great time; informal R & R (rest and recreation), living it up, a ball, beer and skittles. **2** *she's full of fun:* merriment, cheerfulness, cheeriness, jollity, joviality, jocularly, high spirits, gaiety, mirth, laughter, hilarity, glee, gladness, light-heartedness, levity. **3** *he became a figure of fun:* ridicule, derision, mockery, laughter, scorn, contempt, jeering, sneering, jibing, teasing, taunting.

– OPPOSITES boredom, misery.

• adjective (informal) *a fun evening:* enjoyable, entertaining, amusing, diverting, pleasurable, pleasing, agreeable, interesting.

■ **make fun of** tease, poke fun at, chaff, rag; ridicule, mock, laugh at, taunt, jeer at, scoff

at, deride; parody, lampoon, caricature, satirize; informal take the mickey out of, rib, kid, have on, pull someone's leg, send up; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal goof on, razz.

**function noun 1** *the main function of the machine:* purpose, task, use, role.

**2** *my function was to select and train the recruits:* responsibility, duty, role, concern, province, activity, assignment, obligation, charge; task, job, mission, undertaking, commission; capacity, post, situation, office, occupation, employment, business.

**3** *a function attended by local dignitaries:* social event, party, social occasion, affair, gathering, reception, soirée, jamboree, gala; N. Amer. levee; informal do, bash, shindig; Brit. informal jolly, beanfeast.

• **verb 1** *the electrical system had ceased to function:* work, go, run, be in working/running order, operate, be operative. **2** *the museum functions as an educational and study centre:* act, serve, operate; perform, work, play the role of, do duty as.

**functional adjective 1** *a small functional kitchen:* practical, useful, utilitarian, utility, workaday, serviceable; minimalist, plain, simple, basic, modest, unadorned, unostentatious, no-frills, without frills; impersonal, characterless, soulless, institutional, clinical. **2** *the machine is now fully functional:* working, in working order, functioning, in service, in use; going, running, operative, operating, in operation, in commission, in action; informal up and running.

**functionary noun** official, office-holder, public servant, civil servant, bureaucrat, administrator, apparatchik; Brit. jack-in-office.

**fund noun 1** *an emergency fund for refugees:*

collection, kitty, reserve, pool, purse; endowment, foundation, trust, grant, investment; savings, nest egg; informal stash. **2** *I was very short of funds:* money, cash, ready money; wealth, means, assets, resources, savings, capital, reserves, the wherewithal; informal dough, bread, loot, dosh; Brit. informal lolly, spondulicks, the readies. **3** *his fund of stories:* stock, store, supply, accumulation, collection, bank, pool; mine, reservoir, storehouse, treasury, treasure house, hoard, repository.

• **verb** *the agency was funded by the Treasury:* finance, pay for, back, capitalize, sponsor, put up the money for, subsidize, underwrite, endow, support, maintain; informal foot the bill for, pick up the tab for; N. Amer. informal bankroll, stake.

**fundamental adjective** basic, underlying, core, foundational, rudimentary, elemental, elementary, basal, root; primary, prime, cardinal, first, principal, chief, key, central, vital, essential, important, indispensable, necessary, crucial, pivotal, critical; structural, organic, constitutional, inherent, intrinsic.

– OPPOSITES secondary, unimportant.

**fundamentally adverb** *Barbara was,*

*fundamentally, a good person:* essentially, in essence, basically, at heart, at bottom, deep down, au fond; primarily, above all, first and foremost, first of all; informal at the end of the day, when all is said and done, when you get right down to it.

**fundamentals plural noun** basics, essentials, rudiments, foundations, basic principles, first principles, preliminaries; crux, crux of the matter, heart of the matter, essence, core, heart, base, bedrock; informal nuts and bolts, nitty-gritty, brass tacks, ABC.

**funeral noun** burial, interment, entombment, committal, inhumation, laying to rest; cremation; obsequies, last offices; formal exequies; old use sepulture.

#### WORD LINKS

**cortège** a funeral procession  
**dirge** a lament for the dead  
**knell** a bell rung to mark a funeral or death  
**hearse** a vehicle carrying the coffin  
**pall-bearer** a person carrying the coffin  
**wake** a party held after a funeral  
**undertaker** (US **mortician**) a person who makes arrangements for funerals.  
See also **BURIAL**.

**funereal adjective 1** *the funereal atmosphere:* sombre, gloomy, mournful, melancholy, lugubrious, sepulchral, miserable, doleful, woeful, sad, sorrowful, cheerless, joyless, bleak, dismal, depressing, dreary; grave, solemn, serious; literary dolorous. **2** *funereal colours:* dark, black, drab.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**fungus noun** mushroom, toadstool; mould, mildew, rust; Biology saprophyte.

#### WORD LINKS

**mycology** the scientific study of fungi

**funk** (informal) **noun** *he put us all into a funk:*

panic, state of fear, fluster; informal cold sweat, state, stew, flap, tizzy, tizz; Brit. informal blue funk, heebie-jeebies; N. Amer. informal twit.

• **verb** *I'm certain he funkyed it:* avoid, evade, dodge, run away from, balk at, flinch from; informal chicken out of, duck out of, wriggle out of, cop out of, get out of.

**funnel noun 1** *fluid was poured through the funnel:* tube, pipe, channel, conduit. **2** *smoke poured from the ship's funnels:* chimney, flue, vent.

• **verb** *the money was funnelled back into Europe:* channel, feed, direct, convey, move, pass; pour, filter.

**funny adjective 1** *a very funny film:* amusing, humorous, witty, comic, comical, droll, chucklesome, facetious, jocular, jokey; hilarious, hysterical, riotous, uproarious; entertaining, diverting, sparkling, scintillating; silly, farcical, slapstick; informal side-splitting, rib-tickling, laugh-a-minute, wacky, zany, waggish, off the wall, a scream, rich, priceless; informal, dated killing. **2** *a funny coincidence:* strange, peculiar, odd, queer, weird, bizarre, curious, freakish, freak, quirky; mysterious, mystifying, puzzling, perplexing; unusual, uncommon, anomalous,

irregular, abnormal, exceptional, singular, out of the ordinary, extraordinary; Brit. informal, dated rum. **3** *there's something funny about him*: **suspicious**, suspect, dubious, untrustworthy, questionable; informal shady, fishy; Brit. informal doggy.

– **OPPOSITES** serious, unsurprising, trustworthy.

**fur** **noun** hair; wool; coat, fleece, pelt; Zoology pelage.

**furious** **adjective** **1** *he was furious when he learned about it*: **enraged**, infuriated, very angry, irate, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, ranting, raving, seething, beside oneself, outraged; informal mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, boiling, apoplectic, hot under the collar, on the warpath, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied; literary wrathful. **2** *a furious debate*: **heated**, hot, passionate, fiery, 'lively'; fierce, vehement, violent, wild, unrestrained, tumultuous, turbulent, tempestuous, stormy.

– **OPPOSITES** calm.

**furnish** **verb** **1** *the bedrooms are elegantly furnished*: **fit out**, provide with furniture, appoint, outfit; Brit. informal do out. **2** *grooms furnished us with horses for our journey*: **supply**, provide, equip, provision, issue, kit out, present, give, offer, afford, purvey, bestow; informal fix up.

**furniture** **noun** furnishings, fittings, fitments, movables, appointments, effects; Law chattels; informal stuff, things.

**furor** **noun** commotion, uproar, outcry, fuss, upset, brouhaha, palaver, pother, tempest, agitation, pandemonium, disturbance, hubbub, rumpus, tumult, turmoil; stir, excitement; informal song and dance, to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, kerfuffle, flap, stink; Brit. informal carry-on.

**furrow** **noun** **1** *furrows in a ploughed field*: **groove**, trench, rut, trough, channel, hollow. **2** *the furrows on either side of her mouth*: **wrinkle**, line, crease, crinkle, crow's foot, corrugation.

• **verb** *his brow furrowed*: **wrinkle**, crease, line, crinkle, pucker, screw up, scrunch up, corrugate.

**furry** **adjective** covered with fur, hairy, downy, fleecy, soft, fluffy, fuzzy, woolly.

**further** **adverb** *further, it gave him an excellent excuse not to attend*: **furthermore**, moreover, what's more, also, additionally, in addition, besides, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, over and above that, into the bargain, by the same token; old use withal. • **adjective** **1** *the further side of the field*: **more distant**, more remote, remoter, further away/off, farther (away/off); far, other, opposite. **2** *further information*: **additional**, more, extra, supplementary, supplemental, other; new, fresh.

• **verb** *an attempt to further his career*: **promote**, advance, forward, develop, facilitate, aid, assist, help, help along, lend a hand to, abet; expedite, hasten, speed up, accelerate, step up, spur on, oil the wheels

of, boost, encourage, cultivate, nurture, foster.

– **OPPOSITES** impede.

**furtherance** **noun** promotion, furthering, advancement, forwarding, development, facilitation, aiding, assisting, helping, abetting; hastening, acceleration, boosting, encouragement, cultivation, nurturing, fostering.

– **OPPOSITES** hindrance.

**furthermore** **adverb** *moreover, further, what's more, also, additionally, in addition, besides, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, over and above that, into the bargain, by the same token; old use withal.*

**furthest** **adjective** **most distant**, most remote, remotest, furthest/farthest away, farthest, furthestmost, farthermost; outlying, outer, outermost, extreme, uttermost, ultimate; old use outmost.

– **OPPOSITES** nearest.

**furtive** **adjective** **secretive**, secret, surreptitious, clandestine, hidden, covert, conspiratorial, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, backstairs, hugger-mugger; sly, sneaky, under-the-table; sidelong, sideways, oblique, indirect; informal hush-hush, shift.

– **OPPOSITES** open.

**fury** **noun** **1** *she exploded with fury*: **rage**, anger, wrath, outrage, spleen, temper; crossness, indignation, umbrage, annoyance, exasperation; literary ire, choler. **2** *the fury of the storm*: **fierceness**, ferocity, violence, turbulence, tempestuousness, savagery; severity, intensity, vehemence, force, forcefulness, power, strength. **3** *she turned on Mother like a fury*: **virago**, hellcat, termagant, spitfire, vixen, shrew, haridan, dragon, gorgon; (**Furies**) Greek Mythology Eumenides.

– **OPPOSITES** good humour, mildness.

**fuse** **verb** **1** *a band which fuses rap with rock*: **combine**, amalgamate, put together, join, unite, marry, blend, merge, meld, mingle, integrate, intermix, intermingle, synthesize; coalesce, compound, alloy; technical admix; literary commingle. **2** *metal fused to a base of coloured glass*: **bond**, stick, bind, weld, solder; melt, smelt. **3** (Brit.) *a light had fused*: **short-circuit**, stop working, trip; informal go, blow.

– **OPPOSITES** separate.

**fusillade** **noun** salvo, volley, barrage, bombardment, cannonade, battery, burst, blast, hail, shower, rain, stream; historical broadside.

**fusion** **noun** blend, blending, combination, amalgamation, joining, union, marrying, bonding, merging, melding, mingling, integration, intermixture, intermingling, synthesis; coalescence.

**fuss** **noun** **1** *what's all the fuss about?*

**commotion**, excitement, agitation, stir, confusion, disturbance, brouhaha, uproar, **furor**, palaver, storm in a teacup, much ado about nothing, pother; bother, fluster, flurry, bustle; informal hoo-ha, to-do, ballyhoo, song and dance, performance, pantomime,



kerfuffle; Brit. informal carry-on; N. Amer. informal fuss and feathers. **2** *they settled in with very little fuss*: bother, trouble, inconvenience, effort, exertion, labour; informal hassle. **3** *he didn't put up a fuss*: protest, complaint, objection, grumble, grouse; informal gripe.

•verb *he was still fussing about his clothes*: worry, fret, be anxious, be agitated, make a big thing out of; make a mountain out of a molehill; informal flap, be in a tizzy, be in a stew, make a meal of.

**fussy** adjective **1** *he's very fussy about what he eats*: finicky, particular, over-particular, fastidious, discriminating, selective, dainty; hard to please, difficult, exacting, demanding; faddish; informal pernickety, choosy, picky, old womanish; Brit. informal faddy; N. Amer. informal persnickety. **2** *a fussy, frilly bridal gown*: over-elaborate, over-decorated, ornate, fancy, overdone; busy, cluttered.

**fusty** adjective **1** *the room smelt fusty*: stale, musty, dusty; stuffy, airless, unventilated; damp, mildewed, mildewy; Brit. frowsty. **2** *technical tomes written by fusty academics*: old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, behind the times, antediluvian, backward-looking; fogeyish; informal square, out of the ark.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**futile** adjective **fruitless**, vain, pointless, useless, ineffectual, ineffective, of no use, inefficacious, to no effect, in vain, to no avail, unavailing; unsuccessful, failed, thwarted; unproductive, barren, unprofitable, abortive; impotent, hollow, empty, forlorn, idle, hopeless; old use bootless.

– OPPOSITES useful.

**futility** noun **fruitlessness**, pointlessness, uselessness, vanity, ineffectiveness, inefficacy; failure, barrenness, unprofitability; impotence, hollowness, emptiness, forlornness, hopelessness; old use bootlessness.

**future** noun **1** *his plans for the future*: time to come, time ahead; what lies ahead, coming times. **2** *she knew her future lay in acting*: destiny, fate, fortune; prospects, expectations, chances.

– OPPOSITES past.

•adjective **1** *a future date*: later, to come, following, ensuing, succeeding, subsequent, coming. **2** *his future wife*: to be, destined; intended, planned, prospective.

■ **in future** from now on, after this, in the future, from this day forward, hence, henceforward, subsequently, in time to come; formal hereafter.

**fuzz**<sup>1</sup> noun *the soft fuzz on his cheeks*: hair, down; fur, fluff, fleeciness.

**fuzz**<sup>2</sup> noun (informal) *we'd better call the fuzz*. See POLICE noun.

**fuzzy** adjective **1** *her fuzzy hair*: frizzy, fluffy, woolly; downy, soft; N. Amer. informal nappy. **2** *a fuzzy picture*: blurry, blurred, indistinct, unclear, bleary, misty, distorted, out of focus, unfocused, lacking definition, nebulous; ill-defined, indefinite, vague, hazy, imprecise, inexact, loose, woolly. **3** *my mind was fuzzy*: confused, muddled, added, fuddled, befuddled, groggy, disoriented, disorientated, mixed up, fazed, foggy, dizzy, stupefied, benumbed.

## Gg

**gab** (informal) **verb** *they were all gabbing away like crazy:* **chatter**, chitter-chatter, chat, talk, gossip, gabble, babble, prattle, jabber, blather, blab; informal yak, yackety-yak, yabber, yatter, yammer, blabber, blah-blah, jaw, gas, shoot one's mouth off; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, chunter, natter; N. Amer. informal run off at the mouth.

■ **the gift of the gab** eloquence, fluency, expressiveness, a silver tongue; persuasiveness; informal a way with words, blarney.

**gabble** **verb** *he gabbled on in a panicky way:* jabber, babble, prattle, rattle, blabber, gibber, blab, drivel, twitter, splutter; Brit. informal waffle, chunter, witter.

• **noun** *the boozy gabble of the crowd:* jabbering, babbling, chattering, gibbering, babble, chatter, rambling; Brit. informal waffle, waffling, chuntering, wittering.

**gabby** **adjective** (informal). See **TALKATIVE**.

**gad verb** (informal) **gallivant**, flit, travel, roam; Brit. informal swan.

**gadabout** **noun** (informal) **pleasure-seeker**; traveller, globetrotter, wanderer, drifter, bird of passage; informal gallivanter.

**gadget** **noun** **appliance**, apparatus, instrument, implement, tool, utensil, contrivance, contraption, machine, mechanism, device, labour-saving device, convenience, invention; informal gizmo, gimmick, widget, mod con.

**gaffe** **noun** **blunder**, mistake, error, slip, faux pas, indiscretion, impropriety, miscalculation, gaucherie, solecism; informal slip-up, howler, boo-boo, boner, fluff; Brit. informal boob, bloomer, clanger; N. Amer. informal blooper, goof.

**gaffer** **noun** **1** (Brit. informal) *being the gaffer's gone to her head:* **manager**, manageress, foreman, forewoman, overseer, supervisor, superintendent; informal boss, boss man, head honcho, numero uno, number one, kingpin, top dog, big chief, skipper; Brit. informal governor, guv'nor; N. Amer. informal padrone, sachem, big kahuna. **2** (informal) *an old gaffer:* **old man**, elderly man, senior citizen, pensioner, OAP; informal old boy, old codger, old-timer, greybeard, grandad, wrinkly; Brit. informal buffer.

**gag<sup>1</sup> verb** **1** *a dirty rag was used to gag her mouth:* **stop up**, block, plug, stifle, smother,

muffle. **2** *the government tried to gag its critics:* **silence**, muzzle, mute, muffle, suppress, stifle; censor, curb, check, restrain, fetter, shackle, restrict. **3** *the stench made her gag:* **retch**, heave, dry-heave; informal keck. • **noun** *his scream was muffled by the gag:* **muzzle**, tie, restraint.

**gag<sup>2</sup> noun** (informal) *he told a few gags:* **joke**, jest, witticism, quip, pun, play on words, double entendre; informal crack, wisecrack, one-liner, funny.

**gaiety** **noun** **1** *she was struck by her gaiety:* **cheerfulness**, light-heartedness, happiness, merriment, glee, gladness, joy, joie de vivre, joyfulness, joyousness, delight, high spirits, good spirits, good humour, cheeriness, jollity, mirth, joviality, exuberance, elation; liveliness, vivacity, animation, effervescence, sprightliness, zest, zestfulness; informal chirpiness, bounce, pep; literary blitheness. **2** *the hotel restaurant was a scene of gaiety:* **merrymaking**, festivity, fun, fun and games, frolics, revelry, jollification, celebration, pleasure; informal partying. — **OPPOSITES** misery.

**gaily** **adverb** **1** *she skipped gaily along the path:* **merrily**, cheerfully, cheerily, happily, joyfully, joyously, light-heartedly, blithely, jauntily, gleefully. **2** *gaily painted boats:* **brightly**, colourfully, brilliantly. **3** *she plunged gaily into speculation on the stock market:* **heedlessly**, unthinkingly, thoughtlessly, without thinking, carelessly; casually, nonchalantly, airily, breezily, lightly.

**gain verb** **1** *he gained a scholarship to the college:* **obtain**, get, secure, acquire, come by, procure, attain, achieve, earn, win, capture, clinch, pick up, carry off, reap; informal land, net, bag, scoop, wangle, swing, walk away/off with. **2** *they stood to gain from the deal:* **profit**, make money, reap benefits, benefit, do well out of; informal make a killing, milk. **3** *she had gained weight:* **put on**, increase in. **4** *the others were gaining on us:* **catch up with/on**, catch someone up, catch, close in on, near. **5** *we gained the ridge:* **reach**, arrive at, get to, come to, make, attain, set foot on; informal hit.

— **OPPOSITES** lose.

• **noun** **1** *his gain from the deal:* **profit**, advantage, benefit, reward; percentage, takings, yield, return, winnings, receipts,

proceeds, dividend, interest. **2** *a price gain of 7.5 per cent*: **increase**, rise, increment, augmentation, addition.

– **OPPOSITES** loss, decrease.

■ **gain time** play for time, stall, procrastinate, delay, temporize, hold back, hang back, hang fire, dally, drag one's feet.

**gainful** adjective **profitable**, paid, well paid, remunerative, lucrative, moneymaking; rewarding, fruitful, worthwhile, useful, productive, constructive, beneficial, advantageous, valuable.

**gainsay** verb (formal) **deny**, dispute, disagree with, argue with, dissent from, contradict, repudiate, challenge, oppose, contest, counter, controvert, refute, rebut; formal confute.

– **OPPOSITES** confirm.

**gait** noun **walk**, step, stride, pace, tread, way of walking; bearing, carriage; Brit. deportment; formal comportment.

**gala** noun *the annual summer gala*: **fete**, fair, festival, carnival, pageant, jubilee, jamboree, party, garden party, celebration; festivities.

• **adjective** *a gala occasion*: **festive**, celebratory, merry, joyous, joyful; diverting, entertaining, enjoyable, spectacular.

**galaxy** noun **1** *a distant galaxy*: **star system**, solar system, constellation; stars. **2** *a galaxy of the rock world's biggest stars*: **host**, multitude, array, gathering, assemblage, assembly, throng, crowd, company, flock, group.

**gale** noun **1** *a howling gale*: **strong wind**, high wind, hurricane, tornado, cyclone, whirlwind; storm, squall, tempest, typhoon; N. Amer. windstorm; informal burster, buster. **2** *gales of laughter*: **peal**, howl, hoot, shriek, scream, roar; outburst, burst, fit, paroxysm, explosion.

**gall<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *she had the gall to ask for money*: **effrontery**, impudence, impertinence, cheek, cheekiness, insolence, audacity, temerity, presumption, cockiness, nerve, shamelessness, disrespect, bad manners; informal brass neck, face, chutzpah; Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sass. **2** *scholarly gall was poured on this work*: **bitterness**, resentment, rancour, bile, spleen, malice, spite, spitefulness, malignity, venom, vitriol, poison.

**gall<sup>2</sup>** verb **1** *it galled him to have to sit in silence*: **irritate**, annoy, vex, anger, infuriate, exasperate, irk, pique, nettle, put out, displease, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, make someone's hackles rise; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, get someone's dander up, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get on someone's wick, give someone the hump; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, rattle; informal, dated give someone the pip. **2** *the straps galled their shoulders*: **chafe**, abrade, rub (against), rub raw, scrape, graze, skin, scratch, rasp, bark.

• **noun** **1** *this was a gall that she frequently had to endure*: **irritation**, irritant, annoyance, vexation, nuisance, provocation, bother, torment, plague, thorn in one's side/flesh; informal aggravation, pain, pain in the neck, bore, headache, hassle; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt. **2** *a bay horse with a gall on its side*: **sore**, ulcer, ulceration; abrasion, scrape, scratch, graze, chafe.

**gallant** adjective **1** *his gallant countrymen*: **brave**, courageous, valiant, valorous, bold, plucky, daring, fearless, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, stout-hearted, doughty, mettlesome, death-or-glory, dauntless, undaunted, unflinching, unafraid; informal gutsy, spunky. **2** *her gallant companion*: **chivalrous**, gentlemanly, honourable, courteous, polite, mannerly, attentive, respectful, gracious, considerate, thoughtful.

– **OPPOSITES** cowardly, discourteous.

• **noun** (old use) **1** *a young gallant in red and white silks*: **man about town**, ladies' man, man of the world, dandy, fop; informal ladykiller; informal, dated gay dog, blade, swell, blood; old use coxcomb. **2** *her amorous gallant*: **suitor**, wooer, admirer; sweetheart, lover, love, beloved, boyfriend, young man; literary swain; dated beau.

**gallantry** noun **1** *he received medals for gallantry*: **bravery**, courage, courageousness, valour, pluck, pluckiness, nerve, daring, boldness, fearlessness, dauntlessness, intrepidity, heroism, stout-heartedness, mettle, grit; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie. **2** *she acknowledged his selfless gallantry*: **chivalry**, chivalrousness, gentlemanliness, courtesy, courteousness, politeness, good manners, attentiveness, graciousness, respectfulness, respect, considerateness.

**gallery** noun **1** *the National Gallery*: **art gallery**, museum. **2** *they sat up in the gallery*: **balcony**, circle, upper circle; informal gods. **3** *a long gallery with doors along each side*: **passage**, passageway, corridor, walkway, arcade.

**galling** adjective **annoying**, irritating, vexing, vexatious, infuriating, maddening, irksome, provoking, exasperating, trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, displeasing, disagreeable; informal aggravating.

**gallivant** verb (informal) **flit**, jaunt, run; roam, wander, travel, rove; informal gad.

**gallop** verb **Paul galloped across the clearing**: **rush**, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, dash, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb, go like the clappers; N. Amer. informal barrel.

– **OPPOSITES** amble.

**gallows** plural noun **1** *the wooden gallows*: **gibbet**, scaffold, gallows tree, Tyburn tree. **2** *they were condemned to the gallows*: **hanging**, being hanged, the noose, the rope, the gibbet, the scaffold, execution; informal the drop.

**galore** adjective **aplenty**, in abundance,



in profusion, in great quantities, in large numbers, by the dozen; to spare; everywhere, all over (the place); informal a gogo, by the truckload; Brit. informal by the shedload.

**galvanize** verb **jolt**, shock, startle, impel, stir, spur, prod, urge, motivate, stimulate, electrify, excite, rouse, arouse, awaken; invigorate, fire, animate, vitalize, energize, exhilarate, thrill, dynamize, inspire; N. Amer. light a fire under; informal give someone a shot in the arm.

**gambit** noun **stragem**, scheme, plan, tactic, manoeuvre, move, course/line of action, device; machination, ruse, trick, ploy; Brit. informal wheeze, wangle.

**gamble** verb **1** *he started to gamble more often: bet*, place/lay a bet on something, stake money on something, back the horses, game; informal play the ponies; Brit. informal punt, have a flutter. **2** *investors are gambling that the pound will fall: take a chance*, take a risk; N. Amer. take a flyer; informal stick one's neck out, go out on a limb; Brit. informal chance one's arm.

• **noun 1** *his grandfather enjoyed a gamble: bet*, wager, speculation; game of chance; Brit. informal flutter, punt. **2** *I took a gamble and it paid off: risk*, chance, hazard, leap in the dark; pig in a poke, pot luck.

**gambol** verb **frolic**, frisk, cavort, caper, skip, dance, romp, prance, leap, hop, jump, spring, bound, bounce; play; dated sport.

**game** noun **1** *the children invented a new game: pastime*, diversion, entertainment, amusement, distraction, divertissement, recreation, sport, activity. **2** *the club haven't lost a game all season: match*, contest, fixture, tie, tournament; cup tie, final, Cup Final, play-off. **3** *we were only playing a game on him: practical joke*, prank, jest, trick, hoax; informal lark. **4** *he's in the banking game: business*, profession, occupation, trade, industry, line, line of work/business; informal racket. **5** *I spoiled his little game: scheme*, plot, ploy, stratagem, strategy, gambit, cunning plan, tactics; trick, device, manoeuvre, wile, dodge, ruse, machination, contrivance, subterfuge; informal scam; Brit. informal wheeze; old use shift. **6** *he hunted game in Africa: wild animals*, wild fowl, big game. • **adjective 1** *they weren't game enough to join in: brave*, courageous, plucky, bold, daring, intrepid, valiant, stout-hearted, mettlesome; fearless, dauntless, undaunted, unflinching; informal gutsy, spunky. **2** *I need a bit of help—are you game? willing*, prepared, ready, disposed; eager, keen, enthusiastic.

**gamin, gamine** noun (dated) **urchin**, ragamuffin, waif, stray; derogatory guttersnipe; old use mudlark, street Arab.

**gamut** noun **range**, spectrum, span, scope, sweep, compass, area, breadth, reach, extent, catalogue, scale; variety.

**gang** noun **1** *a gang of teenagers: band*, group, crowd, pack, horde, throng, mob, herd, swarm, troop, cluster; company, gathering; informal posse, bunch, gaggle, load. **2** (informal)

*John was one of our gang: circle*, social circle, social set, group, clique, in-crowd, coterie, lot, ring; informal crew. **3** *a gang of workmen: crew*, team, group, squad, shift, detachment, unit.

• **verb they all ganged up to put me down: conspire**, cooperate, work together, act together, combine, join forces, team up, get together, unite, ally.

**gangling, gangly** adjective **lanky**, rangy, tall, thin, skinny, spindly, stringy, bony, angular, scrawny, spare; awkward, uncoordinated, ungainly, gawky, inelegant, graceless, ungraceful; dated spindle-shanked. — **OPPOSITES** squat.

**gangster** noun **hoodlum**, gang member, racketeer, robber, ruffian, thug, villain, lawbreaker, criminal; gunman, terrorist; Mafioso; informal mobster, tough, crook, hit man; N. Amer. informal hood; dated desperado.

**gaol** noun (Brit. dated). See **JAIL**.

**gaoler** noun (Brit. dated). See **JAILER**.

**gap** noun **1** *a gap in the shutters: opening*, aperture, space, breach, chink, slit, slot, vent, crack, crevice, cranny, cavity, hole, orifice, interstice, perforation, break, fracture, rift, rent, fissure, cleft, divide. **2** *a gap between meetings: pause*, intermission, interval, interlude, break, breathing space, breather, respite, hiatus; N. Amer. recess. **3** *a gap in our records: omission*, blank, lacuna, void, vacuity. **4** *the gap between rich and poor: chasm*, gulf, rift, split, separation, breach; contrast, difference, disparity, divergence, imbalance.

**gape** verb **1** *she gaped at him in astonishment: stare*, stare open-mouthed, stare in wonder, goggle, gaze, ogle; informal rubberneck; Brit. informal gawk, gawp. **2** *a leather jerkin which gaped at every seam: open wide*, open up, yawn; part, split.

**gaping** adjective *a gaping hole: cavernous*, yawning, wide, broad; vast, huge, enormous, immense, extensive.

**garb** noun *men and women in riding garb: clothes*, clothing, garments, attire, dress, costume, outfit, wear, uniform, livery, regalia; informal gear, get-up, togs, rig-out, duds; Brit. informal clobber; formal apparel; old use raiment, habiliment, vestments.

• **verb both men were garbed in black: dress**, clothe, attire, fit out, turn out, deck (out), kit out, costume, robe; informal get up; old use apparel.

**garbage** (N. Amer.) noun **1** *the garbage is taken to landfill sites: rubbish*, refuse, waste, detritus, litter, junk, scrap, scraps, scourings, leftovers, remains, slops; N. Amer. trash; Austral./NZ mullock. **2** *most of what he says is garbage: rubbish*, nonsense, balderdash, claptrap, twaddle, blather; dress; informal hogwash, baloney, tripe, bilge, bull, bunk, poppycock, rot, bosh, piffle, dreck; Brit. informal tosh, codswallop, cobblers, stuff and nonsense; informal, dated tommyrot, bunkum.

**garble** verb **mix up**, muddle, jumble, confuse, obscure, distort; misstate, misquote, misreport, misrepresent,

mistranslate, misinterpret, misconstrue, twist.

**garden** noun cottage garden, flower garden, rock garden, walled garden, knot garden, parterre; vegetable garden, kitchen garden, potager; (**gardens**) park, estate, grounds.

■ **lead someone up the garden path** (informal) deceive, mislead, delude, hoodwink, dupe, trick, entrap, beguile, take in, fool, pull the wool over someone's eyes, gull; informal con, pull a fast one on, string along, take for a ride, put one over on.

#### WORD LINKS

**horticultural** relating to gardens and gardening

**arbour, bowser** a shady or sheltered place in a garden

**summer house** a small garden building used for relaxing in fine weather

**gazebo, belvedere** a summer house with a good view

**trellis, pergola** a framework for climbing plants in a garden

**topiary** the art of clipping garden bushes into decorative shapes

**gargantuan** adjective huge, enormous, vast, gigantic, very big, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, mighty, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, tremendous, elephantine, king-size(d), prodigious; informal mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**garish** adjective gaudy, lurid, loud, over-bright, harsh, glaring, violent, showy, glittering, brassy, brash; tasteless, in bad taste, vulgar, unattractive, bilious; informal flash, flashy, tacky.

– OPPOSITES drab.

**garland** noun *a garland of flowers*: festoon, lei, wreath, ring, circle, swag; coronet, crown, coronal, chaplet, fillet.  
• **verb** *gardens garlanded with coloured lights*: festoon, wreath, swathe, hang; adorn, ornament, embellish, decorate, deck, trim, dress, bedeck, array; literary bedizen, caparison.

**garment** noun item of clothing, article of clothing; (**garments**) clothes, clothing, dress, garb, outfit, costume, attire; informal get-up, rig-out, gear, togs, duds, garms; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel.

**garner** verb *Edward garnered ideas from his travels*: gather, collect, accumulate, amass, get together, assemble.

• **noun** (old use) *the malt went into a garner*: granary, silo, storehouse, store, storeroom, depository.

**garnish** verb *garnish the dish with chopped parsley*: decorate, adorn, ornament, trim, dress, embellish, enhance, grace, beautify, prettify, add the finishing touch to.

• **noun** *keep a few sprigs for a garnish*: decoration, adornment, trim, trimming, ornament, ornamentation, embellishment, enhancement, finishing touch; Cookery chiffonade.

**garret** noun attic, loft, roof space, cock loft, mansard.

**garrison** noun **1** *the English garrison had been burned alive*: troops, militia, soldiers, forces; armed force, military detachment, unit, platoon, brigade, squadron, battalion, corps. **2** *forces from three garrisons: fortress*, fort, fortification, stronghold, citadel, camp, encampment, cantonment, command post, base, station; barracks.

• **verb** **1** *French infantry garrisoned the town*: defend, guard, protect, barricade, shield, secure; man, occupy. **2** *troops were garrisoned in various regions*: station, post, put on duty, deploy, assign, install; base, site, place, position; billet.

**garrulity** noun talkativeness, garrulousness, loquacity, loquaciousness, volubility, verbosity, verbosity, long-windedness, wordiness, chattiness, effusiveness; informal the gift of the gab; Brit. informal wittering; rare logorrhoea.

**garrulous** adjective **1** *a garrulous old man*: talkative, loquacious, voluble, verbose, chatty, chattering, gossipy; effusive, expansive, forthcoming, conversational, communicative; informal mouthy, gabby, gassy, windy, having the gift of the gab, having kissed the Blarney Stone; Brit. informal able to talk the hind legs off a donkey. **2** *his garrulous reminiscences*: long-winded, wordy, verbose, prolix, long, lengthy, rambling, wandering, meandering, digressive, diffuse, discursive; gossipy, chatty; informal windy, gassy.  
– OPPOSITES taciturn, concise.

**gash** noun *a gash on his forehead*: laceration, cut, wound, injury, slash, tear, incision; slit, split, rip, rent; scratch, scrape, graze, abrasion; Medicine lesion.

• **verb** *he gashed his hand on some broken glass*: lacerate, cut (open), wound, injure, hurt, slash, tear, gouge, puncture, slit, split, rend; scratch, scrape, graze, abrade.

**gasp** verb **1** *I gasped in surprise*: catch one's breath, draw in one's breath, gulp; exclaim, cry (out). **2** *he collapsed on the ground*, *gasping*: pant, puff, puff and pant, puff and blow, wheeze, breathe hard, choke, fight for breath.

• **noun** *a gasp of dismay*: drawing-in of breath, gulp; exclamation, cry; dated ejaculation.

**gastric** adjective *gastric pain*: stomach, intestinal, enteric, duodenal, coeliac, abdominal, ventral.

**gate** noun **1** *heavy wooden gates*: barrier, wicket gate, lychgate, five-barred gate, turnstile; Brit. kissing gate. **2** *she went through the gate*: gateway, doorway, entrance, exit, egress, opening; door, portal; N. Amer. entryway.

**gather** verb **1** *we gathered in the hotel lobby*: congregate, assemble, meet, collect, come/get together, convene, muster, rally, converge; cluster together, crowd, mass, flock together; formal foregather. **2** *he gathered his family together*: summon,

call together, bring together, assemble, convene, rally, round up, muster, marshal.

**3** *knick-knacks she had gathered over the years*: **collect**, accumulate, amass, garner, accrue; store, stockpile, hoard, put by/away, lay by/in; informal stash away, squirrel away.

**4** *they gathered corn from the fields*: **harvest**, reap, crop; pick, pluck; **collect**. **5** *the show soon gathered a fanatical following*: **attract**, draw, pull, pull in, collect, pick up. **6** *I gather he's a keen footballer*: **understand**, be given to understand, believe, be led to believe, think, conclude, deduce, infer, assume, take it, surmise, fancy; hear, hear tell, learn, discover. **7** *he gathered her to his chest*: **clasp**, clutch, pull, embrace, enfold, hold, hug, cuddle, squeeze; literary embosom; old use strain. **8** *his tunic was gathered at the waist*: **pleat**, shirr, pucker, tuck, fold, ruffle.

– OPPOSITES disperse.

**gathering** noun **1** *she rose to address the gathering*: assembly, meeting, convention, rally, turnout, congress, convocation, conclave, council, synod, forum; congregation, audience, crowd, group, throng, mass, multitude; informal get-together; formal concourse. **2** *the gathering of data for a future book*: **collecting**, collection, garnering, amassing, accumulation, accrual, cumulation, building up.

**gauche** adjective **awkward**, gawky, inelegant, graceless, ungraceful, ungainly, maladroit, inept; lacking in social grace(s), unsophisticated, uncultured, uncultivated, unrefined, raw, inexperienced, unworldly.

– OPPOSITES elegant, sophisticated.

**gaudy** adjective **garish**, lurid, loud, over-bright, glaring, harsh, violent, showy, glittering, brassy, ostentatious; tasteless, in bad taste, vulgar, unattractive, bilious; informal flash, flashy, tacky.

– OPPOSITES drab, tasteful.

**gauge** noun **1** *the temperature gauge*: measuring device, measuring instrument, meter, measure; indicator, dial, scale, display. **2** *exports are an important gauge of economic activity*: **measure**, indicator, barometer, point of reference, guide, guideline, touchstone, yardstick, benchmark, criterion, test, litmus test. **3** *guitar strings of a different gauge*: **size**, diameter, thickness, width, breadth; measure, capacity, magnitude; bore, calibre.

• **verb 1** *astronomers can gauge the star's intrinsic brightness*: **measure**, calculate, compute, work out, determine, ascertain; count, weigh, quantify, put a figure on. **2** *it is difficult to gauge how effective the ban was*: assess, evaluate, determine, estimate, form an opinion of, appraise, weigh up, get the measure of, judge, guess; informal guesstimate, size up.

**gaunt** adjective **1** *a gaunt, greying man*: **haggard**, drawn, thin, lean, skinny, spindly, spare, bony, angular, raw-boned, pinched, hollow-cheeked, scrawny, scraggy, as thin as a rake, cadaverous, skeletal, emaciated, skin and bone; wasted, withered; informal like a bag of bones; dated spindle-shanked; old use

starveling. **2** *the gaunt ruin of Pendragon Castle*: **bleak**, stark, desolate, bare, gloomy, dismal, sombre, grim, stern, harsh, forbidding, uninviting, cheerless.

– OPPOSITES plump.

**gauzy** adjective translucent, transparent, sheer, see-through, fine, delicate, flimsy, filmy, gossamer-like, diaphanous, chiffony, wispy, floaty, thin, light, insubstantial.

– OPPOSITES opaque, thick.

**gawk** verb (informal) **gape**, goggle, gaze, ogle, stare, stare open-mouthed; informal rubberneck; Brit. informal gawp.

**gawky** adjective **awkward**, ungainly, gangling, gauche, maladroit, clumsy, inelegant, uncoordinated, graceless, ungraceful; unsophisticated, unconfident.

– OPPOSITES graceful.

**gay** adjective **1** *gay men and women*:

**homosexual**, lesbian. **2** (dated) *her children all looked chubby and gay*: **cheerful**, cheery, merry, jolly, light-hearted, carefree, jovial, glad, happy, in good/high spirits, joyful, elated, exuberant, animated, lively, sprightly, vivacious, buoyant, bouncy, bubbly, perky, effervescent, playful; informal chirpy. **3** (dated) *they were having a gay old time*: **jolly**, merry, hilarious, amusing, uproarious, rollicking, entertaining, enjoyable, convivial; festive. **4** (dated) *gay checked curtains*: **bright**, brightly coloured, vivid, brilliant, vibrant; richly coloured, many-coloured, multicoloured; flamboyant, showy, gaudy.

– OPPOSITES heterosexual, gloomy.

**gaze** verb *he gazed at her*: **stare**, look fixedly, gape, goggle, eye, look, study, scrutinize, take a good look; ogle, leer; informal gawk, rubberneck; Brit. informal gawp; N. Amer. informal eyeball.

• **noun** *his piercing gaze*: **stare**, fixed look, gaze; regard, inspection, scrutiny.

**gazebo** noun **summer house**, pavilion, belvedere; arbour, bower.

**gazette** noun **newspaper**, paper, journal, periodical, organ, news-sheet, newsletter, bulletin; informal rag.

**gear** noun (informal) **1** *his fishing gear*: equipment, apparatus, paraphernalia, articles, appliances, impedimenta; tools, utensils, implements, instruments, gadgets; stuff, things; kit, rig, tackle, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs; trappings, appurtenances, accoutrements, regalia; Brit. informal clobber, gubbins, odds and sods; old use equipage. **2** *I'll go back to my hotel and pick up my gear*: belongings, possessions, effects, personal effects, property, paraphernalia, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, bags, baggage; law chattels; informal things, stuff, kit; Brit. informal clobber. **3** *the best designer gear*: clothes, clothing, garments, outfits, attire, garb; dress, wear; informal togs, duds, get-up, garms; Brit. informal clobber, kit; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel.

**gel, jell** verb **1** *leave the mixture to gel*: set, stiffen, solidify, thicken, harden; cake, congeal, coagulate, clot. **2** *things started*



to gel very quickly: **take shape**, fall into place, come together, take form, work out; crystallize.

**gelatinous** adjective jelly-like, glutinous, viscous, viscid, mucilaginous, ropy, sticky, gluey, gummy, slimy; informal gooey.

**geld** verb castrate, neuter, desex, fix; N. Amer. & Austral. alter; Brit. informal doctor.

**gelid** adjective frozen, freezing, icy, glacial, frosty, wintry, snowy; arctic, polar, Siberian.

**gem** noun **1** rubies and other gems: **jewel**, precious stone, semi-precious stone, stone; solitaire, brilliant, cabochon; old use bijou. **2** the gem of the collection: **best**, finest, pride, prize, treasure, flower, pearl, the jewel in the crown; pick, choice, cream, the crème de la crème, elite, acme; informal one in a million, the bee's knees.

#### WORD LINKS

**lapidary** relating to the cutting and polishing of gems

**genealogy** noun lineage, line (of descent), family tree, bloodline; pedigree, ancestry, extraction, heritage, parentage, birth, family, dynasty, house, stock, blood, roots.

**general** adjective **1** this is suitable for general use: **widespread**, common, extensive, universal, wide, popular, public, mainstream; established, conventional, traditional, orthodox, accepted. **2** a general pay increase: **comprehensive**, overall, across the board, blanket, umbrella, mass, wholesale, sweeping, broad-ranging, inclusive, company-wide; universal, global, worldwide, nationwide. **3** general knowledge: **miscellaneous**, mixed, assorted, diversified, composite, heterogeneous. **4** the general practice: **usual**, customary, habitual, traditional, normal, conventional, typical, standard, regular; familiar, accepted, prevailing, routine, run-of-the-mill, established, everyday, ordinary, common. **5** a general description: **broad**, imprecise, inexact, rough, loose, approximate, unspecific, vague, woolly, indefinite; N. Amer. informal ballpark.

– OPPOSITES restricted, localized, specialist, detailed.

**generality** noun **1** the debate has moved on from generalities: **generalization**, general statement, general principle, sweeping statement; abstraction, extrapolation. **2** the generality of this principle: **universality**, comprehensiveness, all-inclusiveness, broadness. **3** the generality of people are kind: **majority**, greater part/number, best/better part; bulk, mass, preponderance, predominance; most.

**generally** adverb **1** summers were generally hot: **normally**, in general, as a rule, by and large, more often than not, almost always, mainly, mostly, for the most part, predominantly, on the whole; usually, habitually, customarily, typically, ordinarily, commonly. **2** France was moving generally to the left: **overall**, in general terms, generally speaking, all in all, broadly, on average,

basically, effectively. **3** the method was generally accepted: **widely**, commonly, extensively, universally, popularly.

**generate** verb **1** moves to generate extra business: **cause**, give rise to, lead to, result in, bring about, create, make, produce, engender, spawn, precipitate, prompt, provoke, trigger, spark off, stir up, induce, promote, foster. **2** the male most likely to generate offspring: **procreate**, breed, father, sire, spawn, create, produce, have; literary beget; old use engender.

**generation** noun **1** people of the same generation: **age**, age group, peer group. **2** generations ago: **ages**, years, aeons, a long time, an eternity; informal donkey's years; Brit. informal yonks. **3** the next generation of computers: **crop**, batch, wave, range. **4** the generation of novel ideas: **creation**, production, initiation, origination, inception, inspiration. **5** human generation: **procreation**, reproduction, breeding; creation.

**generic** adjective **1** a generic term for two separate offences: **general**, common, collective, non-specific, inclusive, all-encompassing, comprehensive, broad, blanket, umbrella. **2** generic drugs are cheaper than branded ones: **unbranded**, non-proprietary.

– OPPOSITES specific.

**generosity** noun **1** the generosity of our host: **liberality**, lavishment, magnanimity, munificence, open-handedness, free-handedness, unselfishness; kindness, benevolence, altruism, charity, big-heartedness, goodness; literary bounteousness. **2** the generosity of the food portions: **abundance**, plentifulness, copiousness, lavishness, liberality, largeness.

**generous** adjective **1** she is generous with money: **liberal**, lavish, magnanimous, munificent, giving, open-handed, free-handed, bountiful, unselfish, ungrudging, free, indulgent, prodigal; literary bounteous. **2** it was generous of them to offer: **magnanimous**, kind, benevolent, altruistic, charitable, noble, big-hearted, honourable, good; unselfish, self-sacrificing. **3** a generous amount of fabric: **lavish**, plentiful, copious, ample, liberal, large, great, abundant, profuse, bumper, opulent, prolific; informal a gogo, galore.

– OPPOSITES mean, selfish, meagre.

**genesis** noun **1** the hatred had its genesis in something dark: **origin**, source, root, beginning, start. **2** the genesis of neurosis: **formation**, development, evolution, emergence, inception, origination, creation, formulation, propagation.

**genial** adjective friendly, affable, cordial, amiable, warm, easy-going, approachable, sympathetic; good-natured, good-humoured, cheerful; neighbourly, hospitable, companionable, comradely, sociable, convivial, outgoing, gregarious; informal chummy, pally; Brit. informal matey.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly.

**genitals** plural noun **private parts**, genitalia, sexual organs, reproductive organs, pudenda; crotch, groin; informal naughty bits, privates; euphemistic nether regions.

**genius** noun **1** *the world knew of his genius*: brilliance, intelligence, intellect, ability, cleverness, brains, erudition, wisdom, fine mind; artistry, flair. **2** *he has a genius for organization*: talent, gift, flair, aptitude, facility, knack, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, faculty; strength, forte, brilliance, skill, artistry. **3** *he is a genius*: brilliant person, gifted person, mastermind, Einstein, intellectual, great intellect, brain; prodigy; informal egghead, bright spark; Brit. informal brainbox, clever clogs; N. Amer. informal brainiac, rocket scientist.

– OPPOSITES stupidity, dunce.

**genocide** noun **mass murder**, mass homicide, massacre; annihilation, extermination, elimination, liquidation, eradication, decimation, butchery, bloodletting; pogrom, ethnic cleansing, holocaust.

**genre** noun **category**, class, classification, group, set, list; type, sort, kind, variety, style, model, school, stamp, cast, ilk.

**genteel** adjective **refined**, respectable, decorous, mannerly, well mannered, courteous, polite, proper, correct, seemly; well bred, cultured, sophisticated, ladylike, gentlemanly, dignified, gracious; affected; Brit. informal posh.

– OPPOSITES uncouth.

**gentility** noun **social superiority**, respectability, punctiliousness, decorum, good manners, politeness, civility, courtesy, correctness; refinement, distinction, breeding, sophistication; graciousness, affection, ostentation.

**gentle** adjective **1** *his manner was gentle*: kind, tender, sympathetic, considerate, understanding, compassionate, benevolent, good-natured; humane, lenient, merciful, clement; mild, placid, serene, sweet-tempered. **2** *a gentle breeze*: light, soft. **3** *a gentle slope*: gradual, slight, easy. **4** (old use) *a woman of gentle birth*. See **NOBLE** adjective sense 1.

– OPPOSITES brutal, strong, steep, low.

**gentleman** noun **man**; nobleman, *honnête homme*; informal gen; old use cavalier.

**gentlemanly** adjective **chivalrous**, gallant, honourable, noble, courteous, civil, mannerly, polite, gracious, considerate, thoughtful; well bred, cultivated, cultured, refined, suave, urbane.

– OPPOSITES rude.

**gentry** noun **upper classes**, privileged classes, elite, high society, *haut monde*, smart set; establishment; informal upper crust, top drawer; Brit. informal nobs, toffs.

**genuine** adjective **1** *a genuine Picasso*: authentic, real, actual, original, bona fide, true, veritable; attested, undisputed; informal pukka, the real McCoy, the real thing, kosher; Austral./NZ informal dinkum. **2** *a very*

*genuine person*: sincere, honest, truthful, straightforward, direct, frank, candid, open; artless, natural, unaffected; informal straight, upfront, on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

– OPPOSITES bogus, insincere.

**genus** noun **1** (Biology) *a large genus of plants*: subdivision, division, group, subfamily. **2** *a new genus of music*: type, sort, kind, genre, style, variety, category, class; breed, brand, family, stamp, cast, ilk.

**germ** noun **1** *this detergent kills germs*: microbe, microorganism, bacillus, bacterium, virus; informal bug. **2** *a fertilized germ*: embryo, bud; seed, spore, ovule; egg, ovum. **3** *the germ of an idea*: start, beginning(s), seed, embryo, bud, root, rudiment; origin, source, potential; core, nucleus, kernel, essence.

**germane** adjective **relevant**, pertinent, applicable, apposite, material; apropos, to the point, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable; connected, related, akin; formal ad rem.

– OPPOSITES irrelevant.

**germinate** verb **1** *the grain is allowed to germinate*: sprout, shoot (up), bud; develop, grow, spring up; dated vegetate. **2** *the idea began to germinate*: develop, take root, grow, emerge, evolve, mature, expand, advance, progress.

**gestation** noun **1** *a gestation of thirty days*: pregnancy, incubation; development, maturation. **2** *the law underwent a period of gestation*: development, evolution, formation, emergence, origination.

**gesticulate** verb **gesture**, signal, motion, wave, sign.

**gesticulation** noun **gesturing**, gesture, hand movement, signals, signs; wave, indication; body language.

**gesture** noun **1** *a gesture of surrender*: signal, sign, motion, indication, gesticulation. **2** *a symbolic gesture*: action, act, deed, move. • verb *he gestured to her*: signal, motion, gesticulate, wave, indicate, give a sign.

**get** verb **1** *where did you get that hat?* **acquire**, obtain, come by, receive, gain, earn, win, come into, take possession of, be given; buy, purchase, procure, secure; gather, collect, pick up, hook, net, land; achieve, attain; informal get one's hands on, get one's mitts on, get hold of, grab, bag, score. **2** *I got your letter*: receive, be sent, be in receipt of, be given. **3** *your tea's getting cold*: become, grow, turn, go. **4** *get the children from school*: fetch, collect, go for, call for, pick up, bring, deliver, convey, ferry, transport. **5** *the chairman gets £650,000 a year*: earn, be paid, take home, bring in, make, receive, collect, gross; informal pocket, bank, rake in, net, bag. **6** *have the police got their man?* **apprehend**, catch, arrest, capture, seize; take prisoner, take into custody, detain, put in jail, put behind bars, imprison, incarcerate; informal collar, grab, nab, nail, run in, pinch, bust, pick up, pull in, do, feel someone's collar; Brit. informal nick. **7** *I got a taxi*: travel by/on/in; take, catch, use. **8** *she got flu*:

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**succumb to**, develop, go/come down with, sicken for, fall victim to, be struck down with, be afflicted by/with; become infected with, catch, contract, fall ill with, be taken ill with; Brit. go down with; informal take ill with; N. Amer. informal take sick with. **9** *I got a pain in my arm: experience*, suffer, be afflicted with, sustain, feel, have. **10** *I didn't get what he said: hear*, discern, distinguish, make out, perceive, follow, take in. **11** *I don't get the joke: understand*, comprehend, grasp, see, fathom, follow, perceive, apprehend, unravel, decipher; informal get the drift of, catch on to, latch on to, figure out; Brit. informal twig, suss. **12** *we got there early: arrive*, reach, come, make it, turn up, appear, come on the scene, approach, enter, present oneself, come along, materialize, show one's face; informal show (up), roll in/up, blow in. **13** *we got her to go: persuade*, induce, prevail on, influence; wheedle into, talk into, cajole into. **14** *I'll get supper: prepare*, get ready, cook, make, assemble, muster, concoct; informal fix, rustle up; Brit. informal knock up. **15** (informal) *I'll get him for that: take revenge on*, get one's revenge on, get even with, pay back, get back at, give someone their just deserts; Brit. informal get one's own back on. **16** *He scratched his head. 'You've got me there.': baffle*, nonplus, perplex, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound; informal flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **17** *what gets me is how neurotic she is: annoy*, irritate, exasperate, anger, irk, vex, provoke, incense, infuriate, madden, try someone's patience; informal aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, get to, needle, hack off, get someone's back up, get on someone's nerves, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, drive mad; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off.

■ **get something across** communicate, get over, impart, convey, transmit, make clear, express.

■ **get ahead** prosper, flourish, thrive, do well; succeed, make it, advance, get on in the world, go up in the world, make good, become rich; informal go places, get somewhere, make the big time.

■ **get along 1** *does he get along with his family?* be friendly, be compatible, get on; agree, see eye to eye, concur, be in accord, be on the same wavelength; informal hit it off. **2** *he was getting along well at school: fare*, manage, progress, advance, get on, get by, do, cope; succeed.

■ **get at 1** *it's difficult to get at the pipes: access*, get to, reach, touch. **2** *he had been got at by enemy agents: corrupt*, suborn, influence, bribe, buy off, pay off; informal fix, square; Brit. informal nabble. **3** (informal) *what are you getting at?* imply, suggest, intimate, insinuate, hint, mean, drive at, allude to. **4** (Brit. informal) *I don't like being got at: criticize*, pick on, find fault with, nag; bully, victimize, persecute, discriminate against.

■ **get away** escape, run away/off, break out,

break free, break loose, bolt, flee, take flight, make off, take off, decamp, abscond, make a run for it; slip away, sneak away; informal cut and run, skedaddle, do a disappearing act, scarper, leg it; Brit. informal do a bunk, do a runner.

■ **get away with** escape blame for, escape punishment for.

■ **get something back** retrieve, regain, win back, recover, recoup, reclaim, repossess, recapture, redeem; find (again), trace.

■ **get by** manage, cope, survive, exist, subsist, muddle through/along, scrape by, make ends meet, make do, keep the wolf from the door; informal make out.

■ **get someone down** depress, sadden, make unhappy, make gloomy, dispirit, dishearten, demoralize, discourage, crush, weigh down, oppress; upset, distress; informal give someone the blues, make someone fed up.

■ **get off 1** *Sally got off the bus: alight* (from), step off, dismount (from), descend (from), disembark (from), leave, exit.

**2** (informal) *he was arrested but got off: escape punishment*, be acquitted, be absolved, be cleared, be exonerated.

■ **get on 1** *we got on the train: board*, enter, step aboard, climb on, mount, ascend, catch; informal hop on, jump on. **2** *how are you getting on?* fare, manage, progress, get along, do, cope, get by, survive, muddle through/along; succeed, prosper; informal make out.

**3** *he got on with his job: continue*, proceed, go ahead, carry on, go on, press on, persist, persevere; keep at; informal stick with/at. **4** *we don't get on. See GET ALONG* sense 1.

■ **get out of** evade, dodge, shirk, avoid, escape, sidestep; informal duck (out of), wriggle out of, cop out of; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove.

■ **get over 1** *I have just got over flu: recover from*, recuperate from, get better after, shrug off, survive. **2** *we tried to get over this problem: overcome*, surmount, get the better of, master, get round, find an/the answer to, get a grip on, deal with, cope with, sort out, take care of, crack, rise above; informal lick.

■ **get something over. See GET SOMETHING ACROSS.**

■ **get round someone** cajole, persuade, wheedle, coax, prevail on, win over, bring round, sway, beguile, charm, inveigle, influence, woo; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, twist someone's arm.

■ **get together 1** *get together the best writers: collect*, gather, assemble, bring together, rally, muster, marshal, congregate, convene, amass; formal convoke. **2** *we must get together soon: meet* (up), rendezvous, see each other, socialize.

■ **get up** get out of bed, rise, stir, rouse oneself; informal surface; formal arise.

■ **get someone up** (informal) dress, clothe, attire, garb, fit out, turn out, deck (out), trick out/up, costume, array, robe; informal doll up; old use apparel.

**getaway** noun escape, breakout, bolt for freedom, flight; disappearance, vanishing act; Brit. informal flit.



**get-together** noun party, meeting, gathering, social event; informal do, bash; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, jolly, bunfight, beano.

**get-up** noun (informal) outfit, clothes, costume, ensemble, suit, clothing, dress, attire, garments, garb; informal gear, togs, duds, garms; Brit. informal clobber, rig-out; N. Amer. informal threads; formal apparel.

**get-up-and-go** noun (informal) drive, initiative, enterprise, enthusiasm, eagerness, ambition, motivation, dynamism, energy, gusto, vigour, vitality, verve, fire, fervour, zeal, commitment, spirit; informal gumption, oomph, vim, pep.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**ghastly** adjective **1** a *ghastly stabbing*: terrible, frightful, horrible, grim, awful, dire; frightening, terrifying, horrifying, alarming; distressing, shocking, appalling, harrowing; dreadful, horrendous, monstrous, gruesome, grisly. **2** (informal) a *ghastly building*: unpleasant, objectionable, disagreeable, distasteful, horrible, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, detestable, insufferable, vile; informal horrid. **3** the *patient feels ghastly*: ill, unwell, peaky, poorly; sick, queasy, nauseous; Brit. off colour; informal rough, lousy, rotten, terrible, awful, dreadful; Brit. informal grotty, ropy; Scottish informal peely-wally; Austral./NZ informal crook. **4** a *ghastly pallor*: pale, white, pallid, pasty, wan, bloodless, peaky, ashen, grey, waxy, blanched, drained, pinched, green, sickly; informal like death warmed up.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, charming, fine, healthy.

**ghost** noun **1** his *ghost haunts the crypt*: spectre, phantom, wraith, spirit, presence; apparition; informal spook. **2** the *ghost of a smile*: trace, hint, suggestion, impression, suspicion, tinge; glimmer, semblance, shadow, whisper.

**ghostly** adjective spectral, ghostlike, phantom, wraithlike; unearthly, unnatural, supernatural; insubstantial, shadowy; eerie, weird, uncanny; frightening, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, terrifying, chilling, sinister; informal creepy, scary, spooky; literary phantasmal, phantasmic.

**ghoulish** adjective macabre, grisly, gruesome, grotesque, ghastly; unhealthy, horrible, unwholesome.

**giant** noun the *forest giant had died*: colossus, man mountain, behemoth, Brobdingnagian, mammoth, monster; informal jumbo.

– OPPOSITES dwarf.

• adjective a *giant marble statue*: huge, colossal, massive, enormous, gigantic, very big, mammoth, vast, immense, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan, Brobdingnagian; substantial, hefty; informal mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo, hulking, bumper; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES miniature.

**gibber** verb prattle, babble, ramble, drivel, jabber, gabble, burble, twitter, flannel,

mutter, mumble; informal yammer, blabber, jibber-jabber, blather, blether; Brit. informal witter, chunter.

**gibberish** noun nonsense, rubbish, balderdash, blather, blether; informal drivel, gobbledegook, mumbo-jumbo, tripe, hogwash, baloney, bilge, bosh, bull, bunk, guff, eyewash, piffle, twaddle, poppycock; Brit. informal cobblers, codswallop, double Dutch, tosh, cack; N. Amer. informal garbage, blathers, applesauce.

**gibe** noun & verb. See JIBE.

**giddiness** noun dizziness, light-headedness; faintness, unsteadiness, shakiness, wobbliness; informal wooziness.

**giddy** adjective **1** she *felt giddy*: dizzy, light-headed, faint, weak, vertiginous; unsteady, shaky, wobbly, reeling; informal woozy. **2** she *was young and giddy*: flighty, silly, frivolous, skittish, irresponsible, flippant, whimsical, capricious; feather-brained, scatty, thoughtless, heedless, carefree; informal dippy; N. Amer. informal ditzzy.

– OPPOSITES steady, sensible.

**gift** noun **1** he *gave the staff a gift*: present, handout, donation, offering, bestowal, bonus, award, endowment; tip, gratuity, baksheesh; largesse; informal prezzie, freebie, perk; formal benefaction. **2** a *gift for melody*: talent, flair, aptitude, facility, knack, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, capability, faculty; endowment, strength, genius, brilliance, skill, artistry.

• verb he *gifted a composition to the orchestra*: present, give, bestow, confer, donate, endow, award, accord, grant; hand over, make over.

**gifted** adjective talented, skilful, skilled, accomplished, expert, consummate, master(ly), first-rate, able, apt, adept, proficient; intelligent, clever, bright, brilliant; precocious; informal crack, top-notch, ace.

– OPPOSITES inept.

**gigantic** adjective huge, enormous, vast, extensive, very big, very large, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan; informal mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo, hulking, bumper; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**giggle** verb he *giggled at the picture*: titter, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, chortle, laugh.

• noun she *suppressed a giggle*: titter, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, chortle, laugh.

**gigolo** noun playboy, (male) escort; admirer, lover; informal fancy man; Brit. informal toy boy.

**gild** verb **1** a *gilded weathercock*: cover with gold, paint gold. **2** he *tends to gild the truth*: elaborate, embellish, embroider; camouflage, disguise, dress up, colour, exaggerate, expand on; informal jazz up.

**gimcrack** adjective shoddy, jerry-built, flimsy, insubstantial, thrown together,

makeshift; inferior, poor-quality, second-rate, cheap, cheapjack, tawdry, kitschy, trashy; informal tacky, junky, rubbishy.

**gimmick** noun **publicity device**, stunt, contrivance, scheme, stratagem, ploy; informal shtick.

**gingerly** adverb **cautiously**, carefully, with care, warily, charily, circumspectly, delicately; heedfully, watchfully, vigilantly, attentively; hesitantly, timidly.

– OPPOSITES recklessly.

**gird** verb (literary) **1** *Sir Hector girded on his sword*: **fasten**, belt, bind, tie. **2** *the island was girded by rocks*: **surround**, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, border, bound, edge, skirt, fringe; close in, confine. **3** *they girded themselves for war*: **prepare**, get ready, gear up; nerve, steel, galvanize, brace, fortify; informal psych oneself up.

**girdle** noun **1** *a diamond-studded girdle*: **belt**, sash, cummerbund, waistband, strap, band, girth, cord. **2** *her stockings were held up by her girdle*: **corset**, corselet, foundation garment, panty girdle; truss.

• verb *a garden girdled the house*: **surround**, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, circumscribe, border, bound, skirt, edge; literary gird.

**girl** noun **1** *a five-year-old girl*: **female child**, daughter; schoolgirl; Scottish & N. English lass, lassie; derogatory chit. See also **CHILD**. **2** *a tall dark girl*: **young woman**, young lady, miss, mademoiselle; Scottish lass, lassie; Irish colleen; informal chick, girlie, filly; Brit. informal bird, bint; N. Amer. informal gal, broad, dame, jane, babe; Austral./NZ informal sheila; literary maid, damsel; old use wench. **3** *his girl left him*. See **GIRLFRIEND**.

**girlfriend** noun **sweetheart**, lover, partner, significant other, girl, woman; fiancée; informal steady; Brit. informal bird; N. Amer. informal squeeze; dated lady (friend), lady-love, betrothed; old use leman.

**girlish** adjective **girlie**, youthful, childlike, childish, immature; feminine.

**girth** noun **1** *a tree ten feet in girth*: **circumference**, perimeter; width, breadth. **2** *he tied the towel around his girth*: **stomach**, midriff, middle, abdomen, belly, gut; informal tummy, tum. **3** *a horse's girth*: N. Amer. cinch.

**gist** noun **essence**, substance, central theme, heart of the matter, nub, kernel, marrow, meat, burden, crux; thrust, drift, sense, meaning, significance, import; informal nitty-gritty.

**give** verb **1** *he gave them £2000*: **present with**, provide with, supply with, furnish with, let someone have; hand (over), offer, proffer; award, grant, bestow, accord, confer, make over; donate, contribute, put up. **2** *can I give him a message?* **convey**, pass on, impart, communicate, transmit; send, deliver, relay; tell. **3** *a baby given into their care*: **entrust**, commit, consign, assign; formal commend. **4** *he gave his life for them*: **sacrifice**, give up, relinquish; devote, dedicate. **5** *he gave her time to think*: **allow**, permit, grant, accord; offer. **6** *this leaflet gives our opening times*:

**show**, display, set out, indicate, detail, list.

**7** *they gave no further trouble*: **cause**, make, create, occasion. **8** *garlic gives flavour*: **produce**, yield, afford, impart, lend. **9** *he gave a drinks party*: **organize**, arrange, lay on, throw, host, hold, have, provide.

**10** *Dominic gave a bow*: **perform**, execute, make, do. **11** *she gave a shout*: **utter**, let out, emit, produce, make. **12** *he gave Harry a beating*: **administer**, deliver, deal, inflict, impose. **13** *the door gave*: **give way**, cave in, collapse, break, fall apart; bend, buckle.

– OPPOSITES receive, take.

• noun (informal) *there isn't enough give in the jacket*: **elasticity**, flexibility, stretch, stretchiness; slack, play.

■ **give someone away** betray, inform on; informal split on, rat on, peach on, do the dirty on, blow the whistle on, sell down the river; Brit. informal grass on, shop; N. Amer. informal rat out, finger; Austral./NZ informal dob on; English Law turn Queen's/King's evidence.

■ **give something away** reveal, disclose, divulge, let slip, leak, let out.

■ **give in** capitulate, concede defeat, admit defeat, give up, surrender, yield, submit, back down, give way, defer, relent, throw in the towel/sponge.

■ **give something off/out** emit, produce, send out, throw out; discharge, release, exude, vent.

■ **give out** run out, be used up, be consumed, be exhausted, be depleted; fail, flag; dry up.

■ **give something out** distribute, issue, hand out, pass round, dispense; dole out, dish out, mete out; allocate, allot, share out.

■ **give up**. See **GIVE IN**.

■ **give something up** stop, cease, discontinue, desist from, abstain from, cut out, renounce, forgo; resign from, stand down from; informal quit, kick, swear off, leave off, pack in, lay off; Brit. informal jack in.

**give and take** noun **compromise**, concession; cooperation, reciprocity, teamwork, interplay.

**given** adjective **1** *a given number of years*: **specified**, stated, designated, set, particular, specific; prescribed, agreed, appointed, prearranged, predetermined. **2** *she was given to fits of temper*: **prone**, liable, inclined, disposed, predisposed, apt, likely.

– OPPOSITES unspecified.

• preposition *given the issue's complexity, a summary is difficult*: **considering**, in view of, bearing in mind, in the light of; assuming.

• noun *his aggression is taken as a given*: **established fact**, reality, certainty.

**giver** noun **donor**, contributor, donator, benefactor, benefactress, provider; supporter, backer, patron, sponsor, subscriber.

**glacial** adjective **1** *glacial conditions*: **freezing**, cold, icy, ice-cold, sub-zero, frozen, gelid, wintry; arctic, polar, Siberian; bitter, biting, raw, chill. **2** *Polly's tone was glacial*: **unfriendly**, hostile, unwelcoming; frosty, icy, cold, chilly.

– OPPOSITES tropical, hot, friendly.

**glad** adjective **1** *I'm really glad you're*

**coming:** pleased, happy, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, cock-a-hoop, elated, gleeful; gratified, grateful, thankful; informal tickled pink, over the moon; Brit. informal chuffed; N. English informal made up; Austral. informal wrapped. **2** *I'd be glad to help:* willing, eager, happy, pleased, delighted; ready, prepared. **3** *glad tidings:* pleasing, welcome, happy, joyful, cheering, heartening, gratifying; literary gladsome.

– OPPOSITES dismayed, reluctant, distressing.

**gladden** verb delight, please, make happy, elate; cheer (up), hearten, buoy up, give someone a lift, uplift; gratify; informal give someone a kick, tickle someone pink, buck up.

– OPPOSITES sadden.

**gladly** adverb with pleasure, happily, cheerfully; willingly, readily, eagerly, freely, ungrudgingly; old use fain, lief.

**glamorous** adjective **1** *a glamorous woman:* beautiful, attractive, lovely, bewitching, enchanting, beguiling; elegant, chic, stylish, fashionable; charming, charismatic, appealing, alluring, seductive; informal classy, glam. **2** *a glamorous lifestyle:* exciting, thrilling, stimulating; dazzling, glittering, glossy, colourful, exotic; informal ritzy, glitzy, jet-setting.

– OPPOSITES dowdy, dull.

**glamour** noun **1** *she had undeniable glamour:* beauty, allure, attractiveness; elegance, chic, style; charisma, charm, magnetism, desirability. **2** *the glamour of show business:* allure, attraction, fascination, charm, magic, romance, mystique, exoticism, spell; excitement, thrill; glitter, the bright lights; informal glitz, glam.

**glance** verb **1** *Rachel glanced at him:* look briefly, look quickly, peek, peep; glimpse; Scottish keek; informal have a gander; Brit. informal take a dekk, have a shufti, have a butcher's; Austral./NZ informal squiz. **2** *I glanced through the report:* read quickly, scan, skim, leaf, flick, flip, thumb, browse; dip into. **3** *a bullet glanced off the ice:* ricochet, rebound, be deflected, bounce; graze, clip. **4** *sunlight glanced off her hair:* reflect, flash, gleam, glint, glitter, glisten, glimmer, shimmer.

• noun **1** *a glance at his watch:* peek, peep, brief look, quick look, glimpse; Scottish keek; informal gander; Brit. informal dekk, shufti, butcher's; Austral./NZ informal squiz, geek.

■ **at first glance** on the face of it, on the surface, at first sight, to the casual eye, to all appearances; apparently, seemingly, outwardly, superficially, it would seem, it appears, as far as one can see/tell, by all accounts.

**glare** verb **1** *she glared at him:* scowl, glower, stare angrily, look daggers, frown, lour, give someone a black look, look threateningly; informal give someone a dirty look. **2** *the sun glared out of the sky:* blaze, beam, shine brightly, be dazzling, be blinding.

• noun **1** *a cold glare:* scowl, glower, angry stare, frown, black look, threatening look; informal dirty look. **2** *the harsh glare of the*

*lights:* blaze, dazzle, shine, beam; radiance, brilliance, luminescence.

**glaring** adjective **1** *glaring lights:* dazzling, blinding, blazing, strong, bright, harsh. **2** *a glaring omission:* obvious, conspicuous, unmistakable, inescapable, unmissable, striking; flagrant, blatant, outrageous, gross; overt, patent, transparent, manifest; informal standing/sticking out like a sore thumb.

– OPPOSITES soft, minor.

**glass** noun tumbler, drinking vessel; flute, schooner, balloon, goblet, chalice.

#### WORD LINKS

vitreous relating to glass  
vitriform like glass  
glazier a glass-fitter

**glasses** plural noun spectacles, eyewear; N. Amer. eyeglasses; informal specs.

**glasshouse** noun greenhouse, hothouse, conservatory.

**glassy** adjective **1** *the glassy surface of the lake:* smooth, mirror-like, gleaming, shiny, glossy, polished, vitreous; slippery, icy; clear, transparent, translucent; calm, still, flat. **2** *a glassy stare:* expressionless, glazed, blank, vacant, fixed, motionless; emotionless, impassive, lifeless, wooden, vacuous.

– OPPOSITES rough, expressive.

**glaze** verb **1** *the pots are glazed when dry:* varnish, enamel, lacquer, japan, shellac, paint; gloss. **2** *pastry glazed with caramel:* cover, coat; ice, frost. **3** *his eyes glazed over:* become glassy, go blank; mist over, film over.

• noun **1** *pottery with a blue glaze:* varnish, enamel, lacquer, finish, coating; lustre, shine, gloss. **2** *a cake with an apricot glaze:* coating, topping; icing, frosting.

**gleam** verb shine, glimmer, glint, glitter, shimmer, sparkle, twinkle, flicker, wink, glisten, flash; literary glister.

• noun **1** *a gleam of light:* glimmer, glint, shimmer, twinkle, sparkle, flicker, flash; beam, ray, shaft. **2** *the gleam of brass:* shine, lustre, gloss, sheen; glint, glitter, glimmer, sparkle; brilliance, radiance, glow; literary glister. **3** *a gleam of hope:* glimmer, flicker, ray, spark, trace, suggestion, hint, sign.

**glean** verb obtain, get, take, draw, derive, extract, cull, garner, gather; learn, find out.

**glee** noun delight, pleasure, happiness, joy, gladness, elation, euphoria; amusement, mirth, merriment; excitement, gaiety, exuberance; triumph, jubilation, relish, satisfaction, gratification.

– OPPOSITES disappointment.

**gleeful** adjective delighted, pleased, joyful, happy, glad, overjoyed, elated, euphoric; amused, mirthful, merry, exuberant; cock-a-hoop, jubilant; informal over the moon.

**glib** adjective slick, pat, plausible; smooth-talking, fast-talking, silver-tongued, smooth, urbane, having kissed the Blarney Stone; disingenuous, insincere, facile, shallow, superficial, flippant; informal flip, sweet-talking.



– OPPOSITES sincere.

**glide** verb **1** *a gondola glided past*: slide, slip, sail, float, drift, flow; coast, freewheel, roll; skim, skate. **2** *seagulls gliding over the waves*: soar, wheel, plane; fly. **3** *he glided out of the door*: slip, steal, slink.

**glimmer** verb *moonlight glimmered on the lawn*: gleam, shine, glint, flicker, shimmer, glisten, glow, twinkle, sparkle, glitter, wink, flash; literary glister.

• **noun** **1** *a glimmer of light*: gleam, glint, flicker, shimmer, glow, twinkle, sparkle, flash, ray. **2** *a glimmer of hope*: gleam, flicker, ray, trace, sign, suggestion, hint.

**glimpse** noun *a glimpse of her face*: brief look, quick look; glance, peek, peep; sight, sighting.

• **verb** *he glimpsed a figure*: catch sight of, notice, discern, spot, spy, sight, pick out, make out; Brit. informal clock; literary espy, descry.

**glint** verb *the diamond glinted*: shine, gleam, catch the light, glitter, sparkle, twinkle, wink, glimmer, shimmer, glisten, flash; literary glister.

• **noun** *the glint of the silver*: glitter, gleam, sparkle, twinkle, glimmer, flash.

**glisten** verb *shine, sparkle, twinkle, glint, glitter, glimmer, shimmer, wink, flash*; literary glister.

**glitter** verb *crystal glittered in the candlelight*: shine, sparkle, twinkle, glint, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, wink, flash, catch the light; literary glister.

• **noun** **1** *the glitter of light on the water*: sparkle, twinkle, glint, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, flicker, flash; brilliance, luminescence. **2** *the glitter of show business*: glamour, excitement, thrills, attraction, appeal; dazzle; informal razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz, glitz, ritziness.

**gloat** verb *delight, relish, take great pleasure, revel, rejoice, glory, exult, triumph, crow; boast, brag, be smug, congratulate oneself, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back; rub one's hands together*; informal rub it in.

**global** adjective **1** *the global economy*: worldwide, international, world, intercontinental. **2** *a global view of the problem*: comprehensive, overall, general, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, encyclopedic, universal, blanket; broad, far-reaching, extensive, sweeping.

**globe** noun **1** *every corner of the globe*: world, earth, planet. **2** *the sun is a globe*: sphere, orb, ball, spheroid, round.

**globular** adjective *spherical, spheric, spheroidal, round, globe-shaped, ball-shaped, orb-shaped, rounded, bulbous*.

**globule** noun *droplet, drop, bead, tear, ball, bubble, pearl*; informal blob, glob.

**gloom** noun **1** *she peered into the gloom*: darkness, dark, dimness, blackness, murkiness, shadows, shade; dusk, twilight, gloaming. **2** *his gloom deepened*: despondency, depression, dejection,

downheartedness, melancholy, melancholia, unhappiness, sadness, glumness, gloominess, misery, sorrow, woe, wretchedness; despair, pessimism, hopelessness; informal the blues, the dumps.

– OPPOSITES light, happiness.

**gloomy** adjective **1** *a gloomy room*: dark, shadowy, sunless, dim, sombre, dingy, dismal, dreary, murky, unwelcoming, cheerless, comfortless, funereal; literary Stygian. **2** *Joanna looked gloomy*: despondent, downcast, downhearted, dejected, dispirited, disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, crestfallen; depressed, desolate, low, sad, unhappy, glum, melancholy, miserable, fed up, woebegone, mournful, forlorn, morose; Brit. Eeyorish; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps. **3** *gloomy forecasts about the economy*: pessimistic, depressing, downbeat, disheartening, disappointing; unfavourable, bleak, bad, black, sombre, grim, cheerless, hopeless.

– OPPOSITES bright, cheerful, optimistic.

**glorify** verb **1** *they gather to glorify God*: praise, extol, exalt, worship, revere, reverence, venerate, pay homage to, honour, adore, thank, give thanks to; formal laud; old use magnify. **2** *a poem to glorify the memory of the dead*: ennoble, exalt, elevate, dignify, enhance, augment, promote; praise, celebrate, honour, extol, lionize, acclaim, applaud, hail; glamorize, idealize, romanticize, enshrine, immortalize; formal laud.

– OPPOSITES dishonour.

**glorious** adjective **1** *a glorious victory*: illustrious, celebrated, famous, acclaimed, distinguished, honoured; outstanding, great, magnificent, noble, triumphant. **2** *glorious views*: wonderful, marvellous, magnificent, superb, sublime, spectacular, lovely, fine, delightful; informal super, great, stunning, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, fabulous, fab, awesome, ace; informal, dated capital, spiffing; Brit. informal smashing; literary wondrous, beauteous.

– OPPOSITES undistinguished, horrid.

**glory** noun **1** *a sport that won him glory*: renown, fame, prestige, honour, distinction, kudos, eminence, acclaim, praise, bouquets; celebrity, recognition, reputation. **2** *glory be to God*: praise, worship, adoration, veneration, honour, reverence, exaltation, extolment, homage, thanksgiving, thanks. **3** *a house restored to its former glory*: magnificence, splendour, resplendence, grandeur, majesty, greatness, nobility; opulence, beauty, elegance. **4** *the glories of Vermont*: wonder, beauty, delight, marvel, phenomenon; sight, spectacle.

– OPPOSITES shame, obscurity, modesty.

• **verb** *we gloried in our independence*: take pleasure in, revel in, rejoice in, delight in; relish, savour; congratulate oneself on, be proud of; boast about; informal get a kick out of, get a thrill out of.

**gloss**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *the gloss of her hair:* shine, sheen, lustre, gleam, patina, brilliance, shimmer. **2** *beneath the gloss of success:* facade, veneer, surface, show, camouflage, disguise, mask, smokescreen; window dressing.

• **verb** **1** *she glossed her lips:* make glossy, shine; glaze, polish, burnish. **2** *he tried to gloss over his problems:* conceal, cover up, hide, disguise, mask, veil; shrug off, brush aside, play down, minimize, understate, make light of; informal brush under the carpet.

**gloss**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *glosses in the margin:*

explanation, interpretation, exegesis, explication, elucidation; annotation, note, footnote, commentary, comment; translation; historical scholium.

• **verb** *difficult words are glossed in a footnote:* explain, interpret, explicate, elucidate; annotate; translate, paraphrase.

**glossy** **adjective** **1** *a glossy wooden floor:*

shiny, gleaming, lustrous, brilliant, shimmering, glistening, satiny, sheeny, smooth, glassy; polished, lacquered, glazed.

**2** *a glossy magazine:* expensive, high-quality; stylish, fashionable, glamorous; attractive, artistic; Brit. upmarket, coffee-table; informal classy, ritzy, glitzy.

– **OPPOSITES** dull, cheap.

**glove** **noun** mitten, mitt, gauntlet.

**glow** **verb** **1** *lights glowed from the windows:*

shine, radiate, gleam, glimmer, flicker, flare; luminesce. **2** *a fire glowed in the hearth:* radiate heat, smoulder, burn. **3** *she glowed with embarrassment:* flush, blush, redden, colour (up), go pink, go scarlet; burn. **4** *she glowed with pride:* tingle, thrill; beam.

• **noun** **1** *the glow of the fire:* radiance, light, shine, gleam, glimmer, incandescence, luminescence; warmth, heat. **2** *a glow spread over her face:* flush, blush, rosininess, pinkness, redness, high colour; bloom, radiance. **3** *a warm glow deep inside her:* happiness, contentment, pleasure, satisfaction.

**glower** **verb** *she glowered at him:* scowl,

glare, look daggers, frown, lour, give someone a black look; informal give someone a dirty look.

• **noun** *the glower on his face:* scowl, glare, frown, a black look; informal dirty look.

**glowing** **adjective** **1** *glowing coals:* bright,

shining, radiant, glimmering, flickering, twinkling, incandescent, luminous, luminescent; lit (up), lighted, illuminated, ablaze; aglow, smouldering. **2** *his glowing cheeks:* rosy, pink, red, flushed, blushing; radiant, blooming, ruddy, florid; hot, burning. **3** *glowing colours:* vivid, vibrant, bright, brilliant, rich, intense, strong, radiant, warm. **4** *a glowing report:*

complimentary, favourable, enthusiastic, commendatory, admiring, lionizing, rapturous, rhapsodic, adulatory; fulsome; informal rave.

**glue** **noun** *a tube of glue:* adhesive, fixative,

gum, paste, cement; epoxy (resin), size; N. Amer. mucilage; N. Amer. informal stickum.

• **verb** **1** *the planks were glued together:*

stick, gum, paste; affix, fix, cement.

**2** (informal) *she was glued to the television:* be riveted to, be gripped by, be hypnotized by, be mesmerized by.

**glum** **adjective** gloomy, downcast,

downhearted, dejected, despondent, crestfallen, disheartened; depressed, desolate, unhappy, doleful, melancholy, miserable, woebegone, mournful, forlorn, in the doldrums, morose; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up.

– **OPPOSITES** cheerful.

**glut** **noun** *a glut of cars:* surplus, excess, surfeit, superfluity, over-abundance, superabundance, oversupply, plethora.

– **OPPOSITES** dearth.

• **verb** *the factories are glutted:* cram full, overfill, overload, oversupply, saturate, flood, inundate, deluge, swamp; informal stuff.

**glutinous** **adjective** sticky, viscous, viscid, tacky, gluey, gummy, treacly; adhesive; informal gooeey, loopy, cloggy; N. Amer. informal gloppy.

**glutton** **noun** *gourmand, overeater, big eater, gorging, gobbler; informal (greedy) pig, gannet, greedy guts, gutbucket, guzzler.*

**gluttonous** **adjective** greedy, gourmandizing, voracious, insatiable, wolfish; informal piggish, piggy.

**gluttony** **noun** greed, greediness, overeating, gourmandism, gourmandizing, voracity, insatiability; informal piggishness.

**gnarled** **adjective** **1** *a gnarled tree trunk:*

knobbly, knotty, knotted, gnarly, lumpy, bumpy, nodular; twisted, bent, crooked, distorted, contorted. **2** *gnarled hands:* twisted, bent, misshapen; arthritic; rough, wrinkled, wizened.

**gnash** **verb** grind, grate, rasp, grit.

**gnaw** **verb** **1** *the dog gnawed at a bone:* chew, champ, chomp, bite, munch, crunch; nibble, worry. **2** *the pressures are gnawing away their independence:* erode, wear away, wear down, eat away (at); consume, devour.

**3** *the doubts gnawed at her:* nag, plague, torment, torture, trouble, distress, worry, haunt, oppress, burden, hang over, bother, fret; niggle.

**go** **verb** **1** *he's gone into town:* move, proceed, make one's way, advance, progress, pass; walk, travel, journey; literary betake oneself.

**2** *the road goes to London:* extend, stretch, reach; lead. **3** *the money will go to charity:* be given, be donated, be granted, be presented, be awarded; be devoted; be handed (over).

**4** *it's time to go:* leave, depart, take oneself off, go away, withdraw, absent oneself, make an exit, exit; set off, start out, get under way, be on one's way; decamp, retreat, retire, make off, clear out, run off/away, flee; Brit. make a move; informal make tracks, push off, beat it, take off, skedaddle, scam, split, scoot; Brit. informal sling one's hook. **5** *three years went past:* pass, elapse, slip by/past, roll by/past, tick away; fly by/past. **6** *a golden age that has gone for good:* disappear, vanish, be no more, be over, run its course, fade

away; finish, end, cease. **7** *all our money had gone: be used up*, be spent, be exhausted, be consumed, be drained, be depleted. **8** *I'd like to see my grandchildren before I go: die*, pass away, pass on, lose one's life, expire, breathe one's last, perish, go to meet one's maker; informal give up the ghost, kick the bucket, croak, buy it, turn up one's toes; Brit. informal snuff it, pop one's clogs; N. Amer. informal bite the big one, buy the farm; old use de cease, depart this life. **9** *the bridge went suddenly: collapse*, give way, fall down, cave in, crumble, disintegrate. **10** *his hair had gone grey: become*, get, turn, grow. **11** *he heard the bell go: make a sound*, sound, reverberate, resound; ring, chime, peal, toll, clang. **12** *everything went well: turn out*, work out, develop, come out; result, end (up); informal pan out. **13** *those colours don't go: match*, be harmonious, harmonize, blend, be suited, be complementary, coordinate, be compatible. **14** *my car won't go: function*, work, run, operate. **15** *where does the cutlery go? belong*, be kept, be found, be located, be situated. **16** *this all goes to prove my point: contribute*, help, serve; incline, tend.

—OPPOSITES arrive, come, return, clash.

• **noun** (informal) **1** *his second go: attempt*, try, effort, bid, endeavour; informal shot, stab, crack, bash, whirl, whack; formal essay. **2** *he has plenty of go in him: energy*, vigour, vitality, life, liveliness, spirit, verve, enthusiasm, zest, vibrancy, sparkle; stamina, dynamism, drive, push, determination; informal pep, punch, oomph, get-up-and-go.

■ **go about** set about, begin, embark on, start, commence, address oneself to, get down to, get to work on, get going on, undertake; approach, tackle, attack; informal get cracking on/with.

■ **go along with** agree to/with, fall in with, comply with, cooperate with, acquiesce in, assent to, follow; submit to, yield to, defer to.

■ **go away**. See **go** verb sense 4.

■ **go back on** renege on, break, fail to honour, default on, repudiate, retract; do an about-face; informal cop out (of), rat on.

■ **go by** *we have to go by his decision*: obey, abide by, comply with, keep to, conform to, follow, heed, defer to, respect.

■ **go down** **1** *the ship went down*: sink, founder, go under. **2** *interest rates are going down*: decrease, get lower, fall, drop, decline; plummet, plunge, slump. **3** (informal) *they went down in the first leg*: lose, be beaten, be defeated, come to grief. **4** *his name will go down in history*: be remembered, be recorded, be commemorated, be immortalized.

■ **go down with** (Brit.) fall ill with, get, develop, contract, pick up, succumb to, fall victim to, be struck down with, become infected with.

■ **go far** be successful, succeed, be a success, do well, get on, get somewhere, get ahead, make good; informal make a name for oneself, make one's mark.

■ **go for** **1** *I went for the tuna*: choose, pick, opt for, select, plump for, decide on. **2** *the*

*man went for her*: attack, assault, hit, strike, beat up, assail, set upon, rush at, lash out at; informal lay into, rough up; Brit. informal have a go at, duff up; N. Amer. informal beat up on. **3** *he goes for older women*: be attracted to, like, fancy; prefer, favour, choose; informal have a thing about.

■ **go in for** take part in, participate in, engage in, get involved in, join in, enter into, undertake; practise, pursue; espouse, adopt, embrace.

■ **go into** investigate, examine, enquire into, look into, research, probe, explore, delve into; consider, review, analyse.

■ **go off** **1** *the bomb went off*: explode, detonate, blow up. **2** (Brit.) *the milk's gone off*: go bad, go stale, go sour, turn, spoil, go rancid; decompose, go mouldy.

■ **go on** **1** *the lecture went on for hours*: last, continue, carry on, run on, proceed; endure, persist; take. **2** *she went on about the sea*: talk at length, ramble, rattle on, chatter, prattle, gabble, blether, blather, twitter; informal gab, yak, yabber, yatter; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, natter, waffle, chunter; N. Amer. informal run off at the mouth. **3** *I'm not sure what went on*: happen, take place, occur, transpire; N. Amer. informal go down; literary come to pass, betide; old use hap.

■ **go out** **1** *the lights went out*: be turned off, be extinguished; stop burning. **2** *he's going out with Kate*: see, take out, be someone's boyfriend/girlfriend, be involved with; informal date, go steady with, go with; N. Amer. informal, dated step out with; dated court, woo.

■ **go over** **1** *go over the figures*: examine, study, scrutinize, inspect, look at/over, scan, check; analyse, appraise, review. **2** *we are going over our lines*: rehearse, practise, read through, run through.

■ **go round** **1** *the wheels were going round*: spin, revolve, turn, rotate, whirl. **2** *a nasty rumour going round*: be spread, be circulated, be put about, circulate, pass round, be broadcast.

■ **go through** **1** *the terrible things she has gone through*: undergo, experience, face, suffer, be subjected to, live through, endure, brave, bear, tolerate, withstand, put up with, cope with, weather. **2** *he went through hundreds of pounds*: spend, use up, run through, get through, expend, deplete; waste, squander, fritter away. **3** *he went through Susie's bag*: search, look, hunt, rummage, rifle; informal frisk. **4** *I have to go through the report*: examine, study, scrutinize, inspect, look over, scan, check; analyse, appraise, review. **5** *the deal has gone through*: be completed, be concluded, be brought off; be approved, be signed, be rubber-stamped.

■ **go under** go bankrupt, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, become insolvent, be liquidated, be wound up, be shut (down); fail; informal go broke, go to the wall, go belly up, fold.

■ **go without** **1** *I went without breakfast*: abstain from, refrain from, forgo, do without, deny oneself. **2** *the children did not*



*go without*: be deprived, be in want, go short, go hungry, be in need.

**goad** **noun** **1** *he applied his goad to the cows*: prod, spike, staff, crook, rod. **2** *a goad to political change*: stimulus, incentive, encouragement, inducement, filip, spur, prod, prompt; motive, motivation.

• **verb** *we were goaded into action*: provoke, spur, prod, egg on, hound, badger, incite, rouse, stir, move, stimulate, motivate, prompt, induce, encourage, urge, inspire; impel, pressure, pressurize, dragoon.

**go-ahead** (informal) **noun** *they gave the go-ahead for the scheme*: permission, consent, leave, licence, dispensation, warrant, clearance; authorization, assent, agreement, approval, endorsement, sanction, blessing, the nod; informal the thumbs up, the OK, the green light.

• **adjective** *go-ahead companies*: enterprising, resourceful, innovative, ingenious, original, creative; progressive, pioneering, modern, forward-looking, enlightened; enthusiastic, ambitious, entrepreneurial, high-powered; bold, daring, audacious, adventurous, dynamic; informal go-getting.

**goal** **noun** **objective**, aim, end, target, design, intention, intent, plan, purpose; (holy) grail; ambition, aspiration, wish, dream, desire, hope.

**goat** **noun** **1** *a herd of goats*: billy (goat), nanny (goat), kid. **2** *be careful of that old goat*: lecher, libertine, womanizer, seducer, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, Romeo; pervert, debauchee, rake; informal lech, ladykiller.

#### WORD LINKS

caprine relating to goats

**gobble** **verb** *guzzle*, bolt, gulp, devour, wolf, cram, gorge (oneself) on; informal tuck into, put away, demolish, polish off, scoff, shovel down, stuff one's face (with), pig oneself (on); Brit. informal gollop, shift; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up).

**gobbledegook** **noun** (informal) **gibberish**, claptrap, nonsense, rubbish, balderdash, mumbo-jumbo, blather, blether; N. Amer. garbage; informal drivel, tripe, hogwash, baloney, bilge, bosh, bull, bunk, guff, eyewash, piffle, twaddle, poppycock, phooey, hooey; Brit. informal cobblers, codswallop, double Dutch, tosh; N. Amer. informal bushwa, applesauce.

**go-between** **noun** **intermediary**, middleman, agent, broker, liaison, linkman, contact; negotiator, interceder, intercessor, mediator.

**goblet** **noun** **wine glass**, chalice; glass, beaker, tumbler, cup.

**goblin** **noun** **hobgoblin**, gnome, dwarf, troll, imp, elf, brownie, fairy, pixie, leprechaun.

**god** **noun** **1** *a gift from God*: the Lord, the Almighty, the Creator, the Maker, the Godhead; Allah, Jehovah, Yahweh; (God) the Father, (God) the Son, the Holy Ghost/Spirit, the Holy Trinity. **2** *sacrifices*

*to appease the gods*: deity, goddess, divine being, celestial being, divinity, immortal, avatar. **3** *wooden gods*: idol, graven image, icon, totem, talisman, fetish, juju.

#### WORD LINKS

**divine** relating to God or a god

**theology** the study of God and religious belief

**deify** worship or treat as a god

**deism** belief in an all-powerful creator who does not intervene in the universe

**theism** belief in a god or gods, especially as a creator who intervenes in the universe

**theocracy** a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god

**pantheon** all the gods of a people or religion

**oblation** an offering made to a god

**libation** a drink poured out as an offering to a god

**godforsaken** **adjective** **wretched**, miserable, dreary, dismal, depressing, grim, cheerless, bleak, desolate, gloomy; deserted, neglected, isolated, remote, backward; Brit. informal grotty.

– **OPPOSITES** charming.

**godless** **adjective** **1** *a godless society*:

**atheistic**, unbelieving, agnostic, sceptical, heretical, faithless, irreligious, ungodly, unholy, impious, profane; infidel, heathen, idolatrous, pagan; satanic, devilish. **2** *godless pleasures*: **immoral**, wicked, sinful, wrong, evil, bad, iniquitous, corrupt; irreligious, sacrilegious, profane, blasphemous, impious; depraved, degenerate, debauched, perverted, decadent; impure.

– **OPPOSITES** religious, virtuous.

**godlike** **adjective** **divine**, godly, superhuman; angelic, seraphic; spiritual, heavenly, celestial; sacred, holy, saintly.

**godly** **adjective** **religious**, devout, pious, reverent, believing, God-fearing, saintly, holy, prayerful, churchgoing.

– **OPPOSITES** irreligious.

**godsend** **noun** **boon**, blessing, bonus, plus, benefit, advantage, help, aid, asset; stroke of luck; informal perk; formal perquisite.

– **OPPOSITES** curse.

**goggle** **verb** *stare*, gape, gaze, ogle; informal gawk, rubberneck; Brit. informal gawp.

**going-over** **noun** (informal) **1** *his work was subjected to a going-over*: **examination**, inspection, investigation, probe, check-up; assessment, review, analysis, appraisal, critique; informal once-over. **2** *the flat needs a going-over*: **clean**, dust, mop, scrub; informal vacuum, once-over. **3** *the thugs gave him a going-over*: **beating**, thrashing, thumping, pummelling, battering, pelting; assault, attack; informal doing-over, belting, bashing, pasting, walloping, clobbering, hiding.

**goings-on** **plural noun** **events**, happenings, affairs, business; mischief, misbehaviour, misconduct, funny business; informal monkey business, hanky-panky, shenanigans; Brit. informal jiggery-pokery, carry-on; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines.

**gold** noun *she won the gold: gold medal*, first prize.

#### WORD LINKS

**aureate** made of gold, or gold-coloured  
**bullion** gold in bulk or solid bars  
**carat** a measure of the purity of gold  
**alchemy** a medieval form of chemistry, concerned with trying to turn other metals into gold

**golden** adjective **1** *her golden hair: blond(e)*, yellow, fair, flaxen, tow-coloured. **2** *a golden time: successful*, prosperous, flourishing, thriving; favourable, providential, lucky, fortunate; happy, joyful, glorious. **3** *a golden opportunity: excellent*, fine, superb, splendid; special, unique; favourable, opportune, promising, bright, full of promise; advantageous, profitable, valuable, providential. **4** *the golden girl of tennis: favourite*, favoured, popular, admired, beloved, pet; acclaimed, applauded, praised; brilliant, consummate, gifted; Brit. informal blue-eyed; formal lauded.

– OPPOSITES dark, unhappy.

**gone** adjective **1** *I wasn't gone long: away*, absent, off, out; missing, unavailable. **2** *those days are gone: past*, over (and done with), no more, done, finished, ended; forgotten, dead and buried. **3** *the milk's all gone: used up*, consumed, finished, spent, depleted; at an end. **4** *an aunt of mine, long since gone: dead*, expired, departed, no more, passed on; away; late, lost, lamented; perished, fallen; defunct, extinct; informal six feet under, pushing up daisies; formal deceased; euphemistic with God, asleep, at peace.

– OPPOSITES present, here, alive.

**goo** noun (informal) *sticky substance, ooze, sludge, muck*; informal gunk, crud, gloop; Brit. informal gunge; N. Amer. informal glop.

**good** adjective **1** *a good product: fine*, superior, quality; excellent, superb, outstanding, magnificent, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful, first-rate, first-class, sterling; satisfactory, acceptable, up to scratch, up to standard, not bad, all right; informal great, OK, A1, ace, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, top-notch, class, awesome, wicked; informal, dated capital; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; Austral. informal beaut, bonzer; Brit. informal, dated spiffing, top hole. **2** *a good person: virtuous*, righteous, upright, upstanding, moral, ethical, high-minded, principled; exemplary, law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honourable, scrupulous, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, trustworthy; meritorious, praiseworthy, admirable; whiter than white, saintly, saintlike, angelic; informal squeaky clean. **3** *the children are good at school: well behaved*, obedient, dutiful, polite, courteous, respectful, deferential, compliant. **4** *a good thing to do: right*, correct, proper, decorous, seemly; appropriate, fitting, apt, suitable; convenient, expedient, favourable, opportune, felicitous, timely. **5** *a good driver: capable*, able, proficient, adept, adroit,

accomplished, skilful, skilled, talented, masterly, expert; informal great, mean, wicked, nifty, ace; N. Amer. informal crackerjack. **6** *a good friend: close*, intimate, dear, bosom, special, best, firm, valued, treasured; loving, devoted, loyal, faithful, constant, reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, true, unfailing, staunch. **7** *the dogs are in good condition: healthy*, fine, sound, tip-top, hale and hearty, fit, robust, sturdy, strong, vigorous. **8** *a good time was had by all: enjoyable*, pleasant, agreeable, pleasurable, delightful, great, nice, lovely; amusing, diverting, jolly, merry, lively; informal super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, terrific, grand; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing; N. Amer. informal peachy, ducky; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer. **9** *it was good of you to come: kind*, kind-hearted, good-hearted, generous, charitable, magnanimous, gracious; altruistic, unselfish, selfless. **10** *a good time to call: convenient*, suitable, appropriate, fitting, fit; opportune, timely, favourable, advantageous, expedient, felicitous, happy, providential. **11** *milk is good for you: wholesome*, healthy, healthful, nourishing, nutritious, nutritional, beneficial, salubrious. **12** *are these eggs good? edible*, safe to eat, fit for human consumption; fresh, wholesome, consumable; formal comestible. **13** *good food: delicious*, tasty, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavoursome, flavourful, delectable, toothsome, palatable; succulent, luscious; informal scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy; Brit. informal moreish; N. Amer. informal finger-licking, nummy. **14** *a good reason: valid*, genuine, authentic, legitimate, sound, bona fide; convincing, persuasive, telling, potent, cogent, compelling. **15** *we waited a good hour: whole*, full, entire, complete, solid. **16** *a good number of them: considerable*, sizeable, substantial, appreciable, significant; goodly, fair, reasonable; plentiful, abundant, great, large, generous; informal tidy. **17** *wear your good clothes: best*, smart, smartest, finest, nicest; special, party, Sunday, formal, dressy. **18** *good weather: fine*, fair, dry; bright, clear, sunny, cloudless; calm, windless; warm, mild, balmy, clement, pleasant, nice.

– OPPOSITES bad, wicked, naughty, poor, terrible, inconvenient, small, scruffy.

• noun **1** *issues of good and evil: virtue*, righteousness, goodness, morality, integrity, rectitude; honesty, truth, honour, probity; propriety, worthiness, merit; blamelessness, purity. **2** *it's all for your good: benefit*, advantage, profit, gain, interest, welfare, well-being; enjoyment, comfort, ease, convenience; help, aid, assistance, service; behalf.

– OPPOSITES wickedness, disadvantage.

• exclamation *good, that's settled: fine*, very well, all right, right, right then, yes, agreed; informal okay, OK, okey-dokey, roger; Brit. informal righto, righty-ho.

■ *for good those days are gone for good: forever*, permanently, for always, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for eternity,

until hell freezes over, never to return; N. Amer. forevermore; informal for keeps, until doomsday, until the cows come home; old use for aye.

■ **in good part** *she took the joke in good part*: good-naturedly, good-humouredly, without offence, amicably, favourably, tolerantly, indulgently, cheerfully, well.

■ **make good** succeed, be successful, be a success, do well, get ahead; prosper, flourish, thrive; informal make it, make the grade, make a name for oneself, make one's mark, get somewhere, arrive.

■ **make something good** **1** *he promised to make good any damage*: repair, mend, fix, put right, see to; restore, remedy, rectify. **2** *they made good their escape*: effect, conduct, perform, implement, execute, carry out; achieve, accomplish, succeed in, realize, attain, engineer, bring about, bring off. **3** *he will make good his promise*: fulfil, carry out, implement, discharge, honour, redeem; keep, observe, abide by, comply with, stick to, heed, follow, be bound by, live up to, stand by, adhere to.

**goodbye** exclamation farewell, adieu, au revoir, ciao, auf Wiedersehen, adios; Austral./NZ hooray; informal bye, bye-bye, so long, see you (later), later(s); Brit. informal cheers, cheerio, ta-ta; N. English informal ta-ra; informal, dated toodle-oo, toodle-pip.

**good-for-nothing** adjective *a good-for-nothing layabout*: useless, worthless, incompetent, inefficient, inept, ne'er-do-well; lazy, idle, slothful, indolent, shiftless; informal no-good, lousy.

– OPPOSITES worthy.

• **noun** *lazy good-for-nothings*: ne'er-do-well, layabout, do-nothing, idler, loafer, lounge, sluggard, shirker; informal waster, slacker, lazybones, couch potato; Brit. informal skiver.

**good-humoured** adjective genial, affable, cordial, friendly, amiable, easy-going, approachable, good-natured, cheerful, cheery; companionable, comradely, sociable, convivial; informal chummy, pally; Brit. informal matey; N. Amer. informal clubby.

– OPPOSITES grumpy.

**good-looking** adjective attractive, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, gorgeous, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, beguiling, engaging, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful; sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, irresistible, ravishing, desirable; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer. informal cute, foxy; Austral./NZ informal spunky; literary beauteous; old use comely, fair.

– OPPOSITES ugly.

**goodly** adjective large, largish, sizeable, substantial, considerable, respectable, significant, decent, generous, handsome; informal tidy, serious.

– OPPOSITES paltry.

**good-natured** adjective warm-hearted, friendly, amiable; neighbourly, benevolent,

kind, kind-hearted, generous, unselfish, considerate, thoughtful, obliging, helpful, supportive, charitable; understanding, sympathetic, easy-going, accommodating; Brit. informal decent.

– OPPOSITES malicious.

**goodness** noun **1** *he had some goodness in him*: virtue, good, righteousness, morality, integrity, rectitude; honesty, truth, truthfulness, honour, probity; propriety, decency, respectability, nobility, worthiness, worth, merit, trustworthiness; blamelessness, purity. **2** *God's goodness towards us*: kindness, kindness, tender-heartedness, humanity, mildness, benevolence, graciousness; tenderness, warmth, affection, love, goodwill; sympathy, compassion, care, concern, understanding, tolerance, generosity, charity, leniency, clemency, magnanimity. **3** *slow cooking retains the food's goodness*: nutritional value, nutrients, wholesomeness, nourishment.

**goods** plural noun **1** *he dispatched the goods*: merchandise, wares, stock, commodities, produce, products, articles; imports, exports. **2** *the dead man's goods*: property, possessions, effects, chattels, valuables; informal things, stuff, junk, gear, kit, bits and pieces; Brit. informal clobber. **3** (Brit.) *most goods went by train*: freight, cargo; load, consignment, delivery, shipment.

**good-tempered** adjective equable, even-tempered, imperturbable; unruffled, unflustered, untroubled, well balanced; easy-going, mellow, mild, calm, relaxed, cool, at ease; placid, stable, level-headed; cheerful, upbeat; informal unflappable, laid-back.

– OPPOSITES moody.

**goodwill** noun benevolence, compassion, goodness, kindness, consideration, charity; cooperation, collaboration; friendliness, amity, thoughtfulness, decency, sympathy, understanding, neighbourliness.

– OPPOSITES hostility.

**goody-goody** adjective (informal) self-righteous, sanctimonious, pious; prim and proper, strait-laced, prudish, priggish, puritanical, moralistic; informal starchy, square.

**goosey** adjective (informal) **1** *a goosey mess*: sticky, viscous, viscid; gluey, tacky, gummy, treacly, syrupy; Brit. claggy; informal gloopy, gunny, icky; N. Amer. informal gloopy. **2** *a goosey film*: sentimental, mawkish, cloying, sickly, saccharine, sugary, syrupy; slushy, sloppy, mushy, romantic; Brit. twee; informal schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny, sick-making; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy.

**goose** noun

#### WORD LINKS

anserine relating to geese  
gander a male goose  
gosling a young goose

**gore**<sup>1</sup> noun *the film's gratuitous gore*: blood,



bloodiness; bloodshed, slaughter, carnage, butchery.

**gore**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *he was gored by a bull:* pierce, stab, stick, impale, spear, horn.

**gorge** **noun** *the river runs through a gorge:* ravine, canyon, gully, defile, couloir; chasm, gulf; N. English clough, gill; N. Amer. gulch, coulee.

• **verb** **1** *they gorged themselves on cakes:* stuff, cram, fill; glut, satiate, overindulge, overfill; informal pig. **2** *vultures gorged on the flesh:* devour, guzzle, gobble, gulp (down), wolf; informal tuck into, demolish, polish off, scoff (down), down, stuff one's face (with); Brit. informal gollop; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up).

**gorgeous** **adjective** **1** *a gorgeous girl:* good-looking, attractive, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful; sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, irresistible, ravishing, desirable; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer. informal cute, foxy; Austral./NZ informal spunky; literary beauteous; old use comely, fair. **2** *a gorgeous view:* spectacular, splendid, superb, wonderful, grand, impressive, awe-inspiring, awesome, amazing, stunning, breathtaking, incredible; informal sensational, fabulous, fantastic. **3** *gorgeous uniforms:* resplendent, magnificent, sumptuous, luxurious, elegant, opulent; dazzling, brilliant. **4** (informal) *gorgeous weather:* excellent, marvellous, superb, very good, first-rate, first-class, wonderful, magnificent, splendid; informal great, glorious, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, ace; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; Austral./NZ informal bonzer.

– **OPPOSITES** ugly, drab, terrible.

**gory** **adjective** **1** *a gory ritual slaughter:* grisly, gruesome, violent, bloody, brutal, savage; ghastly, frightful, horrid, fearful, hideous, macabre, horrible, horrific; shocking, appalling, monstrous, unspeakable; informal blood-and-guts, sick-making. **2** *gory pieces of flesh:* bloody, bloodstained, bloodsoaked.

**gospel** **noun** **1** *the Gospel was spread by missionaries:* Christian teaching, Christian doctrine, Christ's teaching, the word of God, the New Testament. **2** *don't treat this as gospel:* the truth; fact, actual fact, reality, actuality, factuality, the case, a certainty. **3** *his gospel of non-violence:* doctrine, dogma, teaching, principle, ethic, creed, credo, ideology, ideal; belief, tenet, canon.

**gossamer** **noun** *her dress swirled like gossamer:* cobwebs; silk, gauze, chiffon. • **adjective** *a gossamer veil:* gauzy, gossamery, fine, diaphanous, delicate, filmy, floaty, chifflony, cobwebby, wispy, thin, light, insubstantial, flimsy; translucent, transparent, see-through, sheer.

**gossip** **noun** **1** *tell me all the gossip:* tittle-tattle, tattle, rumour(s), whispers, canards, titbits; scandal, hearsay; informal

dirt, buzz; Brit. informal goss; N. Amer. informal scuttlebutt. **2** *they went for a gossip:* chat, talk, conversation, chatter, heart-to-heart, tête-à-tête, blether, blather; discussion, dialogue; informal chit-chat, jaw, gas, confab, goss; Brit. informal natter, chinwag; N. Amer. informal gabfest; Austral./NZ informal yarn; formal confabulation. **3** *she's such a gossip:* scandalmonger, gossipmonger, tattler, busybody, muckraker.

• **verb** **1** *she gossiped about his wife:* spread rumours, spread gossip, tittle-tattle, tattle, talk, whisper, tell tales; informal dish the dirt. **2** *people sat around gossiping:* chat, talk, converse; informal gas, chew the fat, chew the rag, jaw, yak, yap; Brit. informal natter, chinwag; N. Amer. informal shoot the breeze, shoot the bull; formal confabulate.

**gouge** **verb** *scoop out, hollow out, excavate; cut (out), dig (out), scrape (out), scratch (out).*

**gourmand** **noun** *glutton, overeater, big eater, gobbler, gorger; informal (greedy) pig, gannet, greedy guts, gutbucket, guzzler.*

**gourmet** **noun** *gastronome, epicure, epicurean; connoisseur; informal foodie.*

**govern** **verb** **1** *he governs the province:* rule, preside over, reign over, control, be in charge of, command, lead, dominate; run, head, administer, manage, regulate, oversee, supervise; informal be in the driving seat. **2** *the rules governing social behaviour:* determine, decide, control, regulate, direct, rule, dictate, shape; affect, influence, sway, act on, mould, modify, impact on.

**governess** **noun** *tutor, instructress, duenna; teacher.*

**government** **noun** **1** *the government announced cuts:* administration, executive, regime, authority, powers that be, directorate, council, leadership; cabinet, ministry; informal top brass. **2** *they help him in the government of the country:* rule, running, leadership, control, administration, regulation, management, supervision.

**governor** **noun** *leader, ruler, chief, head; premier, president, viceroy, chancellor; administrator, principal, director, chairman/woman, chair, superintendent, commissioner, controller; informal boss.*

**gown** **noun** *dress, frock, shift, robe.*

**grab** **verb** **1** *Dot grabbed his arm:* seize, grasp, snatch, take hold of, grip, clasp, clutch; take. **2** (informal) *I'll grab another drink:* obtain, acquire, get; buy, purchase, procure, secure, snap up; gather, collect; achieve, attain; informal get one's hands on, get one's mitts on, get hold of, bag, score, nab.

• **noun** *she made a grab for his gun:* lunge, snatch.

■ **up for grabs** (informal) available, obtainable, to be had, for the taking; for sale, on the market; informal for the asking, on tap, gettable.

**grace** **noun** **1** *the grace of a ballerina:* elegance, poise, gracefulness, finesse; suppleness, agility, nimbleness, light-footedness. **2** *he had the grace to look*

*sheepish*: courtesy, decency, (good) manners, politeness, decorum, respect, tact. **3** *he fell from grace*: favour, approval, approbation, acceptance, esteem, regard, respect; goodwill. **4** *he lived there by grace of the king*: favour, goodwill, generosity, kindness, indulgence; formal benefaction.

**5** *they have five days' grace to decide*: deferment, deferral, postponement, suspension, adjournment, delay, pause; respite, stay, moratorium, reprieve. **6** *say grace*: prayer of thanks, thanksgiving, blessing, benediction.

– OPPOSITES inelegance, effrontery, disfavour.

• **verb 1** *the occasion was graced by the prince*: dignify, distinguish, honour, favour; enhance, ennoble, glorify, elevate, aggrandize, upgrade. **2** *a mosaic graced the floor*: adorn, embellish, decorate, ornament, enhance; beautify, prettify, enrich, bedeck.

**graceful** adjective elegant, fluid, fluent, natural, neat; agile, supple, nimble, light-footed.

**graceless** adjective gauche, maladroit, inept, awkward, unsure, unpolished, unsophisticated, uncultured, unrefined; clumsy, ungainly, ungraceful, inelegant, uncoordinated, gawky, gangling, bumbling; tactless, thoughtless, inconsiderate; informal cack-handed, ham-handed, ham-fisted.

**gracious** adjective **1** *a gracious hostess*: courteous, polite, civil, chivalrous, well mannered, mannerly, decorous; tactful, diplomatic; kind, benevolent, considerate, thoughtful, obliging, accommodating, indulgent, magnanimous; friendly, amiable, cordial, hospitable. **2** *gracious colonial buildings*: elegant, stylish, tasteful, graceful; comfortable, luxurious, sumptuous, opulent, grand, high-class; informal swanky, plush. **3** *God's gracious intervention*: merciful, compassionate, kind; forgiving, lenient, clement, forbearing, humane, tender-hearted, sympathetic; indulgent, generous, magnanimous, benign, benevolent.

– OPPOSITES rude, crude, cruel.

**gradation** noun **1** *a gradation of ability*: range, scale, spectrum, compass, span; progression, hierarchy, ladder, pecking order. **2** *each pay band has a number of gradations*: level, grade, rank, position, status, stage, standard, echelon, rung, step, notch; class, stratum, group, grouping, set.

**grade** noun **1** *hotels within the same grade*: category, set, class, classification, grouping, group, bracket. **2** *his job is of the lowest grade*: rank, level, echelon, standing, position, class, status, order; step, rung, stratum, tier. **3** (N. Amer.) *the best grades in the school*: mark, score; assessment, evaluation, appraisal. **4** (N. Amer.) *the fifth grade*: year, form, class.

• **verb 1** *eggs are graded by size*: classify, class, categorize, bracket, sort, group, arrange, pigeonhole; rank, evaluate, rate, value.

**2** (N. Amer.) *the essays have been graded*: assess, mark, score, judge, evaluate, appraise. **3** *the*

*colours grade into one another*: pass, shade, merge, blend.

■ **make the grade** (informal) come up to standard, come up to scratch, qualify, pass, pass muster, measure up; succeed, win through; informal be up to snuff, cut it, cut the mustard.

**gradient** noun **1** *a steep gradient*: slope, incline, hill, rise, ramp, bank; acclivity, declivity; N. Amer. grade. **2** *the gradient of the line*: steepness, angle, slant, slope, inclination.

**gradual** adjective **1** *a gradual transition*: slow, measured, unhurried, cautious; piecemeal, step-by-step, little-by-little, bit-by-bit; progressive, continuous, systematic, steady. **2** *a gradual slope*: gentle, moderate, slight, easy.

– OPPOSITES abrupt, steep.

**gradually** adverb slowly, slowly but surely, cautiously, gently, gingerly; piecemeal, little by little, bit by bit, inch by inch, by degrees; progressively, systematically; regularly, steadily.

**graduate** verb **1** *he wants to teach when he graduates*: qualify, pass one's exams, get one's degree. **2** *she wants to graduate to serious drama*: progress, advance, move up.

**3** *a proposal to graduate income tax*: rank, grade, order, group, classify, categorize.

**4** *a thermometer graduated in Fahrenheit*: calibrate, mark off, measure out, grade.

**graft**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *grafts may die from lack of water*: scion, cutting, shoot, offshoot, bud, sprout, spig. **2** *a skin graft*: transplant, implant.

• **verb 1** *graft a bud onto the stem*: affix, join, insert, splice. **2** *tissue is grafted on to the cornea*: transplant, implant. **3** *a mansion grafted on to a farmhouse*: attach, add, join.

**graft**<sup>2</sup> (Brit. informal) noun *hard graft*. See **WORK** noun sense 1.

• **verb** *they often graft for each other*. See **WORK** verb sense 1.

**graft**<sup>3</sup> noun (informal) *sweeping measures to curb official graft*: corruption, bribery, subornation, dishonesty, deceit, fraud, unlawful practices, illegal means; N. Amer. payola; informal palm-greasing, hush money, kickbacks, crookedness, sharp practices.

– OPPOSITES honesty.

**grain** noun **1** *the local farmers grow grain*: cereal, cereal crops. **2** *a grain of corn*: kernel, seed, grist. **3** *grains of sand*: granule, particle, speck, mote, mite; bit, piece; scrap, crumb, fragment, morsel. **4** *a grain of truth*: trace, hint, tinge, suggestion, shadow; bit, soupçon; scintilla, ounce, iota, jot, whit, scrap, shred; informal smidgen, smidge, tad. **5** *the grain of the timber*: texture, surface, finish; weave, pattern.

**grammar** noun syntax, rules of language, morphology; linguistics.

**grammatical** adjective **1** *the grammatical structure of a sentence*: syntactic, morphological; linguistic. **2** *a grammatical sentence*: well formed, idiomatic, correct, proper, acceptable, allowable.

**grand** adjective **1** *a grand hotel*: magnificent, imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, splendid, resplendent, majestic, monumental; palatial, stately, large; luxurious, sumptuous, lavish, opulent; Brit. upmarket; N. Amer. upscale; informal fancy, posh, plush, classy, swanky; Brit. informal swish. **2** *a grand scheme*: ambitious, bold, epic, big, extravagant. **3** *a grand old lady*: august, distinguished, illustrious, eminent, esteemed, honoured, venerable, dignified, respectable; pre-eminent, prominent, notable, renowned, celebrated, famous; aristocratic, noble, regal, blue-blooded, high-born, patrician; informal upper-crust; Brit. informal posh, upmarket. **4** *a grand total* of £2,000: complete, comprehensive, all-inclusive, inclusive; final. **5** *the grand staircase*: main, principal, central, prime; biggest, largest. **6** (informal) *you're doing a grand job*: excellent, very good, marvellous, splendid, first-class, first-rate, wonderful, outstanding, sterling, fine; informal superb, terrific, great, super, ace; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill.

– OPPOSITES inferior, humble, minor, poor.

• **noun** (informal) *a cheque for ten grand*: thousand pounds/dollars; informal thou, K; N. Amer. informal G, gee.

**grandeur** noun splendour, magnificence, impressiveness, glory, resplendence, majesty, greatness; stateliness, pomp, ceremony.

**grandfather** noun **1** *his grandfather lives here*: informal grandad, grandpa, gramps, gramp, granddaddy. **2** *the grandfather of modern liberalism*: founder, inventor, originator, creator, initiator; father, founding father, pioneer. **3** *our Victorian grandfathers*: forefather, forebear, ancestor, progenitor, antecedent.

• **verb** (N. Amer. informal) *some smokers have been grandfathered*: exempt, excuse, free, exclude, grant immunity, spare, absolve; informal let off (the hook).

**grandiloquent** adjective pompous, bombastic, magniloquent, pretentious, ostentatious, high-flown, otrotund, florid, flowery; overwrought, overblown, overdone; informal highfalutin, purple.

– OPPOSITES understated.

**grandiose** adjective **1** *the court's grandiose facade*: magnificent, impressive, grand, imposing, awe-inspiring, splendid, resplendent, majestic, glorious, elaborate; palatial, stately, luxurious, opulent; informal plush, swanky, flash. **2** *a grandiose plan*: ambitious, bold, overambitious, extravagant, high-flown, flamboyant; informal over the top, OTT.

– OPPOSITES humble, modest.

**grandmother** noun informal grandma, granny, gran, nan, nana.

**grant** verb **1** *he granted them leave of absence*: allow, accord, permit, afford, vouchsafe. **2** *he granted them £20,000*: give, award, bestow on, confer on, present with, provide with, endow with, supply with. **3** *I grant that*

*the difference is not absolute*: admit, accept, concede, yield, allow, appreciate, recognize, acknowledge, confess; agree.

– OPPOSITES refuse, deny.

• **noun** *a grant from the council*: endowment, subvention, award, donation, bursary, allowance, subsidy, contribution, handout, allocation, gift; scholarship.

**granular** adjective powdered, powdery, grainy, granulated, gritty.

**granulated** adjective powdered, crushed, crumbed, ground, minced, grated, pulverized.

**granule** noun grain, particle, fragment, bit, crumb, morsel, mote, speck.

**graph** noun *use graphs to analyse your data*: chart, diagram; histogram, bar chart, pie chart, scatter diagram.

• **verb** *we graphed the new prices*: plot, trace, draw up, delineate.

**graphic** adjective **1** *a graphic representation of language*: visual, symbolic, pictorial, illustrative, diagrammatic; drawn, written. **2** *a graphic account*: vivid, explicit,

expressive, detailed; uninhibited, powerful, colourful, rich, lurid, shocking; realistic, descriptive, illustrative; telling, effective.

– OPPOSITES vague.

• **noun** (Computing) *this printer's good enough for graphics*: picture, illustration, image; diagram, graph, chart.

**grapple** verb **1** *the policemen grappled with him*: wrestle, struggle, tussle; brawl, fight, scuffle, battle. **2** *he grappled his prey*: seize, grab, catch (hold of), take hold of, grasp. **3** *she is grappling with the problems of exile*: tackle, confront, face, deal with, cope with, get to grips with; apply oneself to, devote oneself to.

**grasp** verb **1** *she grasped his hands*: grip, clutch, clasp, hold, clench; catch, seize, grab, snatch, latch on to. **2** *everybody grasped the important points*: understand, comprehend, follow, take in, perceive, see, apprehend, assimilate, absorb; informal get, catch on to, figure out, get one's head around, take on board; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **3** *he grasped the opportunity*: take advantage of, act on; seize, leap at, snatch, jump at, pounce on.

– OPPOSITES release, overlook.

• **noun** **1** *his grasp on her hand*: grip, hold; clutch, clasp, clench. **2** *his domineering mother's grasp*: control, power, clutches, command, domination, rule, tyranny. **3** *a prize lay within their grasp*: reach, scope, power, limits, range; sights. **4** *your grasp of history*: understanding, comprehension, perception, apprehension, awareness, grip, knowledge; mastery, command.

**grasping** adjective avaricious, acquisitive, greedy, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic; mean, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, hoarding, selfish, possessive, close; informal tight-fisted, tight, stingy, money-grubbing; N. Amer. informal cheap, grabby.

**grass** noun **1** *he sat down on the grass*: turf, sod; lawn, green; literary sward. **2** (informal) *they*



*smoked grass*. See **CANNABIS**. **3** (Brit. informal) *few clubs were without a grass*: **informer**, mole, stool pigeon; informal snitch, snout, whistle-blower, rat; Brit. informal supergrass, nark; N. Amer. informal fink, stoolie.

• **verb** (Brit. informal) *he grassed on the robbers*: **inform**, tell; give away, betray, sell out; informal split, blow the whistle, rat, peach, squeal, do the dirty, stitch up, sell down the river; Brit. informal shop; N. Amer. informal finger; Austral./NZ informal dob, pimp.

#### WORD LINKS

**graminivorous** relating to animals that feed on grass

**prairie, pampas, steppe, savannah, veld** a large area of grassland without trees (in various parts of the world)

**grate** **verb** **1** *she grated the cheese*: **shred**, pulverize, mince, grind, granulate, crush, crumble. **2** *her bones grated together*: **grind**, rub, rasp, scrape, jar, grit, creak. **3** *the tune grates slightly*: **irritate**, set someone's teeth on edge, jar; annoy, nettle, chafe, fret; informal aggravate, get on someone's nerves, get under someone's skin, get someone's goat.

**grateful** **adjective** **thankful**, appreciative; indebted, obliged, obligated, in your debt, beholden.

**gratification** **noun** **satisfaction**, fulfilment, indulgence, relief, appeasement; pleasure, enjoyment, relish.

**gratify** **verb** **1** *it gratified him to be seen with her*: **please**, gladden, make happy, delight, make someone feel good, satisfy; informal tickle pink, give someone a kick, buck up. **2** *he gratified his desires*: **satisfy**, fulfil, indulge, comply with, pander to, cater to, give in to, satiate, feed, accommodate.

– **OPPOSITES** displease, frustrate.

**grating**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** *the chair made a grating noise*: **scraping**, scratching, grinding, rasping, jarring. **2** *a grating voice*: **harsh**, raucous, strident, piercing, shrill, screechy; discordant, cacophonous; hoarse, rough, gravelly. **3** *it's written in grating language*: **irritating**, annoying, infuriating, irksome, maddening, displeasing, tiresome; jarring, discordant, inharmonious, unsuitable, inappropriate; informal aggravating.

– **OPPOSITES** harmonious, pleasing, appropriate.

**grating**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *a strong iron grating*: **grid**, grate, grille, lattice, trellis, mesh.

**gratis** **adverb** **free (of charge)**, without charge, for nothing, at no cost, gratuitously; informal on the house, for free.

**gratitude** **noun** **gratefulness**, thankfulness, thanks, appreciation, indebtedness; recognition, acknowledgement, credit.

**gratuitous** **adjective** **1** *gratuitous violence*: **unjustified**, uncalled for, unwarranted, unprovoked, undue; indefensible, unjustifiable; needless, unnecessary, inessential, unmerited, groundless, senseless, wanton, indiscriminate; excessive, immoderate, inordinate, inappropriate. **2** *they offer gratuitous advice*: **free**, gratis,

complimentary, voluntary, unpaid; free of charge, for nothing; Law pro bono (publico); informal for free, on the house; Brit. informal buckshee.

– **OPPOSITES** necessary, paid.

**gratuity** **noun** (formal) **tip**, pourboire, baksheesh, gift, present, donation, reward, handout; bonus, extra; informal perk; formal perquisite.

**grave**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *she left flowers at his grave*: **burying place**, tomb, sepulchre, vault, burial chamber, mausoleum, crypt; last resting place.

**grave**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** **1** *a grave matter*: **serious**, important, weighty, profound, significant, momentous; critical, acute, urgent, pressing; dire, terrible, awful, dreadful; formal exigent. **2** *Jackie looked grave*: **solemn**, serious, sober, unsmiling, grim, sombre; severe, stern, dour.

– **OPPOSITES** trivial, cheerful.

**gravel** **noun** **shingle**, grit, pebbles, stones.

**gravelly** **adjective** **1** *a gravelly beach*: **shingly**, pebbly, stony, gritty. **2** *his gravelly voice*: **husky**, gruff, throaty, deep, croaky, rasping, grating, harsh, rough.

**gravestone** **noun** **headstone**, tombstone, stone, monument, memorial.

**graveyard** **noun** **cemetery**, churchyard, burial ground, necropolis; informal boneyard; historical potter's field; old use God's acre.

**gravitas** **noun** **dignity**, seriousness, solemnity, gravity, sobriety.

– **OPPOSITES** frivolity.

**gravitate** **verb** **move**, head, drift, be drawn, be attracted; tend, lean, incline.

**gravity** **noun** **1** *the gravity of the situation*: **seriousness**, importance, significance, weight, consequence, magnitude; acuteness, urgency, exigence; awfulness, dreadfulness; formal moment. **2** *the gravity of his demeanour*: **solemnity**, seriousness, sombreness, sobriety, soberness, severity, grimness, humourlessness, dourness; gloominess.

**graze**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *the deer grazed*: **feed**, eat, crop, nibble, browse.

**graze**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *he grazed his knuckles on the box*: **scrape**, abrade, skin, scratch, chafe, bark, scuff, rasp; cut, nick. **2** *his shot grazed the far post*: **touch**, brush, shave, skim, kiss, scrape, clip, glance off.

• **noun** *grazes on the skin*: **scratch**, scrape, abrasion, cut; Medicine trauma.

**grease** **noun** **1** *axle grease*: **lubricant**, lubrication, unguent; informal lube. **2** *the kitchen was filmed with grease*: **fat**, oil, cooking oil, animal fat; lard, suet.

**greasy** **adjective** **1** *a greasy supper*: **fatty**, oily, buttery, oleaginous; formal pinguid. **2** *greasy hair*: **oily**. **3** *the pitch was very greasy*: **slippery**, slick, slimy, slithery, oily; informal slippery, skiddy. **4** *a greasy little man*: **ingratiating**, obsequious, sycophantic, fawning, toadying, grovelling; effusive, gushing, gushy; unctuous, oily; informal smarmy, slimy, bootlicking, sucky.

– **OPPOSITES** lean, dry.

**great** adjective **1** *they showed great interest:* considerable, substantial, significant, appreciable, special, serious; exceptional, extraordinary. **2** *a great expanse of water:* large, big, extensive, expansive, broad, wide, sizeable, ample; vast, immense, huge, enormous, massive; informal humongous, whopping; Brit. informal ginormous. **3** *a great big house:* very, extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, especially, really; informal dirty. **4** *you great fool!* absolute, total, utter, out-and-out, downright, thoroughgoing, complete; perfect, positive, prize, sheer, arrant, unqualified, consummate, veritable; informal thundering; Brit. informal right, proper. **5** *great writers:* prominent, eminent, important, distinguished, illustrious, celebrated, honoured, acclaimed, admired, esteemed, revered, renowned, notable, famous, famed, well known; leading, top, major, principal, first-rate, matchless, peerless, star. **6** *the country is now a great power:* powerful, dominant, influential, strong, potent, formidable, redoubtable; leading, important, foremost, major, chief, principal. **7** *a great castle:* magnificent, imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, grand, splendid, majestic, sumptuous, resplendent. **8** *a great sportsman:* expert, skilful, skilled, adept, accomplished, talented, fine, masterly, master, brilliant, virtuoso, marvellous, outstanding, first class, superb; informal crack, ace, A1, class. **9** *a great fan of rugby:* enthusiastic, eager, keen, zealous, devoted, ardent, fanatical, passionate, dedicated, committed. **10** *we had a great time:* enjoyable, delightful, lovely, pleasant, congenial; exciting, thrilling; excellent, marvellous, wonderful, fine, splendid, very good; informal terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, super, grand, cool; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; Austral./NZ informal bonzer, beaut; Brit. informal, dated spiffing; N. Amer. informal, dated swell.

– OPPOSITES little, small, minor, modest, poor, unenthusiastic, bad.

**greatly** adverb very much, considerably, substantially, appreciably, significantly, markedly, sizeably, seriously, materially, profoundly; enormously, vastly, immensely, tremendously, mightily, abundantly, extremely, exceedingly; informal plenty, majorly.

– OPPOSITES slightly.

**greatness** noun **1** *a woman destined for greatness:* eminence, distinction, illustriousness, repute, high standing; importance, significance; celebrity, fame, prominence, renown. **2** *his greatness as a writer:* brilliance, genius, prowess, talent, expertise, mastery, artistry, virtuosity, skill, proficiency; flair, finesse; calibre, distinction.

**greed, greediness** noun **1** *human greed:* avarice, cupidity, acquisitiveness, covetousness, rapacity; materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism; informal money-grubbing, money-grabbing. **2** *her mouth salivated with greed:* gluttony, hunger,

voracity, insatiability; gourmandism, intemperance, overeating, self-indulgence; informal piggishness. **3** *their greed for power:* desire, appetite, hunger, thirst, craving, longing, yearning, hankering; avidity, eagerness; informal yen, itch.

– OPPOSITES generosity, temperance, indifference.

**greedy** adjective **1** *a greedy eater:* gluttonous, ravenous, voracious, intemperate, self-indulgent, insatiable, wolfish; informal piggish, piggy. **2** *a greedy millionaire:* avaricious, acquisitive, covetous, grasping, materialistic, mercenary, possessive; informal money-grubbing, money-grabbing; N. Amer. informal grabby. **3** *she is greedy for a title:* eager, avid, hungry, craving, longing, yearning, hankering; impatient, anxious; informal dying, itching, gagging.

**green** adjective **1** *a green scarf:* viridescent; olive green, pea green, emerald green, lime green, bottle green, Lincoln green, sea green, eau de Nil; literary virent, glaucous. **2** *a green island:* verdant, grassy, leafy, verdurous. **3** *he promotes Green issues:* environmental, ecological, conservation, eco-. **4** *a green alternative to diesel:* environmentally friendly, non-polluting; ozone-friendly. **5** *green bananas:* unripe, immature. **6** *green timber:* unseasoned, not aged, unfinished; pliable, supple. **7** *green bacon:* raw, fresh, unsmoked, uncured. **8** *the new lieutenant was very green:* inexperienced, unversed, callow, immature; new, raw, unseasoned, untried; inexpert, untrained, unqualified, ignorant; simple, unsophisticated, unpolished; naive, innocent, ingenuous, credulous, gullible, unworldly; informal wet behind the ears, born yesterday. **9** *he went green:* pale, wan, pallid, ashen, ashen-faced, pasty, pasty-faced, grey, whitish, washed out, whey-faced, waxen, waxy, blanched, drained, pinched, sallow; sickly, nauseous, ill, sick, unhealthy.

– OPPOSITES barren, dry, cured, experienced, ruddy.

• noun **1** *a canopy of green over the road:* foliage, greenery, plants, leaves, leafage, vegetation. **2** *a village green:* lawn, common, grassy area, sward. **3** *they had roast beef and greens:* vegetables, leaf vegetables; informal veg, veggies. **4** *Greens are against multinationals:* environmentalist, conservationist, preservationist, nature-lover, eco-activist.

**greenery** noun foliage, vegetation, plants, green, leaves, leafage, undergrowth, plant life, flora, herbage, verdure.

**greenhorn** noun (N. Amer. informal). See **NOVICE** sense 1.

**greenhouse** noun hothouse, glasshouse, conservatory.

**greet** verb **1** *she greeted Hank cheerily:* say hello to, address, salute, hail, halloo; welcome, meet, receive. **2** *the decision was greeted with outrage:* receive, acknowledge, respond to, react to, take.

**greeting** noun **1** *he shouted a greeting:* hello, salute, salutation, address; welcome; acknowledgement. **2** *birthday greetings:* best wishes, good wishes, congratulations, felicitations; compliments, regards, respects.  
– OPPOSITES farewell.

**gregarious** adjective *he was fun-loving and gregarious:* sociable, companionable, outgoing, friendly, affable, amiable, genial, convivial, warm, comradesly, clubbable; Scottish couthy; informal chummy, pally; Brit. informal matey.  
– OPPOSITES unsociable.

**grey** adjective **1** *a grey suit:* charcoal, silvery, silver-grey, gunmetal, slate, smoky. **2** *his grey hair:* white, silver, hoary. **3** *a grey day:* cloudy, overcast, dull, sunless, gloomy, dreary, dismal, sombre, bleak, murky. **4** *her face looked grey:* ashen, wan, pale, pasty, pallid, colourless, bloodless, white, waxen; sickly, peaky, drained, drawn, deathly. **5** *the grey daily routine:* characterless, colourless, nondescript, unremarkable, insipid, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale; dull, uninteresting, boring, tedious, monotonous. **6** *a grey area:* ambiguous, doubtful, unclear, uncertain, indefinite, open to question, debatable. **7** *the grey economy:* unofficial, informal, irregular, back-door.  
– OPPOSITES sunny, ruddy, lively, certain.

• **verb** *the population greyed:* age, grow old, mature.

**grid** noun **1** *a metal grid:* grating, mesh, grille, gauze, lattice. **2** *the grid of streets:* network, matrix, reticulation.

**grief** noun **1** *he was overcome with grief:* sorrow, misery, sadness, anguish, pain, distress, heartache, heartbreak, agony, torment, affliction, suffering, woe, desolation, dejection, despair; mourning, mournfulness, bereavement, lamentation; literary *dolour, dole*. **2** (informal) *the police gave me loads of grief:* trouble, annoyance, bother, irritation, vexation, harassment; informal aggravation, aggro, hassle.  
– OPPOSITES joy.

■ **come to grief** fail, meet with disaster, miscarry, go wrong, go awry, fall through, fall flat, founder, come to nothing, come to naught; informal come unstuck, come a cropper, flop, go phut; Brit. informal go pear-shaped.

**grief-stricken** adjective *sorrowful, sorrowing, miserable, sad, heartbroken, broken-hearted, anguished, pained, distressed, tormented, suffering, woeful, doleful, desolate, despairing, devastated, upset, inconsolable, wretched; mourning, grieving, mournful, bereaved, lamenting; literary dolorous, heartsick.*  
– OPPOSITES joyful.

**grievance** noun **1** *social and economic grievances:* injustice, wrong, injury, ill, unfairness; affront, insult, indignity. **2** *students voiced their grievances:* complaint, criticism, objection, grumble, grouse; ill feeling, bad feeling, resentment, bitterness, pique; informal gripe,

whinge, moan, grouch, niggle, beef, bone to pick.

**grieve** verb **1** *she grieved for her father:* mourn, lament, sorrow, be sorrowful; cry, sob, weep, shed tears, keen, weep and wail, beat one's breast. **2** *it grieved me to leave her:* sadden, upset, distress, pain, hurt, wound, break someone's heart, make someone's heart bleed.  
– OPPOSITES rejoice, please.

**grievous** adjective (formal) *his death was a grievous blow:* serious, severe, grave, bad, critical, dreadful, terrible, awful, crushing, calamitous; painful, agonizing, traumatic, wounding, damaging, injurious; sharp, acute.

– OPPOSITES slight.

**grim** adjective **1** *his grim expression:* stern, forbidding, uninviting, unsmiling, dour, formidable, harsh, steely, flinty, stony; cross, churlish, crabbed, surly, sour, ill-tempered; fierce, ferocious, threatening, menacing, implacable, ruthless, merciless. **2** *grim humour:* black, dark, mirthless, bleak, cynical. **3** *the asylum holds some grim secrets:* dreadful, dire, ghastly, horrible, horrendous, horrid, terrible, awful, appalling, frightful, shocking, unspeakable, grisly, gruesome, hideous, macabre; depressing, distressing, upsetting, worrying, unpleasant. **4** *a grim little hovel:* bleak, dreary, dismal, dingy, wretched, miserable, depressing, cheerless, comfortless, joyless, gloomy, uninviting; informal God-awful. **5** *grim determination:* resolute, determined, firm, decided, steadfast, dead set; obstinate, stubborn, obdurate, unyielding, intractable, uncompromising, unshakeable, unrelenting, relentless, dogged, tenacious.  
– OPPOSITES amiable, pleasant.

**grimace** noun *his mouth twisted into a grimace:* scowl, frown, sneer; face.

• **verb** *Nina grimaced at Joe:* scowl, frown, sneer, glower, lour; make a face, make faces, pull a face; Brit. gurn.

– OPPOSITES smile.

**grime** noun *her skirt was smeared with grime:* dirt, smut, soot, dust, mud, filth, mire; informal muck, yuck, crud; Brit. informal grot, gunge.

• **verb** *concrete grimed by diesel exhaust:* blacken, dirty, stain, soil; literary begrime, besmirch.

**grimy** adjective *dirty, grubby, mucky, soiled, stained, smeared, filthy, smutty, sooty, dusty, muddy; informal yucky, cruddy; Brit. informal manky, grotty, gungy; Austral./NZ scungy; literary besmirched, begrimed.*  
– OPPOSITES clean.

**grin** verb *he grinned at her:* smile, smile broadly, beam, smile from ear to ear, grin like a Cheshire cat; smirk; informal be all smiles.

• **noun** *a silly grin:* smile, broad smile; smirk.

– OPPOSITES frown, scowl.

**grind** verb **1** *the sandstone is ground into powder:* crush, pound, pulverize, mill,



granulate, crumble, smash, press; technical triturate, comminute; old use levigate, bray.

**2** *a knife being ground on a wheel: sharpen*, whet, hone, file, strop; smooth, polish, sand, sandpaper. **3** *one tectonic plate grinds against another: rub*, grate, scrape, rasp.

• **noun** *the daily grind: drudgery*, toil, hard work, labour, donkey work, exertion, chores, slog; informal fag, sweat; literary travail.

■ **grind away** labour, toil, work hard, slave (away), work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan, work like a dog; informal slog, plug away, beaver away, work one's socks off; Brit. informal graft; literary travail; old use drudge.

■ **grind someone down** oppress, crush, persecute, tyrannize, ill-treat, maltreat.

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**grip** verb **1** *she gripped the edge of the table: grasp*, clutch, hold, clasp, take hold of, clench, grab, seize, cling to; squeeze, press. **2** *Harry was gripped by a sneezing fit: afflict*, affect, take over, beset, rack, convulse. **3** *we were gripped by the drama: engross*, enthrall, absorb, rivet, spellbind, hold spellbound, bewitch, fascinate, hold, mesmerize, enrapture; interest.

– **OPPOSITES** release.

• **noun** **1** *a tight grip: grasp*, hold. **2** *the wheels lost their grip on the road: traction*, purchase, friction, adhesion, resistance.

**3** *he was in the grip of an obsession:*

**control**, power, hold, stranglehold, clutches, command, mastery, influence.

**4** *I had a pretty good grip on the situation:*

**understanding**, comprehension, grasp, perception, awareness, apprehension, conception; formal cognizance. **5** *a leather grip: travelling bag*, bag, holdall, overnight bag, flight bag, kitbag, Gladstone bag.

■ **come/get to grips with** deal with, cope with, handle, grasp, grasp the nettle of, tackle, undertake, take on, grapple with, face, face up to, confront.

**gripe** (informal) verb *he's always griping about something: complain*, grumble, grouse, protest, whine, bleat; informal moan, bellyache, beef, bitch, whinge; Brit. informal chunter; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

• **noun** *employees' gripes: complaint*, grumble, grouse, grievance, objection; cavil, quibble, niggle; informal moan, beef, whinge; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**gripping** adjective *engrossing*, enthralling, absorbing, riveting, captivating, spellbinding, bewitching, fascinating, compulsive, compelling, mesmerizing; thrilling, exciting, action-packed, dramatic, stimulating; informal unputdownable, page-turning.

– **OPPOSITES** boring.

**grisly** adjective *gruesome*, ghastly, frightful, horrid, horrifying, fearful, hideous, macabre, spine-chilling, horrible, horrendous, grim, awful, dire, dreadful, terrible, horrific, shocking, appalling, abominable, loathsome, abhorrent, odious, monstrous, unspeakable, disgusting, repulsive, repugnant, revolting, repellent,

sickening; informal sick-making, gross; old use disgusting.

**gristly** adjective *stringy*, sinewy, fibrous; tough, leathery, chewy.

**grit** noun **1** *the grit from the paths: gravel*, pebbles, stones, shingle, sand; dust, dirt.

**2** *the true grit of a seasoned campaigner: courage*, bravery, pluck, mettle, backbone, spirit, strength of character, strength of will, moral fibre, steel, nerve, fortitude, toughness, hardiness, resolve, resolution, determination, tenacity, perseverance, endurance; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle.

• verb *Gina gritted her teeth: clench*, clamp together, shut tightly; grind, gnash.

**gritty** adjective **1** *a gritty floor: sandy*, gravely, pebbly, stony; powdery, dusty.

**2** *a gritty performance: courageous*, brave, plucky, mettlesome, stout-hearted, valiant, bold, spirited, intrepid, tough, determined, resolute, purposeful, dogged, tenacious; informal gutsy, spunky.

**grizzle** verb (Brit. informal) *cry*, whimper, mewl, snivel, sob, wail; Scottish greet.

**grizzled** adjective *grey*, greying, silver, silvery, snowy, white, salt-and-pepper; grey-haired, hoary.

**groan** verb **1** *she groaned and rubbed her stomach: moan*, whimper, cry, call out.

**2** *they were groaning about the management:*

**complain**, grumble, grouse; informal moan, niggle, beef, bellyache, bitch, whinge, gripe. **3** *the old wooden door groaned: creak*, squeak; grate, rasp.

• **noun** **1** *a groan of anguish: moan*, cry, whimper. **2** *their moans and groans:*

**complaint**, grumble, grouse, objection, protest, grievance; informal grouch, moan, beef, whinge; informal gripe. **3** *the groan of the elevator: creaking*, creak, squeak, grating, grinding.

**groggy** adjective *dazed*, muzzy, stupefied, in a stupor, befuddled, fuddled, disoriented, disorientated, dizzy, punch-drunk, shaky, unsteady, wobbly, weak, faint; informal dopey, woozy, not with it.

**groin** noun *crotch*, crutch, genitals.

#### WORD LINKS

inguinal relating to the groin

**groom** verb **1** *she groomed her pony: curry*, brush, comb, clean, rub down. **2** *his dark hair was carefully groomed: brush*, comb, arrange, do; tidy, spruce up, smarten up, preen, primp; informal fix. **3** *they were groomed for stardom: prepare*, prime, ready, condition, tailor; coach, train, instruct, drill, teach, school.

• **noun** **1** *a groom took his horse: stable hand*, stableman, stable lad, stable boy, stable girl; historical equerry. **2** *the bride and groom: bridegroom*; newly-married man, newly-wed.

**groove** noun *furrow*, channel, trench, trough, canal, gouge, hollow, indentation, rut, gutter, cutting, cut, fissure; Carpentry rebate.

**grooved** adjective furrowed, fluted, corrugated, ribbed, ridged.

**grope** verb 1 *she groped for her glasses:*

fumble, scramble, fish, ferret, rummage, feel, search, hunt; Brit. informal rootle. 2 (informal) *one of the men started groping her:* fondle, touch; informal paw, maul, feel up, touch up.

**gross** adjective 1 *the man was pale and gross:*

obese, corpulent, overweight, fat, big, large, fleshy, flabby, portly, bloated; informal porky, pudgy, tubby, blubbery, roly-poly; Brit. informal podgy, fussy. 2 *men of gross natures:*

boorish, coarse, vulgar, loutish, oafish, thuggish, brutish, philistine, uncouth, crass, common, unrefined, unsophisticated, uncultured, uncultivated; informal cloddish; Brit. informal yobbish. 3 (informal) *the place smelled gross:* disgusting, repellent, repulsive, abhorrent, loathsome, foul, nasty, obnoxious, unpalatable, sickening, nauseating, stomach-churning; N. Amer. vomitous; informal yucky, rank, icky, sick-making, gut-churning; old use disgusting. 4 *a gross distortion of the truth:* flagrant, blatant, glaring, obvious, overt, naked, barefaced, shameless, brazen, audacious, brass-necked, undisguised, un concealed, patent, transparent, manifest, palpable; out-and-out, utter, complete. 5 *their gross income:* total, whole, entire, complete, full, overall, combined, aggregate; before deductions, before tax.

– OPPOSITES slender, refined, pleasant, net. • verb *he grosses over a million dollars a month:* earn, make, bring in, take, get, receive, collect; informal rake in.

**grotesque** adjective 1 *a grotesque creature:*

malformed, deformed, misshapen, misproportioned, distorted, twisted, gnarled, mangled, mutilated; ugly, unsightly, monstrous, hideous, freakish, unnatural, abnormal, strange, odd, peculiar; informal weird, freaky. 2 *grotesque mismanagement of funds:* outrageous, monstrous, shocking, appalling, preposterous; ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, unbelievable, incredible.

– OPPOSITES normal.

**grotto** noun cave, cavern, hollow; pothole, underground chamber.

**grouch** (informal) noun *an ill-mannered grouch:*

grumbler, complainer, moaner; informal grump, sourpuss, crosspatch, whinger; Brit. informal misery, bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal sorehead, kvetch.

• verb *there's not a lot to grouch about:*

grumble, complain, grouse, whine, bleat, carp, cavil; informal moan, whinge, gripe, beef, bellyache, bitch, sound off; Brit. informal chunter; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**grouchy** adjective grumpy, cross, irritable, bad-tempered, crotchety, crabby, crabbed, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, testy, tetchy, huffy, snappish, waspish, prickly; informal snappy; Brit. informal narky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head, whingy; N. Amer. informal cranky, soreheaded; informal, dated miffy.

**ground** noun 1 *she collapsed on the ground:* floor, earth, terra firma; flooring; informal

deck. 2 *the soggy ground:* earth, soil, dirt, clay, loam, turf, clod, sod; land, terrain.

3 *the team's home ground:* stadium, pitch, field, arena, track; N. Amer. bowl; Brit. informal park. 4 *the mansion's grounds:* estate, gardens, lawns, park, parkland, land, acres, property, surroundings, holding, territory; old use demesne. 5 *grounds for dismissal:* reason, cause, basis, base, foundation, justification, rationale, argument, premise, occasion, excuse, pretext, motive, motivation. 6 *coffee grounds:* sediment, precipitate, settlings, dregs, lees, deposit, residue; old use grouts.

• verb 1 *the boat grounded on a mud bank:* run aground, run ashore, beach, land. 2 *an assertion grounded on results of several studies:* base, found, establish, root, build, construct, form. 3 *they were grounded in classics and history:* instruct, coach, teach, tutor, educate, school, train, drill, prime, prepare; familiarize with, acquaint with.

**groundless** adjective baseless, without basis, without foundation, ill-founded, unfounded, unsupported, uncorroborated, unproven, empty, idle, unsubstantiated, unwarranted, unjustified, unjustifiable, without cause, without reason, without justification, unreasonable, irrational, illogical, misguided.

**groundwork** noun preliminary work, preliminaries, preparations, spadework, legwork, donkey work; planning, arrangements, organization, homework; basics, essentials, fundamentals, underpinning, foundation.

**group** noun 1 *the exhibits were divided*

*into three distinct groups:* category, class, classification, grouping, set, lot, batch, bracket, type, sort, kind, variety, family, species, genus, breed; grade, grading, rank, status. 2 *a group of tourists:* crowd, party, body, band, company, gathering, congregation, assembly, collection, cluster, flock, pack, troop, gang; informal bunch.

3 *a coup attempt by a group within the parliament:* faction, division, section, clique, coterie, circle, set, ring, camp, bloc, caucus, cabal, fringe movement, splinter group. 4 *the women's group:* association, club, society, league, guild, circle, union.

5 *a small group of trees:* cluster, knot, collection, mass, clump. 6 *a local folk group:* band, ensemble, act; informal line-up, combo, outfit.

• verb 1 *patients were grouped according to their symptoms:* categorize, classify, class, catalogue, sort, bracket, pigeonhole, grade, rate, rank. 2 *wooden chairs were grouped round the table:* place, arrange, assemble, organize, range, line up, dispose. 3 *the two parties grouped together:* unite, join together/up, team up, join forces, get together, ally, form an alliance, affiliate, combine; collaborate, work together, pull together, cooperate.

**grouse** verb *she grouse about the food:*

grumble, complain, protest, whine, bleat, carp, cavil, make a fuss; informal moan,

bellyache, gripe, beef, bitch, grouch, whinge, sound off; Brit. informal chunter, create; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

• **noun** *our biggest grouse was about the noise:* **grumble**, complaint, grievance, objection, cavil, quibble; informal moan, beef, gripe, grouch.

**grove** **noun** *copse*, wood, thicket, coppice; orchard, plantation; Brit. spinney; old use hurst,holt.

**grovel** **verb** **1** *George grovelled at his feet:* prostrate oneself, lie, kneel, cringe.

**2** *she was not going to grovel to him:* be obsequious, fawn on, kowtow, bow and scrape, toady, truckle, abase oneself, humble oneself; curry favour with, flatter, dance attendance on, make up to, play up to, ingratiate oneself with; informal crawl, creep, suck up to, lick someone's boots.

**grow** **verb** **1** *the boys had grown:* get bigger, get taller, get larger, increase in size. **2** *sales and profits continue to grow:* increase, swell, multiply, snowball, mushroom, balloon, build up, mount up, pile up; informal skyrocket. **3** *flowers grew among the rocks:* sprout, germinate, shoot up, spring up, develop, bud, burst forth, bloom, flourish, thrive, run riot. **4** *he grew vegetables:* cultivate, produce, propagate, raise, rear, nurture, tend; farm. **5** *the family business grew:* expand, extend, develop, progress, make progress; flourish, thrive, burgeon, prosper, succeed, boom. **6** *the fable grew from an ancient Indian source:* originate, stem, spring, arise, emerge, issue; develop, evolve. **7** *Leonora grew bored:* become, get, turn, begin to feel.

– OPPOSITES shrink, decline.

**growl** **verb** snarl, bark, yap, bay.

**grown-up** **noun** *she wanted to be treated like a grown-up:* adult, (grown) woman, (grown) man, mature woman, mature man.

– OPPOSITES child.

• **adjective** *she has two grown-up daughters:* adult, mature, of age; fully grown, full-grown, fully developed.

**growth** **noun** **1** *population growth:* increase, expansion, augmentation, proliferation, multiplication, enlargement, mushrooming, snowballing, rise, escalation, build-up. **2** *the growth of plants:* development, maturation, growing, germination, sprouting; blooming. **3** *the marked growth of local enterprises:* expansion, extension, development, progress, advance, advancement, headway, spread; rise, success, boom, upturn, upswing. **4** *a growth on his jaw:* tumour, malignancy, cancer; lump, excrescence, outgrowth, swelling, nodule; cyst, polyp.

– OPPOSITES decrease, decline.

**grub** **noun** **1** *a small black grub:* larva; maggot; caterpillar. **2** (informal) *pub grub.* See **FOOD** sense 1.

• **verb** **1** *kids grubbing around in the dirt:* dig, poke, scratch. **2** *they grubbed up the old trees:* dig up, unearth, uproot, root up/out, pull up/out, tear out. **3** *he began grubbing about in the bin:* rummage, search, hunt, delve,

dig, scabble, ferret, root, rifle, fish, poke; Brit. informal rootle; Austral./NZ informal fossick through.

**grubby** **adjective** dirty, grimy, filthy, mucky, unwashed, stained, soiled, smeared, spotted, muddy, dusty, sooty; unhygienic, insanitary; informal cruddy, yucky; Brit. informal manky, grotty, gungy; literary befouled, begrimed.

– OPPOSITES clean.

**grudge** **noun** *a former employee with a grudge:* grievance, resentment, bitterness, rancour, pique, umbrage, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement, bad feelings, hard feelings, ill feelings, ill will, animosity, antipathy, antagonism, enmity, animus; informal a chip on one's shoulder.

• **verb** **1** *he grudged the time that the meetings involved:* begrudge, resent, feel aggrieved about, be resentful of, mind, object to, take exception to. **2** *I don't grudge you your success:* envy, begrudge, resent, be jealous of, be envious of, be resentful of.

**grudging** **adjective** reluctant, unwilling, forced, half-hearted, unenthusiastic, hesitant; begrudging, resentful.

– OPPOSITES eager.

**gruelling** **adjective** exhausting, tiring, fatiguing, wearying, taxing, draining, debilitating; demanding, exacting, difficult, hard, arduous, strenuous, laborious, back-breaking, harsh, severe, stiff, punishing, crippling; informal killing, murderous, hellish; Brit. informal knackered.

**gruesome** **adjective** grisly, ghastly, frightful, horrid, horrifying, hideous, horrible, horrendous, grim, awful, dire, dreadful, terrible, horrific, shocking, appalling, disgusting, repulsive, repugnant, revolting, repellent, sickening; loathsome, abhorrent, odious, monstrous, unspeakable; informal sick, sick-making, gross; old use disgusting.

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**gruff** **adjective** **1** *a gruff reply | his gruff exterior:* abrupt, brusque, curt, short, blunt, bluff, no-nonsense; laconic, taciturn; surly, churlish, grumpy, crotchety, crabby, crabbed, cross, bad-tempered, short-tempered, ill-natured, crusty, tetchy, bearish, ungracious, unceremonious; informal grouchy. **2** *a gruff voice:* rough, guttural, throaty, gravelly, husky, croaking, rasping, raspy, growly, hoarse, harsh; low, thick.

– OPPOSITES friendly, soft.

**grumble** **verb** *they grumbled about the disruption:* complain, grouse, whine, mutter, bleat, carp, cavil, protest, make a fuss; informal moan, bellyache, beef, gripe, bitch, grouch, whinge, sound off; Brit. informal chunter, create; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

• **noun** *his customers' grumbles:* complaint, grouse, grievance, protest, cavil, quibble, criticism; informal grouch, moan, whinge, beef, bitch, gripe.

**grumpy** **adjective** bad-tempered, crabby, ill-tempered, short-tempered, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crabbed, waspish, prickly, touchy, irritable, irascible, crusty, cantankerous,



curmudgeonly, bearish, surly, ill-natured, churlish, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, disagreeable, pettish; informal grouchy, snappy, snappish; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery, soreheaded; informal, dated miffy.

— **OPPOSITES** good-humoured.

**guarantee** noun **1** *all repairs have a one-year guarantee:* **warranty**, warrant. **2** *a guarantee that the hospital will stay open:* **promise**, assurance, word (of honour), pledge, vow, oath, bond, commitment, covenant. **3** *banks usually demand a personal guarantee for loans:* **collateral**, security, surety, guaranty, earnest.

• **verb 1** *he agreed to guarantee the loan:* **underwrite**, put up collateral for. **2** *can you guarantee he wasn't involved?* **promise**, swear, swear to the fact, pledge, vow, undertake, give one's word, give an assurance, give an undertaking, take an oath, cross one's heart (and hope to die); old use plight.

**guard** verb **1** *infantry guarded the barricaded bridge:* **protect**, stand guard over, watch over, keep an eye on; cover, patrol, police, defend, shield, safeguard, keep safe, secure. **2** *the prisoners were guarded by armed men:* **keep under surveillance**, keep under guard, keep watch over, mind. **3** *forest wardens must guard against poachers:* **beware of**, keep watch for, be alert to, keep an eye out for, be on the alert/lookout for.

• **noun 1** *border guards:* **sentry**, sentinel, security guard, nightwatchman; protector, defender, guardian; lookout, watch; garrison; old use watchman. **2** *her prison guard:* **warder**, warden, keeper; jailer; informal screw; old use turnkey. **3** *he let his guard slip and they escaped:* **vigilance**, vigil, watch, surveillance, watchfulness, caution, heed, attention, care, wariness. **4** *a metal guard:* **safety guard**, safety device, protective device, shield, screen, fender; bumper, buffer.

■ **off (one's) guard** unprepared, unready, inattentive, unwary, with one's defences down, cold, unsuspecting; informal napping, asleep at the wheel, on the hop.

■ **on one's guard** vigilant, alert, on the alert, wary, watchful, cautious, careful, heedful, chary, circumspect, on the lookout, on the qui vive, on one's toes, prepared, ready, wide awake, attentive, observant, keeping one's eyes peeled; informal keeping a weather eye out.

**guarded** adjective cautious, careful, circumspect, wary, chary, on one's guard, reluctant, non-committal, reticent, restrained, reserved; informal cagey.

**guardian** noun **protector**, defender, preserver, custodian, warden, guard, keeper; conservator, curator, caretaker, steward, trustee.

#### WORD LINKS

tutinary relating to a guardian

**guerrilla** noun freedom fighter, irregular,

member of the resistance, partisan; rebel, radical, revolutionary, revolutionist; terrorist.

**guess** verb **1** *he guessed she was about 40:* **estimate**, hazard a guess, reckon, gauge, judge, calculate; hypothesize, postulate, predict, speculate, conjecture, surmise; informal guesstimate. **2** (informal) *I guess I owe you an apology:* **suppose**, think, imagine, expect, suspect, dare say; informal reckon, figure.

• **noun** *my guess was right:* **hypothesis**, theory, prediction, postulation, conjecture, surmise, estimate, belief, opinion, reckoning, judgement, supposition, speculation, suspicion, impression, feeling; informal guesstimate.

**guesswork** noun **guessing**, conjecture, surmise, supposition, assumptions, presumptions, speculation, hypothesizing, theorizing, prediction; approximations, rough calculations; hunches; informal guesstimates.

**guest** noun **1** *I have two guests coming to dinner:* **visitor**, caller; company; old use visitant. **2** *hotel guests:* **resident**, boarder, lodger, paying guest, PG; patron, client; N. Amer. roomer.

— **OPPOSITES** host.

**guest house** noun **boarding house**, bed and breakfast, B&B, hotel; pension, pensione.

**guff** noun (informal). See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**guffaw** verb **roar with laughter**, laugh heartily/loudly, roar, bellow, cackle; informal laugh like a drain.

**guidance** noun **1** *she looked to her father for guidance:* **advice**, counsel, direction, instruction, enlightenment, information; recommendations, suggestions, tips, hints, pointers, guidelines. **2** *work continued under the guidance of a project supervisor:* **direction**, control, leadership, management, supervision, superintendence, charge; handling, conduct, running, overseeing.

**guide** noun **1** *our guide took us back to the hotel:* **escort**, attendant, courier, cicerone, dragoman; usher; chaperone. **2** *he is my inspiration and my guide:* **adviser**, mentor, counsellor; guru. **3** *the light acted as a guide for shipping:* **pointer**, marker, indicator, signpost, mark, landmark; guiding light, sign, signal, beacon. **4** *the techniques outlined are meant as a guide:* **model**, pattern, blueprint, template, example, exemplar; standard, touchstone, measure, benchmark, yardstick, gauge. **5** *a pocket guide of Paris:* **guidebook**, travelogue, vade mecum; companion, handbook, directory, A to Z; informal bible.

• **verb 1** *he guided her to her seat:* **lead**, lead the way, conduct, show, show someone the way, usher, shepherd, direct, steer, pilot, escort, accompany, attend; see, take, help, assist. **2** *the chairman must guide the meeting:* **direct**, steer, control, manage, command, lead, conduct, run, be in charge of, have control of, govern, preside over, superintend, supervise, oversee; handle,

regulate. **3** *he was always there to guide me: advise, counsel, give advice to, direct, give direction to.*

**guidebook** noun *guide, travel guide, travelogue, vade mecum; companion, handbook, directory, A to Z; informal bible.*

**guideline** noun *recommendation, instruction, direction, suggestion, advice; regulation, rule, principle, guiding principle; standard, criterion, measure, gauge, yardstick, benchmark, touchstone; procedure, parameter.*

**guild** noun *association, society, union, league, organization, company, cooperative, fellowship, club, order, lodge, brotherhood, fraternity, sisterhood, sorority.*

**g** **guile** noun *cunning, craftiness, craft, artfulness, art, artifice, wiliness, slyness, deviousness; wiles, ploys, schemes, stratagems, manoeuvres, subterfuges, tricks, ruses; deception, deceit, duplicity, underhandedness, double-dealing, trickery.*  
– OPPOSITES honesty.

**guileless** adjective *artless, ingenuous, naive, open, genuine, natural, simple, childlike, innocent, unsophisticated, unworldly, unsuspecting, trustful, trusting; honest, truthful, sincere, straightforward.*  
– OPPOSITES scheming.

**guilt** noun **1** *the proof of his guilt: culpability, guiltiness, blameworthiness; wrongdoing, wrong, criminality, misconduct, sin.* **2** *a terrible feeling of guilt: self-reproach, self-condemnation, shame, a guilty conscience, pangs of conscience; remorse, remorsefulness, regret, contrition, contriteness, compunction.*  
– OPPOSITES innocence.

**guiltless** adjective *innocent, blameless, not to blame, without fault, above reproach, above suspicion, in the clear, unimpeachable, irreproachable, faultless, sinless, spotless, immaculate, unsullied, uncorrupted, undefined, untainted, unblemished, untarnished, impeccable; informal squeaky clean, whiter than white, as pure as the driven snow.*  
– OPPOSITES guilty.

**guilty** adjective **1** *the guilty party: culpable, to blame, at fault, in the wrong, blameworthy, responsible; erring, errant, delinquent, offending, sinful, criminal; old use peccant.* **2** *I still feel guilty about it: ashamed, guilt-ridden, conscience-stricken, remorseful, sorry, contrite, repentant, penitent, regretful, rueful, abashed, shamefaced, sheepish, hangdog; in sackcloth and ashes.*  
– OPPOSITES innocent, unrepentant.

**guise** noun **1** *the god appeared in the guise of a swan: likeness, outward appearance, appearance, semblance, form, shape, image; disguise.* **2** *additional sums paid under the guise of consultancy fees: pretence, disguise, front, facade, cover, blind, screen, smokescreen.*

**gulf** noun **1** *our ship sailed into the gulf: inlet, bay, creek, bight, cove, fjord, estuary, sound,*

*arm of the sea; Scottish firth, frith.* **2** *the ice gave way and a gulf widened slowly: hole, crevasse, fissure, cleft, split, rift, pit, cavity, chasm, abyss, void; ravine, gorge, canyon, gully.* **3** *a growing gulf between rich and poor: divide, division, separation, gap, breach, rift, split, chasm, abyss; difference, contrast, polarity.*

**gull** verb *hoodwink, fool, dupe, deceive, delude, hoax, trick, mislead, lead on, take in, swindle, cheat, double-cross; informal pull the wool over someone's eyes, pull a fast one on, put one over on, sell a pup to, bamboozle, con, do; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker; Austral. informal pull a swift one; literary cozen.*

**gullet** noun *oesophagus, throat, maw, pharynx; crop, craw; old use throttle, gorge.*

**gullible** adjective *credulous, naive, over-trusting, over-trustful, easily deceived, easily taken in, exploitable, dupable, impressionable, unsuspecting, unsuspicious, unwary, ingenuous, innocent, inexperienced, unworldly, green; informal wet behind the ears, born yesterday.*  
– OPPOSITES suspicious.

**gully** noun **1** *a steep icy gully: ravine, canyon, gorge, pass, defile, couloir; S. English chine; N. English clough, gill; N. Amer. gulch, coulee.* **2** *water runs from the drainpipe into a gully: channel, conduit, trench, ditch, drain, culvert, cut, gutter.*

**gulp** verb **1** *she gulped her juice: swallow, quaff, swill down, down; informal swig, knock back.* **2** *he gulped down the rest of his meal: gobble, guzzle, devour, bolt, wolf, cram, stuff; informal put away, demolish, polish off, shovel down, scoff.* **3** *Jenny gulped back her tears: choke back, fight back, hold back/in, suppress, stifle, smother.*

– OPPOSITES sip.

• noun *a gulp of cold beer: mouthful, swallow, draught; informal swig.*

**gum**<sup>1</sup> noun *photographs stuck down with gum: glue, adhesive, fixative, paste, epoxy resin; N. Amer. mucilage.*

• verb *the receipts were gummed into a book: stick, glue, paste; fix, affix, attach, fasten.*

**gum**<sup>2</sup> noun

#### WORD LINKS

gingival relating to the gums  
gingivitis inflammation of the gums

**gummy** adjective *sticky, tacky, gluey, adhesive, resinous, viscous, viscid, glutinous, mucilaginous; informal gooey.*

**gumption** noun (informal) *initiative, resourcefulness, enterprise, ingenuity, imagination; astuteness, shrewdness, acumen, sense, common sense, wit, mother wit, native wit, practicality; spirit, backbone, pluck, mettle, nerve, courage; informal get-up-and-go, spunk, oomph, nous, savvy, horse sense; N. Amer. informal smarts.*

**gun** noun *firearm, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, automatic, handgun, machine gun; weapon; informal shooter; N. Amer. informal piece, shooting iron.*

**gunfire** noun **gunshots**, shots, shooting, firing, sniping; artillery fire, strafing, shelling; cannonade, barrage, bombardment, salvo, volley, fusillade.

**gunman** noun **armed robber**, gangster, terrorist; sniper, gunfighter; assassin, murderer, killer; informal hit man, hired gun, gunslinger, mobster; N. Amer. informal shootist, hood.

**gurggle** verb *the water swirled and gurgled:*

**babble**, burble, tinkle, bubble, ripple, murmur, purl, splash; literary plash.

• **noun** *the gurgle of a small brook:* **babbling**, tinkling, bubbling, rippling, trickling, murmur, murmuring, purling, splashing; literary plashing.

**guru** noun **1** *a Hindu guru and mystic:*

spiritual teacher, teacher, tutor, sage, mentor, spiritual leader, leader, master; Hinduism swami, Maharishi. **2** *a management guru:* expert, authority, pundit, leading light, master, specialist; informal whizz.

– OPPOSITES disciple.

**gush** verb **1** *water gushed through the weir:*

surge, burst, spout, spurt, jet, stream, rush, pour, spill, well out, cascade, flood; flow, run, issue; Brit. informal sloosh. **2** *everyone gushed about the script:* enthuse, rave, be enthusiastic, be effusive, rhapsodize, go into raptures, wax lyrical, praise to the skies; informal go mad/wild/crazy, go over the top; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo.

• **noun** *a gush of water:* surge, stream, spurt, jet, spout, outpouring, outflow, burst, rush, cascade, flood, torrent; technical efflux.

**gushing, gushy** adjective effusive, enthusiastic, overenthusiastic, unrestrained, extravagant, fulsome, lavish, rhapsodic, lyrical; informal over the top, OTT, laid on with a trowel.

– OPPOSITES restrained.

**gust** noun **1** *a sudden gust of wind:* flurry, blast, puff, blow, rush; squall. **2** *gusts of laughter:* outburst, burst, eruption, fit, paroxysm; gale, peal, howl, hoot, shriek, roar.

• **verb** *wind gusted around the chimneys:* blow, bluster, flurry, roar.

**gusto** noun **enthusiasm**, relish, appetite, enjoyment, delight, glee, pleasure, satisfaction, appreciation, liking; zest, zeal, fervour, verve, keenness, avidity.

– OPPOSITES apathy, distaste.

**gusty** adjective **blustery**, windy, breezy; squally, stormy, tempestuous, wild, turbulent; informal blowy.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**gut** noun **1** *he had an ache in his gut:* stomach, belly, abdomen, solar plexus; intestines, bowels; informal tummy, tum, insides, innards. **2** *fish heads and guts:* entrails; intestines,

viscera; offal; informal insides, innards; Brit. old use numbles. **3** (informal) *Nicola had the guts to say what she felt:* courage, bravery, backbone, nerve, pluck, spirit, boldness, audacity, daring, grit, fearlessness, toughness, determination; informal spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

• **adjective** (informal) *a gut feeling:* instinctive, instinctual, intuitive, deep-seated; knee-jerk, automatic, involuntary, spontaneous, unthinking.

• **verb** **1** *clean, scale, and gut the sardines:* remove the guts from, disembowel, draw; formal eviscerate. **2** *the church was gutted by fire:* devastate, destroy, demolish, wipe out, lay waste, ravage, consume, ruin, wreck.

**gutless** adjective (informal). See COWARDLY.

**gutsy** adjective (informal) **brave**, courageous, plucky, bold, daring, fearless, adventurous, audacious, valiant, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, indomitable, doughty, stout-hearted; spirited, determined, resolute, death-or-glory; informal spunky, ballsy, have-a-go.

**gutter** noun **drain**, sluice, sluiceway, culvert, spillway, sewer; channel, conduit, pipe; trough, trench, ditch, furrow, cut.

**guttersnipe** noun (derogatory) **urchin**, ragamuffin, waif, stray; dated gamin; old use mudlark, street Arab.

**guttural** adjective **throaty**, husky, gruff, gravelly, growly, growling, croaky, croaking, harsh, rough, rasping, raspy; deep, low, thick.

**guy** (informal) noun *he's a handsome guy:* man, fellow, gentleman; youth, boy; informal lad, fella, geezer, gent; Brit. informal chap, bloke; N. Amer. informal dude, hombre; Brit. informal, dated cove.

• **verb** *she guyed him about his weight:* make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, mock, ridicule, jeer at, scoff at; satirize, lampoon; informal send up, take the mickey out of; N. Amer. informal goof on.

**guzzle** verb **1** *he guzzled his burger:* gobble, bolt, wolf, devour; informal tuck into, put away, pack away, scoff, demolish, polish off, Hoover up, stuff one's face with, pig oneself on, shovel down, trough; Brit. informal shift; N. Amer. informal snarf down/up, scarf down/up. **2** *she guzzled down the orange juice:* gulp down, swallow, quaff, down, swill; informal knock back, swig, slug down.

**Gypsy, Gipsy** noun **Romany**, Rom, chal, gitano, gitana, tzigane; traveller, nomad, rover, roamer, wanderer; dialect didicoi; Brit. derogatory tinker.

**gyrate** verb **rotate**, revolve, wheel, turn round, whirl, circle, pirouette, swirl, spin, swivel.



# Hh

## h

**habit** **noun** **1** *it was his habit to go for a run every morning*: **custom**, practice, routine, pattern, convention, way, norm, tradition, matter of course, rule, usage; formal wont.

**2** *her many irritating habits*: **mannerism**, way, quirk, foible, trick, trait, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, singularity, oddity, eccentricity, feature; tendency, propensity, inclination, bent, proclivity, disposition, predisposition.

**3** *a scientific habit of mind*: **disposition**, temperament, character, nature, make-up, constitution, frame of mind, bent. **4** (informal) *his cocaine habit*: **addiction**, dependence, dependency, craving, fixation, compulsion, obsession, weakness; informal monkey on one's back; N. Amer. informal jones. **5** *a monk's habit*: **garments**, dress, garb, clothes, clothing, attire, outfit, costume; informal gear; formal apparel.

■ **in the habit of** accustomed to, used to, given to, inclined to; literary wont to.

**habitable** **adjective** **fit to live in**, inhabitable, in good repair, liveable-in; formal tenatable.

**habitat** **noun** **natural environment**, natural surroundings, home, domain, haunt; formal habitation.

**habitation** **noun** **1** *a house fit for human habitation*: **occupancy**, occupation, residence, residency, living in, tenancy; old use inhabitory. **2** (formal) *his main habitation*: **residence**, place of residence, house, home, seat, lodging place, billet, quarters, living quarters, rooms, accommodation; informal pad, digs; formal dwelling, dwelling place, abode, domicile.

**habitual** **adjective** **1** *her father's habitual complaints*: **constant**, persistent, continual, continuous, perpetual, non-stop, recurrent, repeated, frequent; interminable, incessant, ceaseless, endless, never-ending; informal eternal. **2** *habitual drinkers*: **inveterate**, confirmed, compulsive, obsessive, incorrigible, hardened, ingrained, dyed-in-the-wool, chronic, regular; addicted; informal pathological. **3** *his habitual secretiveness*: **customary**, accustomed, regular, usual, normal, set, fixed, established, routine, common, ordinary, familiar, traditional, typical, general, characteristic, standard, time-honoured; literary wonted.

– **OPPOSITES** occasional, unaccustomed.

**habituate** **verb** **accustom**, make used, familiarize, adapt, adjust, attune,

acclimatize, acculturate, condition; inure, harden; N. Amer. acclimate.

**habitué** **noun** **regular, frequent visitor**, familiar face, patron, frequenter, haunter.

**hack**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *I hacked the padlock off*: **cut**, chop, hew, lop, saw; slash.

■ **hack it** (informal) cope, manage, get on/by, carry on, come through, muddle along/through; stand it, tolerate it, bear it, endure it, put up with it; informal handle it, abide it, stick it; Brit. informal be doing with it.

■ **hack someone off** (informal). See **ANNOY**.

**hack**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a tabloid hack*: **journalist**, reporter, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, writer, Grub Street writer; informal journo, scribbler, hackette; old use penny-a-liner.

**2** *office hacks*: **drudge**, menial, menial worker, factotum; informal gofer; Brit. informal dogsbody, skivvy. **3** *a riding-school hack*:

**horse**, pony; informal nag; N. Amer. informal plug; Austral./NZ informal moke.

**hackle** **noun**

■ **make someone's hackles rise** annoy, irritate, exasperate, anger, incense, infuriate, irk, nettle, vex, put out, provoke, gall, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, rankle with; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, peeve, needle, rile, make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, hack off, get someone's back up, get someone's goat, get up someone's nose, get someone's dander up, bug, miff; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, burn up; informal, dated give someone the pip.

**hackneyed** **adjective** **overused**, overdone, overworked, worn out, time-worn, platitudinous, vapid, stale, tired, threadbare; trite, banal, hack, clichéd, hoary, commonplace, common, ordinary, stock, conventional, stereotyped, predictable; unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired, prosaic, dull, boring, pedestrian, run-of-the-mill, routine; informal old hat, corny, played out.

– **OPPOSITES** original.

**Hades** **noun**. See **HELL** sense 1.

**haft** **noun** **handle**, shaft, hilt, butt, stock, grip, handgrip, helve, shank.

**hag** **noun** **crone**, old woman, gorgon; informal

witch, crow, cow, old bag, old boot; old use beldam.

**haggard** adjective **drawn**, tired, exhausted, drained, careworn, unwell, unhealthy, spent, washed out, rundown; gaunt, pinched, peaked, peaky, hollow-cheeked, hollow-eyed, thin, emaciated, wasted, cadaverous; pale, wan, grey, ashen.

– OPPOSITES healthy.

**haggle** verb **barter**, bargain, negotiate, dicker, quibble, wrangle; beat someone down, drive a hard bargain; old use chaffer.

**hail**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** a friend *hailed him from the upper deck*: **call out to**, shout to, halloo, address; greet, say hello to, salute. **2** he *hailed a cab*: **flag down**, wave down, signal to. **3** critics *hailed the film as a masterpiece*: **acclaim**, praise, applaud, rave about, extol, eulogize, hymn, lionize, sing the praises of, make much of, glorify, cheer, salute, toast; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo; black English big up; formal laud. **4** Rick *hailed from Australia*: **come from**, be from, be a native of, have one's roots in.

**hail**<sup>2</sup> noun **a hail of bullets**: **barrage**, volley, shower, rain, torrent, burst, stream, storm, avalanche, onslaught; bombardment, cannonade, battery, blast, salvo; historical broadside.

• verb *tons of dust hailed down on us*: **beat**, shower, rain, fall, pour; pelt, pepper, batter, bombard, assail.

**hail-fellow-well-met** adjective **convivial**, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, companionable, friendly, genial, affable, amiable, congenial, agreeable, good-humoured; extrovert, uninhibited; Scottish couthy; informal backslapping, chummy, pally, clubbable, clubby, buddy-buddy; Brit. informal matey.

– OPPOSITES unsociable.

**hair** noun **1** her *thick black hair*: **head of hair**, shock of hair, mane, mop; locks, tresses, curls, ringlets. **2** I *like your hair*: **hairstyle**, haircut, cut, coiffure; informal hairdo, do, coif. **3** a dog *with short, blue-grey hair*: **fur**, wool; coat, fleece, pelt; mane.

■ a **hair's breadth** the narrowest of margins, a narrow margin, the skin of one's teeth, a split second, a nose; informal a whisker.

■ **let one's hair down** (informal) enjoy oneself, have a good time, have fun, make merry, let oneself go; informal have a ball, whoop it up, paint the town red, live it up, have a whale of a time, let it all hang out.

■ **make someone's hair stand on end** horrify, shock, appal, scandalize, stun; make someone's blood run cold; informal make someone's hair curl.

■ **split hairs** quibble, cavil, carp, niggle, chop logic; informal nit-pick; old use pettifog.

#### WORD LINKS

**trichology** the branch of medicine concerned with the hair and scalp  
**alopecia** abnormal hair loss

**hirsute** having a great deal of hair  
**depilatory** used to remove unwanted hair

**hairdo** noun (informal). See **HAIRSTYLE**.

**hairdresser** noun **hairstylist**, stylist, coiffeur, coiffeuse; barber; informal crimper.

**hairless** adjective **bald**, bald-headed; shaven, shaved, shorn, clean-shaven, beardless, smooth, smooth-faced, depilated; tonsured; informal baldy; technical glabrous; old use bald-pated.

– OPPOSITES hairy.

**hairpiece** noun wig, toupee, periwig; merkin; informal rug.

**hair-raising** adjective **terrifying**, frightening, petrifying, alarming, chilling, horrifying, shocking, spine-chilling, blood-curdling, fearsome, nightmarish; eerie, sinister, weird, ghostly, unearthly; Scottish eldritch; informal hairy, spooky, scary, creepy.

**hair-splitting** adjective **pedantic**, pettifogging; quibbling, niggling, cavilling, carping, critical, overcritical, hypercritical; informal nit-picking, pernickety, picky; N. Amer. informal persnickety.

**hairstyle** noun **haircut**, cut, style, hair, coiffure; informal hairdo, do, coif.

**hairy** adjective **1** animals *with hairy coats*: **shaggy**, bushy, long-haired; woolly, furry, fleecy, fuzzy; Botany & Zoology pilose.

**2** his *hairy face*: **bearded**, bewhiskered, mustachioed; unshaven, stubbly, bristly; formal hirsute. **3** (informal) *a hairy situation*: **risky**, dangerous, perilous, hazardous, touch-and-go; tricky, ticklish, difficult, awkward; informal dicey, sticky; Brit. informal dodgy.

**halcyon** adjective **happy**, golden, idyllic, palmy, carefree, blissful, joyful, joyous, contented; flourishing, thriving, prosperous, successful; serene, calm, tranquil, peaceful.

**hale** adjective **healthy**, fit, fighting fit, well, in good health, in fine fettle, as fit as a fiddle/ flea; strong, robust, vigorous, hardy, sturdy, hearty, lusty, able-bodied; informal in the pink, as right as rain.

**half** adjective *a half grapefruit*: **halved**, divided in two.

– OPPOSITES whole.

• **adverb** **1** *half-cooked chicken*: **partially**, partly, incompletely, inadequately, insufficiently; in part, partly, slightly. **2** I'm *half inclined to believe you*: **to a certain extent/degree**, to some extent/degree, (up) to a point, in part, partly, in some measure.

– OPPOSITES fully.

**half-baked** adjective **1** *half-baked theories*: **ill-conceived**, hare-brained, ill-judged, impractical, unrealistic, unworkable, ridiculous, absurd; informal crazy, crackpot, cockeyed. **2** her *half-baked young nephew*: **foolish**, stupid, silly, idiotic, simple-minded, feeble-minded, empty-headed, feather-brained, feather-headed, brainless, witless, unintelligent, ignorant; informal dim, dopey, dumb, gormless, thick, half-witted, dim-witted, birdbrained; Brit. informal daft, divvy, dozy.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**half-hearted** adjective **unenthusiastic**, cool, lukewarm, tepid, apathetic, indifferent,

uninterested, unconcerned, languid, listless; perfunctory, cursory, superficial, desultory, feeble, lacklustre.

– OPPOSITES enthusiastic.

**halfway** adjective *the halfway point*: midway, middle, mid, central, centre, intermediate; Anatomy medial, mesial.  
 • **adverb** **1** *he stopped halfway down the passage*: midway, in the middle, in the centre; part of the way, part-way. **2** *he seemed halfway friendly*: to some extent/degree, in some measure, relatively, comparatively, moderately, somewhat, (up) to a point; just about, almost, nearly.  
 ■ **meet someone halfway** compromise, come to terms, reach an agreement, make a deal, make concessions, find the middle ground, strike a balance; give and take.

**halfwit** noun (informal). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**h** **half-witted** adjective (informal). See **STUPID** senses 1, 2.

**hall** noun **1** *hang your coat in the hall*: entrance hall, hallway, entry, entrance, lobby, foyer, vestibule; atrium, concourse; passageway, passage, corridor; N. Amer. entryway. **2** *the village hall*: assembly room, meeting room, chamber; auditorium, concert hall, theatre.

**hallmark** noun **1** *the hallmark on silver*: assay mark, official mark, stamp of authenticity. **2** *the tiny bubbles are the hallmark of fine champagnes*: mark, distinctive feature, characteristic, sign, sure sign, telltale sign, badge, stamp, trademark, indication, indicator.

**halloo** verb *call out*, shout, cry out, yell, bawl, bellow, roar, whoop; hail, greet; informal holler, yoo-hoo, cooee.

**hallowed** adjective holy, sacred, blessed, consecrated, sanctified, revered, venerated, honoured, sacrosanct, worshipped, divine, inviolable.

**hallucinate** verb have hallucinations, see things, be delirious, fantasize; informal trip, see pink elephants.

**hallucination** noun delusion, illusion, figment of the imagination, vision, apparition, mirage, chimera, fantasy; (hallucinations) delirium, phantasmagoria; informal trip, pink elephants.

**halo** noun ring of light, nimbus, aureole, glory, crown of light, corona; technical halation; rare gloriolate.

**halt** verb **1** *Len halted and turned round*: stop, come to a halt, come to a stop, come to a standstill; pull up, draw up. **2** *a further strike has halted production*: stop, bring to a stop, put a stop to, bring to an end, put an end to, terminate, end, wind up; suspend, break off, arrest; impede, check, curb, stem, staunch, block, stall, hold back; informal pull the plug on, put the kibosh on.

– OPPOSITES start, continue.

• **noun** **1** *the car drew to a halt*: stop, standstill. **2** *a halt in production*: stoppage, stopping, discontinuation, break, suspension, pause, interval, interruption,

hiatus; cessation, termination, close, end.

**halter** noun harness, head collar, bridle; N. Amer. headstall.

**halting** adjective **1** *a halting conversation* | *halting English*: hesitant, faltering, hesitating, stumbling, stammering, stuttering; broken, imperfect. **2** *his halting gait*: unsteady, awkward, faltering, stumbling, limping, hobbling.

– OPPOSITES fluent.

**ham-fisted** adjective clumsy, bungling, incompetent, amateurish, inept, unskilful, inexpert, maladroit, gauche, awkward, inefficient, bumbling, useless; informal cack-handed, ham-handed; Brit. informal all fingers and thumbs.

– OPPOSITES expert.

**hammer** noun *a hammer and chisel*: mallet, beetle, gavel, sledgehammer.

• **verb** **1** *the alloy is hammered into a circular shape*: beat, forge, shape, form, mould, fashion, make. **2** *Sally hammered at the door*: batter, pummel, beat, bang, pound; strike, hit, knock on, thump on; cudgel, bludgeon, club; informal bash, wallop, clobber, whack, thwack. **3** *they hammered away at their non-smoking campaign*: work hard, labour, slog away, plod away, grind away, slave away, work like a Trojan, work like a dog, keep one's nose to the grindstone; persist with, persevere with, press on with; informal stick at, peg away, beaver away, plug away, work one's socks off, soldier on; Brit. informal graft away. **4** *anti-racism had been hammered into her*: drum, instil, inculcate, knock, drive, din; drive home to, impress on; ingrain.

■ **hammer something out** thrash out, work out, agree on, sort out, decide on, bring about, effect, produce, broker, negotiate, reach an agreement on.

**hamper**<sup>1</sup> noun *a picnic hamper*: basket, pannier, wickerwork basket; box, container, holder.

**hamper**<sup>2</sup> verb *the search was hampered by fog*: hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard, baulk, thwart, foil, curb, delay, set back, slow down, hold up, interfere with; restrict, constrain, trammel, block, check, curtail, frustrate, cramp, bridle, handicap, cripple, hamstring, shackle, fetter; N. Amer. bork; informal stymie.

– OPPOSITES help.

**hamstring** verb **1** *cattle were killed or hamstrung*: cripple, lame, disable, incapacitate. **2** *manufacturing companies were hamstringed by the economic chaos*: handicap, constrain, restrict, cripple, shackle, fetter, encumber, block, frustrate; hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede, trammel, straitjacket, inhibit, baulk, thwart, foil; informal stymie; N. Amer. informal bork.

– OPPOSITES help.

**hand** noun **1** *big, strong hands*: palm, fist; informal paw, mitt, duke, hook, meat hook; Zoology manus. **2** *the clock's second hand*: pointer, indicator, needle, arrow, marker. **3** *the frontier posts remained in government hands*: control, power, charge, authority;



command, responsibility, guardianship, management, care, supervision, jurisdiction; possession, keeping, custody; clutches, grasp, thrall; disposal; informal say-so. **4** *let me give you a hand:* **help**, a helping hand, assistance, aid, support, succour, relief; a good turn, a favour. **5** (informal) *his fans gave him a big hand:* **round of applause**, clap, handclap, ovation, standing ovation; applause, handclapping. **6** *a document written in his own hand:* **handwriting**, writing, script, calligraphy. **7** *a factory hand:* **worker**, factory worker, manual worker, unskilled worker, blue-collar worker, workman, labourer, operative, hired hand, roustabout; N. Amer. peon; Austral./NZ rouseabout.

• **verb 1** *he handed each man a glass:* **pass**, give, reach, let someone have, throw, toss; present to; informal chuck, bung. **2** *he handed him into a carriage:* **assist**, **help**, give someone a hand; guide.

■ **at hand 1** *keep the manual close at hand:* readily available, available, handy, to hand, within reach, accessible, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips, at one's disposal, convenient; informal get-at-able. **2** *the time for starting the campaign is at hand:* imminent, approaching, coming, about to happen, on the horizon; impending.

■ **hand something down** *pass on, pass down;* bequeath, will, leave, make over, give, gift, transfer; Law *devise*, *devise*.

■ **hand in glove** *in close collaboration, in close association, in close cooperation, very closely, in partnership, in league, in collusion; informal in cahoots.*

■ **hand something on** *give, pass, hand, transfer, grant, cede, surrender, relinquish, yield; part with, let go of; bequeath, will, leave.*

■ **hand something out** *distribute, hand round, give out/round, pass out/round, share out, dole out, dish out, deal out, mete out, issue, dispense; allocate, allot, apportion, disburse; circulate, disseminate.*

■ **hand something over** *yield, give, give up, pass, grant, entrust, surrender, relinquish, cede, turn over, deliver up, forfeit, sacrifice.*

■ **to hand** *readily available, available, handy, at hand, within reach, accessible, ready, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips, at one's disposal, convenient; informal get-at-able.*

■ **try one's hand** *have a go, make an attempt; attempt, try, try out, give something a try; informal have a stab, have a shot, have a bash, give something a whirl; formal essay.*

#### WORD LINKS

**manual** relating to the hands

**ambidextrous** able to use either hand equally well

**dexterity** skill in using the hands

**artisan** a skilled worker who makes things by hand

**palmate** shaped like an open hand

**palmistry** the prediction of a person's future by examining their hand

**handbag** **noun** *bag, shoulder bag, clutch bag, evening bag, pochette; N. Amer. purse, pocketbook; historical reticule.*

**handbill** **noun** *notice, advertisement, flyer, leaflet, circular, handout, pamphlet, brochure; N. Amer. dodger; informal ad; Brit. informal advert.*

**handbook** **noun** *manual, instructions, instruction manual, ABC, A to Z; almanac, companion, directory, compendium; guide, guidebook, vade mecum.*

**handcuff** **verb** *manacle, shackle, fetter; restrain, clap/put someone in irons; informal cuff.*

**handcuffs** **plural noun** *manacles, shackles, irons, fetters, bonds, restraints; informal cuffs, bracelets; old use darbies, gyves.*

**handful** **noun 1** *a handful of British firms:* a few, a small number, a small amount, a small quantity, one or two, some, not many, a scattering, a trickle. **2** (informal) *the child is a real handful:* nuisance, problem, bother, irritant, thorn in someone's flesh/side; informal pest, headache, pain, pain in the neck/backside; Scottish informal nyaff, skelf; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt.

**handgun** **noun** *pistol, revolver, gun, side arm, six-shooter, thirty-eight, derringer; N. Amer. informal piece, shooting iron, Saturday night special, rod; trademark Colt.*

**handicap** **noun 1** *a visual handicap:* disability, physical/mental abnormality, defect, impairment, affliction, deficiency. **2** *a handicap to the competitiveness of the industry:* impediment, hindrance, obstacle, barrier, bar, obstruction, encumbrance, constraint, restriction, check, block, curb; disadvantage, drawback, stumbling block, difficulty, shortcoming, limitation; ball and chain, albatross, millstone round someone's neck; literary trammel.

– **OPPOSITES** benefit, advantage.

• **verb** *lack of funding handicapped the research:* hamper, impede, hinder, impair, hamstring; restrict, check, obstruct, block, curb, bridle, hold back, constrain, trammel, limit, encumber; informal stymie; N. Amer. informal bork.

– **OPPOSITES** help.

**handicapped** **adjective** *disabled, incapacitated, disadvantaged; infirm, invalid; euphemistic physically challenged, differently abled.*

**handicraft** **noun** *craft, handiwork, craftwork; craftsmanship, workmanship, artisanship, art, skill.*

**handiwork** **noun** *jewellery which is the handiwork of Chinese smiths: creation, product, work, achievement; handicraft, craft, craftwork.*

**handkerchief** **noun** *pocket handkerchief, tissue, paper handkerchief; trademark Kleenex; informal hanky, nose rag, snot rag; literary kerchief.*

**handle** **verb 1** *the equipment must be handled with care:* hold, pick up, grasp, grip, lift; feel, touch, finger; informal paw. **2** *a car which is*

*easy to handle*: control, drive, steer, operate, manoeuvre, manipulate. **3** *she handled the job formidably*: deal with, manage, tackle, take care of, take charge of, attend to, see to, sort out, apply oneself to, take in hand.

**4** *the advertising company that is handling the account*: administer, manage, control, conduct, direct, guide, supervise, oversee, be in charge of, take care of, look after.

**5** *the traders handled goods manufactured in the Rhineland*: trade in, deal in, buy, sell, supply, peddle, traffic in, purvey, hawk, tout, market.

• **noun** *the knife's handle*: haft, shank, stock, shaft, grip, handgrip, hilt, helve, butt; knob.

**hand-me-down** adjective second-hand, used, nearly new, handed-down, passed-on, cast-off, worn, old, pre-owned; Brit. informal reach-me-down.

– OPPOSITES new.

**handout** noun **1** *she existed on handouts*: charity, aid, benefit, financial support, donations, subsidies; historical alms. **2** *a xeroxed handout*: leaflet, pamphlet, brochure; handbill, flyer, notice, circular, mailshot.

**hand-picked** adjective specially chosen, selected, invited; select, elite; choice.

**handsome** adjective **1** *a handsome man*: good-looking, attractive, personable, striking; informal hunky, dishy, tasty, fanciable; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer. informal cute; Austral./NZ informal spunky. **2** *a handsome woman of 30*: striking, imposing, prepossessing, elegant, stately, dignified, statuesque, good-looking, attractive, personable. **3** *a handsome profit*: substantial, considerable, sizeable, princely, large, big, ample, bumper; informal tidy, whopping, not to be sneezed at; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES ugly, meagre.

**handwriting** noun writing, script, hand, pen; penmanship, calligraphy, chirography; informal scrawl, scribble.

#### WORD LINKS

**holograph, autograph** a manuscript handwritten by its author  
**graphology** the study of handwriting

**handy** adjective **1** *a handy reference tool*: useful, convenient, practical, easy-to-use, well-designed, user-friendly, user-oriented, helpful, functional, serviceable. **2** *keep your credit card handy*: readily available, available, at hand, to hand, near at hand, within reach, accessible, ready, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips; informal get-at-able. **3** *he's handy with a needle*: skilful, skilled, dexterous, deft, nimble-fingered, adroit, able, adept, proficient, capable; good with one's hands; informal nifty.

– OPPOSITES inconvenient, inept.

**handyman** noun odd-job man, odd-jobber, factotum, jack of all trades, man of all work; DIY'er; informal Mr Fixit.

**hang** verb **1** *lights hung from the trees*: be suspended, hang down, be pendent, dangle,

swing, sway; old use depend. **2** *hang your pictures at eye level*: put up, fix, attach, affix, fasten, post, display, suspend, pin up, nail up. **3** *the room was hung with streamers*: decorate, adorn, drape, festoon, deck out, trick out, bedeck, array, garland, swathe, cover, ornament; literary bedizen. **4** *he was hanged for murder*: send to the gallows, execute; informal string up. **5** *a pall of smoke hung over the city*: hover, float, drift, be suspended. **6** *the threat of budget cuts is hanging over us*: be imminent, threaten, be close, be impending, impend, loom, be on the horizon.

■ **hang about** (Brit. informal). See **HANG AROUND**.

■ **hang around** (informal) **1** *they spent their time hanging around in bars*: loiter, linger, wait around, waste time, kill time, mark time, while away the time, kick/cool one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs; frequent, haunt; informal hang out in. **2** *she's hanging around with a bunch of hippies*: associate, mix, keep company, socialize, fraternize, consort, rub shoulders; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hang out, run around, knock about/around, be thick, hobnob.

■ **hang fire** delay, hang back, hold back, hold on, stall, pause; procrastinate, vacillate, adopt Fabian tactics; informal hang about/around, sit tight, hold one's horses.

■ **hang on** **1** *he hung on to her coat*: hold on, hold fast, grip, clutch, grasp, hold tightly, cling. **2** *her future hung on his decision*: depend on, be dependent on, turn on, hinge on, rest on, be contingent on, be determined by, be decided by. **3** *I'll hang on as long as I can*: persevere, hold out, hold on, go on, carry on, keep on, keep going, keep at it, continue, persist, stay with it, struggle on, plod on, plough on; informal soldier on, stick at it, stick it out, hang in there. **4** (informal) *hang on, let me think*: wait, wait a minute, hold on, stop; hold the line; informal hold your horses, sit tight; Brit. informal hang about.

**hangdog** adjective shamefaced, sheepish, abashed, ashamed, guilty-looking, abject, cowed, dejected, downcast, crestfallen, woebegone, disconsolate.

– OPPOSITES unabashed.

**hanger-on** noun follower, flunkey, toady, camp follower, sycophant, parasite, leech; henchman, minion, lackey, vassal, dependant, retainer; acolyte; N. Amer. cohort; informal groupie, sponger, freeloader, passenger, sidekick.

**hanging** noun *silk wall hangings*: drape, curtain; drapery.

• **adjective hanging fronds of honeysuckle**: pendent, dangling, trailing, tumbling; suspended.

**hang-out** noun haunt, stamping ground, favourite spot, meeting place, territory; den, refuge, retreat; N. Amer. stomping ground.

**hang-up** noun neurosis, phobia, preoccupation, fixation, obsession, idée fixe; inhibition, mental block, psychological block, block, difficulty; informal complex, thing, bee in one's bonnet.

**hank** noun coil, skein, length, roll, loop, twist, piece; lock, ringlet, curl.

**hanker** verb yearn, long, crave, desire, wish, want, hunger, thirst, lust, ache, pant, be eager, be desperate, be eating one's heart out; fancy, pine for, have one's heart set on; informal be dying, have a yen, itch.

**hankering** noun longing, yearning, craving, desire, wish, hunger, thirst, urge, ache, lust, appetite, fancy; informal yen, itch; old use appetency.

– OPPOSITES aversion.

**hanky-panky** noun (informal) goings-on, funny business, mischief, misbehaviour, misconduct, chicanery, dishonesty, deception, deceit, trickery, intrigue, skulduggery, subterfuge, machinations; infidelity, unfaithfulness, adultery; informal monkey business, shenanigans, carryings-on; Brit. informal jiggery-pokery.

**haphazard** adjective random, unplanned, unsystematic, unmethodical, disorganized, disorderly, irregular, indiscriminate, chaotic, hit-and-miss, arbitrary, aimless, careless, casual, slapdash, slipshod; chance, accidental; informal higgledy-piggledy.

– OPPOSITES methodical.

**hapless** adjective unfortunate, unlucky, luckless, out of luck, ill-starred, ill-fated, jinxed, cursed, doomed; unhappy, forlorn, wretched, miserable, woebegone; informal down on one's luck; literary star-crossed.

– OPPOSITES lucky.

**happen** verb **1** *remember what happened last time he was here:* occur, take place, come about; ensue, result, transpire, materialize, arise, crop up, come up, present itself, supervene; N. Amer. informal go down; formal eventuate; literary come to pass, betide; old use hap. **2** *I wonder what happened to Susie?* become of; literary befall, betide. **3** *they happened to be in London:* chance, have the good/bad luck. **4** *he happened on a linnet's nest:* discover, find, find by chance, come across, chance on, stumble on, hit on.

**happening** noun *bizarre happenings:* occurrence, event, incident, proceeding, affair, circumstance, phenomenon, episode, experience, occasion, development, eventuality.

• adjective (informal) *a happening nightspot:* fashionable, modern, popular, new, latest, up to date, up to the minute, in fashion, in vogue, le dernier cri; informal trendy, funky, hot, cool, with it, hip, in, big, now, groovy; N. Amer. informal kicky, tony.

– OPPOSITES old-fashioned.

**happily** adverb **1** *he smiled happily:* contentedly, cheerfully, cheerily, merrily, delightedly, joyfully, joyously, gaily, gleefully. **2** *I will happily do as you ask:* gladly, willingly, readily, freely, cheerfully, ungrudgingly, with pleasure; old use fain. **3** *happily, we are living in enlightened times:* fortunately, luckily, thankfully, mercifully, by good luck, by good fortune, as luck would have it; thank goodness, thank God, thank heavens.

**happiness** noun pleasure, contentment, satisfaction, cheerfulness, merriment, gaiety, joy, joyfulness, joviality, jollity, glee, delight, good spirits, light-heartedness, well-being, enjoyment; exuberance, exhilaration, elation, ecstasy, jubilation, rapture, bliss, blissfulness, euphoria, transports of delight.

**happy** adjective **1** *Melissa looked happy and excited:* cheerful, cheery, merry, joyful, jovial, jolly, jocular, gleeful, carefree, untroubled, delighted, smiling, beaming, grinning, in good spirits, in a good mood, light-hearted, pleased, contented, content, satisfied, gratified, buoyant, radiant, sunny, joyous, beatific; thrilled, elated, exhilarated, ecstatic, blissful, euphoric, overjoyed, exultant, rapturous, in seventh heaven, on cloud nine, walking on air, jumping for joy, cock-a-hoop, jubilant; informal chirpy, over the moon, on top of the world, as happy as a sandboy, tickled pink, like a dog with two tails, as pleased as Punch, on a high; Brit. informal chuffed, as happy as Larry; N. English informal made up; N. Amer. informal as happy as a clam; Austral. informal wrapped; literary blithe; formal jocund; dated gay. **2** *we will be happy to advise you:* glad, pleased, delighted; willing, ready, disposed. **3** *a happy coincidence:* fortunate, lucky, favourable, advantageous, opportune, timely, well-timed, convenient.

– OPPOSITES sad, unwilling, unfortunate.

**happy-go-lucky** adjective easy-going, carefree, casual, free and easy, devil-may-care, blithe, nonchalant, insouciant, blasé, unconcerned, untroubled, unworried, light-hearted; informal laid-back.

– OPPOSITES anxious.

**harangue** noun *a ten-minute harangue:* tirade, diatribe, lecture, polemic, rant, fulmination, broadside, attack, onslaught; criticism, condemnation, censure, admonition; declamation, speech; informal blast; literary philippic.

• verb *he harangued his erstwhile colleagues:* rant at, hold forth to, lecture, shout at; berate, criticize, attack; informal earbash, sound off at, mouth off at.

**harass** verb **1** *council tenants who harass their neighbours:* persecute, intimidate, hound, harry, plague, torment, bedevil, pressurize; pester, bother, worry, disturb, trouble, provoke, stress; informal hassle, bug, give someone a hard time; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal devil, ride. **2** *they were sent to harass the enemy flanks:* harry, attack, beleaguer, set upon, assail.

**harassed** adjective stressed, strained, worn out, hard-pressed, careworn, worried, troubled, beleaguered, under pressure, at the end of one's tether; N. Amer. at the end of one's rope; informal hassled.

– OPPOSITES carefree.

**harassment** noun persecution, intimidation, pressure, pressurization, force, coercion; informal hassle.

**harbinger** noun herald, sign, indication, signal, portent, omen, augury, forewarning,



presage; forerunner, precursor, messenger; literary foretoken.

**harbour** noun **1** *a picturesque harbour*: port, dock, haven, marina; mooring, moorage, anchorage, harbourage; waterfront. **2** *a safe harbour for me*: refuge, haven, safe haven, shelter, sanctuary, retreat, place of safety, port in a storm.

• **verb** **1** *he is harbouring a dangerous criminal*: shelter, conceal, hide, shield, protect, give sanctuary to; take in, put up, accommodate, house. **2** *Rose had harboured a grudge against him*: bear, nurse, nurture, cherish, entertain, foster, hold on to, cling to.

**hard** adjective **1** *hard ground*: firm, solid, rigid, stiff, resistant, unbreakable, inflexible, impenetrable, unyielding, solidified, hardened, compact, compacted, dense, close-packed, compressed; steely, tough, strong, stony, rock-like, flinty, as hard as iron, as hard as stone; frozen; literary adamant. **2** *hard physical work*: arduous, strenuous, tiring, fatiguing, exhausting, wearying, back-breaking, gruelling, heavy, laborious; difficult, taxing, exacting, testing, challenging, demanding, punishing, tough, formidable, onerous, rigorous, uphill, Herculean; informal murderous, killing, hellish; Brit. informal knacker; formal exigent; old use toilsome. **3** *hard workers*: diligent, hard-working, industrious, sedulous, assiduous, conscientious, energetic, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, earnest, persevering, persistent, unflagging, untiring, indefatigable; studious. **4** *a hard problem*: difficult, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, knotty, thorny, problematic, complicated, complex, intricate, involved; insoluble, unfathomable, impenetrable, incomprehensible, unanswerable. **5** *times are hard*: harsh, grim, difficult, bad, bleak, dire, tough, austere, unpleasant, uncomfortable, straitened, spartan; dark, distressing, painful, awful. **6** *a hard taskmaster*: strict, harsh, firm, severe, stern, tough, rigorous, demanding, exacting; callous, unkind, unsympathetic, cold, heartless, hard-hearted, unfeeling; intransigent, unbending, uncompromising, inflexible, implacable, stubborn, obdurate, unyielding, unrelenting, unsparing, grim, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, cruel. **7** *a hard winter*: bitterly cold, cold, bitter, harsh, severe, bleak, freezing, icy, icy-cold, arctic. **8** *a hard blow*: forceful, heavy, strong, sharp, smart, violent, powerful, vigorous, mighty, hefty, tremendous. **9** *hard facts*: reliable, definite, true, confirmed, substantiated, undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable, verifiable. **10** *hard liquor*: alcoholic, strong, intoxicating, potent; formal spirituous. **11** *hard drugs*: addictive, habit-forming; strong, harmful.

– OPPOSITES soft, easy, lazy, gentle.

• **adverb** **1** *George pushed her hard*: forcefully, forcibly, roughly, powerfully, strongly, heavily, sharply, vigorously, energetically, with all one's might, with might and

main. **2** *they worked hard*: diligently, industriously, assiduously, conscientiously, sedulously, busily, enthusiastically, energetically, doggedly, steadily; informal like mad, like crazy; Brit. informal like billy-o.

**3** *this prosperity has been hard won*: with difficulty, with effort, after a struggle, painfully, laboriously. **4** *her death hit him hard*: severely, badly, acutely, deeply, keenly, seriously, profoundly, gravely; formal grievously. **5** *it was raining hard*: heavily, strongly, in torrents, cats and dogs; steadily. **6** *my mother looked hard at me*: closely, attentively, intently, critically, carefully, keenly, searchingly, earnestly, sharply.

■ **hard and fast** definite, fixed, set, strict, rigid, binding, clear-cut, cast-iron; inflexible, immutable, unchangeable, incontestable.

■ **hard feelings** resentment, animosity, ill feeling, ill will, bitterness, bad blood, resentfulness, rancour, malice, acrimony, antagonism, antipathy, animus, friction, anger, hostility, hate, hatred.

■ **hard up** (informal) poor, short of money, badly off, impoverished, impecunious, in reduced circumstances, unable to make ends meet; penniless, destitute, poverty-stricken; informal broke, strapped (for cash); Brit. informal skint.

**hardbitten** adjective hardened, tough, cynical, unsentimental, hard-headed, case-hardened, as hard as nails; informal hard-nosed, hard-boiled.

– OPPOSITES sentimental.

**hard-boiled** adjective (informal) *a hard-boiled undercover agent*. See **HARDBITTEN**.

**hard-core** adjective diehard, staunch, dedicated, committed, steadfast, dyed-in-the-wool, long-standing; hard-line, extreme, entrenched, radical, intransigent, uncompromising, rigid; informal deep-dyed.

**harden** verb **1** *this glue will harden in four hours*: solidify, set, congeal, clot, coagulate, stiffen, thicken, cake, inspissate; freeze, crystallize; ossify, petrify. **2** *their suffering had hardened them*: toughen, desensitize, inure, case-harden, harden someone's heart; deaden, numb, benumb, anaesthetize; brutalize.

– OPPOSITES liquefy, soften.

**hardened** adjective **1** *he was hardened to the violence he had seen*: inured, desensitized, deadened; accustomed, habituated, acclimatized, used. **2** *a hardened criminal*: inveterate, seasoned, habitual, chronic, compulsive, confirmed, dyed-in-the-wool; incorrigible, incurable, irredeemable, unregenerate. **3** *the silos are hardened against air attack*: strengthened, fortified, reinforced, toughened.

**hard-headed** adjective unsentimental, practical, pragmatic, businesslike, realistic, sensible, rational, clear-thinking, cool-headed, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, no-nonsense, with one's/both feet on the ground; tough, hardbitten; shrewd, astute, sharp, sharp-witted; informal hard-nosed, hard-boiled.

**hard-hearted** adjective unfeeling, heartless, cold, hard, callous, unsympathetic, uncaring, unloving, unconcerned, indifferent, unmoved, unkind, uncharitable, unemotional, cold-hearted, cold-blooded, mean-spirited, stony-hearted, having a heart of stone, as hard as nails, cruel.

– OPPOSITES compassionate.

**hard-hitting** adjective uncompromising, blunt, forthright, frank, honest, direct, tough; critical, unsparing, strongly worded, straight-talking, pulling no punches, not mincing one's words, not beating about the bush.

**hardihood** noun bravery, courage, pluck, valour, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism; backbone, grit, spine, spirit, mettle; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

– OPPOSITES timidity.

**hardiness** noun robustness, strength, toughness, ruggedness, sturdiness, resilience, stamina, vigour; healthiness, good health.

– OPPOSITES frailty.

**hard-line** adjective uncompromising, strict, extreme, tough, diehard, inflexible, intransigent, intractable, unyielding, single-minded, not giving an inch.

– OPPOSITES moderate.

**hardly** adverb *we hardly know each other:* scarcely, barely, only just, slightly.

**hard-nosed** adjective (informal) tough-minded, unsentimental, no-nonsense, hard-headed, hardbitten, pragmatic, realistic, down-to-earth, practical, rational, shrewd, astute, businesslike; informal hard-boiled.

– OPPOSITES sentimental.

**hard-pressed** adjective **1** *the hard-pressed infantry:* under attack, hotly pursued, harried. **2** *the hard-pressed construction industry:* in difficulties, under pressure, troubled, beleaguered, harassed, with one's back to/against the wall, in a tight corner, in a tight spot, between a rock and a hard place; overburdened, overworked, overloaded, rushed off one's feet; informal pushed, up against it.

**hardship** noun privation, deprivation, destitution, poverty, austerity, penury, want, need, neediness, impecuniousness; misfortune, distress, suffering, affliction, trouble, pain, misery, wretchedness, tribulation, adversity, trials, trials and tribulations, dire straits; literary travails.

– OPPOSITES prosperity, ease.

**hardware** noun equipment, apparatus, gear, paraphernalia, tackle, kit, machinery; tools, articles, implements, instruments, appliances.

**hard-wearing** adjective durable, strong, tough, resilient, lasting, long-lasting, made to last, stout, well made, rugged, heavy-duty.

– OPPOSITES flimsy.

**hard-working** adjective diligent, industrious, conscientious, assiduous, sedulous, painstaking, persevering, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, studious; keen, enthusiastic, zealous.

– OPPOSITES lazy.

**hardy** adjective robust, healthy, fit, strong, sturdy, tough, rugged, hearty, lusty, vigorous, hale and hearty, fit as a fiddle, fighting fit, in fine fettle, in good health, in good condition; Brit. in rude health; dated stalwart.

– OPPOSITES delicate.

**hare-brained** adjective **1** *a hare-brained scheme:* ill-judged, rash, foolish, foolhardy, reckless, madcap, wild, silly, stupid, ridiculous, absurd, idiotic, asinine, imprudent, impracticable, unworkable, unrealistic, unconsidered, half-baked, ill-thought-out, ill-advised, ill-conceived; informal crackpot, crackbrained, cockeyed, crazy; Brit. informal daft, barmy. **2** *a hare-brained young girl:* foolish, silly, idiotic, unintelligent, empty-headed, scatterbrained, feather-brained, birdbrained, pea-brained, brainless, giddy; informal dippy, dizzy, dopey, dotty, airheaded.

– OPPOSITES sensible, intelligent.

**harem** noun seraglio, zenana; historical gynaeceum.

**hark** verb (literary) *hark, I hear a warning note:* listen, lend an ear, pay attention, attend, mark; old use hearken, give ear.

■ **hark back** to recall, call/bring to mind, evoke, put one in mind of.

**harlequin** noun jester, joker, merry andrew.

• adjective *a harlequin pattern:*

multicoloured, many-coloured, colourful, particoloured, varicoloured, many-hued, rainbow, variegated, jazzy, kaleidoscopic, psychedelic, polychromatic, chequered; old use motley.

**harm** noun **1** *the voltage is not sufficient to cause harm:* injury, hurt, pain, trauma; damage, impairment, mischief. **2** *I can't see any harm in it:* wrong, ill, wickedness, evil, iniquity, sin.

– OPPOSITES benefit.

• verb **1** *he's never harmed anybody in his life:* injure, hurt, wound, lay a finger on, maltreat, mistreat, misuse, ill-treat, ill-use, abuse, molest. **2** *this could harm his World Cup prospects:* damage, spoil, mar, do mischief to, impair.

**harmful** adjective damaging, injurious, detrimental, dangerous, deleterious, unfavourable, negative, disadvantageous, unhealthy, unwholesome, hurtful, baleful, destructive; noxious, hazardous, poisonous, toxic, deadly, lethal; bad, evil, malign, malignant, malevolent, corrupting, subversive, pernicious.

– OPPOSITES beneficial.

**harmless** adjective **1** *a harmless substance:* safe, innocuous, benign, gentle, mild, wholesome, non-toxic, non-poisonous, non-irritant; non-addictive. **2** *he seems harmless enough:* inoffensive, innocuous,

unobjectionable, unexceptionable.

– OPPOSITES dangerous.

**harmonious** adjective **1** *harmonious music*: tuneful, melodious, melodic, sweet-sounding, mellifluous, dulcet, lyrical; euphonious, euphonic, harmonic, polyphonic; informal easy on the ear. **2** *their harmonious relationship*: friendly, amicable, cordial, amiable, congenial, easy, peaceful, peaceable, cooperative; compatible, sympathetic, united, attuned, in harmony, in rapport, in tune, in accord, of one mind, seeing eye to eye. **3** *a harmonious blend of traditional and modern*: congruous, coordinated, balanced, in proportion, compatible, well matched, well balanced.

– OPPOSITES discordant, hostile, incongruous.

**harmonize** verb **1** *colours which harmonize in a pleasing way*: coordinate, go together, match, blend, mix, balance, tone in; be compatible, be harmonious, suit each other, set each other off. **2** *the need to harmonize tax laws across Europe*: coordinate, bring in line, systematize, correlate, integrate, synchronize, make consistent, bring in tune.

– OPPOSITES clash.

**harmony** noun **1** *musical harmony*: euphony, polyphony; tunefulness, melodiousness, mellifluousness. **2** *the harmony of the whole structure*: balance, symmetry, congruity, consonance, coordination, compatibility. **3** *the villagers live together in harmony*: accord, agreement, peace, peacefulness, amity, amicability, friendship, fellowship, cooperation, understanding, consensus, unity, sympathy, rapport, like-mindedness; unison, union, concert, oneness, synthesis; formal concord.

– OPPOSITES dissonance, disagreement.

**harness** noun *a horse's harness*: tack, tackle, equipment; trappings; yoke; old use equipage. • verb **1** *he harnessed his horse*: hitch up, put in harness, yoke, couple. **2** *attempts to harness solar energy*: control, exploit, utilize, use, employ, make use of, put to use; channel, mobilize, apply, capitalize on.

**harp** verb

■ **harp on about** keep on about, go on about, keep talking about, dwell on, make an issue of; labour the point.

**harpoon** noun spear, trident, dart, barb, gaff, leister.

**harridan** noun shrew, termagant, virago, harpy, vixen, nag, hag, crone, dragon, ogress; fishwife, hellcat, she-devil, gorgon; martinet, tartar; informal old bag, old bat, old cow, bitch, battleaxe, witch; old use scold.

**harried** adjective harassed, beleaguered, flustered, agitated, bothered, vexed, beset, plagued; informal hassled, up against it.

**harrow** verb distress, trouble, bother, afflict, grieve, torment, pain, hurt, mortify.

– OPPOSITES comfort.

**harrowing** adjective distressing, distressful, traumatic, upsetting; shocking, disturbing, painful, haunting, appalling, horrifying.

**harry** verb **1** *they harried the retreating enemy*: attack, assail, assault; charge, rush, strike, set upon; bombard, shell, strafe. **2** *the government was harried by a new lobby*: harass, hound, pressurize, bedevil, torment, pester, bother, worry, badger, nag, plague; informal hassle, bug, lean on, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back.

**harsh** adjective **1** *a harsh voice*: grating, jarring, rasping, strident, raucous, brassy, discordant, unharmonious, unmelodious; screeching, shrill; rough, coarse, hoarse, gruff, croaky. **2** *harsh colours*: glaring, bright, dazzling; loud, garish, gaudy, lurid, bold. **3** *his harsh rule over them*: cruel, savage, barbarous, despotic, dictatorial, tyrannical, tyrannous; ruthless, merciless, pitiless, relentless, unmerciful; severe, strict, intolerant, illiberal; hard-hearted, heartless, unkind, inhuman, inhumane. **4** *they took harsh measures to end the crisis*: severe, stringent, firm, stiff, hard, stern, rigorous, grim, uncompromising; punitive, cruel, brutal. **5** *harsh words*: rude, discourteous, uncivil, impolite; unfriendly, sharp, bitter, abusive, unkind, disparaging; abrupt, brusque, curt, gruff, short, surly, offhand. **6** *harsh conditions*: austere, grim, spartan, hard, comfortless, inhospitable, stark, bleak, desolate. **7** *a harsh winter*: hard, severe, cold, bitter, bleak, freezing, icy; arctic, polar, Siberian. **8** *harsh cream cleaners*: abrasive, strong, caustic; coarse, rough.

– OPPOSITES soft, subdued, kind, friendly, comfortable, balmy, mild.

**harum-scarum** adjective reckless, impetuous, impulsive, imprudent, rash, wild; daredevil, madcap, hot-headed, hare-brained, foolhardy, incautious, careless, heedless; informal devil-may-care; literary temerarious.

– OPPOSITES cautious.

**harvest** noun **1** *we all helped with the harvest*: harvesting, reaping, picking, collecting; formal ingathering. **2** *a poor harvest*: yield, crop, vintage; fruits, produce. **3** *the experiment yielded a meagre harvest*: return, result, fruits; product, output, effect; consequence.

• verb **1** *he harvested the wheat*: gather (in), bring in, reap, pick, collect; formal ingather. **2** *he harvested many honours*: acquire, obtain, gain, get, earn; accumulate, amass, gather, collect; informal land, net, bag, scoop.

**hash**<sup>1</sup> noun *a whole hash of excuses*: mixture, assortment, variety, array, mix, miscellany, selection, medley, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, gallimaufry, potpourri; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

■ **make a hash of** (informal) bungle, fluff, mess up, make a mess of; mismanage, mishandle, ruin, wreck; informal botch, muff, muck up, foul up, screw up, blow; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, cock up; N. Amer. informal flub.

**hash**<sup>2</sup> noun (informal) *she smokes a lot of hash*. See CANNABIS.

**hassle** (informal) noun **1** *parking is such a hassle*: inconvenience, bother, nuisance, problem,



trouble, struggle, difficulty, annoyance, irritation, thorn in one's flesh/side, fuss; informal aggravation, aggro, stress, headache, pain (in the neck). **2** (N. Amer.) *she got into a hassle with that guy*. See **QUARREL** noun.

• **verb** *they were hassling him to pay up*: **harass**, pester, nag, keep on at, badger, hound, harry, chivvy, bother, torment, plague; informal bug, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back, breathe down someone's neck; N. English informal mither.

**hassled adjective** (informal) **harassed**, agitated, stressed (out), harried, frayed, flustered; beleaguered, hounded, plagued, bothered, beset, tormented; under pressure, hot and bothered; informal up against it.

– **OPPOSITES** calm.

**haste** noun *working with feverish haste*: speed, hastiness, hurriedness, swiftness, rapidity, quickness, briskness; formal expedition.

– **OPPOSITES** delay.

■ **in haste** quickly, rapidly, fast, speedily, with urgency, in a rush, in a hurry.

**hasten verb 1** *we hastened back home*: hurry, rush, dash, race, fly, shoot; scurry, scramble, dart, bolt, sprint, run, gallop; go fast, go quickly, go like lightning, go hell for leather; informal tear, hare, pelt, scoot, zip, zoom, belt, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb, bucket; N. Amer. informal hightail, barrel; dated make haste. **2** *chemicals can hasten ageing*: **speed up**, accelerate, quicken, precipitate, advance, hurry on, step up, spur on; facilitate, aid, assist, boost.

– **OPPOSITES** dawdle, delay.

**hastily adverb 1** *Meg retreated hastily*: quickly, hurriedly, fast, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, briskly, without delay, post-haste; with all speed, as fast as possible, at a run, hotfoot, on the double; informal double quick, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), nippily, like (greased) lightning, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal at a rate of knots, like the clappers; N. Amer. informal lickety-split. **2** *an agreement was hastily drawn up*: **hurriedly**, speedily, quickly; on the spur of the moment, prematurely.

**hasty adjective 1** *hasty steps*: quick, hurried, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk; literary fleet. **2** *hasty decisions*: rash, impetuous, impulsive, reckless, precipitate, spur-of-the-moment, premature, unconsidered, unthinking; literary temerarious.

– **OPPOSITES** slow, considered.

**hat** noun cap, beret, bonnet; Brit. informal titfer.

#### WORD LINKS

**hatter** a person who makes and sells hats  
**milliner** a person who sells women's hats

**hatch verb 1** *the duck hatched her eggs*: incubate, brood, sit on. **2** *the plot that you hatched up last night*: devise, conceive, concoct, brew, invent, plan, design, formulate; think up, dream up; informal cook up.

**hatchet** noun axe, cleaver, mattock,

tomahawk; Brit. chopper.

**hate verb 1** *they hate each other*: loathe, detest, despise, dislike, abhor, execrate; be repelled by, be unable to bear/stand, find intolerable, recoil from, shrink from; formal abominate; old use disrelish. **2** *I hate to bother you*: **be sorry**, be reluctant, be loath, be unwilling, be disinclined; regret, dislike.

– **OPPOSITES** love.

• **noun 1** *feelings of hate*: **hatred**, loathing, detestation, dislike, distaste, abhorrence, abomination, execration, aversion; hostility, enmity, animosity, antipathy, revulsion, disgust, contempt, odium; old use disrelish.

**2** *his pet hate is filling in forms*: **bugbear**, bane, bête noire, bogey, aversion, thorn in one's flesh/side; N. Amer. bugaboo.

– **OPPOSITES** love.

**hateful adjective** detestable, horrible, horrid, unpleasant, awful, nasty, disagreeable, despicable, objectionable, insufferable, revolting, loathsome, abhorrent, abominable, execrable, odious, disgusting, distasteful, obnoxious, offensive, vile, heinous; informal ghastly; Brit. informal beastly, God-awful.

– **OPPOSITES** delightful.

**hatred** noun loathing, hate, detestation, dislike, distaste, abhorrence, abomination, execration; aversion, hostility, ill will, ill feeling, enmity, animosity, antipathy; revulsion, disgust, contempt, odium; old use disrelish.

**haughtiness** noun arrogance, conceit, pride, hubris, hauteur, vanity, self-importance, pomposity, condescension, disdain, contempt; snobbishness, snobbery, superciliousness; informal snootiness.

– **OPPOSITES** modesty.

**haughty adjective** proud, arrogant, vain, conceited, snobbish, superior, self-important, pompous, supercilious, condescending, patronizing; scornful, contemptuous, disdainful; full of oneself, above oneself; informal stuck-up, snooty, hoity-toity, uppity, uppish, big-headed, high and mighty, la-di-da; Brit. informal toffee-nosed; N. Amer. informal chesty.

– **OPPOSITES** humble.

**haul verb 1** *she hauled the basket along*: drag, pull, tug, heave, lug, hump, draw, tow; informal yank. **2** *a contract to haul coal*: **transport**, convey, carry, ship, ferry, move, shift.

• **noun** *the thieves abandoned their haul*: **booty**, loot, plunder; spoils, stolen goods, ill-gotten gains; informal swag, boodle.

**haunches** plural noun rump, hindquarters, rear (end), seat; buttocks, thighs, derrière; Brit. bottom; Scottish bahookie; Anatomy nates; informal behind, backside; Brit. informal bum, botty; N. Amer. informal butt, fanny, tush, heinie, bippy; humorous fundament, posterior.

**haunt verb 1** *a ghost haunts this house*:

**appear** in, materialize in; visit. **2** *he haunts street markets*: **frequent**, patronize, visit regularly; loiter in, linger in; informal hang out in. **3** *the sight haunted me for years*: torment, disturb, trouble, worry, plague, burden,

beset, beleague; prey on, weigh on, gnaw at, nag at, weigh heavily on, obsess; informal bug.

• **noun** a favourite haunt of artists: **hang-out**, stamping ground, meeting place; territory, domain, resort, retreat, spot; N. Amer. stomping ground; Brit. informal patch.

**haunted** adjective **1** a haunted house: possessed, cursed; ghostly, eerie; informal spooky, scary. **2** his haunted eyes: tormented, anguished, troubled, tortured, worried, disturbed.

**haunting** adjective evocative, emotive, affecting, moving, touching, stirring, powerful; poignant, nostalgic, wistful; memorable, unforgettable, indelible.

**hauteur** noun haughtiness, superciliousness, arrogance, pride, conceit, snobbery, snobbishness, superiority, self-importance; disdain, condescension; airs and graces; informal snootiness, uppishness; Brit. informal side.

**have** verb **1** he had a new car: possess, own, be in possession of, be the owner of; be blessed with, boast, enjoy; keep, retain, hold, occupy. **2** the flat has five rooms: comprise, consist of, contain, include, incorporate, be composed of, be made up of; encompass; formal comprehend. **3** they had tea together:

eat, consume, devour, partake of; drink, imbibe, quaff; informal demolish, dispose of, put away, get outside of, scoff (down); sink, knock back; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up).

**4** she had a letter from Mark: receive, get, be given, be sent, obtain, acquire, come by, take receipt of. **5** we've decided to have a party:

organize, arrange, hold, give, host, throw, put on, lay on, set up, fix up. **6** she's going to have a baby: give birth to, bear, be delivered of, bring into the world; informal drop; old use be brought to bed of, beget. **7** we are having guests for dinner: entertain, be host to, cater for, receive; invite round/over, ask round/over, wine and dine; accommodate, put up. **8** he had trouble finding the restaurant: experience, encounter, face, meet, find, run into, go through, undergo.

**9** I have a headache: be suffering from, be afflicted by, be affected by, be troubled with; informal be a martyr to. **10** I had a good time: experience; enjoy. **11** many of them have doubts: harbour, entertain, feel, nurse, nurture, sustain, maintain. **12** he had little patience: manifest, show, display, exhibit, demonstrate. **13** he had them throw Chris out: make, ask to, request to, get to, tell to, require to, induce to, prevail on someone to; order to, command to, direct to, force to.

**14** I can't have you insulting me: tolerate, endure, bear, stomach, support, accept, put up with, go along with, take, countenance; permit to, allow to; informal stand, abide; Brit. informal stick, be doing with; formal brook. **15** I have to get up at six: must, be obliged to, be required to, be compelled to, be forced to, be bound to. **16** (informal) I'd been had: trick, fool, deceive, cheat, dupe, take in, hoodwink, swindle; informal do, con, diddle, rip off, shaft; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker.

– OPPOSITES send, give, visit.

■ **have someone on** (Brit. informal) play a trick on, play a joke on, joke with, trick, tease, rag, make a monkey (out) of, pull someone's leg; informal kid, rib, take for a ride, lead up the garden path; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal put on.

**haven** noun **1** they stopped in a small haven: anchorage, harbour, harbourage, port, moorage, mooring; road, roadstead; cove, inlet, bay. **2** a safe haven: refuge, retreat, shelter, sanctuary, asylum; port in a storm, oasis, sanctum.

**haversack** noun knapsack, rucksack, backpack, pack.

**havoc** noun **1** the hurricane caused havoc: devastation, destruction, damage, desolation, ruination, ruin; disaster, catastrophe. **2** hyperactive children create havoc: disorder, chaos, disruption, mayhem, bedlam, pandemonium, turmoil, tumult, uproar; commotion, furore; N. Amer. a three-ring circus; informal hullabaloo.

**hawk** verb peddle, sell, tout, vend, trade in, traffic in, push; Brit. informal flog.

**hawker** noun pedlar, trader, seller, dealer, purveyor, vendor, huckster, travelling salesman; Brit. barrow boy, tout; informal pusher.

**hawk-eyed** adjective vigilant, observant, alert, sharp-eyed, keen-eyed, eagle-eyed; on the alert, on the lookout, with one's eyes skinned/peeled; informal beady-eyed, not missing a trick, on the ball.

– OPPOSITES inattentive.

**hay** noun forage, dried grass, herbage, silage, fodder, straw.

■ **make hay while the sun shines** make the most of an opportunity, take advantage of something, strike while the iron is hot, seize the day, carpe diem.

**haywire** adjective (informal) out of control, erratic, faulty, malfunctioning, out of order; chaotic, confused, disorganized, disordered, topsy-turvy; informal on the blink; Brit. informal up the spout, shambolic.

**hazard** noun **1** the hazards of radiation: danger, risk, peril, threat, menace; problem, pitfall. **2** (literary) the laws of hazard: chance, probability, fortuity, luck, fate, destiny, fortune, providence.

• **verb** **1** he hazarded a guess: venture, advance, put forward, volunteer; conjecture, speculate, surmise; formal opine. **2** it's too risky to hazard money on: risk, jeopardize, gamble, stake, bet, chance; endanger, imperil.

**hazardous** adjective risky, dangerous, unsafe, perilous, precarious, fraught with danger; unpredictable, uncertain, chancy, high-risk, insecure, touch-and-go; informal dicey, hairy; Brit. informal dodgy.

– OPPOSITES safe, certain.

**haze** noun **1** a thick haze on the sea: mist, fog, cloud; smoke, vapour, steam. **2** a haze of euphoria: blur, daze, confusion, muddle, befuddlement.

**hazy** adjective **1** a hazy day: misty, foggy,

cloudy, overcast; smoggy, murky. **2** *hazy memories*: vague, indistinct, unclear, faint, dim, nebulous, shadowy, blurred, fuzzy, confused.

**head noun 1** *her head hit the wall*: skull, cranium, crown; informal nut, noodle, noggin, dome; Brit. informal bounce; informal, dated conk, noddle. **2** *he had to use his head*: brain(s), brainpower, intellect, intelligence; wit(s), wisdom, mind, sense, reasoning, common sense; informal nous, savvy, grey matter; Brit. informal loaf; N. Amer. informal smarts. **3** *she had a good head for business*: aptitude, faculty, talent, gift, capacity, ability; mind, brain.

**4** *the head of the church*: leader, chief, controller, governor, superintendent, headman; commander, captain; director, manager; principal, president, premier; informal boss, boss man, kingpin, top dog, Mr Big, skipper, numero uno, head honcho; Brit. informal gaffer, guv'nor; N. Amer. informal sachem, big kahuna. **5** *the head of the queue*: front, beginning, start, fore, forefront; top. **6** *the head of the river*: source, origin, well head, headspring, headwater; literary wellspring. **7** *beer with a head*: froth, foam, bubbles, spume, fizz, effervescence; suds.

– OPPOSITES back, mouth.

• **adjective** *the head waiter*: chief, principal, leading, main, first, prime, premier, top, highest, supreme, top-ranking; N. Amer. ranking; informal top-notch.

– OPPOSITES subordinate.

• **verb 1** *the procession was headed by the mayor*: lead, be at the front of; be first, lead the way. **2** *a team headed by a line manager*: command, control, lead, run, manage, direct, supervise, superintend, oversee, preside over, rule, govern, captain, helm; informal be the boss of. **3** *he was heading for the exit*: move towards, make for, aim for, go in the direction of, be bound for, make a beeline for; set out for, start out for.

■ **at the head of** in charge of, controlling, commanding, leading, managing, running, directing, supervising, overseeing; at the wheel of, at the helm of.

■ **come to a head** reach a crisis, come to a climax, reach a critical point, reach a crossroads; informal come to the crunch.

■ **go to someone's head 1** *the wine has gone to my head*: intoxicate, befuddle, make drunk; informal make woozy; formal inebriate. **2** *her victory went to her head*: make conceited, turn someone's head, puff someone up.

■ **head someone/something off 1** *he went to head off the cars*: intercept, divert, deflect, redirect, re-route, draw away, turn away. **2** *they headed off a row*: forestall, avert, ward off, fend off, stave off, hold off, nip in the bud, keep at bay; prevent, avoid, stop.

■ **keep one's head** keep/stay calm, keep one's self-control, maintain one's composure; informal keep one's cool, keep one's shirt on.

■ **lose one's head** lose control, lose one's composure, lose one's equilibrium, go to pieces; panic, get flustered, get confused,

get hysterical; informal lose one's cool, freak out, crack up; Brit. informal go into a (flat) spin, throw a wobbly.

#### WORD LINKS

**cephalic** relating to the head  
**concussion** temporary unconsciousness caused by a blow on the head  
**decapitate, behead** cut off a person's head

**headache noun 1** *I've got a headache*: pain in the head, sore head, migraine; neuralgia; informal head. **2** (informal) *their behaviour was a headache for Mr Jones*: nuisance, trouble, problem, bother, bugbear, pest, worry, inconvenience, vexation, irritant, thorn in one's flesh; informal aggravation, hassle, pain (in the neck), bind.

**head case noun** (informal) **maniac**, lunatic, madman, madwoman; informal loony, nut, nutcase, fruitcake, crank, crackpot; Brit. informal nutter; N. Amer. informal screwball, crazy, kook, wacko; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ informal dingbat.

**head first adverb 1** *she dived head first into the water*: headlong, on one's head.

**2** *don't plunge head first into a relationship*: without thinking, without forethought, precipitously, impetuously, rashly, recklessly, heedlessly, hastily, headlong.

– OPPOSITES cautiously.

**heading noun 1** *chapter headings*: title, caption, legend, subtitle, subheading, rubric, headline. **2** *this topic falls under four main headings*: category, division, classification, class, section, group, grouping, subject, topic.

**headland noun** cape, promontory, point, head, foreland, peninsula, ness, bluff; Scottish mull.

**headlong adverb 1** *he fell headlong into the tent*: head first, on one's head. **2** *she rushed headlong to join the craze*: without thinking, without forethought, precipitously, impetuously, rashly, recklessly, carelessly, heedlessly, hastily.

– OPPOSITES cautiously.

• **adjective** *a headlong dash*: breakneck, whirlwind; reckless, precipitate, precipitous, hasty, careless, heedless.

– OPPOSITES cautious.

**headman noun** chief, chieftain, leader, head, ruler, overlord, master, commander; lord, potentate; N. Amer. sachem.

– OPPOSITES underling.

**head-on adjective 1** *a head-on collision*: direct, front-to-front. **2** *a head-on confrontation*: direct, face to face, eyeball to eyeball, personal.

**headquarters plural noun** head office, main office, HQ, base, nerve centre, mission control, command post.

**headstone noun** gravestone, tombstone, stone, monument, memorial.

**headstrong adjective** wilful, strong-willed, stubborn, obstinate, unyielding, obdurate; contrary, perverse, wayward, unruly; formal refractory.



– OPPOSITES tractable.

**head teacher** noun head, headmaster, headmistress, principal, director, president, governor; Brit. master.

**headway** noun

■ **make headway** make progress, progress, make strides, gain ground, advance, proceed, move, get ahead, come along, take shape.

**heady** adjective **1** *heady wine*: potent, intoxicating, strong, powerful; alcoholic, vinous; formal spirituous. **2** *the heady days of my youth*: exhilarating, exciting, thrilling, stimulating, invigorating, electrifying, rousing; informal mind-blowing.

– OPPOSITES boring.

**heal** verb **1** *he heals sick people*: make better, make well, cure, treat, restore to health. **2** *his knee had healed*: get better, get well, be cured, recover, mend, improve. **3** *time will heal the pain of grief*: alleviate, ease, assuage, palliate, relieve, help, lessen, mitigate, attenuate, allay. **4** *we tried to heal the rift*: put right, set right, repair, remedy, resolve, correct, settle; conciliate, reconcile, harmonize; informal patch up.

– OPPOSITES aggravate, worsen.

**healing** adjective curative, therapeutic, medicinal, remedial, corrective, reparative; restorative, tonic, health-giving, healthful, beneficial.

– OPPOSITES harmful.

**health** noun **1** *he was restored to health*: well-being, healthiness, fitness, good condition, good shape, fine fettle; strength, vigour. **2** *bad health forced him to retire*: physical state, physical shape, condition, constitution.

– OPPOSITES illness.

**healthful** adjective healthy, health-giving, beneficial, good for one, salubrious; wholesome, nourishing, nutritious.

– OPPOSITES unhealthy.

**healthy** adjective **1** *a healthy baby*: well, in good health, fine, fit, in good trim, in good shape, in fine fettle, in tip-top condition; blooming, thriving, hardy, robust, strong, vigorous, fighting fit, fit as a fiddle, the picture of health; Brit. in rude health; informal OK, in the pink, right as rain. **2** *a healthy diet*: health-giving, healthful, good for one; wholesome, nutritious, nourishing; beneficial, salubrious.

– OPPOSITES ill, unwholesome.

**heap** noun **1** *a heap of boxes*: pile, stack, mound, mountain, mass, quantity, load, lot, jumble; collection, accumulation, assemblage, store, hoard. **2** (informal) *we have heaps of room*: a lot, a fair amount, much, plenty, a good deal, a great deal, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion; (a great) many, a large number, numerous, scores; informal hundreds, thousands, millions, a load, loads, loads, a pile, piles, oodles, stacks, lots, masses, scads, reams, wads, pots, oceans, miles, tons, zillions; Brit. informal a shedload, lashings.

• verb *she heaped logs on the fire*: pile (up),

stack (up), make a mound of; assemble, collect.

■ **heap something on** *they heaped praise on her*: shower on, lavish on, load on; bestow on, confer on, give, grant, vouchsafe, favour with.

**hear** verb **1** *she can't hear*: perceive sound; have hearing. **2** *she could hear men's voices*: perceive, make out, discern, catch, get, apprehend; overhear. **3** *they heard that I had moved*: be informed, be told, find out, discover, learn, gather, glean, ascertain, get word, get wind. **4** *a jury heard the case*: try, judge; adjudicate (on), adjudge, pass judgement on.

**hearing** noun **1** *acute hearing*: ability to hear, auditory perception, sense of hearing, aural faculty. **2** *she moved out of hearing*: earshot, hearing distance, hearing range, auditory range. **3** *I had a fair hearing*: chance to speak, opportunity to be heard; interview, audience. **4** *he gave evidence at the hearing*: trial, court case, inquiry, inquest, tribunal; investigation, inquisition.

**WORD LINKS**

auditory, aural, acoustic relating to hearing  
audiology the branch of medicine concerned with hearing  
audiometry the measurement of hearing

**hearsay** noun rumour, gossip, tittle-tattle, tattle, idle talk; stories, tales, on dit; informal the grapevine; Brit. informal goss; N. Amer. informal scuttlebutt.

**heart** noun **1** *his heart stopped beating*: informal ticker. **2** *he poured out his heart*: emotions, feelings, sentiments; soul, mind, bosom, breast; love, affection, passion. **3** *he has no heart*: compassion, sympathy, humanity, feeling(s), fellow feeling, brotherly love, tenderness, empathy, understanding; kindness, goodwill. **4** *they may lose heart*: enthusiasm, keenness, eagerness, spirit, determination, resolve, purpose, courage, nerve, will power, fortitude; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle. **5** *the heart of the city*: centre, middle, hub, core, nucleus, eye, bosom. **6** *the heart of the matter*: essence, crux, core, nub, root, gist, meat, marrow, pith, substance, kernel; informal nitty-gritty.

– OPPOSITES edge.

■ **after one's own heart** like-minded, of the same mind, kindred, compatible, congenial, sharing one's tastes, on the same wavelength.

■ **at heart** deep down, basically, fundamentally, essentially, in essence, intrinsically; really, actually, truly, in fact; informal when you get right down to it.

■ **(off) by heart** from memory, off pat, by rote, word for word, verbatim, parrot-fashion, word-perfect.

■ **eat one's heart out** pine, long, ache, brood, mope, fret, sigh, sorrow, yearn, agonize; grieve, mourn, lament.

■ **have a change of heart** change one's mind, change one's tune, have second thoughts, have a rethink, think again, think twice; informal get cold feet.

■ **have a heart** be compassionate, be kind, be merciful, be lenient, be sympathetic, be considerate, have mercy.

■ **heart and soul** wholeheartedly, enthusiastically, eagerly, zealously; absolutely, completely, entirely, fully, utterly, to the hilt, one hundred per cent.

■ **take heart** be encouraged, be heartened, be comforted; cheer up, brighten up, perk up, live up, revive; informal buck up.

■ **with one's heart in one's mouth** in alarm, in fear, fearfully, apprehensively, on edge, with trepidation, in suspense, in a cold sweat, with bated breath, on tenterhooks; informal with butterflies in one's stomach, in a state, in a stew, in a sweat; Brit. informal having kittens; N. Amer. informal in a twit.

#### WORD LINKS

**cardiac** relating to the heart

**coronary** relating to the heart's arteries

**cardiology** the branch of medicine concerned with the heart

**diastole** the phase of the heartbeat when the muscle relaxes

**systole** the phase of the heartbeat when the muscle contracts

**fibrillation** quivering movements of the heart muscle

**pacemaker** a device for regulating the heart muscle

**heartache** noun anguish, grief, suffering, distress, unhappiness, misery, sorrow, sadness, heartbreak, pain, hurt, agony, angst, despondency, despair, woe, desolation.

– OPPOSITES happiness.

**heartbreak** noun. See HEARTACHE.

**heartbreaking** adjective tragic, heart-rending, distressing, upsetting, disturbing, sad, painful, traumatic, agonizing, harrowing; pitiful, poignant, plaintive, moving, tear-jerking.

– OPPOSITES comforting.

**heartbroken** adjective **anguished**, devastated, broken-hearted, heavy-hearted, grieving, grief-stricken, inconsolable, crushed, shattered, desolate, despairing; upset, distressed, miserable, sorrowful, sad, downcast, disconsolate, crestfallen, despondent; informal choked, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, cut up.

**heartburn** noun **indigestion**, dyspepsia, pyrosis.

**hearten** verb **cheer (up)**, encourage, raise someone's spirits, boost, buoy up, perk up, ginger up, inspire, uplift, elate; comfort, reassure; informal buck up, pep up.

**heartfelt** adjective **sincere**, genuine, from the heart; earnest, profound, deep, wholehearted, ardent, fervent, passionate, enthusiastic, eager; honest, bona fide.

– OPPOSITES insincere.

**heartily** adverb **1** *we heartily welcome the changes: wholeheartedly*, sincerely, genuinely, warmly, profoundly, with all one's heart; eagerly, enthusiastically, earnestly, ardently. **2** *they were heartily sick of her: very*, extremely, thoroughly,

completely, absolutely, really, exceedingly, immensely, most, downright; N. Amer. quite; informal right, seriously; Brit. informal jolly, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty.

**heartless** adjective **unfeeling**, unsympathetic, unkind, uncaring, unconcerned, insensitive, inconsiderate, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, cold-hearted, mean-spirited; cold, callous, cruel, merciless, pitiless, inhuman.

– OPPOSITES compassionate.

**heart-rending** adjective **distressing**, upsetting, disturbing, heartbreaking, sad, tragic, painful, traumatic, harrowing; pitiful, poignant, plaintive, moving, tear-jerking.

**heartsick** adjective (literary) **despondent**, dejected, depressed, desolate, downcast, forlorn, unhappy, sad, upset, miserable, wretched, woe-begone, inconsolable, grieving, grief-stricken, heavy-hearted, broken-hearted.

– OPPOSITES happy.

**heart-throb** noun (informal) **idol**, pin-up, star, superstar, hero; informal dreamboat.

**heart-to-heart** adjective *a heart-to-heart chat*: intimate, personal, man-to-man, woman-to-woman; candid, honest, truthful, sincere.

• noun *they had a long heart-to-heart*:

**conversation**, tête-à-tête, one-to-one, head-to-head; chat, talk, word; informal confab; Brit. informal natter, chinwag.

**heart-warming** adjective **touching**, moving, heartening, stirring, uplifting, pleasing, cheering, gladdening, encouraging, gratifying.

– OPPOSITES distressing.

**hearty** adjective **1** *a hearty character*: **exuberant**, jovial, ebullient, cheerful, uninhibited, effusive, lively, loud, animated, vivacious, energetic, spirited, dynamic, enthusiastic, eager; warm, cordial, friendly, affable, amiable, good-natured. **2** *hearty congratulations*: **wholehearted**, heartfelt, sincere, genuine, real, true; earnest, fervent, ardent, enthusiastic. **3** *a hearty woman of sixty-five*: **robust**, healthy, hardy, fit, flourishing, blooming, fighting fit, fit as a fiddle; vigorous, sturdy, strong; Brit. in rude health; informal full of vim and vigour.

**4** *a hearty meal*: **substantial**, large, ample, sizeable, filling, generous, square, solid; healthy.

– OPPOSITES introverted, half-hearted, frail, light.

**heat** noun **1** *a plant sensitive to heat*: **warmth**, hotness, warmth, high temperature; hot weather, warm weather, sultriness, mugginess, humidity; heatwave, hot spell.

**2** *he took the heat out of the dispute*: **passion**, intensity, vehemence, warmth, fervour, fervency, ardency; enthusiasm, excitement, agitation; anger, fury.

– OPPOSITES cold, apathy.

• verb **1** *the food was heated*: **warm (up)**, heat up, make hot, make warm; reheat, cook; Brit. informal hot up. **2** *the pipes expand as they heat up*: **become hot**, become warm, get hotter,

get warmer, increase in temperature; Brit. informal hot up. **3** *he calmed down as quickly as he had heated up*: become impassioned, become excited, become animated; get angry, become enraged.

– OPPOSITES cool.

**WORD LINKS**

thermal, caloric relating to heat

**heated** adjective **1** *a heated swimming pool*: made warm, made hot, warmed up; reheated; hot, piping hot. **2** *a heated argument*: vehement, passionate, impassioned, animated, spirited, 'lively', intense, fiery; angry, bitter, furious, fierce, stormy, tempestuous. **3** *Robert grew heated as he spoke of the risks*: excited, animated, inflamed, worked up, wound up, keyed up; informal het up, in a state.

**h heater** noun radiator, convector, fire, brazier, warmer.

**heath** noun moor, heathland, moorland, scrub; common land.

**heathen** noun **1** *bringing Christianity to the heathens*: pagan, infidel, idolater, idolatress; unbeliever, non-believer, disbeliever, atheist, agnostic, sceptic, heretic; old use paynim. **2** *heathens who spoil good whisky with ice*: philistine, boor, oaf, ignoramus, lout, vulgarian, plebeian; informal pleb, peasant, yahoo, oik.

– OPPOSITES believer.

• adjective *a heathen practice*: pagan, infidel, idolatrous, heathenish; unbelieving, non-believing, atheistic, agnostic, heretical, faithless, godless, irreligious, ungodly, unholy; barbarian, barbarous, uncivilized, uncultured, primitive, ignorant, philistine.

**heave** verb **1** *she heaved the sofa backwards*: haul, pull, lug, drag, draw, tug, heft; informal hump, yank. **2** (informal) *he heaved a brick at him*: throw, fling, cast, toss, hurl, lob, pitch; informal chuck, sling; Brit. informal bung; N. English & Austral. informal hoy; NZ informal bish. **3** *he heaved a sigh of relief*: let out, breathe, give, sigh; emit, utter. **4** *the sea heaved: rise and fall*, roll, swell, surge, churn, seethe, swirl. **5** *she went to the sink and heaved*: retch, gag; vomit; Brit. be sick; N. Amer. get sick; informal throw up, puke, chunder, chuck up, hurl, spew; Scottish informal boke; N. Amer. informal barf, upchuck.

**heaven** noun **1** *the good will have a place in heaven*: paradise, nirvana, Zion; the hereafter, the next world, the next life, the afterworld; Elysium, the Elysian Fields, Valhalla; literary the empyrean. **2** *a good book is my idea of heaven*: bliss, ecstasy, rapture, contentment, happiness, delight, joy, seventh heaven; paradise, Utopia, nirvana. **3** (literary) *he observed the heavens: the sky*, the skies, the upper atmosphere, the stratosphere; literary the firmament, the blue, the (wide) blue yonder, the welkin, the empyrean, the azure, the upper regions, the sphere.

– OPPOSITES hell, misery.

■ in seventh heaven ecstatic, euphoric,

thrilled, elated, delighted, overjoyed, on cloud nine, walking on air, jubilant, rapturous, jumping for joy, transported, delirious, blissful; informal over the moon, on top of the world, on a high, tickled pink, as pleased as Punch, cock-a-hoop, as happy as a sandboy; Brit. informal as happy as Larry; N. Amer. informal as happy as a clam; Austral. informal wrapped.

■ *move heaven and earth* try one's hardest, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, spare no effort, put oneself out; strive, exert oneself, work hard; informal bend over backwards, do one's damndest, go all out, bust a gut.

**WORD LINKS**

celestial belonging or relating to heaven

**heavenly** adjective **1** *heavenly choirs*: divine, holy, celestial; angelic, seraphic, cherubic; literary empyrean. **2** *heavenly constellations*: celestial, cosmic, stellar; planetary; extraterrestrial, superterrestrial. **3** (informal) *a heavenly morning*: delightful, wonderful, glorious, perfect, excellent, sublime, idyllic, first-class, first-rate; blissful, pleasurable, enjoyable; exquisite, beautiful, lovely, gorgeous, enchanting; informal divine, super, great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific.

– OPPOSITES mortal, infernal, terrestrial, dreadful.

**heaven-sent** adjective auspicious, providential, propitious, felicitous, opportune, golden, favourable, advantageous, serendipitous, lucky, happy, good, fortunate.

– OPPOSITES inopportune.

**heavily** adverb **1** *Dad walked heavily*: laboriously, slowly, ponderously, woodenly, stiffly; with difficulty, painfully, awkwardly, clumsily. **2** *we were heavily defeated*: decisively, conclusively, roundly, soundly; utterly, completely, thoroughly. **3** *he drank heavily*: excessively, to excess, immoderately, copiously, inordinately, intemperately, a great deal, too much, overmuch. **4** *the area is heavily planted with trees*: densely, closely, thickly. **5** *I became heavily involved*: deeply, very, extremely, greatly, exceedingly, tremendously, profoundly; informal terribly, seriously; Brit. informal jolly, ever so.

– OPPOSITES easily, narrowly, moderately.

**heavy** adjective **1** *a heavy box*: weighty, hefty, substantial, ponderous; solid, dense, leaden; burdensome; informal hulking, weighing a ton. **2** *a heavy man*: overweight, fat, obese, corpulent, large, bulky, stout, stocky, portly, plump, paunchy, fleshy; informal hulking, tubby, beefy, porky; Brit. informal podgy. **3** *a heavy blow to the head*: forceful, hard, strong, violent, powerful, vigorous, mighty, hefty, sharp, smart, severe. **4** *a gardener did the heavy work for me*: arduous, hard, physical, laborious, difficult, strenuous, demanding, tough, onerous, back-breaking, gruelling; old use toilsome. **5** *a heavy burden of responsibility*: onerous, burdensome, demanding, challenging, difficult,



formidable, weighty; worrisome, stressful, trying, crushing, oppressive. **6 heavy fog:** dense, thick, soupy, murky, impenetrable.

**7 a heavy sky:** overcast, cloudy, clouded, grey, dull, gloomy, murky, dark, black, stormy, leaden, louring. **8 heavy rain:** torrential, relentless, copious, teeming, severe. **9 heavy soil:** clay, clayey, muddy, sticky, wet; Brit. claggy; informal cloggy. **10 a heavy fine:** sizeable, hefty, substantial, colossal, big, considerable; stiff; informal tidy, whopping, steep, astronomical.

**11 heavy seas:** tempestuous, turbulent, rough, wild, stormy, choppy, squally.

**12 heavy fighting:** intense, fierce, vigorous, relentless, all-out, severe, serious. **13 a heavy drinker:** immoderate, excessive, intemperate, overindulgent, unrestrained, uncontrolled.

**14 a heavy meal:** substantial, filling, hearty, large, big, ample, sizeable, generous, square, solid. **15 their diet is heavy on vegetables:** abounding in, abundant in, lavish with, profuse with, unstinting with, using a lot of. **16 he felt heavy and very tired:** lethargic, listless, sluggish, torpid, languid, apathetic. **17 a heavy heart:** sad, sorrowful, melancholy, gloomy, downcast, downhearted, heartbroken, dejected, disconsolate, demoralized, despondent, depressed, crestfallen, desolate, down; informal blue; literary dolorous. **18 these poems are rather heavy:** tedious, difficult, dull, dry, serious, heavy going, dreary, boring, turgid, uninteresting; informal deadly. **19 branches heavy with blossoms:** laden, loaded, covered, filled, groaning, bursting, teeming, abounding. **20 a heavy crop:** bountiful, plentiful, abundant, large, bumper, rich, copious, considerable, sizeable, profuse; informal whopping; literary plenteous. **21 he has heavy features:** coarse, rough, rough-hewn, unrefined; rugged, craggy.

– OPPOSITES light, thin, gentle, easy, bright, friable, small, calm, moderate, energetic, cheerful, meagre, delicate.

**heavy-handed** adjective **1** *they are heavy-handed with the equipment:* clumsy, awkward, maladroit, unhandy, inept, unskilful; informal ham-handed, ham-fisted, cack-handed; Brit. informal all (fingers and) thumbs. **2 heavy-handed policing:** insensitive, oppressive, overbearing, high-handed, harsh, stern, severe, tyrannical, despotic, ruthless, merciless; tactless, undiplomatic, inept.

– OPPOSITES dexterous, sensitive.

**heavy-hearted** adjective **melancholy**, sad, sorrowful, mournful, gloomy, depressed, desolate, despondent, dejected, downhearted, downcast, crestfallen, disconsolate, glum, miserable, wretched, dismal, morose, woeful, webegone, doleful, unhappy; informal down in the dumps, down in the mouth, blue; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**heckle** verb **jeer**, taunt, jibe at, shout down, boo, hiss, harass; Brit. & Austral./NZ barrack; informal give someone a hard time.

– OPPOSITES cheer.

**hectic** adjective **frantic**, frenetic, frenzied, feverish, manic, busy, active, fast and furious; lively, brisk, bustling, buzzing.

– OPPOSITES leisurely.

**hector** verb **bully**, intimidate, browbeat, harass, torment, plague; coerce, pressurize, strong-arm; threaten, menace; informal bulldoze; N. Amer. informal bullyrag.

**hedge** noun **1 high hedges:** hedgerow, bushes, fence; windbreak; Brit. quickset.

**2 an excellent hedge against a fall in sterling:** safeguard, protection, shield, screen, guard, buffer, cushion; insurance, security. **3 his analysis is full of hedges:** equivocation, evasion, fudge, quibble, qualification; temporizing, uncertainty, prevarication, vagueness.

• verb **1 fields hedged with hawthorn:**

surround, enclose, encircle, ring, border, edge, bound. **2 she was hedged in by her education:** confine, restrict, limit, hinder, obstruct, impede, constrain, trap; hem in. **3 he hedged at every new question:** prevaricate, equivocate, vacillate, quibble, hesitate, stall, dodge the issue, be non-committal, be evasive, be vague, beat about the bush, pussyfoot around, mince one's words; Brit. hum and haw; informal sit on the fence, duck the question. **4 the company hedged its position on the market:** safeguard, protect, shield, guard, cushion; cover, insure.

**hedonism** noun **self-indulgence**, pleasure-seeking, self-gratification, lotus-eating, sybaritism; intemperance, immoderation, extravagance, luxury, high living.

– OPPOSITES self-restraint.

**hedonist** noun **sybarite**, sensualist, voluptuary, pleasure-seeker, bon viveur, bon vivant; epicure, gastronome.

– OPPOSITES ascetic.

**hedonistic** adjective **self-indulgent**, pleasure-seeking, sybaritic, lotus-eating, epicurean; unrestrained, intemperate, immoderate, extravagant, decadent.

**heed** verb *heed the warnings:* **pay attention** to, take notice of, take note of, pay heed to, attend to, listen to; bear in mind, be mindful of, mind, mark, consider, take into account, follow, obey, adhere to, abide by, observe, take to heart, be alert to.

– OPPOSITES disregard.

• noun *he paid no heed:* **attention**, notice, note, regard; consideration, thought, care.

**heedful** adjective **attentive**, careful, mindful, cautious, prudent, circumspect; alert, aware, wary, chary, watchful, vigilant, on guard, on the alert.

**heedless** adjective **unmindful**, taking no notice, paying no heed, unheeding, disregarding, neglectful, oblivious, inattentive, blind, deaf; incautious, imprudent, rash, reckless, foolhardy, imprudent, unwary.

**heel**<sup>1</sup> noun **1 shoes with low heels:** heel piece; wedge, stiletto. **2 the heel of a loaf:** tail end, end, crust, remnant, remainder, remains. **3** (informal, dated) *you're such a heel:* **scoundrel**, rogue, rascal, reprobate, miscreant; informal

beast, rat, louse, swine, snake, scumbag, stinker; Brit. informal, dated rotter, bounder, blighter; dated cad, blackguard.

■ **take to one's heels** run away, run off, make a run for it, take flight, take off, make a break for it, flee, make one's getaway, escape; informal beat it, clear off, vamoose, skedaddle, split, cut and run, leg it, hotfoot it, show a clean pair of heels, scam; Brit. informal do a runner, scarper, do a bunk; N. Amer. informal light out, bug out; Austral. informal shoot through.

**heel**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *the ship heeled to starboard*: lean over, list, careen, tilt, tip, incline, keel over.

**heft verb lift (up)**, raise (up), heave, hoist, haul; carry, lug; informal cart, hump, tote.

**hefty adjective 1** *a hefty young man*: burly, heavy, sturdy, strapping, bulky, brawny, husky, strong, muscular, large, big, solid, well built; portly, stout; informal hulking, hunky, beefy. **2** *a hefty kick*: powerful, violent, hard, forceful, heavy, mighty. **3** *hefty loads of timber*: heavy, weighty, bulky, big, large, substantial, massive, ponderous; unwieldy, cumbersome, burdensome; informal hulking. **4** *a hefty fine*: substantial, sizeable, considerable, stiff, extortionate, large, excessive; informal steep, astronomical, whopping.

– OPPOSITES slight, feeble, light, small.

**hegemony noun leadership**, dominance, dominion, supremacy, authority, mastery, control, power, sway, rule, sovereignty.

**height noun 1** *the height of the wall*:

highness, tallness, extent upwards, vertical measurement, elevation, stature, altitude.

**2** *the mountain heights*: summit, top, peak, crest, crown, tip, cap, pinnacle, apex, brow, ridge. **3** *the height of their fame*: highest point, crowning moment, peak, acme, zenith, apogee, pinnacle, climax, high water mark. **4** *the height of bad manners*: epitome, acme, zenith, quintessence, very limit; ultimate, utmost. **5** *he is terrified of heights*: high places, high ground; precipices, cliffs.

– OPPOSITES width, nadir.

**WORD LINKS**

**altimetry** the measurement of height  
**acrophobia** an extreme fear of heights  
**vertigo** dizziness caused by looking down from a great height

**heighten verb 1** *the roof had to be heightened*: make higher, raise, lift (up), elevate. **2** *her pleasure was heightened by guilt*: intensify, increase, enhance, add to, augment, boost, strengthen, deepen, magnify, amplify, reinforce.

– OPPOSITES lower, reduce.

**heinous adjective odious**, wicked, evil, atrocious, monstrous, abominable, detestable, contemptible, reprehensible, despicable, egregious, horrific, terrible, awful, abhorrent, loathsome, hideous, unspeakable, execrable; iniquitous, villainous, beyond the pale.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**heir, heiress noun successor**, next in line,

inheritor, beneficiary, legatee; descendant, scion; Law devisee; English Law coparcener; Scottish Law heiritor.

**helix noun spiral**, coil, corkscrew, curl, twist, gyre, whorl, convolution.

**hell noun 1** *they feared hell*: the netherworld, the Inferno, the infernal regions, the abyss; eternal damnation, perdition; hellfire, fire and brimstone; Hades, Acheron, Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol; literary the pit. **2** *he made her life hell*: a misery, torture, agony, a torment, a nightmare, an ordeal; anguish, wretchedness, woe.

– OPPOSITES heaven, paradise.

■ **give someone hell** (informal) **1** *when I found out I gave him hell*: reprimand severely, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, scold, berate, remonstrate with, reprehend, take to task, lambaste; read someone the Riot Act, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals; informal tell off, dress down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, let someone have it, bawl out, come down hard on, lay into, blast; Brit. informal tick off, have a go at, carpet, give someone a rollicking, give someone a mouthful, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for; N. Amer. informal chew out; formal castigate. **2** *she gave me hell when I was her junior*: harass, hound, plague, harry, bother, trouble, bully, intimidate, pick on, victimize, terrorize; informal hassle, give someone a hard time.

■ **hell for leather** very fast, very quickly, rapidly, speedily, swiftly, hurriedly, at full tilt, at full pelt, headlong, hotfoot, post-haste, helter-skelter, at the speed of light, at breakneck speed; informal like a bat out of hell, like the wind, like greased lightning, like a bomb; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

**WORD LINKS**

infernal relating to hell.

**hell-bent adjective intent**, bent, determined, (dead) set, insistent, fixed, resolved; single-minded, fixated.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**hellish adjective 1** *the hellish face of Death*:

infernal, Hadean; diabolical, fiendish, satanic, demonic; evil, wicked. **2** (informal) *a hellish week*: horrible, rotten, awful, terrible, dreadful, ghastly, horrid, vile, foul, appalling, atrocious, horrendous, frightful; difficult, unpleasant, nasty, disagreeable; stressful, taxing, tough, hard, frustrating, fraught, traumatic, gruelling; informal murderous, lousy; Brit. informal beastly; N. Amer. informal hellacious.

– OPPOSITES angelic, wonderful.

• **adverb** (Brit. informal) *it's hellish hard work*: extremely, very, exceedingly, exceptionally, tremendously, immensely, intensely, unusually, decidedly, particularly, really, truly, mightily; most, so; N. English right; informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, bloody, dead; N. Amer. informal real,

mighty, awful; informal, dated devilish; old use exceeding.

– OPPOSITES moderately.

**helm** noun *he took the helm: tiller*, wheel; steering gear, rudder.

■ **at the helm** in charge, in command, in control, responsible, in authority, at the wheel, in the driving seat, in the saddle; informal holding the reins, running the show, calling the shots.

**help** verb **1** *can you help me please?* assist, aid, lend a (helping) hand to, give assistance to, come to the aid of; be of service to, be of use to; do someone a favour, do someone a service, do someone a good turn, bail someone out, come to the rescue, give someone a leg up; rally round, pitch in; informal get someone out of a tight spot, save someone's bacon, save someone's skin. **2** *this credit card helps cancer research: support*, contribute to, give money to, donate to; promote, boost, back; further the interests of; N. Amer. informal bankroll. **3** *sore throats are helped by lozenges: relieve*, soothe, ease, alleviate, make better, improve, assuage, lessen; remedy, cure, heal.

– OPPOSITES hinder, impede, worsen.

● **noun 1** *this could be of help to you:*

assistance, aid, a helping hand, support, succour, advice, guidance; benefit, use, advantage, service, comfort; informal a shot in the arm. **2** *he sought help for his eczema: relief*, alleviation, improvement, assuagement, healing; a remedy, a cure, a restorative. **3** *they treated the help badly: domestic worker*, domestic servant, cleaner, cleaning lady, home help, maid, housemaid, hired help, helper; Brit. informal daily (woman), skivvy, Mrs Mop; Brit. dated charwoman, charlady, char.

■ **cannot help** *he could not help laughing:* be unable to stop, be unable to refrain from, be unable to keep from.

■ **help oneself** to steal, take, appropriate, 'borrow', 'liberate', pocket, purloin, commandeer; informal swipe, nab, filch, snaffle, walk off with, run off with; Brit. informal nick, pinch, whip, knock off.

**helper** noun assistant, aide, helpmate, helpmeet, deputy, auxiliary, second, right-hand man/woman, attendant, acolyte; co-worker, workmate, teammate, associate, colleague, partner; informal sidekick.

**helpful** adjective **1** *the staff are extremely helpful: obliging*, eager to please, kind, accommodating, supportive, cooperative; sympathetic, neighbourly, charitable. **2** *we found your comments helpful: useful*, of use, beneficial, valuable, profitable, fruitful, advantageous, worthwhile, constructive; informative, instructive. **3** *a helpful new tool: handy*, useful, convenient, practical, easy-to-use, functional, serviceable; informal neat, nifty.

– OPPOSITES unsympathetic, useless, inconvenient.

**helping** noun portion, serving, piece, slice, share, ration, allocation; informal dollop.

**helpless** adjective dependent, incapable, powerless, impotent, weak; defenceless, vulnerable, exposed, unprotected, open to attack; paralysed, disabled.

– OPPOSITES independent.

**helpmate, helpmeet** noun helper, assistant, attendant; supporter, friend, companion; spouse, partner, mate, husband, wife.

**helter-skelter** adverb *they ran helter-skelter down the hill: headlong*, pell-mell, hotfoot, post-haste, hastily, hurriedly, at full pelt, at full tilt, hell for leather; recklessly, precipitately, heedlessly, wildly; informal like a bat out of hell, like the wind, like greased lightning, like a bomb; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

● **adjective** *a helter-skelter collection of houses: disordered*, disorderly, chaotic, muddled, jumbled, untidy, haphazard, disorganized, topsy-turvy; informal higgledy-piggledy; Brit. informal shambolic.

– OPPOSITES orderly.

**hem** noun *the hem of her dress: edge*, edging, border, trim, trimming.

● **verb** *Nan taught me to hem skirts: edge*, trim.

■ **hem someone/something in 1** *a bay hemmed in by pine trees: surround*, border, edge, encircle, circle, ring, enclose, skirt, fringe, encompass. **2** *we were hemmed in by the rules: restrict*, confine, trap, hedge in, fence in; constrain, restrain, limit, curb, check.

**he-man** noun (informal) **muscleman**, strongman, macho man, iron man; Hercules, Samson, Tarzan; informal hunk, tough guy, beefcake, bruiser.

– OPPOSITES wimp.

**hence** adverb **consequently**, as a consequence, for this reason, therefore, ergo, thus, so, accordingly, as a result, because of that, that being so.

**henceforth, henceforward** adverb **from now on**, as of now, in (the) future, hence, subsequently, from this day on, from this day forth; formal hereafter.

**henchman** noun **right-hand man**, assistant, aide, helper; underling, minion, man Friday, lackey, flunkey, stooge; bodyguard, minder; informal sidekick, crony, heavy.

**hencepecked** adjective **browbeaten**, downtrodden, bullied, dominated, subjugated, oppressed, intimidated; meek, timid, cringing; informal under someone's thumb, led by the nose.

– OPPOSITES domineering.

**herald** noun **1** (historical) *a herald announced the armistice: messenger*, courier; proclaimer, announcer, crier. **2** *the first herald of spring: harbinger*, sign, indicator, indication, signal, prelude, portent, omen; forerunner, precursor; literary foretoken.

● **verb 1** *shouts heralded their approach: proclaim*, announce, broadcast, publicize, declare, trumpet, blazon, advertise. **2** *the speech heralded a policy change: signal*,



indicate, announce, spell, presage, augur, portend, promise, foretell; usher in, pave the way for, be a harbinger of; literary foretold, betoken.

**Herculean adjective** **1** *a Herculean task*: arduous, gruelling, laborious, back-breaking, onerous, strenuous, difficult, formidable, hard, tough, huge, massive, uphill; demanding, exhausting, taxing; old use toilsome. **2** *his Herculean build*: strong, muscular, muscly, powerful, robust, solid, strapping, brawny, burly; informal hunky, beefy, hulking.

– OPPOSITES easy, puny.

**herd noun** **1** *a herd of cows*: drove, flock, pack, fold; group, collection. **2** *a herd of actors*: crowd, group, bunch, horde, mob, host, pack, multitude, throng, swarm, company. **3** *they consider themselves above the herd*: the common people, the masses, the rank and file, the crowd, the commonality, the commonalty, the plebeians; the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed; informal the proles, the plebs.

• **verb** **1** *we herded the sheep into the pen*: drive, shepherd, guide; round up, gather, collect. **2** *we all herded into the room*: crowd, pack, flock; cluster, huddle. **3** *they herd reindeer*: tend, look after, keep, watch (over), mind, guard.

**herdsman, herdsman** noun stockman, herder, drover, cattleman, cowherd, cowhand, cowman, cowboy, rancher, shepherd; N. Amer. *ranchero*; N. Amer. informal cowpuncher, cowpoke; old use *herd*.

**here adverb** **1** *they lived here*: at/in this place, at/in this spot, at/in this location. **2** *I am here now*: present, in attendance, attending, at hand; available. **3** *come here tomorrow*: to this place, to this spot, to this location, over here, nearer, closer; literary hither. **4** *here is your opportunity*: now, at this moment, at this point (in time), at this juncture, at this stage.

– OPPOSITES absent.

■ **here and there** **1** *clumps of heather here and there*: in various places, in different places; at random. **2** *they darted here and there*: hither and thither, around, about, to and fro, back and forth, in all directions.

**hereafter adverb** (formal) *nothing I say hereafter is intended to offend*: from now on, after this, as of now, from this moment forth, from this day forth, from this day forward, subsequently, in (the) future, hence, henceforth, henceforward; formal hereinafter.

• **noun** *our preparation for the hereafter*: life after death, the afterlife, the afterworld, the next world; eternity, heaven, paradise.

**hereditary adjective** **1** *a hereditary right*: inherited; bequeathed, willed, handed-down, passed-down, passed-on, transferred; ancestral, family, familial. **2** *a hereditary disease*: genetic, genetical, congenital, inborn, inherited, inbred, innate; in the family, in the blood, in the genes.

**heredity noun** genetic make-up, genes, congenital traits; ancestry, descent, extraction, parentage.

**heresy noun** dissension, dissent, nonconformity, heterodoxy, unorthodoxy, apostasy, blasphemy, freethinking; agnosticism, atheism, non-belief; idolatry, paganism; iconoclasm.

**heretic noun** dissenter, nonconformist, apostate, freethinker, iconoclast; agnostic, atheist, non-believer, unbeliever, idolater, idolatress, pagan, heathen; old use *paynim*.

– OPPOSITES conformist, believer.

**heritage noun** **1** *they stole his heritage*: inheritance, birthright, patrimony; legacy, bequest; Law, dated hereditament. **2** *Europe's cultural heritage*: tradition, history, past, background; culture, customs. **3** *his Greek heritage*: ancestry, lineage, descent, extraction, parentage, roots, background, heredity.

**hermaphrodite noun** androgyne, intersex, epicene; Biology bisexual, gynandromorph.

• **adjective** *hermaphrodite creatures*:

androgynous, intersex, hermaphroditic, hermaphroditical, epicene; Biology bisexual, gynandrous, gynandromorphic.

**hermetic adjective** airtight, tight, sealed; watertight, waterproof.

**hermit noun** recluse, solitary, loner, ascetic; historical anchorite, anchoress; old use *eremite*.

**hermitage noun** retreat, refuge, hideaway, hideout, shelter; informal hidey-hole.

**hero noun** **1** *a war hero*: brave man, man of courage, man of the hour, lionheart, warrior; champion, victor, conqueror. **2** *a football hero*: star, superstar, megastar, idol, celebrity, luminary; ideal, paragon, shining example; favourite, darling; informal celeb. **3** *the hero of the film*: male protagonist, principal male character/role, starring role, star part; male lead, lead (actor), leading man.

– OPPOSITES coward, loser, villain.

**heroic adjective** **1** *heroic rescuers*: brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, lionhearted, intrepid, bold, fearless, daring, audacious; unafraid, undaunted, dauntless, doughty, plucky, stout-hearted, mettlesome; gallant, chivalrous, noble; informal gutsy, spunky. **2** *obelisks on a heroic scale*: prodigious, grand, enormous, huge, massive, titanic, colossal, monumental; epic; informal mega.

**heroine noun** **1** *she's a heroine—she saved my baby*: brave woman, hero, woman of courage, woman of the hour; victor, winner, conqueror. **2** *the literary heroine of Moscow*: star, superstar, megastar, idol, celebrity, luminary; ideal, paragon, shining example; favourite, darling; informal celeb. **3** *the film's heroine*: female protagonist, principal female character/role; female lead, lead (actress), leading lady; prima donna, diva.

**heroism noun** bravery, courage, valour, intrepidity, boldness, daring, audacity, fearlessness, dauntlessness, pluck, stout-heartedness, lionheartedness; backbone,

spine, grit, spirit, mettle; gallantry, chivalry; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

**hero-worship** noun idolization, adulation, admiration, lionization, idealization, worship, adoration, veneration.

**hesitancy** noun. See **HESSITATION**.

**hesitant** adjective **1** *she is hesitant about buying*: uncertain, undecided, unsure, doubtful, dubious, sceptical; tentative, nervous, reluctant; indecisive, irresolute, hesitating, dithering, vacillating, blowing hot and cold; ambivalent, in two minds; Brit. hovering, humming and hawing; informal iffy. **2** *a hesitant child*: lacking confidence, diffident, timid, shy, bashful, insecure.

– OPPOSITES certain, decisive, confident.

**hesitate** verb **1** *she hesitated, unsure of what to say*: pause, delay, wait, shilly-shally, dither, stall, temporize; be in two minds, be uncertain, be unsure, be doubtful, be indecisive, equivocate, vacillate, waver, blow hot and cold, have second thoughts; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal dilly-dally. **2** *don't hesitate to contact me*: be reluctant, be unwilling, be disinclined, scruple; have misgivings about, have qualms about, shrink from, demur from, think twice about, balk at.

**hesitation** noun hesitancy, hesitance, uncertainty, unsureness, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness; irresolution, irresoluteness, indecision, indecisiveness; equivocation, vacillation, second thoughts; dithering, stalling, temporization, delay; reluctance, disinclination, unease, ambivalence; formal dubiety.

**heterodox** adjective unorthodox, nonconformist, dissenting, dissident, rebellious, renegade; heretical, blasphemous, apostate, sceptical.

– OPPOSITES orthodox.

**heterogeneous** adjective diverse, varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, sundry, disparate, different, differing, unrelated; motley; literary divers.

– OPPOSITES homogeneous.

**heterosexual** adjective informal straight, hetero, het.

– OPPOSITES homosexual, gay.

**hew** verb chop, hack, cut, lop, axe, cleave; fell; carve, shape, fashion, sculpt, model.

**heyday** noun prime, peak, height, pinnacle, acme, zenith; day, time, bloom; prime of life, salad days.

**hiatus** noun pause, break, gap, lacuna, interval, intermission, interlude, interruption, suspension, lull, respite, time out; N. Amer. recess; informal breather, let-up.

**hibernate** verb lie dormant, lie torpid, sleep; overwinter.

**hidden** adjective **1** *a hidden camera*: concealed, secret, invisible, unseen, out of sight; camouflaged, disguised, masked. **2** *a hidden meaning*: obscure, unclear, concealed, indistinct, indefinite, vague, unfathomable, inexplicable; cryptic,

mysterious, secret, covert, abstruse, arcane; ulterior, deep, subliminal, coded.

– OPPOSITES visible, obvious.

**hide**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *he hid the money*: conceal, secrete, put out of sight; camouflage; lock up, stow away, cache; informal stash. **2** *they hid in an air vent*: conceal oneself, secrete oneself, hide out, take cover, keep out of sight; lie low, go to ground, go to earth; informal hole up; Brit. informal, dated lie doggo. **3** *clouds hid the moon*: obscure, block out, blot out, obstruct, cloud, shroud, veil, blanket, envelop, eclipse. **4** *he could not hide his dislike*: conceal, keep secret, cover up, keep dark, keep quiet about, hush up, bottle up, suppress; disguise, mask, camouflage; informal keep under one's hat, keep a/the lid on.

– OPPOSITES flaunt, reveal.

**hide**<sup>2</sup> noun *the hide should be tanned quickly*: skin, pelt, coat; leather.

**hideaway** noun retreat, refuge, hiding place, hideout, den, bolt-hole, shelter, sanctuary, sanctum; hermitage; informal hidey-hole.

**hidebound** adjective conservative, reactionary, conventional, orthodox; fundamentalist, diehard, hard-line, dyed-in-the-wool, set in one's ways; narrow-minded, small-minded, intolerant, uncompromising, rigid; prejudiced, bigoted; Brit. blimpish.

– OPPOSITES liberal.

**hideous** adjective **1** *a hideous smile*: ugly, repulsive, repellent, unsightly, revolting, gruesome, grotesque, monstrous, ghastly, reptilian; informal as ugly as sin. **2** *hideous cases of torture*: horrific, terrible, appalling, awful, dreadful, frightful, horrible, horrendous, horrifying, shocking, sickening, gruesome, ghastly, unspeakable, abhorrent, monstrous, heinous, abominable, foul, vile, odious, execrable.

– OPPOSITES beautiful, pleasant.

**hideout** noun hiding place, hideaway, retreat, refuge, shelter, bolt-hole, safe house, sanctuary, sanctum; informal hidey-hole.

**hiding**<sup>1</sup> noun (informal) *they gave him a hiding*: beating, battering, thrashing, thumping, drubbing, pelting; flogging, whipping, caning, birching; informal licking, belting, bashing, pasting, walloping, clobbering, tanning.

**hiding**<sup>2</sup> noun

■ *in hiding the fugitive is in hiding*: hidden, concealed, lying low, gone to ground, gone to earth, in a safe house; Brit. informal, dated lying doggo.

**hiding place** noun hideaway, hideout, retreat, refuge, shelter, sanctuary, sanctum, bolt-hole, safe house; informal hidey-hole.

**hie** verb (old use). See **HURRY** verb sense 1.

**hierarchy** noun pecking order, ranking, grading, ladder, scale.

**hieroglyphic** noun **1** *hieroglyphics on a stone monument*: symbols, signs, ciphers, code; cryptograms. **2** *notebooks filled with*

h

**hieroglyphics:** scribble, scrawl, illegible writing; shorthand.

• **adjective 1 hieroglyphic brass**

**ornamentation:** symbolic, stylized, emblematic. **2 hieroglyphic handwriting:** illegible, indecipherable, unreadable, scribbled, scrawled.

**higgledy-piggledy** (informal) **adjective** *a higgledy-piggledy pile of papers:* disordered, disorderly, disorganized, untidy, messy, chaotic, jumbled, muddled, confused, unsystematic, irregular; out of order, in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle, haphazard; informal all over the place; Brit. informal shambolic.

– **OPPOSITES** tidy.

• **adverb** *the cars were parked higgledy-piggledy:* in disorder, in a muddle, in a jumble, in disarray, untidily, haphazardly, anyhow; informal all over the place, topsyturvy, every which way, any old how; Brit. informal all over the shop; N. Amer. informal all over the map, all over the lot.

**high** **adjective 1** *a high building:* tall, lofty, towering, elevated, giant, big; multi-storey, high-rise. **2** *a high position in the government:* high-ranking, high-level, leading, top, top-level, prominent, pre-eminent, foremost, senior; influential, powerful, important, elevated, prime, premier, exalted; N. Amer. ranking; informal top-notch. **3** *high principles:* high-minded, noble, lofty, moral, ethical, honourable, admirable, upright, honest, virtuous, righteous. **4** *high prices:* inflated, excessive, unreasonable, expensive, dear, costly, exorbitant, extortionate, prohibitive; Brit. over the odds; informal steep, stiff, pricey. **5** *high standards:* excellent, outstanding, exemplary, exceptional, admirable, fine, good, first-class, first-rate, superior, superlative, superb; impeccable, irreproachable, unimpeachable, perfect, flawless; informal A1, top-notch. **6** *high winds:* strong, powerful, violent, intense, extreme, forceful, stiff; blustery, gusty, squally, tempestuous, turbulent. **7** *the high life:* luxurious, lavish, extravagant, grand, opulent; sybaritic, hedonistic; Brit. upmarket; N. Amer. upscale; informal fancy, classy, swanky. **8** *I have a high opinion of you:* favourable, good, positive, approving, admiring, complimentary, commendatory, flattering, glowing, adulatory, rapturous. **9** *a very high note:* high-pitched, high-frequency; soprano, treble, falsetto, shrill, sharp, piercing, penetrating. **10** (informal) *they are high on drugs:* intoxicated, inebriated, drugged, stupefied, befuddled, delirious, hallucinating; informal high as a kite, stoned, tripping, hyped up, spaced out, wasted, wrecked, off one's head. **11** *the partridges were high:* gamy, smelly, strong-smelling; stinking, reeking, rank, malodorous, bad, off, rotting; Brit. informal pongy, niffy, whiffy; N. Amer. informal funky.

– **OPPOSITES** short, lowly, amoral, cheap, low, light, abstemious, unfavourable, deep, sober, fresh.

• **noun** *prices were at a rare high:* high level, high point, peak, high water mark; pinnacle, zenith, acme, height.

– **OPPOSITES** low.

• **adverb** *a jet flew high overhead:* at great height, high up, far up, way up, at altitude; in the air, in the sky, on high, aloft, overhead.

– **OPPOSITES** low.

■ **high and dry** destitute, bereft, helpless, in the lurch, in difficulties; abandoned, stranded, marooned.

■ **high and low** everywhere, all over, all around, far and wide, {here, there, and everywhere}, extensively, thoroughly, widely, in every nook and cranny; informal all over the place; Brit. informal all over the shop; N. Amer. informal all over the map.

■ **high and mighty** (informal) self-important, condescending, patronizing, disdainful, supercilious, superior, snobbish, snobby, haughty, conceited, above oneself; informal stuck-up, snooty, hoity-toity, la-di-da, uppity; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

■ **on a high** (informal) ecstatic, euphoric, delirious, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, beside oneself, walking on air, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy, in raptures, exultant, jubilant; excited, overexcited; informal blissed out, over the moon, on top of the world; Austral./NZ informal wrapped.

**high-born** **adjective** noble, aristocratic, well born, titled, patrician, blue-blooded, upper-class; informal upper-crust, top-drawer; Brit. informal posh; old use gentle.

– **OPPOSITES** lowly.

**highbrow** **adjective** *his work has a highbrow following:* intellectual, scholarly, bookish, academic, educated, donnish, bluestocking; sophisticated, erudite, learned; informal brainy, egghead.

– **OPPOSITES** lowbrow.

• **noun** *highbrows who hate pop music:* intellectual, scholar, academic, bookish person, bluestocking, thinker; informal egghead, brain, bookworm; Brit. informal brainbox, boffin; N. Amer. informal brainiac.

**high-class** **adjective** superior, upper-class, first-rate; excellent, select, elite, choice, premier, top, top-flight; luxurious, de luxe, high-quality, top-quality, top-tier; Brit. upmarket; informal top-notch, top-drawer, A1, classy, posh.

**highfalutin** **adjective** (informal). See **PRETENTIOUS**.

**high-flown** **adjective** grand, extravagant, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overdone, overwrought, grandiloquent, magniloquent, grandiose, inflated, affected, pretentious, turgid; informal windy, purple, highfalutin, la-di-da.

– **OPPOSITES** plain.

**high-handed** **adjective** imperious, arbitrary, peremptory, arrogant, haughty, domineering, pushy, overbearing, heavy-handed, lordly; inflexible, rigid; autocratic, authoritarian, dictatorial, tyrannical; informal bossy, high and mighty.



**high jinks** plural noun antics, pranks, larks, escapades, stunts, practical jokes, tricks; fun (and games), skylarking, mischief, horseplay, tomfoolery, clowning; informal shenanigans, capers, monkey business; Brit. informal monkey tricks.

**highland** noun uplands, highlands, mountains, hills, heights, moors; upland, tableland, plateau; Brit. wolds.

**highlight** noun *the highlight of his long career*: high point, high spot, best part, climax, peak, pinnacle, height, acme, zenith, summit, crowning moment, high water mark.

– OPPOSITES nadir.

• verb *he has highlighted shortcomings in the plan*: spotlight, call attention to, focus on, underline, feature, play up, show up, bring out, accentuate, accent, give prominence to, zero in on, stress, emphasize.

**highly** adverb **1** *a highly dangerous substance*: very, extremely, exceedingly, particularly, most, really, thoroughly, decidedly, distinctly, exceptionally, immensely, inordinately, singularly, extraordinarily; N. English right; informal terrifically, awfully, terribly, majorly, seriously, desperately, mega, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; dated frightfully.

**2** *he was highly regarded*: favourably, well, appreciatively, admiringly, approvingly, positively, glowingly, enthusiastically.

– OPPOSITES slightly, unfavourably.

**highly strung** adjective nervous, nervy, excitable, temperamental, sensitive, unstable; brittle, on edge, edgy, restless, anxious, tense, stressed, overwrought, neurotic; informal uptight, jumpy, twitchy, wired, wound up, het up.

– OPPOSITES easy-going.

**high-minded** adjective high-principled, principled, honourable, moral, upright, upstanding, right-minded, noble, good, honest, decent, ethical, righteous, virtuous, worthy, idealistic.

– OPPOSITES unprincipled.

**high-pitched** adjective high, high-frequency, shrill, sharp, piping, piercing; soprano, treble, falsetto.

– OPPOSITES deep.

**high-powered** adjective dynamic, ambitious, energetic, assertive, enterprising, vigorous; forceful, aggressive, pushy, high-octane; informal go-ahead, go-getting; N. Amer. informal go-go.

**high-pressure** adjective forceful, insistent, persistent, pushy; intensive, high-powered, aggressive, coercive, compelling, thrusting, not taking no for an answer.

**high-priced** adjective expensive, costly, dear; overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate; Brit. over the odds; informal pricey, steep, stiff.

**high-sounding** adjective grand, high-flown, extravagant, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overdone, overwrought,

grandiloquent, magniloquent, grandiose, inflated, affected, pretentious, turgid; informal windy, purple, highfalutin, la-di-da.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**high-speed** adjective fast, quick, rapid, speedy, swift, breakneck, lightning, brisk; express, non-stop, whistle-stop; informal nippy, zippy, supersonic; literary fleet.

– OPPOSITES slow.

**high-spirited** adjective lively, spirited, full of fun, fun-loving, animated, zestful, bouncy, bubbly, sparkling, vivacious, buoyant, cheerful, joyful, exuberant, ebullient, jaunty, irrepressible; Brit. Tiggerish; informal chirpy, peppy, sparky, bright and breezy, full of beans; literary frolicsome.

**high spirits** plural noun liveliness, vitality, spirit, zest, energy, bounce, sparkle, vivacity, buoyancy, cheerfulness, good humour, joy, joyfulness, exuberance, ebullience, joie de vivre; informal pep, zing.

**highwayman** noun (historical) bandit, robber, outlaw, ruffian, marauder, raider; historical footpad; literary brigand.

**hijack** verb commandeer, seize, take over; skyjack; appropriate, expropriate, confiscate; informal snatch.

**hike** noun **a five-mile hike**: walk, trek, tramp, trudge, slog, footslog, march; ramble; Brit. informal yomp.

• verb *they hiked across the moors*: walk, trek, tramp, trudge, slog, footslog, march; ramble; informal hoof it, leg it; Brit. informal yomp.

■ **hike something up** **1** *Roy hiked up his trousers*: hitch up, pull up, hoist, lift, raise; informal yank up. **2** *they hiked up the price*: increase, raise, up, put up, mark up, push up, inflate; informal jack up, bump up.

**hilarious** adjective **1** *a hilarious story*: very funny, hysterically funny, hysterical, uproarious, riotous, farcical, rib-tickling; humorous, comic, amusing, entertaining; informal side-splitting, priceless, a scream, a hoot. **2** *a hilarious evening*: amusing, entertaining, animated, high-spirited, lively, funny, merry, jolly, mirthful, cheerful, uproarious, boisterous; informal wacky.

– OPPOSITES sad, serious.

**hilarity** noun amusement, mirth, laughter, merriment, light-heartedness, levity, fun, humour, jocularly, jollity, gaiety, delight, glee, exuberance, high spirits; comedy.

**hill** noun high ground, prominence, hillock, foothill, hillside, rise, mound, mount, mountain, knoll, hummock, tor, tump, fell, pike, mesa; bank, ridge, slope, incline, gradient; (hills) heights, downs; Scottish & Irish drum; Scottish brae; Geology drumlin; formal eminence.

**hillock** noun mound, small hill, prominence, elevation, rise, knoll, hummock, hump, tump, dune; bank, ridge; N. English howe; N. Amer. knob; formal eminence.

**hilt** noun handle, haft, handgrip, grip, shaft, shank, stock, helve.

■ **to the hilt** completely, fully, wholly,

totally, entirely, utterly, unreservedly, unconditionally, in every respect, in all respects, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the full, to the maximum extent, all the way, body and soul, heart and soul.

**hind** **adjective** back, rear, hinder, hindmost, posterior.

– OPPOSITES fore, front.

**hinder** **verb** hamper, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard, baulk, thwart, foil, curb, delay, arrest, interfere with, set back, slow down, hold back, hold up, stop, halt; restrict, restrain, constrain, block, check, curtail, frustrate, cramp, handicap, cripple, hamstring; Brit. throw a spanner in the works; informal stymie.

– OPPOSITES facilitate.

**hindmost** **adjective** furthest back, last, rear, rearmost, end, endmost, final, tail.

– OPPOSITES leading.

**hindrance** **noun** impediment, obstacle, barrier, bar, obstruction, handicap, block, hurdle, restraint, restriction, limitation, encumbrance; complication, delay, drawback, setback, difficulty, inconvenience, snag, catch, hitch, fly in the ointment, stumbling block; Brit. spanner in the works; informal hiccup, facer.

– OPPOSITES help.

**hinge** **verb** *our future hinges on the election:* depend, hang, rest, turn, centre, be contingent, be dependent, be conditional; be determined by, be decided by, revolve around.

**hint** **noun** **1** *a hint that he would leave:* clue, inkling, suggestion, indication, indicator, sign, signal, pointer, intimation, insinuation, innuendo, mention, whisper. **2** *handy hints about painting:* tip, suggestion, pointer, clue, guideline, recommendation; advice, help; informal how-to, wrinkle. **3** *a hint of mint:* trace, touch, suspicion, suggestion, dash, soupçon, tinge, modicum, whiff, taste, undertone; informal smidgen, tad.

• **verb** *what are you hinting at?* imply, insinuate, intimate, suggest, indicate, signal; allude to, refer to, drive at, mean; informal get at.

**hinterland** **noun** the backwoods, a backwater, the wilds, the bush, the back of beyond; Austral./NZ the outback, the backblocks, the booay; informal the sticks, the middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal the boondocks, the tall timbers.

**hip** **adjective** (informal). See FASHIONABLE.

**hippy** **noun** flower child, bohemian, dropout, free spirit, nonconformist.

**hips** **plural noun** pelvis, hindquarters, haunches, thighs.

#### WORD LINKS

sciatric relating to the hips

**hire** **verb** **1** *we hired a car:* rent, lease, charter. **2** *they hire labour in line with demand:* employ, engage, recruit, appoint, take on, sign up, enrol, commission, enlist.

– OPPOSITES dismiss.

• **noun** *the hire of the machine:* rental, rent, hiring, lease, leasing, charter.

**hire purchase** **noun** instalment plan, deferred payment, HP, credit, finance, easy terms; Brit. informal the never-never.

**hirsute** **adjective** (formal) hairy, shaggy, bushy, hair-covered; woolly, furry, fleecy, fuzzy; bearded, unshaven, bristly.

**hiss** **verb** **1** *the escaping gas hissed:* fizz, fizzle, whistle, wheeze; rare sibilate. **2** *the audience hissed:* jeer, catcall, whistle, hoot; scoff, jibe.

• **noun** **1** *the hiss of the steam:* fizz, fizzing, whistle, hissing, sibilance, wheeze; rare sibilation. **2** *the speaker received hisses:* jeer, catcall, whistle; abuse, scoffing, taunting, derision.

**historian** **noun** chronicler, annalist, archivist, recorder; historiographer, antiquarian, chronologist.

**historic** **adjective** significant, notable, important, momentous, consequential, memorable, unforgettable, remarkable; famous, famed, celebrated, renowned; landmark, groundbreaking, epoch-making, red-letter; informal earth-shattering.

– OPPOSITES insignificant.

**historical** **adjective** **1** *historical evidence:* documented, recorded, chronicled, archival; authentic, factual, actual, true. **2** *historical figures:* past, bygone, ancient, old, former; literary of yore.

– OPPOSITES contemporary.

**history** **noun** **1** *my interest in history:* the past, former times, historical events, the olden days, the old days, bygone days, yesterday, antiquity; literary days of yore, yesteryear. **2** *a history of the Civil War:* chronicle, archive, record, report, narrative, account, study, tale; memoir. **3** *she gave details of her history:* background, past, life story, experiences; antecedents.

**histrionic** **adjective** melodramatic, theatrical, dramatic, exaggerated, actressy, stacy, showy, affected, artificial, overacted, overdone; informal hammy, ham, camp.

**histrionics** **plural noun** dramatics, theatrics, tantrums, overreaction, melodrama; affectation, staginess, artificiality.

**hit** **verb** **1** *she hit her child:* strike, slap, smack, cuff, punch, thump, swat; beat, thrash, batter, belabour, pound, welt, pummel, box someone's ears; whip, flog, cane; informal whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clip, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it, deck; Brit. informal stick one on, dot, slosh; N. Amer. informal slug, boff; Austral./NZ informal dong; literary smite.

**2** *a car hit the barrier:* crash into, run into, smash into, smack into, knock into, bump into, cannon into, plough into, collide with, meet head-on; N. Amer. impact. **3** *the tragedy hit her hard:* devastate, affect badly, hurt, harm, leave its mark on; upset, shatter, crush, shock, overwhelm, traumatize; informal knock sideways, knock the stuffing out of; Brit. informal knock for six. **4** (informal) *spending*

will hit £1,800 million: **reach**, touch, arrive at, rise to, climb to. **5** *it hit me that I had forgotten*: **occur to**, strike, dawn on, come to; enter one's head, cross one's mind, come to mind, spring to mind.

• **noun 1** *he received a hit from behind*: **blow**, thump, punch, knock, bang, box, cuff, slap, smack, tap, crack, stroke, welt; impact, collision, bump, crash; informal whack, thwack, wallop, bash, belt, biff, clout, sock, swipe, clip; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, slug; Austral./NZ dong. **2** *a hit at his friend's religion*: **jibe**, taunt, jeer, sneer, barb; informal dig, crack, wisecrack, put-down. **3** *he directed many big hits*: **success**, box-office success, sell-out, winner, triumph, sensation; best-seller; informal smash (hit), knockout, crowd-puller, wow, biggie; Brit. informal smasher.

– **OPPOSITES** compliment, failure.

■ **hit back** retaliate, respond, reply, react, counter, defend oneself.

■ **hit home** have the intended effect, strike home, hit the mark, register, be understood, get through, sink in.

■ **hit it off** (informal) get on (well), get along, be friends, be friendly, be compatible, feel a rapport, see eye to eye, be on the same wavelength, take to each other, warm to each other; informal click, get on like a house on fire.

■ **hit on** discover, come up with, think of, conceive of, dream up, work out, invent, create, devise, design, pioneer; uncover, stumble on, chance on, light on, come upon.

■ **hit out at** criticize, attack, censure, denounce, condemn, lambaste, pillory, rail against, inveigh against, arraign, cast aspersions on, pour scorn on, disparage, denigrate; informal knock, pan, slam, hammer, lay into, pull to pieces, pick holes in; Brit. informal slag off, slate, rubbish; N. Amer. informal pummel, trash; formal excoriate.

**hitch** **verb 1** *she hitched the blanket around her*: **pull**, jerk, hike, lift, raise; informal yank. **2** *Tom hitched the pony to his cart*: **harness**, yoke, couple, fasten, connect, attach, tether. **3** (informal) *they hitched to college*: **hitch-hike**; informal thumb a lift, hitch a lift.

• **noun 1** *it went without a hitch*: **problem**, difficulty, snag, setback, hindrance, obstacle, obstruction, complication, impediment, stumbling block, barrier; hold-up, interruption, delay; informal headache, glitch, hiccup.

**hitherto** **adverb** previously, formerly, earlier, before, beforehand; so far, thus far, to date, as yet, until now, until then, till now, till then, up to now, up to then; formal heretofore.

**hit-or-miss, hit-and-miss** **adjective** erratic, haphazard, disorganized, undisciplined, unmethodical, uneven; careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, casual, cursory, lackadaisical, perfunctory, random, aimless, undirected, indiscriminate; informal slap-happy.

– **OPPOSITES** meticulous.

**hoard** **noun** *a secret hoard of gold*: **cache**,

stockpile, stock, store, collection, supply, reserve, reservoir, fund, accumulation; treasure house, treasure trove; informal stash. • **verb** *they hoarded rations*: **stockpile**, store (up), stock up on, put aside, put by, lay by, lay up, set aside, stow away, buy up; cache, amass, collect, save, gather, garner, accumulate, squirrel away, put aside for a rainy day; informal stash away, salt away.

– **OPPOSITES** squander.

**hoarse** **adjective** rough, harsh, croaky, throaty, gruff, husky, guttural, growly, gravelly, grating, rasping.

– **OPPOSITES** mellow, clear.

**hoary** **adjective 1** *hoary cobwebs*: greyish-white, grey, white, silver, silvery; frosty; literary rimy. **2** *a hoary ancient*: **grey-haired**, white-haired, silver-haired, grizzled; elderly, aged, old, long in the tooth; informal getting on, over the hill. **3** *a hoary old adage*: **trite**, hackneyed, clichéd, banal, commonplace, predictable, overused, stale, time-worn, tired, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired; informal old hat, corny; N. Amer. informal cornball.

– **OPPOSITES** young, original.

**hoax** **noun** *the call was a hoax*: **practical joke**, joke, jest, prank, trick; ruse, deception, fraud, bluff, humbug, confidence trick; informal con, spoof, scam.

• **verb** *the DJ hoaxed his listeners*: **play a (practical) joke on**, play a prank on, trick, fool; deceive, hoodwink, delude, dupe, take in, lead on, bluff, gull, humbug; informal con, kid, have on, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take for a ride, lead up the garden path; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker.

**hoaxer** **noun** (practical) joker, prankster, trickster; fraudster, hoodwinker, swindler; informal spoofer, con man.

**hobble** **verb** **limp**, walk with difficulty, move unsteadily, walk haltingly; shamble, totter, dodder, stagger, stumble; Scottish hirple.

**hobby** **noun** **pastime**, leisure activity, leisure pursuit; sideline, diversion, avocation; recreation, entertainment, amusement, enthusiasm.

**hobgoblin** **noun** goblin, imp, sprite, elf, brownie, pixie, leprechaun, gnome; Scottish kelpie.

**hobnob** **verb** (informal) **associate**, mix, fraternize, socialize, keep company, spend time, go around, mingle, consort, rub shoulders; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hang around/round/out, knock about/around, be thick with.

**hocus-pocus** **noun** jargon, mumbo-jumbo, argle-bargle, gibberish, balderdash, claptrap, nonsense, rubbish, twaddle, garbage; informal gobbledegook, double Dutch, hokum; N. Amer. informal flapdoodle; informal, dated bunkum.

**hodgepodge** **noun** (N. Amer.). See **HOTCHPOTCH**.

**hog** **noun** pig, sow, swine, porker, piglet, boar; informal piggy.

• **verb** (informal) *he hogged the limelight*:

**monopolize**, dominate, take over, corner, control.

– **OPPOSITES** share.



**hogwash** *noun* (informal). See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**hoi polloi** *noun* the masses, the common people, the populace, the public, the multitude, the rank and file, the lower orders, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, the proletariat; the mob, the herd, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed; informal the plebs, the proles.

**hoist** *verb* we hoisted the mainsail: raise, lift (up), haul up, heave up, jack up, hike up, winch up, pull up, upraise, uplift, elevate, erect.

— **OPPOSITES** lower.

• **noun** a mechanical hoist: lifting gear, crane, winch, block and tackle, pulley, windlass, derrick.

**hoity-toity** *adjective* (informal) snobbish, snobby, haughty, disdainful, conceited, proud, arrogant, supercilious, superior, imperious, above oneself, self-important; informal high and mighty, snooty, uppity, uppish, la-di-da; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

**hold** *verb* 1 she held a suitcase: clasp, clutch, grasp, grip, clench, cling to, hold on to; carry, bear. 2 I wanted to hold her: embrace, hug, clasp, cradle, enfold, squeeze, fold in one's arms. 3 do you hold a driving licence? possess, have, own, bear, carry, have to one's name. 4 the branch held my weight: support, bear, carry, take, keep up, sustain, prop up, shore up. 5 the police were holding him: detain, hold in custody, imprison, lock up, put behind bars, put in prison, put in jail, incarcerate, keep under lock and key, confine, intern; informal put away, put inside. 6 try to hold the audience's attention: maintain, keep, occupy, engross, absorb, interest, captivate, fascinate, enthrall, rivet; engage, catch, capture, arrest. 7 he held a senior post: occupy, have, fill; informal hold down. 8 the tank held 250 gallons: take, contain, accommodate, fit; have a capacity of, have room for. 9 the court held that there was no evidence: maintain, consider, take the view, believe, think, feel, deem, be of the opinion; judge, rule, decide; informal reckon; formal opine. 10 let's hope the weather holds: persist, continue, carry on, go on, hold out, keep up, last, endure, stay, remain. 11 the offer still holds: be available, be valid, hold good, stand, apply, remain, exist, be the case, be in force, be in effect. 12 they held a meeting: convene, call, summon; conduct, have, organize, run; formal convoke.

— **OPPOSITES** release, lose, end.

• **noun** 1 she kept a hold on my hand: grip, grasp, clasp, clutch. 2 Tom had a hold over his father: influence, power, control, dominance, authority, leverage, sway, mastery. 3 the military tightened their hold on the capital: control, grip, power, stranglehold, dominion, authority.

■ **get hold of** (informal) 1 I just can't get hold of saffron: obtain, acquire, get, find, come by, pick up, procure; buy, purchase; informal get one's hands on. 2 I'll try to get hold of Mark: contact, get in touch with, communicate with, make contact with, reach, notify;

phone, call, speak to, talk to; Brit. ring (up), get on to.

■ **hold back** hesitate, pause, stop oneself, desist, forbear.

■ **hold someone back** hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct, check, curb, block, thwart, balk, hamstring, restrain, frustrate, stand in someone's way.

■ **hold something back** 1 Jane held back the tears: suppress, fight back, choke back, stifle, smother, subdue, rein in, repress, curb, control, keep a tight rein on; informal keep a/the lid on. 2 don't hold anything back from me: withhold, hide, conceal, keep secret, keep hidden, keep quiet about, hush up; informal sit on, keep under one's hat.

■ **hold someone/something dear** cherish, treasure, prize, appreciate, value highly, care for/about, set great store by; informal put on a pedestal.

■ **hold something down** 1 they will hold down inflation: keep down, keep low, freeze, fix. 2 (informal) she held down two jobs: occupy, hold, have, do, fill.

■ **hold forth** speak at length, talk at length, go on, sound off; declaim, spout, pontificate, orate, preach, sermonize; informal speechify, preachify, drone on.

■ **hold off the rain held off**: stay away, keep off, not come.

■ **hold something off** resist, repel, repulse, rebuff, parry, deflect, fend off, stave off, ward off, keep at bay.

■ **hold on** 1 hold on a minute: wait (a minute), just a moment, just a second; stay here, stay put; hold the line; informal hang on, sit tight, hold your horses; Brit. informal hang about. 2 if only they could hold on a while: keep going, persevere, survive, last, continue, struggle on, carry on, go on, hold out, see it through, stay the course; informal soldier on, stick at it, hang in there.

■ **hold on to** 1 he held on to the chair: clutch, hold, hang on to, clasp, grasp, grip, cling to. 2 they can't hold on to their staff: retain, keep, hang on to.

■ **hold one's own**. See **own**.

■ **hold out** 1 we held out against the attacks: resist, withstand, hold off, fight off, fend off, keep off, keep at bay, stand up to, stand firm against. 2 our supplies will hold out: last, remain, be extant, continue.

■ **hold something out** extend, proffer, offer, present; outstretch, reach out, stretch out, put out.

■ **hold something over** postpone, put off, put back, delay, defer, suspend, shelve, hold in abeyance; N. Amer. put over, table, take a rain check on; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage, mothball.

■ **hold up the argument doesn't hold up**: be convincing, be logical, hold water, bear examination, be sound.

■ **hold something up** 1 they held up the trophy: display, hold aloft, exhibit, show (off), flourish, brandish; informal flash.

2 concrete pillars hold up the bridge: support, hold, bear, carry, take, keep up, prop up, shore up, buttress. 3 our flight was held up for hours: delay, detain, make late, set

back, keep back, retard, slow up. **4** *a lack of cash has held up progress*: obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper, inhibit, balk, thwart, curb, hamstring, frustrate, foil, interfere with, stop; informal stymie. **5** *a raider held up the bank*: rob; informal stick up, mug.

■ **hold water**. See **WATER**.

■ **hold with** approve of, agree with, be in favour of, endorse, accept, countenance, support, subscribe to, take kindly to; informal stand for; Brit. informal be doing with.

**holder** noun **1** *a knife holder*: container, receptacle, case, casing, cover, covering, housing, sheath; stand, rest, rack. **2** *a British passport holder*: bearer, owner, possessor, keeper; custodian.

**holdings** plural noun assets, funds, capital, resources, savings, investments, securities, equities, bonds, stocks and shares, reserves; property, possessions.

**hold-up** noun **1** *I ran into a series of hold-ups*: delay, setback, hitch, snag, difficulty, problem, trouble; traffic jam, tailback, gridlock; informal snarl-up, glitch, hiccup. **2** *a bank hold-up*: (armed) robbery, (armed) raid; theft, burglary, mugging; informal stick-up; N. Amer. informal heist.

**hole** noun **1** *a hole in the roof*: opening, aperture, gap, space, orifice, vent, chink, breach; crack, leak, rift, rupture; puncture, perforation, cut, split, gash, slit, crevice, fissure. **2** *a hole in the ground*: pit, ditch, trench, cavity, crater, depression, hollow; well, borehole, excavation, dugout; cave, cavern, pothole. **3** *the badger's hole*: burrow, lair, den, earth, sett; retreat, shelter.

**4** *there are holes in their argument*: flaw, fault, defect, weakness, shortcoming, inconsistency, discrepancy, loophole; error, mistake. **5** (informal) *I was living in a real hole*: hovel, slum, shack, mess; informal dump, dive, pigsty, tip. **6** (informal) *they steal when they are in a hole*: predicament, difficult situation, awkward situation, (tight) corner, quandary, dilemma; crisis, emergency, difficulty, trouble, plight, dire straits; informal fix, jam, bind, (tight) spot, pickle, sticky situation, hot water; Brit. informal spot of bother.

● **verb a fuel tank was holed by the attack**:

**puncture**, perforate, pierce, penetrate, rupture, split, rent, lacerate, gash.

■ **hole up** **1** *the bears hole up in winter*: hibernate, lie dormant. **2** (informal) *the snipers holed up in a farmhouse*: hide (out), conceal oneself, secrete oneself, shelter, take cover, lie low, go to ground, go to earth; Brit. informal, dated lie doggo.

■ **pick holes in** (informal). See **CRITICIZE**.

**hole-and-corner** adjective secret, secretive, clandestine, covert, furtive, surreptitious; underhand, devious, stealthy, sneaky, backstairs, hugger-mugger, cloak-and-dagger, under-the-counter; informal hush-hush.

**holiday** noun **1** *a ten-day holiday*: vacation, break, rest, recess; time off, time out, leave, furlough, sabbatical; trip, tour, journey, voyage; informal hols, vac; formal sojourn. **2** *the*

*twenty-fourth of May is a holiday*: public holiday, bank holiday, festival, feast day, fiesta, celebration, anniversary, jubilee; saint's day, holy day.

**holier-than-thou** adjective sanctimonious, self-righteous, smug, self-satisfied; priggish, pious, pietistic, Pharisaic; informal goody-goody, preachy.

– **OPPOSITES** humble.

**holler** (informal) verb *he hollers when he wants feeding*: shout, yell, cry (out), vociferate, call (out), roar, bellow, bawl, bark, howl; boom, thunder.

– **OPPOSITES** whisper.

● **noun a euphoric holler**: shout, cry, yell, roar, bellow, bawl, howl; whoop.

– **OPPOSITES** whisper.

**hollow** adjective **1** *each fibre has a hollow core*: empty, void, unfilled, vacant.

**2** *hollow cheeks*: sunken, deep-set, concave, depressed, indented. **3** *a hollow voice*: dull, low, flat, toneless, expressionless; muffled, muted. **4** *a hollow victory*: meaningless, empty, valueless, worthless, useless, pyrrhic, futile, fruitless, profitless, pointless. **5** *a hollow promise*: insincere, hypocritical, feigned, false, sham, deceitful, cynical, spurious, untrue, two-faced; informal phoney, pretend.

– **OPPOSITES** solid, worthwhile, sincere.

● **noun 1** *a hollow under the tree*: hole, pit, cavity, crater, trough, cave, cavern; depression, indentation, dip; niche, nook, cranny, recess. **2** *the village lay in a hollow*: valley, vale, dale; Brit. dene,combe; N. English clough; Scottish glen, strath; literary dell.

● **verb a tunnel hollowed out of a mountain**: gouge, scoop, dig, cut; excavate, channel.

■ **beat someone hollow** trounce, defeat utterly, crush, rout, overwhelm, outclass; informal hammer, clobber, thrash, drub, lick, paste, crucify, slaughter, massacre, flatten, demolish, destroy, annihilate, walk over, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal shellac, cream, skunk.

**holocaust** noun cataclysm, disaster, catastrophe; destruction, devastation, annihilation; massacre, slaughter, mass murder, carnage, butchery; genocide, ethnic cleansing.

**holy** adjective **1** *holy men*: saintly, godly, saintlike, pious, pietistic, religious, devout, God-fearing, spiritual; righteous, good, virtuous, sinless, pure; canonized, beatified, ordained. **2** *a Jewish holy place*: sacred, consecrated, hallowed, sanctified, venerated, revered, divine, religious, blessed, dedicated.

– **OPPOSITES** sinful, irreligious, cursed.

**homage** noun respect, honour, reverence, worship, admiration, esteem, adulation, acclaim; tribute, acknowledgement, recognition; accolade, panegyric, paean, salute.

■ **pay homage to** honour, acclaim, applaud, salute, praise, commend, pay tribute to, take one's hat off to; formal laud.

**home** noun **1** *they fled their homes: residence*, place of residence, house, flat, apartment, bungalow, cottage; accommodation, property, quarters, lodgings, rooms; a roof over one's head; address, place; informal pad, digs, semi; formal domicile, abode, dwelling (place), habitation. **2** *I am far from my home: homeland*, native land, home town, birthplace, roots, fatherland, motherland, mother country, country of origin, the old country. **3** *a home for the elderly: institution*, nursing home, retirement home, rest home, children's home; hospice, shelter, refuge, retreat, asylum, hostel. **4** *the home of fine wines: domain*, realm, origin, source, cradle, fount, fountainhead.

• **adjective 1** *the UK home market: domestic*, internal, local, national, interior. **2** *home produce: home-made*, home-grown, local, family.

– **OPPOSITES** foreign, international.

■ **at home 1** *she felt very much at home: at ease*, comfortable, relaxed, content; in one's element. **2** *he is at home with mathematics: confident with*, conversant with, proficient in; used to, familiar with, au fait with, au courant with, skilled in, experienced in, well versed in; informal well up on. **3** *she was not at home to friends: entertaining*, receiving; playing host to.

■ **bring something home to someone** make someone realize, make someone understand, make someone aware, make something clear to someone; drive home, press home, impress on someone, draw attention to, focus attention on, underline, highlight, spotlight, emphasize, stress.

■ **home in on** focus on, concentrate on, zero in on, centre on, fix on; highlight, spotlight, underline, pinpoint; informal zoom in on.

■ **nothing to write home about** (informal) unexceptional, mediocre, ordinary, commonplace, indifferent, average, middle-of-the-road, run-of-the-mill; tolerable, passable, adequate, fair; informal OK, so-so, bog-standard, (plain) vanilla, no great shakes, not so hot, not up to much; Brit. informal common or garden.

**homeland** noun native land, country of origin, home, fatherland, motherland, mother country, land of one's fathers, the old country.

**homeless** adjective *homeless people: of no fixed abode*, without a roof over one's head, on the streets, vagrant, sleeping rough; destitute, down and out.

• **noun charities for the homeless: people of no fixed abode**, vagrants, down-and-outs, tramps, vagabonds, itinerants, transients, migrants, derelicts, drifters; N. Amer. hoboes; Austral. bagmen; informal bag ladies; Brit. informal dossers; N. Amer. informal bums.

**homely** adjective **1** *a homely atmosphere: cosy*, homelike, homey, comfortable, snug, welcoming, friendly, congenial, intimate, warm, hospitable, informal, relaxed, pleasant, cheerful; informal comfy. **2** *homely pursuits: unsophisticated*, everyday,

ordinary, domestic, simple, modest, unpretentious, unassuming; homespun, folksy. **3** (N. Amer.) *she's rather homely: unattractive*, plain, unprepossessing, unlovely, ill-favoured, ugly; informal not much to look at; Brit. informal no oil painting.

– **OPPOSITES** uncomfortable, formal, sophisticated, attractive.

**homespun** adjective *unsophisticated*, plain, simple, unpolished, unrefined, rustic, folksy; coarse, rough, crude, rudimentary.

– **OPPOSITES** sophisticated.

**homey** adjective **1** *the house is homey yet elegant: cosy*, homelike, homely, comfortable, snug, welcoming, informal, relaxed, intimate, warm, pleasant, cheerful; informal comfy. **2** *peasant life was simple and homey: unsophisticated*, homely, unrefined, unpretentious, plain, simple, modest.

– **OPPOSITES** uncomfortable, formal, sophisticated.

**homicidal** adjective *murderous*, violent, brutal, savage, ferocious, vicious, bloody, bloodthirsty, barbarous, barbaric; deadly, lethal, mortal, death-dealing; literary fell; old use sanguinary.

**homicide** noun **1** *he was charged with homicide: murder*, killing, slaughter, butchery, massacre; assassination, execution, extermination; patricide, matricide, infanticide; literary slaying. **2** (dated) *a convicted homicide: killer*, assassin, serial killer, butcher, slaughterer; patricide, matricide, infanticide; informal hit man, hired gun; dated cut-throat; literary slayer.

**homily** noun sermon, lecture, discourse, address, lesson, talk, speech, oration.

**homogeneous** adjective **1** *a homogeneous group: uniform*, identical, unvaried, consistent, undistinguishable; alike, similar, (much) the same, all of a piece; informal much of a muchness. **2** *we have to compete with homogeneous products: similar*, comparable, equivalent, like, analogous, corresponding, parallel, matching, related; formal cognate.

– **OPPOSITES** different.

**homogenize** verb *make uniform*, make similar, standardize, unite, integrate, fuse, merge, blend, meld, coalesce, amalgamate, combine.

– **OPPOSITES** diversify.

**homologous** adjective *similar*, comparable, equivalent, like, analogous, corresponding, correspondent, parallel, matching, related, congruent; formal cognate.

– **OPPOSITES** different.

**hone** verb **1** *he was carefully honing the long blade: sharpen*, whet, strop, grind, file.

**2** *a great opportunity to hone my skills as a singer: improve*, develop, enhance, sharpen; upgrade.

– **OPPOSITES** blunt.

**honest** adjective **1** *an honest man: upright*, honourable, moral, ethical, principled, righteous, right-minded, respectable; virtuous, good, decent, law-abiding, high-minded, upstanding, incorruptible, truthful,



trustworthy, trusty, reliable, conscientious, scrupulous, reputable; informal on the level.

**2** *I haven't been honest with you:* **truthful**, sincere, candid, frank, open, forthright, straight; straightforward, plain-speaking, matter-of-fact; informal upfront. **3** *an honest mistake:* **genuine**, real, authentic, actual, true, bona fide, legitimate, fair and square; informal legit, kosher, on the level, honest-to-goodness.

– OPPOSITES unscrupulous, insincere.

**honestly** **adverb** **1** *he earned the money*

**honestly:** fairly, lawfully, legally, legitimately, honourably, decently, ethically, in good faith, by the book; informal on the level. **2** *we honestly believe this is for the best:* **sincerely**, genuinely, truthfully, truly, wholeheartedly; really, actually, to be honest, to tell you the truth, to be frank, in all honesty, in all sincerity; informal Scout's honour.

**honesty** **noun** **1** *I can attest to his honesty:*

**integrity**, uprightness, honourableness, honour, morality, morals, ethics, (high) principles, righteousness, right-mindedness; virtue, goodness, probity, high-mindedness, fairness, incorruptibility, truthfulness, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability. **2** *they spoke with honesty about their fears:* **sincerity**, candour, frankness, directness, truthfulness, truth, openness, straightforwardness.

**honeyed** **adjective** **sweet**, sugary, saccharine, pleasant, flattering, adulatory, unctuous; dulcet, soothing, soft, mellow, mellifluous.

– OPPOSITES harsh.

**honorarium** **noun** **fee**, payment, consideration, allowance; remuneration, pay, expenses, compensation, recompense, reward; formal emolument.

**honorary** **adjective** **1** *an honorary doctorate:*

**titular**, nominal, in name only, unofficial, token. **2** (Brit.) *an honorary treasurer:* **unpaid**, unsalaried, voluntary, volunteer; N. Amer. pro bono (publico).

**honour** **noun** **1** *a man of honour:* **integrity**,

**honesty**, uprightness, ethics, morals, morality, (high) principles, righteousness, high-mindedness; virtue, goodness, decency, probity, scrupulousness, worth, fairness, justness, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability. **2** *a mark of honour:* **distinction**, privilege, glory, kudos, cachet, prestige, merit, credit; importance, illustriousness, notability; respect, esteem, approbation. **3** *our honour is at stake:* **reputation**, (good) name, character, repute, image, kudos, standing, stature, status. **4** *he was welcomed with honour:* **acclaim**, acclamation, applause, accolades, tributes, compliments, salutes, bouquets; homage, praise, glory, reverence, adulation, exaltation. **5** *she had the honour of meeting the Queen:* **privilege**, pleasure, pride, joy; compliment, favour. **6** *military honours:* **accolade**, award, reward, prize, decoration, distinction, medal, ribbon, star, laurel; Military, informal fruit salad; Brit. informal gong.

**7** (dated) *she died defending her honour:* **chastity**, virginity, maidenhead, purity, innocence, modesty; informal cherry; old use virtue, maidenhood.

– OPPOSITES unscrupulousness, shame.

• **verb** **1** *we should honour our parents:*

**esteem**, respect, admire, defer to, look up to; appreciate, value, cherish; reverence, revere, venerate, worship; informal put on a pedestal. **2** *they were honoured at a special ceremony:* **applaud**, acclaim, praise, salute, recognize, celebrate, commemorate, commend, hail, lionize, exalt, eulogize, pay homage to, pay tribute to, sing the praises of; formal laud. **3** *he honoured the contract:* **fulfil**, observe, keep, obey, heed, follow, carry out, discharge, implement, execute, effect; keep to, abide by, adhere to, comply with, conform to, be true to, live up to. **4** *the cheque was not honoured:* **accept**, take, clear, pass, cash; Brit. encash.

– OPPOSITES disgrace, criticize, disobey.

**honourable** **adjective** **1** *an honourable man:*

**honest**, moral, ethical, principled, righteous, right-minded; decent, respectable, virtuous, good, upstanding, upright, worthy, noble, fair, just, truthful, trustworthy, trusty, law-abiding, reliable, reputable, dependable. **2** *an honourable career:* **illustrious**, distinguished, eminent, great, glorious, prestigious, noble, creditable.

– OPPOSITES crooked, deplorable.

**hoodlum** **noun** **hooligan**, thug, lout, delinquent, tearaway, vandal, ruffian; gangster, mobster, criminal, Mafioso; Austral. larrikin; informal tough, bruiser, roughneck, heavy, hit man; Brit. informal yob, yobbo, bovver boy, lager lout; N. Amer. informal hood.

**hoodoo** **noun** **witchcraft**, magic, black magic, sorcery, wizardry, devilry, voodoo, necromancy; N. Amer. mojo.

**hoodwink** **verb** **deceive**, trick, dupe, outwit, fool, delude, cheat, take in, hoax, mislead, lead on, defraud, double-cross, swindle, gull; informal con, bamboozle, do, have, sting, gyp, diddle, shaft, rip off, lead up the garden path, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker; Austral. informal pull a swiftie on; literary cozen.

**hoof** **noun** trotter, foot; Zoology ungula.

**hook** **noun** **1** *she hung her jacket on the hook:*

**peg**. **2** *the dress has six hooks:* **fastener**, fastening, catch, clasp, hasp, clip, pin. **3** *I had a fish on the end of my hook:* **fish hook**, barb, snare. **4** *a right hook to the chin:* **punch**, blow, hit, cuff, thump, smack; Scottish & N. English skelp; informal belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, whack, wallop, slug; N. Amer. informal boff.

• **verb** **1** *they hooked baskets onto the ladder:*

**attach**, hitch, fasten, fix, secure, clasp. **2** *he hooked his thumbs in his belt:* **curl**, bend, crook, loop, curve. **3** *he hooked a 24 lb pike:* **catch**, land, net, take, bag, snare, trap.

■ **by hook or by crook** by any means, somehow (or other), no matter how, in one way or another, by fair means or foul.

■ **hook, line, and sinker** completely, totally,

utterly, entirely, wholly, absolutely, through and through, one hundred per cent, {lock, stock, and barrel}.

■ **off the hook** (informal) out of trouble, in the clear, free; acquitted, cleared, relieved, exonerated, absolved; informal let off.

**hooked** adjective **1** *a hooked nose*: curved, hook-shaped, hook-like, aquiline, angular, bent; Biology falcate, falciform, uncinata.

**2** (informal) *they are hooked on cocaine*:

**addicted to**, dependent on; informal using; N. Amer. informal have a Jones for. **3** (informal) *he is hooked on crossword*: **keen on**, enthusiastic about, addicted to, obsessed with, fixated on, fanatical about; informal mad about, crazy about, wild about, nuts about; Brit. informal potty about.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**hooligan** noun **hoodlum**, thug, lout, delinquent, tearaway, vandal, ruffian, troublemaker; Austral. larrikin; informal tough, rough, bruiser, roughneck; Brit. informal yob, yobbo, bovver boy, lager lout; Scottish informal ned.

**hoop** noun **ring**, band, circle, circlet, loop; technical annulus.

**hoot** noun **1** *the hoot of an owl*: **screech**, shriek, call, cry; tu-whit tu-whoo. **2** *the hoot of a horn*: **beep**, honk, toot, blast, blare.

**3** *hoots of derision*: **shout**, yell, cry, howl, shriek, whoop, whistle; boo, hiss, jeer, catcall. **4** (informal) *your mum's a real hoot*:

**amusing person**, character, clown; informal scream, laugh, card, case, one, riot, giggle, barrel of laughs; informal, dated caution.

• **verb** **1** *an owl hooted*: **screech**, shriek, cry, call; tu-whit tu-whoo. **2** *a car horn hooted*: **beep**, honk, toot, blare, blast, sound. **3** *they hooted in disgust*: **shout**, yell, cry, howl, shriek, whistle; boo, hiss, jeer, catcall.

■ **give a hoot** (informal) care, be concerned, mind, be interested, be bothered, get worked up; informal give a damn, give a rap, give a monkey's.

**hop** verb **1** *he hopped along the road*: **jump**, bound, spring, bounce, skip, jig, leap; prance, dance, frolic, gambol. **2** (informal) *she hopped over the Atlantic*: **go**, dash; travel; informal pop, whip; Brit. informal nip.

• **noun** **1** *the rabbit had a hop around*: **jump**, bound, bounce, prance, leap, spring, gambol.

**2** (informal) *a short hop by taxi*: **journey**, distance, ride, drive, run, trip; flight.

**3** (informal) *come to the hop on Saturday*:

**dance**, social, party, disco; informal bash, bop, shindig, do; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up.

■ **on the hop** (Brit. informal) **1** *he was caught on the hop*: unprepared, unready, off guard, unawares, by surprise, with one's defences down; informal napping; Brit. informal with one's trousers down. **2** *we were always kept on the hop*: busy, occupied, employed, working, at work, on the job; rushed off one's feet; informal on the go.

**hope** noun **1** *I had high hopes*: **aspiration**, desire, wish, expectation, ambition, aim, plan; dream, daydream, pipe dream. **2** *a life filled with hope*: **hopefulness**, optimism,

expectation, expectancy; confidence, faith, trust, belief, conviction, assurance; promise.

– OPPOSITES pessimism.

• **verb** **1** *he's hoping for a medal*: **expect**, anticipate, look for, be hopeful of, pin one's hopes on, want; wish for, dream of. **2** *we're hoping to address the issue*: **aim**, intend, be looking, have the intention, have in mind, plan, aspire.

**hopeful** adjective **1** *he remained hopeful*: **optimistic**, full of hope, confident, positive, buoyant, sanguine, bullish, cheerful; informal upbeat. **2** *hopeful signs*: **promising**, encouraging, heartening, reassuring, auspicious, favourable, optimistic, propitious, bright, rosy.

**hopefully** adverb **1** *he rode on hopefully*: **optimistically**, full of hope, confidently, buoyantly, sanguinely; expectantly. **2** *hopefully it should finish soon*: **all being well**, if all goes well, God willing, with luck; most likely, probably; conceivably, feasibly; informal touch wood, fingers crossed.

**hopeless** adjective **1** *her hopeless appeal*: **despairing**, desperate, wretched, forlorn, pessimistic, defeatist, resigned; dejected, downhearted, despondent, demoralized. **2** *a hopeless case*: **irremediable**, beyond hope, lost, beyond repair, irreparable, irreversible; past cure, incurable; impossible, no-win, futile, forlorn, unworkable, impracticable; old use bootless. **3** *Joseph was hopeless at maths*: **bad**, poor, awful, terrible, dreadful, appalling, atrocious; inferior, incompetent, unskilled; informal pathetic, useless, lousy, rotten; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, pants.

**hopelessly** adverb **1** *she began to cry hopelessly*: **despairingly**, in despair, in distress, desperately; dejectedly, downheartedly, despondently, wretchedly, miserably, forlornly. **2** *she was hopelessly lost*: **utterly**, completely, irretrievably, impossibly; extremely, very, desperately, totally, dreadfully; informal terribly.

**horde** noun **crowd**, mob, pack, gang, troop, army, swarm, mass; throng, multitude, host, band, flock; informal crew, tribe, load.

**horizon** noun **1** *the sun rose above the horizon*: **skyline**. **2** *she wanted to broaden her horizons*: **outlook**, perspective, perception; range of experience, scope, ambit, orbit.

■ **on the horizon** imminent, impending, close, near, approaching, coming, forthcoming, in prospect, at hand, on the way, about to happen, upon us, in the offing, in the pipeline, in the air, just around the corner; brewing, looming, threatening, menacing; informal on the cards.

**horizontal** adjective **1** *a horizontal surface*: level, flat, plane, smooth, even; straight, parallel. **2** *she was stretched horizontal on a sunbed*: flat, supine, prone, prostrate.

– OPPOSITES vertical.

**horny** adjective (informal) (sexually) aroused, excited, stimulated, titillated, inflamed; informal turned on, hot, sexed up; Brit. informal randy.

**horrendous** adjective. See HORRIBLE.

**horrible** adjective **1** *a horrible murder*: dreadful, awful, terrible, shocking, appalling, horrifying, horrific, horrendous, grisly, ghastly, gruesome, harrowing, heinous, vile, unspeakable; nightmarish, macabre, spine-chilling; loathsome, monstrous, abhorrent, hateful, execrable, abominable, atrocious, sickening. **2** *a horrible little man*: nasty, horrid, disagreeable, unpleasant, awful, dreadful, terrible, appalling, foul, repulsive, repellent, ghastly; obnoxious, hateful, odious, objectionable, insufferable, vile, loathsome, abhorrent; informal frightful, God-awful; Brit. informal beastly.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, agreeable.

**horrid** adjective **1** *horrid apparitions*. See **HORRIBLE** sense 1. **2** (informal) *the teachers were horrid*. See **HORRIBLE** sense 2.

**horrific** adjective *dreadful, horrendous, horrible, frightful, awful, terrible, atrocious; horrifying, shocking, appalling, harrowing, gruesome; hideous, grisly, ghastly, unspeakable, monstrous, nightmarish, sickening*.

**horrify** verb **1** *she horrified us with ghastly tales*: frighten, scare, terrify, petrify, alarm, panic, terrorize, fill with fear, scare someone out of their wits, frighten the living daylight out of, make someone's hair stand on end, make someone's blood run cold; informal scare the pants off; Brit. informal put the wind up; N. Amer. informal spook; old use affright. **2** *he was horrified by her remarks*: shock, appal, outrage, scandalize, offend; disgust, revolt, nauseate, sicken.

**horror** noun **1** *children screamed in horror*: terror, fear, fright, alarm, panic; dread, trepidation. **2** *to her horror she found herself alone*: dismay, consternation, perturbation, alarm, distress; disgust, outrage, shock. **3** *the horror of the tragedy*: awfulness, frightfulness, savagery, barbarity, hideousness; atrocity, outrage. **4** (informal) *he's a little horror*: rascal, devil, imp, monkey; informal terror, scamp, scallywag, tyke; Brit. informal perisher; N. Amer. informal varmint.

– OPPOSITES delight, satisfaction.

■ **have a horror of** hate, detest, loathe, abhor; formal abominate.

**horror-struck, horror-stricken** adjective *horrified, terrified, petrified, frightened, afraid, fearful, scared, panic-stricken, scared/frightened to death, scared witless; informal scared stiff*.

**horse** noun *mount, charger, cob, nag, hack; pony, foal, yearling, colt, stallion, gelding, mare, filly*; N. Amer. bronco; Austral./NZ mōke, yarraman; informal gee-gee; old use steed.

■ **horse around/about** (informal) *fool around/about, play the fool, act the clown, clown about/around, monkey about/around; informal mess about/around, lark about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around; dated play the giddy goat*.

#### WORD LINKS

equine relating to horses  
equestrian relating to horse riding  
equitation horse riding  
gymkhana a horse-riding competition  
dressage controlled movements performed by a horse at the rider's command  
showjumping the sport of riding horses over obstacles in an arena  
stable a place where horses are kept or trained  
manège a riding school  
stud a place where horses are kept for breeding  
farrier, blacksmith a person who shoes horses

**horseman, horsewoman** noun rider, equestrian, jockey; cavalryman, trooper; historical hussar, dragoon; old use cavalier.

**horseplay** noun *tomfoolery, fooling around, foolish behaviour, clowning, buffoonery; pranks, antics, high jinks; informal shenanigans, monkey business; Brit. informal monkey tricks*.

**horse sense** noun (informal). See **COMMON SENSE**.

**horticulture** noun *gardening, floriculture, arboriculture, agriculture, cultivation*.

**hose** noun **1** *a garden hose*: pipe, piping, tube, tubing, duct, outlet, pipeline, siphon. **2** *her hose had laddered*. See **HOSIERY**.

**hosiery** noun *stockings, tights, stay-ups, nylons, hose; socks; N. Amer. pantyhose*.

**hospitable** adjective *welcoming, friendly, congenial, genial, sociable, convivial, cordial; gracious, well disposed, amenable, helpful, obliging, accommodating, neighbourly, warm, kind, generous, bountiful*.

**hospital** noun *infirmary, sanatorium, hospice, medical centre, health centre, clinic*; Brit. cottage hospital; Military field hospital.

**hospitality** noun **1** *he is renowned for his hospitality*: friendliness, hospitableness, warm reception, helpfulness, neighbourliness, warmth, kindness, congeniality, geniality, cordiality, amenability, generosity. **2** *corporate hospitality*: entertainment; catering, food.

**host**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the host greeted the guests*: party-giver, hostess, entertainer. **2** *the host of a TV series*: presenter, compère, anchor, anchorman, anchorwoman, announcer.

– OPPOSITES guest.

• verb **1** *the Queen hosted a dinner*: give, have, hold, throw, put on, provide, arrange, organize. **2** *the show is hosted by Angus*: present, introduce, compère, front, anchor.

**host**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *a host of memories*: multitude, lot, abundance, wealth, profusion; informal load, heap, mass, pile, ton; Brit. informal shedload; literary myriad. **2** *a host of film stars*: crowd, throng, flock, herd, swarm, horde, mob, army, legion; assemblage, gathering.

**hostage** noun *captive, prisoner, detainee, internee*.



**hostel** *noun* **cheap hotel**, YMCA, YWCA, bed and breakfast, B&B, boarding house, guest house, pension.

**hostile** *adjective* **1** *a hostile attack*: unfriendly, unkind, bitter, unsympathetic, malicious, vicious, rancorous, venomous; antagonistic, aggressive, confrontational, belligerent, truculent. **2** *hostile climatic conditions*: unfavourable, adverse, bad, harsh, grim, hard, tough, inhospitable, forbidding. **3** *they are hostile to the idea*: opposed, averse, antagonistic, ill-disposed, unsympathetic, antipathetic; opposing, against; informal *anti*, down on.

– OPPOSITES friendly, favourable.

**hostility** *noun* **1** *he glared at her with hostility*: antagonism, unfriendliness, malevolence, malice, unkindness, rancour, venom, hatred; aggression, belligerence. **2** *their hostility to the present regime*: opposition, antagonism, animosity, antipathy, ill will, ill feeling, resentment, aversion, enmity. **3** *a cessation of hostilities*: fighting, (armed) conflict, combat, warfare, war, bloodshed, violence.

**hot** *adjective* **1** *hot food*: heated, piping (hot), sizzling, steaming, roasting, boiling (hot), searing, scorching, scalding, red-hot. **2** *a hot day*: very warm, balmy, summery, tropical, scorching, searing, blistering; sweltering, torrid, sultry, humid, muggy, close; informal boiling, baking, roasting. **3** *she felt very hot*: feverish, fevered, febrile; burning, flushed. **4** *a hot chilli*: spicy, spiced, highly seasoned, peppery, fiery, strong; piquant, pungent, aromatic. **5** *the competition was too hot*: fierce, intense, keen, competitive, cut-throat, dog-eat-dog, ruthless, aggressive, strong. **6** (informal) *the hottest story in Fleet Street*: new, fresh, recent, late, up to date, up to the minute; just out, hot off the press, breaking. **7** (informal) *this band is hot*: popular, in demand, sought-after, in favour; fashionable, in vogue, all the rage; informal big, in, now, hip, trendy, cool. **8** (informal) *she is hot on local history*: knowledgeable about, well informed about, au fait with, up on, well versed in, au courant with; informal clued-up, genned-up. **9** (informal) *hot goods*: stolen, illegally obtained, illegal, illicit, unlawful; smuggled, bootleg, contraband; Brit. informal dodgy.

– OPPOSITES cold, chilly, mild, dispassionate, weak, old, lawful.

■ **blow hot and cold** vacillate, dither, shilly-shally, waver, be indecisive, change one's mind, be undecided, be uncertain, be unsure; Brit. *haver*, *hum and haw*; Scottish *swither*.

■ **hot on the heels of** close behind, directly after, right after, straight after, hard on the heels of, following closely.

■ **hot under the collar** (informal). See **ANGRY** sense 1.

**hot air** *noun* (informal) **nonsense**, rubbish, garbage, empty talk, wind, blather, claptrap, drivel, balderdash, gibberish; pomposity, bombast; informal guff, bosh, hogwash, poppycock, bilge, twaddle; Brit. informal

cobblers, codswallop, tosh; N. Amer. informal flapdoodle.

**hotbed** *noun* *a hotbed of crime*: breeding ground, den, cradle, nest.

**hot-blooded** *adjective* **passionate**, amorous, amatory, ardent, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, sexy; informal *horny*, *randy*.

– OPPOSITES cold.

**hotchpotch** *noun* **mixture**, mix, mixed bag, assortment, random collection, jumble, ragbag, miscellany, medley, potpourri; melange, mishmash, confusion, farrago, gallimaufry; N. Amer. *hodgepodge*.

**hotel** *noun* **inn**, motel, boarding house, guest house, bed and breakfast, B&B, hostel; pension, auberge.

**hotfoot** *adverb* **hastily**, hurriedly, speedily, quickly, fast, rapidly, swiftly, without delay; at top speed, at full tilt, headlong, post-haste, pell-mell, helter-skelter; informal like the wind, like greased lightning, like blazes; Brit. informal like the clappers, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

– OPPOSITES slowly.

■ **hotfoot it** (informal) **hurry**, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, clip, leg it, go like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it.

**hot-headed** *adjective* **impetuous**, impulsive, headstrong, reckless, rash, irresponsible, foolhardy, madcap; excitable, volatile, fiery, hot-tempered, quick-tempered, unruly, harum-scarum.

**hothouse** *noun* **greenhouse**, glasshouse, conservatory, orangery, vinery, winter garden.

• *adjective the school has a hothouse atmosphere*: intense, oppressive, stifling; overprotected, pampered, shielded.

**hotly** *adverb* **1** *the rumours were hotly denied*: vehemently, vigorously, strenuously, fiercely, passionately, heatedly; angrily, indignantly. **2** *he was hotly pursued by Boris*: closely, swiftly, quickly, hotfoot; eagerly, enthusiastically.

– OPPOSITES calmly.

**hot-tempered** *adjective* **irascible**, quick-tempered, short-tempered, irritable, fiery, bad-tempered; touchy, volatile, testy, tetchy, fractious, prickly, peppery; informal snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse; Brit. informal narky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal soreheaded.

– OPPOSITES easy-going.

**hound** *noun* **1** (hunting) **dog**, canine, mongrel, cur; informal doggy, pooch, mutt; Austral./NZ informal mong, bitzer. **2** (informal, dated) *you monstrous hound!* See **SCOUNDREL**.

• *verb 1 she was hounded by the press*: pursue, chase, follow, shadow, be hot on someone's heels, hunt (down), stalk, track, trail; harass, persecute, harr, pester, bother, badger, torment, bedevil; informal hassle, bug, give someone a hard time; N. Amer. informal devil.

**2** *they hounded him out of office*: force, drive, pressure, pressurize, push, urge, coerce,

impel, dragoon, strong-arm; nag, bully, browbeat, chivvy; informal bulldoze, railroad; Brit. informal bounce; N. Amer. informal hustle.

**house** noun **1** *an estate of 200 houses:* residence, home, place of residence; homestead; a roof over one's head; formal habitation, dwelling (place), abode, domicile. **2** *you'll wake the whole house!* household, family, clan, tribe; informal brood. **3** *the house of Stewart:* family, clan, tribe; dynasty, line, bloodline, lineage, ancestry, family tree. **4** *a printing house:* firm, business, company, corporation, enterprise, establishment, institution, concern, organization, operation; informal outfit, set-up. **5** *the country's upper house:* legislative assembly, legislative body, chamber, council, parliament, congress, senate, diet. **6** *the house applauded:* audience, crowd, spectators, viewers; congregation; gallery, stalls; Brit. informal punters.

• **verb 1** *they can house twelve employees:* accommodate, provide accommodation for, give someone a roof over their head, lodge, quarter, board, billet, take in, sleep, put up; harbour, shelter. **2** *this panel houses the main switch:* contain, hold, store; cover, protect, enclose.

■ **on the house** (informal) free (of charge), without charge, at no cost, for nothing, gratis; courtesy, complimentary; informal for free; N. Amer. informal comp.

**household** noun *the household was asleep:* family, house, occupants; clan, tribe; informal brood.

• **adjective household goods:** domestic, family; everyday, workaday.

**householder** noun homeowner, owner, occupant, resident; tenant, leaseholder; proprietor, landlady, landlord, freeholder; Brit. occupier, owner-occupier.

**housekeeping** noun household management, domestic work, homemaking, housewifery; home economics; Brit. housecraft.

**house-trained** (Brit.) adjective domesticated, trained; N. Amer. housebroken.

**housing** noun **1** *they invested in housing:* houses, homes, residences, buildings; accommodation, living quarters; formal dwellings, dwelling places, habitations. **2** *the housing for the antennae:* casing, covering, case, cover, holder, sheath, jacket, shell, capsule.

**hovel** noun shack, slum, shanty, hut; informal dump, hole.

**hover** verb **1** *helicopters hovered overhead:* be suspended, be poised, hang, levitate; fly. **2** *she hovered anxiously nearby:* linger, loiter, wait about; informal hang around, stick around; Brit. informal hang about.

**however** adverb **1** *however, gaining weight is not inevitable:* nevertheless, nonetheless, but, still, yet, though, although, even so, for all that, despite that, in spite of that; anyway, anyhow, be that as it may, having said that, notwithstanding; informal still and all. **2** *however you look at it:* in whatever

way, regardless of how, no matter how.

**howl** noun **1** *the howl of a wolf:* baying, howling, bay, cry, yowl, bark, yelp. **2** *a howl of anguish:* wail, cry, yell, yelp, yowl; bellow, roar, shout, shriek, scream, screech.

• **verb 1** *dogs howled in the distance:* bay, cry, yowl, bark, yelp. **2** *a baby started to howl:* wail, cry, yell, yowl, bawl, bellow, shriek, scream, screech, caterwaul; informal holler.

**3** *we howled with laughter:* laugh, guffaw, roar; be creased up, be doubled up, split one's sides; informal fall about, crack up, be in stitches, be rolling in the aisles.

**howler** noun (informal) mistake, error, blunder, fault, gaffe, slip; informal slip-up, boo-boo, botch, clanger; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal blooper.

**hub** noun **1** *the hub of the wheel:* pivot, axis, fulcrum, centre, middle. **2** *the hub of family life:* centre, core, heart, focus, focal point, nucleus, kernel, nerve centre.

– OPPOSITES periphery.

**hubbub** noun **1** *her voice was lost in the hubbub:* noise, din, racket, commotion, clamour, cacophony, babel, rumpus; Brit. informal row. **2** *she fought through the hubbub:* confusion, chaos, pandemonium, bedlam, mayhem, disorder, turmoil, tumult, fracas, hurly-burly.

**hubris** noun arrogance, conceit, haughtiness, hauteur, pride, self-importance, pomposity, superciliousness, superiority; informal big-headedness.

– OPPOSITES humility.

**huckster** noun trader, dealer, seller, purveyor, vendor, salesman, pedlar, hawk; informal pusher.

**huddle** verb **1** *they huddled together:* crowd, cluster, gather, bunch, throng, flock, herd, collect, group, congregate; press, pack, squeeze. **2** *he huddled beneath the sheets:* curl up, snuggle, nestle, hunch up.

– OPPOSITES disperse.

• **noun 1** *a huddle of passengers:* crowd, cluster, bunch, knot, group, throng, flock, press, pack; collection, assemblage; informal gaggles. **2** *the team went into a huddle:* consultation, discussion, debate, talk, parley, meeting, conference; informal confab, powwow.

**hue** noun **1** *paints in a variety of hues:* colour, shade, tone, tint. **2** *men of all political hues:* complexion, type, kind, sort, cast, stamp, character, nature.

**hue and cry** noun commotion, outcry, uproar, fuss, clamour, storm, stir, furore, ruckus, brouhaha, palaver, rumpus; informal hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, kerfuffle, to-do, song and dance; Brit. informal row, stink.

**huff** noun bad mood, sulk, fit of pique, pet; temper, tantrum, rage; informal grump; Brit. informal strop, paddy; N. Amer. informal snit; Brit. informal, dated bate, wax.

**huffy** adjective irritable, irritated, annoyed, cross, grumpy, bad-tempered, crotchety, crabby, cantankerous, moody, petulant, sullen, surly; touchy, testy, tetchy, snappish;

informal snappy, cranky; Brit. informal narky, miffed, ratty, eggy, shirty, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal soreheaded.

**hug** verb **1** *they hugged each other*: embrace, cuddle, squeeze, clasp, clutch, cling to, hold close, hold tight, take someone in one's arms, clasp someone to one's bosom; literary embosom. **2** *our route hugged the coastline*: follow closely, keep close to, stay near to, follow the course of. **3** *we hugged the comforting thought*: cling to, hold on to, cherish, harbour, nurse, foster, retain, keep in mind.

• noun *there were hugs as we left*: embrace, cuddle, squeeze, bear hug, clinch.

**huge** adjective enormous, vast, immense, large, big, great, massive, colossal, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monumental; giant, towering, elephantine, mountainous, titanic; epic, Herculean, Brobdingnagian; informal jumbo, mega, monster, whopping, humongous, hulking, bumper, astronomical; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**hugely** adverb very, extremely, exceedingly, most, really, particularly, tremendously, greatly, decidedly, exceptionally, immensely, inordinately, extraordinarily, vastly; very much, to a great extent; N. English right; informal terrifically, awfully, terribly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; informal, dated devilish, frightfully; old use exceeding.

**hulk** noun **1** *the rusting hulks of ships*: wreck, shipwreck, ruin, derelict; shell, skeleton, hull. **2** *a great hulk of a man*: giant, lump; oaf; informal clodhopper, ape, gorilla; N. Amer. informal lummo.

**hulking** adjective (informal) large, big, heavy, sturdy, burly, brawny, hefty, strapping; bulky, weighty, massive, ponderous; clumsy, awkward, ungainly, lumbering, lumpish, oafish; informal hunky, beefy, clodhopping.

– OPPOSITES small.

**hull**<sup>1</sup> noun *the ship's hull*: framework, body, shell, frame, skeleton, structure.

**hull**<sup>2</sup> noun *seed hulls*: shell, husk, pod, case, covering, integument, shuck; Botany pericarp, legume.

• verb *the bird uses its beak to hull seeds*: shell, husk, peel, pare, skin, shuck; technical decorticate.

**hullabaloo** noun (informal) fuss, commotion, hue and cry, uproar, outcry, clamour, storm, furor, hubbub, ruckus, brouhaha; pandemonium, mayhem, tumult, turmoil, hurly-burly; informal hoo-ha, to-do, kerfuffle, song and dance; Brit. informal carry-on, row, stink.

**hum** verb **1** *the engine was humming*: purr, drone, murmur, buzz, thrum, whirr, throb, vibrate; literary bombinate. **2** *she hummed a tune*: sing, croon, murmur, drone. **3** *the workshops are humming*: be busy, be active, be lively, buzz, bustle, be a hive of activity, throb. **4** (Brit. informal) *this stuff really hums*. See REEK verb.

• noun *a low hum of conversation*: murmur, drone, purr, buzz; literary bombination.

■ **hum and haw** (Brit.) hesitate, dither, vacillate, be indecisive, equivocate, prevaricate, waver, blow hot and cold; Brit. haver; Scottish swither; informal shilly-shally.

**human** adjective **1** *the human race*: anthropoid. **2** *they're only human*: mortal, flesh and blood; fallible, weak, frail, imperfect, vulnerable, susceptible, erring, error-prone; physical, bodily, fleshly. **3** *the human side of politics*: compassionate, humane, kind, considerate, understanding, sympathetic, tolerant; approachable, accessible.

– OPPOSITES infallible.

• noun *the link between humans and animals*: person, human being, personage, mortal, member of the human race; man, woman; individual, (living) soul, being; Homo sapiens; earthling.

#### WORD LINKS

anthropology the study of humankind

**humane** adjective compassionate, kind, considerate, understanding, sympathetic, tolerant; lenient, forbearing, forgiving, merciful, mild, tender, clement, benign, humanitarian, benevolent, charitable.

– OPPOSITES cruel.

**humanitarian** adjective **1** *a humanitarian act*: compassionate, humane; unselfish, altruistic, generous, magnanimous, benevolent, merciful, kind, sympathetic. **2** *a humanitarian organization*: charitable, philanthropic, public-spirited, socially concerned, welfare.

– OPPOSITES selfish.

• noun **philanthropist**, altruist, benefactor, social reformer, good Samaritan; do-gooder; old use philanthrope.

**humanities** plural noun (liberal) arts, literature; classics, classical studies, classical literature.

**humanity** noun **1** *humanity evolved from the apes*: humankind, mankind, man, people, the human race; Homo sapiens.

**2** *the humanity of Christ*: human nature, humanness, mortality. **3** *he praised them for their humanity*: compassion, brotherly love, fellow feeling, humaneness, kindness, consideration, understanding, sympathy, tolerance; leniency, mercy, mercifulness, pity, tenderness; benevolence, charity.

**humanize** verb civilize, improve, better; educate, enlighten, instruct; sophisticate, socialize, refine, polish; formal edify.

**humankind** noun *the human race*, the human species, humanity, human beings, mankind, man, people, mortals; Homo sapiens.

**humble** adjective **1** *her bearing was humble*: meek, deferential, respectful, submissive, self-effacing, unassertive; unpresuming, modest, unassuming, self-deprecating; Scottish mim. **2** *a humble background*: lowly, working-class, lower-class, poor, undistinguished, mean, ignoble,



low-born; common, ordinary, simple, inferior, unremarkable, insignificant, inconsequential; informal plebby. **3** *my humble abode*: modest, plain, simple, ordinary, unostentatious, unpretentious.

– OPPOSITES proud, noble, grand.

• **verb 1** *he humbled himself to ask for help*:

**humiliate**, abase, demean, lower, degrade, debase; mortify, shame, eat humble pie; take someone down a peg or two; informal cut down to size, settle someone's hash; N. Amer. informal make someone eat crow. **2** *Wales were humbled by Romania*: defeat, beat, trounce, rout, overwhelm, get the better of, bring to one's knees; informal lick, clobber, slaughter, massacre, crucify, walk all over; N. Amer. informal shellac, cream.

**humbug** noun **1** *that is sheer*

**humbug**: hypocrisy, hypocritical talk, sanctimoniousness, posturing, cant, empty talk; insincerity, dishonesty, falseness, deceit, deception, fraud. **2** *you see what a humbug I am?* **hypocrite**, fraud, fake, plaster saint; charlatan, cheat, deceiver, dissembler; informal phoney; literary whitened sepulchre.

• **verb** *Dave is easily humbugged*: deceive, trick, delude, mislead, fool, hoodwink, dupe, take in, beguile, bamboozle, gull; informal con, kid, have on, put one over on someone.

**humdrum** adjective **mundane**, dull, dreary, boring, tedious, monotonous, prosaic; unexciting, uninteresting, uneventful, unvaried, unremarkable; routine, ordinary, everyday, day-to-day, quotidian, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, workaday, pedestrian; informal (plain) vanilla.

– OPPOSITES remarkable, exciting.

**humid** adjective **muggy**, close, sultry, sticky, steamy, oppressive, airless, stifling, suffocating, stuffy, clammy, heavy.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**humiliate** verb **embarrass**, mortify, humble, shame, put to shame, disgrace; discomfit, chasten, abash, deflate, crush, squash; abase, debase, demean, degrade; cause to feel small, cause to lose face, take down a peg or two; informal show up, put down, cut down to size, settle someone's hash; N. Amer. informal make someone eat crow.

**humiliating** adjective **embarrassing**, mortifying, humbling, ignominious, inglorious, shameful; discreditable, undignified, chastening, demeaning, degrading, deflating.

**humiliation** noun **embarrassment**, mortification, shame, indignity, ignominy, disgrace, dishonour, degradation, discredit, obloquy, opprobrium; loss of pride, loss of face; blow to one's pride, slap in the face, kick in the teeth.

– OPPOSITES honour.

**humility** noun **modesty**, humbleness, meekness, diffidence, unassertiveness; lack of pride, lack of vanity.

– OPPOSITES pride.

**hummock** noun **hillock**, hump, mound, knoll, tump, prominence, elevation, rise, dune; N. Amer. knob; formal eminence.

**humorist** noun **comic writer**, wit, wag; comic, funny man/woman, comedian, comedienne, joker, jokester; clown.

**humorous** adjective **amusing**, funny, comic, comical, entertaining, diverting, witty, jocular, light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek, chucklesome, wry; hilarious, uproarious, riotous, zany, farcical, droll; informal priceless, side-splitting, rib-tickling, a scream, a hoot, a barrel of laughs, waggish; informal, dated killing.

– OPPOSITES serious.

**humour** noun **1** *the humour of the situation*:

**comedy**, comical aspect, funny side, funniness, hilarity; absurdity, ludicrousness, drollness; satire, irony. **2** *the stories are spiced up with humour*: jokes, jests, jesting, quips, witticisms, funny remarks, puns; wit, wittiness, comedy, drollery; informal gags, wisecracks, cracks, waggishness, one-liners. **3** *his good humour was infectious*: mood, temper, disposition, temperament, state of mind; spirits.

• **verb** *she was always humouring him*:

**indulge**, accommodate, pander to, cater to, yield to, give way to, give in to, go along with; pamper, spoil, overindulge, mollify, placate, gratify, satisfy.

**humourless** adjective **serious**, solemn, sober, sombre, grave, grim, dour, unsmiling, stony-faced; gloomy, glum, sad, melancholy, dismal, joyless, cheerless, lugubrious; boring, tedious, dull, dry.

– OPPOSITES jovial.

**hump** noun **a hump at the base of the spine**:

**protuberance**, prominence, lump, bump, knob, protrusion, projection, bulge, swelling, hunch; growth, outgrowth.

• **verb 1** *he humped his body to avoid a blow*:

**arch**, hunch, bend, bow, curve. **2** (informal) *he humped boxes up the stairs*: heave, carry, lug, lift, hoist, heft; informal schlep, tote.

– OPPOSITES straighten.

■ **give someone the hump** (informal). See ANNOY.

**hunch** verb **1** *he hunched his shoulders*: arch, curve, hump, bow. **2** *I hunched up as small as I could*: crouch, huddle, curl; hunker down, bend, stoop, squat.

– OPPOSITES straighten.

• **noun 1** *the hunch on his back*: **protuberance**, hump, lump, bump, knob, protrusion, prominence, bulge, swelling; growth, outgrowth. **2** *my hunch is that he'll be back*: feeling, feeling in one's bones, guess, suspicion, impression, inkling, idea, notion, fancy, intuition; informal gut feeling.

**hundred** cardinal number century; informal ton.

#### WORD LINKS

**centenary**, **centennial** the hundredth anniversary of an event

**centesimal** relating to division into hundredths

**centenarian** a person who is a hundred or more years old

**centurion** the commander of a hundred men in the ancient Roman army

**hunger** noun **1** *she was faint with hunger:* lack of food, hungriness, ravenousness, emptiness; starvation, malnutrition, malnourishment, undernourishment. **2** *a hunger for news:* desire, craving, longing, yearning, hankering, appetite, thirst; want, need; informal itch, yen.

■ **hunger after/for** desire, crave; long for, yearn for, pine for, ache for, hanker after, thirst for, lust for; want, need; informal have a yen for, itch for, be dying for, be gagging for.

**hungry** adjective **1** *I was really hungry:* ravenous, empty, in need of food, hollow, faint from hunger; starving, starved, famished; malnourished, undernourished, underfed; informal peckish; old use esurient. **2** *they are hungry for success:* eager, keen, avid, longing, yearning, aching, greedy; craving, desirous of, hankering after; informal itching, dying, gagging, hot.

– OPPOSITES full.

**hunk** noun **1** *a hunk of bread:* chunk, wedge, block, slab, lump, square, gobbet; Brit. informal wedge. **2** (informal) *he's such a hunk:* musclemán, strongman, macho man, iron man, Hercules; informal tough guy, he-man, beefcake, stud; N. Amer. informal studmuffin.

– OPPOSITES wimp.

**hunt** verb **1** *they hunted deer:* chase, stalk, pursue, course, run down; track, trail, follow, shadow; informal tail. **2** *police are hunting for her:* search, look (high and low), scour the area; seek, try to find; cast about/around/round, rummage (about/around/round), root about/around, fish about/around. ● **noun 1** *the thrill of the hunt:* chase, pursuit. **2** *police have stepped up their hunt:* search, look, quest.

**hunted** adjective harassed, persecuted, harried, hounded, beleaguered, troubled, stressed, tormented; careworn, haggard; distraught, desperate; informal hassled.

– OPPOSITES carefree.

**hunter** noun huntsman, huntswoman, trapper, stalker, woodsman; nimrod; predator.

**hunting** noun blood sports, field sports, coursing, fox-hunting; trapping; the chase; old use venery.

**hurdle** noun **1** *his leg hit a hurdle:* fence, jump, barrier, barricade, bar, railing, rail. **2** *the final hurdle to overcome:* obstacle, difficulty, problem, barrier, bar, snag, fly in the ointment, stumbling block, impediment, obstruction, complication, hindrance; Brit. spanner in the works; informal headache.

**hurl** verb throw, toss, fling, pitch, cast, lob, bowl, launch, catapult; project, propel, let fly; informal chuck, heave, sling, buzz, bung; N. Amer. informal peg; Austral. & N. English informal hoy; NZ informal bish; dated shy.

**hurly-burly** noun bustle, hustle and bustle, hubbub, confusion, disorder, uproar, tumult, pandemonium, mayhem, rumpus; informal hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, kerfuffle.

– OPPOSITES calm, order.

**hurricane** noun cyclone, typhoon, tornado,

storm, tempest, windstorm, whirlwind, gale; Austral. willy-willy; N. Amer. informal twister.

**hurried** adjective **1** *hurried glances:* quick, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk, hasty; cursory, perfunctory, brief, short, fleeting, passing, superficial. **2** *a hurried decision:* hasty, rushed, speedy, quick; impetuous, impulsive, precipitate, precipitous, rash, incautious, imprudent, spur-of-the-moment.

– OPPOSITES slow, considered.

**hurriedly** adverb hastily, speedily, quickly, fast, rapidly, swiftly, briskly; without delay, at top speed, at full tilt, at the double; headlong, hotfoot, post-haste; informal like the wind, like greased lightning, in double quick time; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

**hurry** verb **1** *hurry or you'll be late:* be quick, hurry up, hasten, speed up, press on, push on; run, dash, rush, race, fly; scurry, scramble, scuttle, sprint; informal get a move on, step on it, get cracking, get moving, shake a leg, get a wiggle on, tear, hare, zip, zoom, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal shift, get one's skates on, stir one's stumps; N. Amer. informal get the lead out; dated make haste; old use hie. **2** *she hurried him out:* hustle, hasten, push, urge, drive, spur, goad, prod; informal gee up.

– OPPOSITES dawdle, delay.

● **noun in all the hurry, we forgot:** rush, haste, flurry, hustle and bustle, confusion, commotion, hubbub, turmoil; race, scramble, scurry.

**hurt** verb **1** *my back hurts:* be painful, be sore, be tender, cause pain, cause discomfort; ache, smart, sting, burn, throb; informal be killing; Brit. informal be playing up. **2** *Dad hurt his leg:* injure, wound, damage, disable, incapacitate, maim, mutilate; bruise, cut, gash, graze, scrape, scratch, lacerate. **3** *his words hurt her:* distress, pain, wound, sting, upset, sadden, devastate, grieve, mortify; cut to the quick. **4** *high interest rates are hurting the economy:* harm, damage, be detrimental to, weaken, blight, impede, jeopardize, undermine, ruin, wreck, sabotage, cripple.

– OPPOSITES heal, comfort, benefit.

● **noun 1** *falling properly minimizes hurt:* harm, injury, wounding, pain, suffering, discomfort, soreness; aching, smarting, stinging, throbbing. **2** *all the hurt he had caused:* distress, pain, suffering, grief, misery, anguish, trauma, woe, upset, sadness, sorrow; harm, damage, trouble.

– OPPOSITES joy.

● **adjective 1** *my hurt hand:* injured, wounded, bruised, grazed, cut, gashed, sore, painful, aching, smarting, throbbing. **2** *Anne's hurt expression:* pained, distressed, anguished, upset, sad, mortified, offended; informal miffed, peeved, sore.

– OPPOSITES pleased.

**hurtful** adjective **1** *hurtful words:* upsetting, distressing, wounding, painful; unkind, cruel, nasty, mean, malicious, spiteful; cutting, barbed; informal catty, bitchy.

**2** *this is hurtful to the interests of women:*

**detrimental**, harmful, damaging, injurious, disadvantageous, unfavourable, prejudicial, deleterious, ruinous.

**hurtle** *verb* **speed**, rush, run, race, bolt, dash, career, whizz, zoom, charge, shoot, streak, gallop, hare, fly, scurry, go like the wind; informal belt, pelt, tear, scoot, go like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal bomb, bucket, go like the clappers; N. Amer. informal hightail, barrel.

**husband** *noun* **spouse**, partner, mate, consort, man, helpmate, helpmeet; groom, bridegroom; informal hubby, old man, one's better half; Brit. informal other half.

• *verb* **oil reserves should be husbanded**: **conserve**, preserve, save, safeguard, put aside, put by, lay in, reserve, stockpile, hoard; use economically, use sparingly, be frugal with.

– OPPOSITES squander.

**husbandry** *noun* **1** *farmers have new methods of husbandry*: **farm management**, land management, farming, agriculture, agronomy; cultivation; animal husbandry. **2** *the careful husbandry of their resources*: **conservation**, management; economy, thrift, thriftiness, frugality.

**hush** *verb* **1** *he tried to hush her*: **silence**, quieten (down), shush; gag, muzzle; informal shut up. **2** *the crowd hushed*: **fall silent**, stop talking, quieten down; informal pipe down, shut up. **3** *they hushed up the dangers*: **keep secret**, conceal, hide, suppress, cover up, keep dark, keep quiet about; obscure, veil, sweep under the carpet; informal sit on, keep under one's hat.

– OPPOSITES disclose.

• *exclamation* **Hush! Someone will hear you**: **be quiet**, keep quiet, quieten down, be silent, stop talking, hold your tongue; informal shut up, shut your mouth, shut your face, shut your trap, button your lip, pipe down, put a sock in it, give it a rest, save it, not another word; Brit. informal shut your gob.

• *noun* **a hush descended**: **silence**, quiet, quietness; stillness, peace, peacefulness, calm, tranquillity.

– OPPOSITES noise.

**hush-hush** *adjective* (informal). See **SECRET** adjective sense 1.

**husk** *noun* **shell**, hull, pod, case, covering, integument, shuck; Botany pericarp, legume.

**husky** *adjective* **1** *a husky voice*: **throaty**, gruff, gravelly, hoarse, croaky, rough, guttural, harsh, rasping, raspy. **2** *Paddy was a husky guy*: **strong**, muscular, muscly, muscle-bound, brawny, hefty, burly, hulking, chunky, strapping, thickset, solid, powerful, heavy, robust, sturdy, Herculean, well built; informal beefy, hunky.

– OPPOSITES shrill, soft, puny.

**hussy** *noun* (dated) **minx**, coquette, tease, seductress, Lolita, Jezebel; slut, loose woman; informal floozie, tart, vamp; Brit. informal scrubber, slapper, slag; N. Amer. informal tramp; dated trollop; old use jade, strumpet.

**hustle** *verb* **1** *they were hustled as they went*: **jostle**, shove, push, bump, knock, nudge, elbow, shoulder. **2** *I was hustled away*:

**manhandle**, push, shove, thrust, frogmarch; rush, hurry, whisk; informal bundle. **3** (informal) *don't be hustled into anything*: **coerce**, force, pressure, pressurize, badger, pester, hound, nag, goad, prod; browbeat, bulldoze, steamroller, dragoon; informal railroad, fast-talk.

■ **hustle and bustle** hurly-burly, bustle, tumult, hubbub, activity, action, liveliness, animation, excitement, agitation, flurry, whirl; informal toing and froing, comings and goings, ballyhoo, hoo-ha, hullabaloo.

**hut** *noun* **shack**, shanty, (log) cabin, shelter, shed, lean-to; hovel; Scottish bothy, shieling; N. Amer. cabana.

**hybrid** *noun* **a hybrid between a brown and albino mouse**: **cross**, cross-breed, mixed-breed, half-breed, half blood; mixture, blend, amalgamation, combination, composite, fusion.

• *adjective* **hybrid roses**: **composite**, cross-bred, interbred, mongrel; mixed, blended, compound.

**hybridize** *verb* **cross-breed**, cross, interbreed, cross-fertilize, cross-pollinate; mix, blend, combine, amalgamate.

**hygiene** *noun* **cleanliness**, sanitation, sterility, purity, disinfection; public health, environmental health.

**hygienic** *adjective* **sanitary**, clean, germ-free, disinfected, sterilized, sterile, antiseptic, aseptic, unpolluted, uncontaminated, salubrious, healthy, wholesome; informal squeaky clean.

– OPPOSITES insanitary.

**hymn** *noun* **religious song**, song of praise, anthem, canticle, chorale, psalm, carol; spiritual.

**hype** (informal) *noun* **her work relies on hype and headlines**: **publicity**, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, exposure; informal plugging, ballyhoo; Brit. informal puff.

• *verb* **a stunt to hype a new product**: **publicize**, advertise, promote, push, puff, boost, merchandise, build up, bang the drum for; informal plug.

**hyperbole** *noun* **exaggeration**, overstatement, magnification, embroidery, embellishment, excess, overkill; informal purple prose, puffery.

– OPPOSITES understatement.

**hypercritical** *adjective* **overcritical**, fault-finding, hair-splitting, carping, cavilling, captious, niggling, quibbling, pedantic, pettifogging, fussy, finicky; informal picky, nit-picking, pernickety; N. Amer. informal persnickety; old use nice.

**hypnosis** *noun* **mesmerism**, hypnotism, hypnotic suggestion, auto-suggestion.

**hypnotic** *adjective* **mesmerizing**, mesmeric, spellbinding, entrancing, bewitching, irresistible, compelling; soporific, sedative, numbing; Medicine stupefiant.

**hypnotism** *noun* **mesmerism**, hypnosis, hypnotic suggestion, auto-suggestion.

**hypnotize** *verb* **1** *he had been hypnotized*: **mesmerize**, put into a trance. **2** *they*



were hypnotized by the dancers: **entrance**, spellbind, enthrall, transfix, captivate, bewitch, enrapture, grip, rivet, absorb, magnetize.

**hypochondriac** *noun* *a hypochondriac who depends on her pills: valetudinarian, valetudinary; neurotic.*

• *adjective her hypochondriac husband: valetudinarian, valetudinary, hypochondriacal, malingering, health-obsessed, neurotic.*

**hypocrisy** *noun* sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, pietism, piousness, false virtue, cant, posturing, speciousness, empty talk; insincerity, falseness, deceit, dishonesty, dissimulation, duplicity; informal phoneyess.  
– **OPPOSITES** sincerity.

**hypocrite** *noun* sanctimonious person, pietist, plaster saint, humbug, pretender, deceiver, dissembler; informal phoney; literary whitened sepulchre.

**hypocritical** *adjective* sanctimonious, pietistic, pious, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, superior; insincere, specious, false; deceitful, dishonest, dissembling, two-faced; informal phoney.

**hypodermic** *noun* *needle, syringe; informal hype, spike.*

**hypothesis** *noun* theory, theorem, thesis, conjecture, supposition, postulation,

postulate, proposition, premise, assumption; notion, concept, idea.

**hypothetical** *adjective* theoretical, speculative, conjectured, notional, suppositional, supposed, assumed; academic.  
– **OPPOSITES** actual.

**hysteria** *noun* frenzy, feverishness, hysterics, fit of madness, derangement, mania; panic, alarm, distress; Brit. informal the screaming abdabs.  
– **OPPOSITES** calm.

**hysterical** *adjective* **1** *Janet became hysterical: overwrought, overemotional, out of control, frenzied, frantic, wild, feverish; beside oneself, driven to distraction, agitated, berserk, manic, delirious, unhinged, deranged, out of one's mind, raving; informal in a state.* **2** (informal) *her attempts to dance were hysterical: hilarious, uproarious, very funny, very amusing, comical, farcical; informal hysterically funny, side-splitting, rib-tickling, a scream, a hoot, a barrel of laughs; dated killing.*

**hysterics** *plural noun* (informal) **1** *a fit of hysterics: hysteria, wildness, feverishness, irrationality, frenzy, loss of control, delirium, derangement, mania; Brit. informal the screaming abdabs.* **2** *the girls collapsed in hysterics: fits of laughter, gales of laughter, uncontrollable laughter, convulsions, fits; informal stitches.*

**ice** **noun** **1** *a lake covered with ice: frozen water, icicles; black ice, verglas, frost, rime; N. Amer. glaze.* **2** *assorted ices: ice cream, water ice, sorbet; N. Amer. sherbet.* **3** *the ice in her voice: coldness, coolness, frostiness, iciness; hostility, unfriendliness.*

• **verb** **1** *the lake has iced over: freeze (over), turn into ice, harden, solidify.* **2** *I'll ice the drinks: cool, chill, refrigerate.* **3** *she had iced the cake: cover with icing, glaze; N. Amer. frost.*

– **OPPOSITES** thaw, heat.

■ **on ice** (informal). See **PENDING** adjective sense 1.

#### WORD LINKS

glacial relating to ice

glacier a slowly moving mass of ice

floe a sheet of floating ice

iceberg a large mass of floating ice

**ice-cold** **adjective** *icy, freezing, glacial, gelid, sub-zero, frozen, wintry; arctic, polar, Siberian; bitter, biting, raw, chilly; literary froze, rimy.*

– **OPPOSITES** hot.

**icing** **noun** *glaze, sugar paste; N. Amer. frosting.*

**icon** **noun** *image, idol, portrait, representation, symbol; figure, statue.*

**iconoclast** **noun** *critic, sceptic; heretic, unbeliever, dissident, dissenter; rebel, renegade, mutineer.*

**icy** **adjective** **1** *icy roads: frosty, frozen (over), iced over, ice-bound, ice-covered, iced up; slippery; literary rimy.* **2** *an icy wind: freezing, chill, chilly, biting, bitter, raw, arctic, glacial, Siberian, polar, gelid.* **3** *an icy voice: unfriendly, hostile, forbidding; cold, cool, chilly, frigid, frosty, glacial, gelid; haughty, stern, hard.*

**idea** **noun** **1** *the idea of death scares her: concept, notion, conception, thought; image, visualization; hypothesis, postulation.* **2** *our idea is to open a new shop: plan, scheme, design, proposal, proposition, suggestion; aim, intention, objective, object, goal, target.* **3** *Liz had other ideas on the subject: thought, theory, view, opinion, feeling, belief, conclusion.* **4** *I had an idea that it might happen: sense, feeling, suspicion, fancy, inkling, hunch, theory, notion, impression.* **5** *an idea of the cost: estimate, estimation, approximation, guess, conjecture, rough calculation; informal guesstimate.*

**ideal** **adjective** **1** *ideal flying weather: perfect, best possible, consummate, supreme, flawless, faultless, exemplary, classic, model, ultimate, quintessential.* **2** *an ideal concept: abstract, theoretical, conceptual, notional; hypothetical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional.* **3** *an ideal world: unattainable, unachievable, impracticable; unreal, fictitious, hypothetical, theoretical, ivory-towered, imaginary, idealized, Utopian, fairy-tale.*

– **OPPOSITES** bad, concrete, real.

• **noun** **1** *she tried to be his ideal: perfection, paragon, epitome, ne plus ultra, nonpareil, dream; informal one in a million, the tops, the bee's knees.* **2** *an ideal to aim at: model, pattern, exemplar, example, paradigm, archetype; yardstick.* **3** *liberal ideals: principle, standard, value, belief, conviction, persuasion; (ideals) morals, morality, ethics, ideology, creed.*

**idealist** **noun** *Utopian, visionary, fantasist, romantic, dreamer, daydreamer; Walter Mitty, Don Quixote; N. Amer. fantasist.*

– **OPPOSITES** realist.

**idealistic** **adjective** *Utopian, visionary, romantic, quixotic, dreamy, unrealistic, impractical.*

**idealize** **verb** *romanticize, be unrealistic about, look at something through rose-tinted spectacles, paint a rosy picture of, glamorize.*

**ideally** **adverb** *in a perfect world; preferably, if possible, for preference, by choice, as a matter of choice, (much) rather; all things being equal, theoretically, hypothetically, in theory, in principle, on paper.*

**idée fixe** **noun** *obsession, fixation, (consuming) passion, mania, compulsion, preoccupation, infatuation, addiction, fetish; phobia, complex, neurosis; informal bee in one's bonnet, hang-up, thing.*

**identical** **adjective** **1** *the girls were wearing identical tops: similar, (exactly) the same, indistinguishable, uniform, twin, interchangeable, undifferentiated, homogeneous, of a piece, cut from the same cloth; alike, like, matching, like (two) peas in a pod; informal much of a muchness.* **2** *I used the identical technique: the (very) same, the selfsame, the very, one and the same; aforementioned, aforesaid, aforesame,*

above, above-stated; foregoing, preceding.

– OPPOSITES different.

**identifiable** *adjective* **distinguishable**, recognizable, known; noticeable, perceptible, discernible, appreciable, detectable, observable, perceivable, visible; distinct, marked, conspicuous, unmistakable, clear.

– OPPOSITES unrecognizable.

**identification** *noun* **1** *the identification of the suspect*: **recognition**, singling out, pinpointing, naming; discerning, distinguishing; informal **fingering**. **2** *early identification of problems*: **determination**, establishment, ascertainment, discovery, diagnosis, divination; verification, confirmation. **3** *may I see your identification?* **ID**, (identity/identification) papers, bona fides, documents, credentials; ID card, identity card, pass, badge, warrant, licence, permit, passport. **4** *the identification of the party with high taxes*: **association**, link, linkage, connection, bracketing. **5** *his identification with the music*: **empathy**, rapport, unity, togetherness, bond, sympathy, understanding.

**identify** *verb* **1** *Gail identified her attacker*: **recognize**, single out, pick out, spot, point out, pinpoint, put one's finger on, put a name to, name, know; discern, distinguish; remember, recall, recollect; informal **finger**. **2** *I identified four problem areas*: **determine**, establish, ascertain, make out, diagnose, discern, distinguish; verify, confirm; informal **figure out**, get a fix on. **3** *we identify sport with glamour*: **associate**, link, connect, relate, bracket, couple. **4** *Peter identifies with the hero*: **empathize**, be in tune, have a rapport, feel at one, sympathize; be on the same wavelength as, speak the same language as; understand, relate to, feel for. **5** *they identify him with this painter of the same name*: **equate with**, identify as, consider to be, regard as being the same as.

**identity** *noun* **1** *the identity of the owner*: **name**; specification. **2** *she was afraid of losing her identity*: **individuality**, self, selfhood; personality, character, originality, distinctiveness, singularity, uniqueness. **3** *a case of mistaken identity*: **identification**, recognition, naming, singling out. **4** *we share an identity of interests*: **congruity**, congruence, sameness, oneness, interchangeability; likeness, uniformity, similarity, closeness, accordance, alignment.

**ideology** *noun* **beliefs**, ideas, ideals, principles, ethics, morals; doctrine, creed, credo, teaching, theory; tenets, canon(s); conviction(s), persuasion.

**idiocy** *noun* **stupidity**, folly, foolishness, foolhardiness; madness, insanity, lunacy; silliness, brainlessness, thoughtlessness, senselessness, irresponsibility, imprudence, ineptitude, inanity, absurdity, ludicrousness, fatuousness; informal **craziness**; Brit. informal **daftness**.

– OPPOSITES sense.

**idiom** *noun* **1** *a rather dated idiom*:

**expression**, phrase, turn of phrase, locution. **2** *the poet's idiom is terse*: **language**, mode of expression, style, speech, locution, usage, phraseology, phrasing, vocabulary, parlance, jargon, patter; informal **lingo**.

**idiomatic** *adjective* **vernacular**, colloquial, everyday, conversational; natural, grammatical, correct.

**idiosyncrasy** *noun* **peculiarity**, oddity, eccentricity, mannerism, quirk, whim, vagary, caprice, kink; fetish, foible, crotchet, habit, characteristic; individuality; unconventionality, unorthodoxy; old use **megrim**, **freak**.

**idiosyncratic** *adjective* **distinctive**, individual, individualistic, characteristic, peculiar, typical, special, specific, unique, personal; eccentric, unconventional, irregular, anomalous, odd, quirky, queer, strange, weird, bizarre, freakish; informal **freaky**.

**idiot** *noun* **fool**, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, dolt, ignoramus, simpleton; informal **dope**, **ninny**, **nincompoop**, **chump**, **dimwit**, **dumbo**, **dummy**, **loon**, **dork**, **jackass**, **bonehead**, **fathead**, **numbskull**, **dunderhead**, **thickhead**, **woodenhead**, **airhead**, **pinhead**, **lamebrain**, **cretin**, **moron**, **imbecile**, **pea-brain**, **birdbrain**, **jerk**, **nerd**, **donkey**; Brit. informal **nit**, **nitwit**, **twit**, **clot**, **plonker**, **plank**, **berk**, **prat**, **pillock**, **wally**, **divvy**, **twerp**, **charlie**, **muppet**, **twonk**, **herbert**; Scottish informal **nyaff**, **balloon**; N. Amer. informal **schmuck**, **bozo**, **turkey**, **chowderhead**, **dingbat**, **hoser**; Austral./NZ informal **drongo**, **dill**, **alec**, **galah**.

– OPPOSITES genius.

**idiotic** *adjective* **stupid**, silly, foolish, witless, brainless, mindless, thoughtless, unintelligent; imprudent, unwise, ill-advised, ill-considered, half-baked, foolhardy; absurd, senseless, pointless, nonsensical, inane, fatuous, ridiculous; informal **dumb**, **dim**, **dim-witted**, **half-witted**, **dopey**, **gormless**, **hare-brained**, **pea-brained**, **wooden-headed**, **thickheaded**; Brit. informal **barmy**, **daft**; Scottish & N. English informal **glait**.

**idle** *adjective* **1** *an idle fellow*: **lazy**, indolent, slothful, work-shy, shiftless, inactive, sluggish, lethargic, listless; slack, lax, lackadaisical, good-for-nothing; informal **bore**. **2** *I was bored with being idle*: **unemployed**, jobless, out of work, redundant, between jobs, workless, unwaged, unoccupied; Brit. informal on the dole, 'resting'. **3** *they left the machine idle*: **inactive**, unused, unoccupied, unemployed, disused; out of action, inoperative, out of service. **4** *their idle hours*: **unoccupied**, spare, empty, vacant, unfilled, available. **5** *idle remarks*: **frivolous**, trivial, trifling, minor, petty, lightweight, shallow, superficial, insignificant, unimportant, worthless, paltry, niggling, peripheral, inane, fatuous; unnecessary, time-wasting. **6** *idle threats*: **empty**, meaningless, pointless, worthless, vain, insubstantial,



futile, ineffective, ineffectual; groundless, baseless.

– **OPPOSITES** industrious, employed, working, busy, serious.

• **verb 1** *Lily idled on the window seat: do nothing*, be inactive, vegetate, take it easy, mark time, kick one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs, kill time, languish, laze, lounge, loll, loaf, slouch; informal hang around, veg out; Brit. informal hang about; N. Amer. informal bum around, lollygag. **2** *Rob idled along the pavement: saunter, stroll, dawdle, drift, potter, amble, maunder, wander, straggle*; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle, mooch. **3** *he let the engine idle: tick over*.

**idler** noun loafer, layabout, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, lounge, shirker, sluggard; informal skiver, waster, slacker, slowcoach, slob, lazybones; N. Amer. informal slowpoke; literary wastrel.

– **OPPOSITES** workaholic.

**idol** noun **1** *an idol in a shrine: icon, effigy, statue, figure, figurine, fetish, totem; graven image, false god, golden calf*. **2** *the pop world's latest idol: hero, heroine, star, superstar, icon, celebrity; favourite, darling; informal pin-up, heart throb, golden boy/girl; Brit. informal blue-eyed boy/girl*.

**idolatry** noun **1** *he preached against idolatry: idol worship, fetishism, iconolatry; paganism, heathenism*. **2** *our idolatry of art: idolization, fetishization, worship, adulation, adoration, reverence, glorification, lionization, hero-worshipping*.

**idolize** verb hero-worship, worship, revere, venerate, deify, lionize; stand in awe of, reverence, look up to, admire, exalt; informal put on a pedestal.

**idyll** noun **1** *an idyll unspoilt by machines: perfect time, ideal time; paradise, heaven (on earth), Shangri-La, Utopia; literary Arcadia*. **2** *the poem began as a two-part idyll: pastoral, eclogue, georgic, rural poem*.

**idyllic** adjective perfect, wonderful, blissful, halcyon, happy; ideal, idealized; heavenly, paradisaal, Utopian, Elysian; peaceful, picturesque; literary Arcadian.

**if** conjunction **1** *if the weather is fine, we can walk: on condition that, provided (that), providing (that), presuming (that), supposing (that), assuming (that), as long as, given that, in the event that*. **2** *if I go out she gets nasty: whenever, every time*. **3** *I wonder if he noticed: whether, whether or not*. **4** *a useful, if unintended innovation: although, albeit, but, yet, whilst; even though, despite being*.

• **noun** *there is one if in all this: uncertainty, doubt; condition, stipulation, provision, proviso, constraint, precondition, requirement, specification, restriction*.

**iffy** adjective (informal) **1** *the windscreen's a bit iffy, but it's a good car: substandard, second-rate, low-grade, low-quality; doubtful, dubious, questionable; informal not up to much; Brit. informal dodgy, ropy*. **2** *that date is a bit iffy: tentative, undecided, unsettled,*

*unsure, unresolved, in doubt; informal up in the air*.

**ignite** verb **1** *he got to safety moments before the petrol ignited: catch fire, burst into flames; be set off, explode*. **2** *a cigarette ignited the fumes: light, set fire to, set on fire, set alight, kindle, touch off; informal set/put a match to*. **3** *the campaign failed to ignite voter interest: arouse, kindle, trigger, spark, instigate, excite, provoke, stimulate, stir up, whip up, incite, fuel*.

– **OPPOSITES** go out, extinguish.

**ignoble** adjective dishonourable, unworthy, base, shameful, contemptible, despicable, shabby, sordid; improper, unprincipled, discreditable.

**ignominious** adjective humiliating, undignified, embarrassing, ignoble, inglorious.

– **OPPOSITES** glorious.

**ignominy** noun shame, humiliation, embarrassment; disgrace, dishonour, discredit, degradation, scandal, infamy, indignity, ignobility, loss of face.

**ignoramus** noun fool, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, simpleton; informal dope, ninny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, imbecile, moron, dumbo, dummy, fathead, numbskull, thickhead, woodenhead, airhead, birdbrain; Brit. informal nit, nitwit, twit, clot, plonker, plank, berk, divvy; Scottish informal balloon; N. Amer. informal schmuck, bozo, turkey; Austral./NZ informal drongo.

**ignorance** noun **1** *his ignorance of economics: incomprehension, unawareness, unconsciousness, unfamiliarity, inexperience, innocence, lack of knowledge; informal cluelessness; literary nescience*.

**2** *their attitudes are based on ignorance: lack of knowledge, lack of education; unenlightenment, benightedness; lack of intelligence, stupidity, foolishness, idiocy*.

– **OPPOSITES** knowledge, education.

**ignorant** adjective **1** *an ignorant country girl: uneducated, unknowledgeable, untaught, unschooled, untutored, untrained, illiterate, unlettered, unlearned, unread, uninformed, unenlightened, benighted; inexperienced, unworldly, unsophisticated; informal pig-ignorant, thick*. **2** *they were ignorant of working-class life: without knowledge, unaware, unconscious, unfamiliar, unacquainted, uninformed, unenlightened, unconservant, inexperienced, naive, innocent, green; informal in the dark, clueless; literary nescient*.

– **OPPOSITES** educated, knowledgeable.

**ignore** verb **1** *he ignored the customers: disregard, take no notice of, pay no attention to, pay no heed to; turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to*. **2** *he was ignored by the countess: snub, slight, spurn, shun, look right through, cold-shoulder, freeze out; Brit. send to Coventry; informal give someone the brush-off, cut (dead); Brit. informal blank*. **3** *doctors ignored her husband's instructions: set aside, pay no attention to, take no account of; break, contravene, fail to comply*

with, fail to observe, disregard, disobey, breach, defy, flout.

– OPPOSITES acknowledge, obey.

**ilk** *noun* **type**, sort, class, category, group, set, bracket, genre, vintage, make, model, brand, stamp, variety.

**ill** *adjective* **1** *she was feeling rather ill:*

**unwell**, sick, not (very) well, ailing, poorly, sickly, peaky, indisposed, infirm; out of sorts, not oneself, under/below par, bad, in a bad way; bedridden, invalided, on the sick list, valetudinarian; queasy, nauseous, nauseated; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, laid up, lousy, rough; Brit. informal ropy, grotty; Austral./NZ informal crook; Brit. informal, dated queer. **2** *the ill effects of smoking:* **harmful**, damaging, detrimental, deleterious, adverse, injurious, hurtful, destructive, pernicious, dangerous; unhealthy, unwholesome, poisonous, noxious; literary malefic, maleficent, nocuous; old use baneful. **3** *ill feeling:* **hostile**,

antagonistic, acrimonious, inimical, antipathetic; unfriendly, unsympathetic; resentful, spiteful, malicious, vindictive, malevolent, bitter. **4** *an ill omen:* **unlucky**, adverse, unfavourable, unfortunate, unpropitious, inauspicious, unpromising, infelicitous, ominous, sinister; literary direful. **5** *ill manners:* **rude**, discourteous, impolite; impertinent, insolent, impudent, uncivil, disrespectful; informal ignorant. **6** *ill management:* **bad**, poor, unsatisfactory, incompetent, deficient, defective, inept.

– OPPOSITES well, healthy, beneficial, auspicious, polite.

• *noun* **1** *the ills of society:* **problems**, troubles, difficulties, misfortunes, trials, tribulations; worries, anxieties, concerns; informal headaches, hassles. **2** *he wished them no ill:* **harm**, hurt, injury, damage, pain, trouble, misfortune, suffering, distress. **3** *the body's ills:* **illnesses**, ailments, disorders, complaints, afflictions, sicknesses, diseases, maladies, infirmities.

• *adverb* **1** *such behaviour ill became the king:* **poorly**, badly, imperfectly. **2** *the look on her face boded ill:* **unfavourably**, adversely, badly, inauspiciously. **3** *he can ill afford the loss of income:* **barely**, scarcely, hardly, only just, just possibly. **4** *things are going ill:* **badly**, adversely, unsuccessfully, unfavourably; unfortunately, unluckily, inauspiciously. **5** *we are ill prepared:* **inadequately**, unsatisfactorily, insufficiently, imperfectly, poorly, badly.

– OPPOSITES well, auspiciously, satisfactorily.

■ **ill at ease** awkward, uneasy, self-conscious, uncomfortable, embarrassed, out of place, inhibited, gauche; restless, restive, fidgety, discomfited, worried, anxious, on edge, edgy, nervous, tense; informal twitchy, jittery; N. Amer. informal discombobulated, antsy.

■ **speak ill of** denigrate, disparage, criticize, be critical of, speak badly of, be malicious about, blacken the name of, run down, insult, abuse, attack, revile, malign, vilify; N. Amer. slur; informal bad-mouth, bitch about;

Brit. informal rubbish, slate, slag off; formal derogate; rare asperse.

**ill-advised** *adjective* **unwise**, injudicious, misguided, imprudent, ill-considered, ill-judged; foolhardy, hare-brained, rash, reckless; informal crazy, crackpot.

– OPPOSITES judicious.

**ill-assorted** *adjective* **mismatched**, incongruous, ill-matched, incompatible; dissimilar, unlike, varied, disparate.

**ill-bred** *adjective* **ill-mannered**, badly-mannered, rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil; boorish, churlish, loutish, vulgar, coarse, crass, uncouth, uncivilized, ungentlemanly, indecorous, unseemly; informal ignorant; Brit. informal yobbish.

**ill-considered** *adjective* **rash**, ill-advised, ill-judged, injudicious, imprudent, unwise, hasty; misjudged, ill-conceived, badly thought out, hare-brained; literary temerarious.

– OPPOSITES judicious.

**ill-defined** *adjective* **vague**, indistinct, unclear, imprecise; blurred, fuzzy, hazy, woolly.

**ill-disposed** *adjective* **hostile**, antagonistic, unfriendly, unsympathetic, antipathetic, inimical, unfavourable, averse, at odds; informal anti.

– OPPOSITES friendly.

**illegal** *adjective* **unlawful**, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, felonious; unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned; outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, proscribed; contraband, black-market, bootleg; Law malfeasant; informal crooked, shady; Brit. informal bent, dodgy.

– OPPOSITES lawful, legitimate.

**illegible** *adjective* **unreadable**, indecipherable, unintelligible; scrawled, scribbled, crabbed.

**illegitimate** *adjective* **1** *illegitimate share trading:* **illegal**, unlawful, illicit, criminal, felonious; unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned; prohibited, outlawed, banned, forbidden, proscribed; fraudulent, corrupt, dishonest; Law malfeasant; informal crooked, shady; Brit. informal bent, dodgy. **2** *an illegitimate child:* **born out of wedlock**; dated born on the wrong side of the blanket, unfathered; old use bastard, natural, misbegotten, baseborn, nameless, spurious.

– OPPOSITES legal, lawful.

**ill-fated** *adjective* **doomed**, blighted, damned, cursed, ill-starred, jinxed; literary star-crossed.

**ill-favoured** *adjective* **unattractive**, plain, ugly; N. Amer. homely; informal not much to look at; Austral./NZ informal drack.

– OPPOSITES attractive.

**ill-founded** *adjective* **baseless**, groundless, without foundation, unjustified; questionable, misinformed, misguided.

**ill humour** *noun* **bad mood**, bad temper, irritability, irascibility, cantankerousness, petulance, peevishness, pettishness, pique, crabbiness, testiness, tetchiness,

fractiousness, snappishness, waspishness, touchiness, moodiness, sullenness, sulkiness, surliness, annoyance, anger, crossness.

**ill-humoured** adjective **bad-tempered**, ill-tempered, short-tempered, in a (bad) mood, cross; irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, touchy, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, peevish, fractious, waspish, prickly, pettish; grumpy, grouchy, crabbed, crabby, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric; informal snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery, peckish; Austral./NZ informal snaky; informal, dated waxy, miffy.

– OPPOSITES amiable.

**illiberal** adjective **intolerant**, conservative, unenlightened, reactionary, undemocratic, authoritarian, repressive, totalitarian, despotic, tyrannical, oppressive.

**illicit** adjective **1** *illicit drugs*: illegal, unlawful, illegitimate, criminal, felonious; outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, proscribed; unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned; contraband, black-market, bootleg; law malfeasant. **2** *an illicit love affair*: **taboo**, forbidden, impermissible, unacceptable; secret, clandestine.

– OPPOSITES lawful, legal.

**illimitable** adjective **limitless**, unlimited, unbounded; endless, unending, never-ending, infinite, immeasurable.

**illiteracy** noun **1** *illiteracy* was widespread: **illiterateness**, inability to read or write. **2** *economic illiteracy*: **ignorance**, unawareness, inexperience, unenlightenment, lack of knowledge/education; literary nescience.

**illiterate** adjective **1** *an illiterate peasant*: unable to read or write, unlettered. **2** *politically illiterate*: **ignorant**, unknowledgeable, uneducated, unschooled, untutored, untrained, uninstructed, uninformed; literary nescient.

**ill-judged** adjective **ill-considered**, unwise, ill-thought-out; imprudent, incautious, injudicious, misguided; ill-advised, impolitic, inexpedient; rash, hasty, thoughtless, careless, reckless.

– OPPOSITES judicious.

**ill-mannered** adjective **bad-mannered**, discourteous, rude, impolite, uncivil, abusive; insolent, impertinent, impudent, cheeky, presumptuous, disrespectful; badly behaved, ill-behaved, loutish, oafish, uncouth, uncivilized, ill-bred; informal ignorant.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**ill-natured** adjective **mean**, nasty, spiteful, malicious, disagreeable; ill-tempered, bad-tempered, moody, irritable, irascible, surly, sullen, peevish, petulant, fractious, crabbed, crabby, tetchy, testy, grouchy.

**illness** noun sickness, disease, ailment, complaint, malady, affliction, infection, indisposition; ill health, poor health, infirmity; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal

lurgy; dated contagion.

#### WORD LINKS

**convalesce**, **recuperate** recover one's health after an illness

**remission** a temporary period in which a serious illness becomes less severe

**psychosomatic** relating to physical illness caused or made worse by a mental factor

**iatrogenic** relating to illness which is caused by medical treatment.

See also **DISEASE**.

**illogical** adjective **irrational**, unreasonable, unsound, unreasoned, unjustifiable; incorrect, erroneous, invalid, spurious, faulty, flawed, fallacious, unscientific; specious, sophistic, casuistic; absurd, preposterous, untenable; informal off beam, way out.

**ill-starred** adjective **ill-fated**, doomed, ill-omened, blighted, damned, cursed, jinxed; unlucky, luckless, unfortunate, hapless; literary star-crossed.

– OPPOSITES blessed.

**ill temper** noun **bad mood**, irritation, vexation, exasperation, indignation, huff, moodiness, pet, pique; anger, crossness, bad temper; irritability, irascibility, peevishness, tetchiness, testiness; informal grump; Brit. informal paddy, strop; N. Amer. informal blowout, hissy fit; Brit. informal, dated bate, wax.

**ill-tempered** adjective **bad-tempered**, short-tempered, ill-humoured, moody; in a (bad) mood, cross, irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, touchy, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, peevish, fractious, waspish, prickly, pettish; grumpy, grouchy, crabbed, crabby, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric; informal snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery, peckish; Austral./NZ informal snaky; informal, dated waxy, miffy.

**ill-timed** adjective **untimely**, mistimed, badly timed; premature, early, hasty, inopportune.

– OPPOSITES timely.

**ill-treat** verb **abuse**, mistreat, maltreat, ill-use, misuse; manhandle, handle roughly, molest; harm, injure, damage; informal knock about/around.

**ill-treatment** noun **abuse**, mistreatment, maltreatment, ill use, ill usage, misuse; manhandling, rough treatment.

**illuminate** verb **1** *the bundle was illuminated by the torch*: **light (up)**, throw light on, brighten, shine on; literary illumine.

**2** *the manuscripts were illuminated*: **decorate**, illustrate, embellish, adorn, ornament. **3** *documents often illuminate people's thought processes*: **clarify**, elucidate, explain, reveal, shed light on, give insight into.

– OPPOSITES darken, conceal.

**illuminating** adjective **informative**, enlightening, revealing, explanatory, instructive, helpful, educational.



**illumination** noun **1** *a floodlamp provided illumination: light, lighting, radiance, gleam, glow, glare; shining, gleaming, glowing; literary illuminating, irradiance, lucency, lambency, effulgence, refulgence.*

**2** *the illumination of a manuscript:*

**decoration**, illustration, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation. **3** *these books give illumination on the subject:* **clarification**, elucidation, explanation, revelation, explication. **4** *moments of real illumination: enlightenment, insight, understanding, awareness; learning, education; formal edification.*

**illusion** noun **1** *he had destroyed her illusions:*

**delusion**, misapprehension, misconception, false impression; fantasy, fancy, dream, chimera. **2** *the lighting increases the illusion of depth:* **appearance**, impression, semblance. **3** *it's just an illusion:* **mirage**, hallucination, apparition, figment of the imagination, trick of the light. **4** *magical illusions: (magic) trick, conjuring trick; (illusions) magic, conjuring, sleight of hand, legerdemain.*

**illusory** adjective **delusory**, delusive; illusionary, imagined, imaginary, fanciful, fancied, unreal; sham, false, fallacious, fake, bogus, mistaken, erroneous, misguided, untrue.

— OPPOSITES genuine.

**illustrate** verb **1** *the photographs that illustrate the book:* **decorate**, adorn,

ornament, accompany; add pictures/drawings to, provide artwork for. **2** *this can be illustrated through a brief example:* **explain**, elucidate, clarify, make plain, demonstrate, show, emphasize; informal get across/over. **3** *his wit was illustrated by his remark to Lucy:* **exemplify**, show, demonstrate, display, represent.

**illustrated** adjective with **illustrations**, with pictures, with drawings, pictorial.

**illustration** noun **1** *the illustrations in children's books:* **picture**, drawing, sketch, figure, plate, print. **2** *by way of illustration:* **exemplification**, demonstration, showing; example, typical case, case in point, analogy. **3** *a career in illustration:* **artwork**, (graphic) design; ornamentation, decoration, embellishment.

**illustrative** adjective **exemplifying**, explanatory, elucidatory, elucidative, explicative, expository, illuminative, exegetic.

**illustrious** adjective **eminent**, distinguished, acclaimed, notable, noteworthy, prominent, pre-eminent, foremost, leading, important, influential; renowned, famous, famed, well known, celebrated; esteemed, honoured, respected, venerable, august, highly regarded, well thought of, of distinction.

— OPPOSITES unknown.

**ill will** noun **animosity**, hostility, enmity, acrimony, animus, hatred, hate, loathing, antipathy; ill feeling, bad blood, antagonism, unfriendliness, dislike; spite, spitefulness,

resentment, hard feelings, bitterness; old use **disrelish**.

— OPPOSITES goodwill.

**image** noun **1** *an image of the Madonna:*

**likeness**, resemblance; depiction, portrayal, representation; statue, statuette, sculpture, bust, effigy; painting, picture, portrait, drawing, sketch. **2** *images of the planet Neptune:* **picture**, photograph, snapshot, photo. **3** *he contemplated his image in the mirror:* **reflection**, mirror image, likeness.

**4** *the image of this country as democratic:* **conception**, impression, idea, perception, notion; mental picture, vision. **5** *biblical images:* **simile**, metaphor, metonymy; figure of speech, trope, turn of phrase. **6** *his heart-throb image:* **public perception**, persona, profile, face, front, facade, mask, guise.

**7** *I'm the image of my grandfather:* **double**, living image, lookalike, clone, copy, twin, duplicate, exact likeness, mirror image; informal spitting image, dead ringer; old use **similitude**. **8** *a graven image:* **idol**, icon, fetish, totem.

#### WORD LINKS

**iconography**, **iconology** the use or study of images

**imaginable** adjective **thinkable**, conceivable, supposable, believable, credible, creditable; possible, plausible, feasible; rare **cogitable**.

**imaginary** adjective **unreal**, non-existent, fictional, fictitious, pretend, make-believe, mythical, fabulous, fanciful, illusory; made-up, dreamed-up, invented, fancied; old use **visionary**.

— OPPOSITES real.

**imagination** noun **1** *a vivid imagination:*

**creative power**, fancy; informal mind's eye.

**2** *you need imagination in dealing with these problems:* **creativity**, imaginativeness, creativeness; vision, inspiration, inventiveness, invention, resourcefulness, ingenuity; originality, innovation, innovativeness. **3** *the album captured the public's imagination:* **interest**, fascination, attention, passion, curiosity.

**imaginative** adjective **creative**, visionary, inspired, inventive, resourceful, ingenious; original, innovative, innovative, unorthodox, unconventional; fanciful, whimsical; informal **blue-sky**.

**imagine** verb **1** *one can imagine the cloud-capped castle:* **visualize**, envisage, envision, picture, see in the mind's eye; dream up, think up/of, conceive. **2** *I imagine he was at home:* **assume**, presume, expect, take it (as read), presuppose; suppose, think (it likely), dare say, surmise, believe, be of the view; N. Amer. figure; informal guess, reckon; formal **opine**.

**imbalance** noun **disparity**, variance, variation, polarity, contrast, lack of harmony; gulf, breach, gap.

**imbed** verb. See **EMBED**.

**imbibe** verb (formal) **1** *they'd imbibed too much whisky:* **drink**, consume, quaff, guzzle, gulp

(down); informal knock back, down, sink.

**2** *he had imbibed liberally: drink (alcohol), tittle; informal booze, knock a few back; N. Amer. informal bend one's elbow; old use tope.*

**3** *imbibing local history: assimilate, absorb, soak up, take in, drink in, learn, acquire, grasp, pick up, familiarize oneself with.*

**imbroglio** noun **1** *a political imbroglio: complicated situation, complication, problem, difficulty, predicament, trouble, confusion, entanglement, muddle, mess; informal bind, jam, pickle, fix, corner, hole.*

**2** (old use) *an imbroglio of papers: jumble, muddle, mess, clutter, hotchpotch, mishmash; N. Amer. hodgepodge.*

**imbue** verb *permeate, saturate, diffuse, suffuse, pervade; impregnate, inject, inculcate, ingrain, inspire; fill.*

**imitate** verb **1** *other artists have imitated his style: emulate, copy, model oneself on, follow, echo, parrot; informal rip off.* **2** *he imitated Winston Churchill: mimic, do an impression of, impersonate, ape; parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty; informal take off, send up; N. Amer. informal make like; formal personate; old use monkey.* **3** *the tombs imitated houses: resemble, look like, be like; echo, mirror; bring to mind, remind one of.*

**imitation** noun **1** *an imitation of a sailor's hat: copy, simulation, reproduction, replica.* **2** *learning by imitation: emulation, copying, echoing, parroting.* **3** *a perfect imitation of Francis: impersonation, impression, parody, mockery, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon, pastiche; mimicry, mimicking, imitating, aping; informal send-up, take-off, spoof.*

• **adjective imitation ivory: artificial, synthetic, simulated, man-made, manufactured, ersatz, substitute, faux; mock, false, sham, fake, bogus; informal pseudo, phoney.**

– OPPOSITES real, genuine.

**imitative** adjective **1** *imitative crime: similar, like, mimicking; informal copycat.*

**2** *I found the film empty and imitative: derivative, unoriginal, unimaginative, uninspired, plagiarized, plagiaristic; clichéd, hackneyed, stale, trite, banal; informal cribbed, old hat.* **3** *imitative words: onomatopoeic, echoic.*

**imitator** noun **1** *the show's success has sparked off many imitators: copier, copyist, emulator, follower, mimic, plagiarist, ape, parrot; informal copycat.* **2** *an Elvis imitator: impersonator, impressionist, mimicker; parodist, caricaturist, lampooner.*

**immaculate** adjective **1** *an immaculate white shirt: clean, spotless, pristine, unsoiled, unstained, unsullied; shining, shiny, gleaming; neat, tidy, spick and span; informal squeaky clean.* **2** *immaculate condition: perfect, pristine, mint; flawless, faultless, unblemished, unspoiled, undamaged; excellent, impeccable; informal tip-top, A1.* **3** *his immaculate record: unblemished, spotless, impeccable, unsullied, undefiled, untarnished, stainless;*

*informal squeaky clean.*

– OPPOSITES dirty, damaged.

**immanent** adjective **1** *the protection of liberties immanent in the constitution: inherent, intrinsic, innate, latent, essential, fundamental, basic.* **2** *God is immanent in His creation: pervasive, pervading, permeating; omnipresent.*

**immaterial** adjective **1** *the difference in our ages was immaterial: irrelevant, unimportant, inconsequential, insignificant, of no matter/moment, of little account, beside the point, neither here nor there.* **2** *the immaterial soul: intangible, incorporeal, bodiless, disembodied, impalpable, ethereal, insubstantial; spiritual, unearthly, supernatural.*

– OPPOSITES significant, physical.

**immature** adjective **1** *an immature Stilton: unripe, not mature, unmellowed; undeveloped, unformed, unfinished.* **2** *an extremely immature girl: childish, babyish, infantile, juvenile, puerile, jejune, callow, green, inexperienced, unsophisticated, unworldly, naive; informal wet behind the ears.*

– OPPOSITES ripe.

**immeasurable** adjective *incalculable, inestimable, innumerable, untold; limitless, boundless, unbounded, unlimited, illimitable, infinite, never-ending, interminable, endless, inexhaustible; vast, immense, great, abundant; informal no end of; literary myriad.*

**immediate** adjective **1** *the UN called for immediate action: instant, instantaneous, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, expeditious; sudden, hurried, hasty, precipitate; informal snappy; literary rathe.* **2** *their immediate concerns: current, present, existing, actual; urgent, pressing.* **3** *the immediate past: recent, just gone.* **4** *our immediate neighbours: nearest, near, close, closest, next-door; adjacent, adjoining.* **5** *the immediate cause of death: direct, primary.*

– OPPOSITES delayed, distant.

**immediately** adverb **1** *it was necessary to make a decision immediately: straight away, at once, right away, instantly, now, directly, promptly, forthwith, this/that (very) minute, this/that instant, there and then, here and now, without delay, without further ado, post-haste; quickly, as fast as possible, speedily, as soon as possible, asap; informal pronto, in double-quick time, pretty damn quick, p.d.q., toot sweet; old use instanter, forthright.* **2** *I sat immediately behind him: directly, right, exactly, precisely, squarely, just, dead; informal slap bang; N. Amer. informal smack dab.*

**immemorial** adjective *ancient, (very) old, age-old, antediluvian, timeless, archaic, long-standing, time-worn, time-honoured; traditional; literary of yore.*

**immense** adjective *huge, vast, massive, enormous, gigantic, colossal, great, very large/big, monumental, towering,*

tremendous; giant, elephantine, monstrous, mammoth, titanic, king-sized; informal mega, monster, whopping (great), thumping (great), humongous, jumbo; Brit. informal whacking (great), ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**immensely** *adverb* **extremely**, very, exceedingly, exceptionally, extraordinarily, tremendously, hugely, singularly, distinctly, outstandingly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly, eminently, supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily, thoroughly, in the extreme; informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, seriously, mega, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, bloody, hellish, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, powerful, awful, darned; informal, dated devilish, frightfully; old use exceeding.

– OPPOSITES slightly.

**immerse** *verb* **1** *litmus paper turns red on being immersed in acid:* **submerge**, dip, dunk, duck, sink; soak, drench, saturate, wet. **2** *new Christians were immersed in the river:* **baptize**, christen; informal, dated dip; rare lustrate. **3** *Elliot was immersed in his work:* **absorb**, engross, occupy, engage, involve, bury; busy, employ, preoccupy; informal lose oneself in.

**immigrant** *noun* **newcomer**, settler, incomer, migrant, emigrant; non-native, foreigner, alien.

– OPPOSITES native.

**imminent** *adjective* **impending**, close (at hand), near, (fast) approaching, coming, forthcoming, on the way, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, in the air/wind, expected, anticipated, brewing, looming; informal on the cards.

**immobile** *adjective* **1** *she sat immobile for a long time:* **motionless**, without moving, still, stock-still, static, stationary; rooted to the spot, rigid, frozen, transfixed, like a statue, not moving a muscle. **2** *she dreaded being immobile:* **unable to move**, immobilized; paralysed, crippled.

– OPPOSITES moving.

**immobilize** *verb* **put out of action**, disable, make inoperative, inactivate, deactivate, paralyse, cripple; bring to a standstill, halt, stop; clamp, wheel-clamp.

**immoderate** *adjective* **excessive**, heavy, intemperate, unrestrained, unrestricted, uncontrolled, unlimited, unbridled, uncurbed, overindulgent, imprudent, reckless; undue, inordinate, unreasonable, unjustified, unwarranted, uncalled for, outrageous; extravagant, lavish, prodigal, profligate.

**immodest** *adjective* **indecorous**, improper, indecent, indelicate, immoral; forward, bold, brazen, impudent, shameless, loose, wanton; informal fresh, cheeky, saucy.

**immolate** *verb* **sacrifice**, offer up; kill, slaughter, burn.

**immoral** *adjective* **unethical**, bad, morally wrong, wrongful, wicked, evil, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest,

unconscionable, iniquitous, disreputable, corrupt, depraved, vile, villainous, nefarious, base, miscreant; sinful, impure, unchaste, unvirtuous, shameless, degenerate, debauched, dissolute, reprobate, lewd, licentious, wanton, promiscuous; informal shady, low-down; Brit. informal dodgy, crooked.

– OPPOSITES ethical, chaste.

**immorality** *noun* **wickedness**, immoral behaviour, badness, evil, vileness, corruption, dishonesty, dishonourableness; sinfulness, unchastity, sin, depravity, vice, degeneracy, debauchery, dissolution, perversion, lewdness, wantonness, promiscuity; informal shadiness; Brit. informal crookedness; formal turpitude.

**immortal** *adjective* **1** *our souls are immortal:* **undying**, deathless, eternal, everlasting, never-ending, endless, lasting, enduring; imperishable, indestructible, inextinguishable, immutable. **2** *an immortal children's classic:* **timeless**, perennial, classic, time-honoured, enduring; famous, famed, renowned, great, eminent, outstanding, acclaimed, celebrated.

• *noun* **1** *Greek temples of the immortals:* **god**, **goddess**, deity, divine being, supreme being, divinity. **2** *one of the immortals of soccer:* **great**, hero, Olympian.

**immortality** *noun* **1** *the immortality of the gods:* **eternal life**, everlasting life, deathlessness; indestructibility, imperishability. **2** *the book has achieved immortality:* **timelessness**, legendary status, lasting fame/renown.

**immortalize** *verb* **commemorate**, memorialize, eternalize; celebrate, eulogize, pay tribute to, honour, salute, exalt, glorify; literary eternize.

**immovable** *adjective* **1** *lock your bike to something immovable:* **fixed**, secure, stable, moored, anchored, braced, set firm, set fast; stuck, jammed, stiff, unbudgeable. **2** *he sat immovable:* **motionless**, unmoving, stationary, still, stock-still, not moving a muscle, rooted to the spot; transfixed, paralysed, frozen. **3** *she was immovable in her loyalties:* **steadfast**, unwavering, unswerving, resolute, determined, firm, unshakeable, unfailing, dogged, tenacious, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, uncompromising, iron-willed; N. Amer. rock-ribbed.

– OPPOSITES mobile, moving.

**immune** *adjective* **resistant**, not subject, not liable, unsusceptible, not vulnerable; protected from, safe from, secure against, not in danger of.

– OPPOSITES susceptible.

**immunity** *noun* **1** *an immunity to malaria:* **resistance**, non-susceptibility; ability to fight off, protection against, defences against; immunization against, inoculation against. **2** *immunity from prosecution:* **exemption**, exception, freedom, release, dispensation; informal a let-off. **3** *diplomatic immunity:* **indemnity**, privilege, prerogative, right, liberty, licence; legal



exemption, impunity, protection.

**immunize** verb vaccinate, inoculate, inject; protect from, safeguard against; informal give someone a jab/shot.

**immure** verb confine, intern, shut up, lock up, incarcerate, imprison, jail, put behind bars, put under lock and key, hold captive, hold prisoner; detain, hold.

**immutable** adjective fixed, set, rigid, inflexible, permanent, established; unchanging, unchanged, unvarying, unvaried, static, constant, lasting, enduring.  
– OPPOSITES variable.

**imp** noun 1 *imps are thought to sprout from Satan*: demon, devil, fiend; hobgoblin, goblin, elf, sprite, puck, cacodemon; old use bugbear. 2 *a cheeky young imp*: rascal, monkey, devil, troublemaker, wretch, urchin, tearaway; informal scamp, brat, monster, horror, tyke, whippersnapper; Brit. informal perisher; N. Amer. informal hellion, varmint; old use scapegrace, rascalion.

**impact** noun 1 *the force of the impact*: collision, crash, smash, bump, bang, knock. 2 *the job losses will have a major impact*: effect, influence; consequences, repercussions, ramifications, reverberations.

• verb 1 (N. Amer.) *a comet impacted the earth sixty million years ago*: crash into, smash into, collide with, hit, strike, smack into, bang into. 2 *high interest rates have impacted on retail spending*: affect, influence, have an effect, make an impression; hit, touch, change, alter, modify, transform, shape.

**impair** verb have a negative effect on, damage, harm, diminish, reduce, weaken, lessen, decrease, impede, hinder; undermine, compromise; formal vitiate.  
– OPPOSITES improve, enhance.

**impaired** adjective disabled, handicapped, incapacitated; euphemistic challenged, differently abled.

**impairment** noun disability, handicap, abnormality, defect, dysfunction.

**impale** verb stick, skewer, spear, spike, transfix; pierce, stab, run through; literary transpierce.

**impalpable** adjective intangible, insubstantial, incorporeal; indefinable, elusive, indescribable.

**import** verb 1 *she had news to impart*: communicate, pass on, convey, transmit, relay, relate, recount, tell, make known, make public, report, announce, proclaim, spread, disseminate, circulate, promulgate, broadcast; disclose, reveal, divulge; informal let on about, blab; old use discover, unbosom. 2 *the brush imparts a good sheen*: give, bestow, confer, grant, lend, afford, provide, supply.

**impartial** adjective unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan, disinterested, detached, dispassionate, objective, open-minded, equitable, even-handed, fair, just.  
– OPPOSITES biased, partisan.

**impassable** adjective unpassable, unnavigable, untraversable; closed, blocked.

**impasse** noun deadlock, dead end, stalemate, checkmate, stand-off; standstill, halt, (full) stop.

**impassioned** adjective emotional, heartfelt, wholehearted, earnest, sincere, fervent, ardent, passionate, fervid; literary perfervid; rare passionate.

**impassive** adjective expressionless, inexpressive, inscrutable, blank, deadpan, poker-faced, straight-faced; stony, wooden, unresponsive.  
– OPPOSITES expressive.

**impatience** noun 1 *he was shifting in his seat with impatience*: restlessness, restiveness, agitation, nervousness; eagerness, keenness; informal jitteriness. 2 *a burst of impatience*: irritability, testiness, tetchiness, irascibility, querulousness, peevishness, frustration, exasperation, annoyance, pique.

**impatient** adjective 1 *Melissa grew impatient*: restless, restive, agitated, nervous, anxious, ill at ease, edgy, keyed up, nervy; informal twitchy, jumpy, jittery, uptight. 2 *they are impatient to get back home*: anxious, eager, keen, yearning, longing, aching; informal itching, dying. 3 *an impatient gesture*: irritated, annoyed, angry, testy, tetchy, snappy, cross, querulous, peevish, piqued, short-tempered; abrupt, curt, brusque, terse, short; informal peeved.  
– OPPOSITES calm, reluctant.

**impeach** verb 1 (N. Amer.) *moves to impeach the president*: indict, charge, accuse, lay charges against, arraign, take to court, put on trial, prosecute. 2 *the headlines impeached their clean image*: challenge, question, call into question, raise doubts about.

**impeccable** adjective flawless, faultless, unblemished, spotless, stainless, perfect, exemplary; sinless, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless; informal squeaky clean.  
– OPPOSITES imperfect, sinful.

**impecunious** adjective penniless, poor, impoverished, indigent, insolvent, hard up, poverty-stricken, needy, destitute; in straitened circumstances, unable to make ends meet; Brit. on the breadline; informal (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), cash-strapped, on one's uppers; Brit. informal skint, stony broke, in Queer Street; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious.

– OPPOSITES wealthy.

**impede** verb hinder, obstruct, hamper, hold back/up, delay, interfere with, disrupt, retard, slow (down); block, check, stop, thwart, frustrate, baulk, foil, derail; Brit. throw a spanner in the works; N. Amer. throw a monkey wrench in the works; informal stymie; Brit. informal scupper; N. Amer. informal bork; dated cumber.

– OPPOSITES facilitate.

**impediment** noun 1 *an impediment to economic improvement*: hindrance, obstruction, obstacle, barrier, bar, block, check, curb, restriction, limitation; setback, difficulty, snag, hitch, fly in the ointment, stumbling block; Brit. spanner in the works; N. Amer. monkey wrench in the works;

informal hiccup; old use cumber. **2** *a speech impediment*: defect; stammer, stutter, lisp.

**impedimenta** plural noun paraphernalia, trappings, equipment, accoutrements, appurtenances, accessories, bits and pieces, tackle; informal stuff, gear; Brit. informal clobber, gubbins; old use equipage.

**impel** verb **1** *financial difficulties impelled her to seek work*: force, compel, constrain, oblige, require, make, urge, press, pressurize, drive, push, spur, prod, goad, incite, prompt, persuade. **2** *vital energies impel him in unforeseen directions*: propel, drive, move, get going, get moving.

**impending** adjective imminent, close (at hand), near, nearing, approaching, coming, forthcoming, upcoming, to come, on the way, about to happen, in store, in the offing, on the horizon, in the air/wind, brewing, looming, threatening, menacing.

**impenetrable** adjective **1** *impenetrable armoured plating*: unbreakable, indestructible, solid, thick, unyielding; impregnable, inviolable, unassailable, unpierceable. **2** *a dark, impenetrable forest*: impassable, unpassable, inaccessible, un navigable, untraversable; dense, thick, overgrown. **3** *an impenetrable clique*: exclusive, closed, secretive, secret, private; restrictive, restricted, limited. **4** *impenetrable statistics*: incomprehensible, unfathomable, inexplicable, unintelligible, unclear, baffling, bewildering, puzzling, perplexing, confusing, abstruse, opaque; complex, complicated, difficult; old use wildering.

**impenitent** adjective unrepentant, unrepenting, uncontrite, remorseless, unashamed, unapologetic, unabashed.

**imperative** adjective **1** *it is imperative that you find him*: vitally important, of vital importance, all-important, vital, crucial, critical, essential, necessary, indispensable, urgent. **2** *the imperative note in her voice*: peremptory, commanding, imperious, authoritative, masterful, dictatorial, assertive, firm, insistent.

– OPPOSITES unimportant, submissive.

**imperceptible** adjective unnoticeable, undetectable, indistinguishable, indiscernible, invisible, inaudible, impalpable, unobtrusive; slight, small, subtle, faint, fine, negligible; indistinct, unclear, obscure, vague, indefinite, hard to make out.

– OPPOSITES noticeable.

**imperfect** adjective **1** *the goods were found to be imperfect*: faulty, flawed, defective, shoddy, unsound, inferior, second-rate, below standard, substandard; damaged, blemished, torn, broken, cracked, scratched; informal not up to scratch, tenth-rate, crummy; Brit. informal duff. **2** *an imperfect form of the manuscript*: incomplete, unfinished, half-done; unpolished, unrefined, rough. **3** *she spoke imperfect Arabic*: broken, faltering, halting, hesitant, rudimentary, limited.

– OPPOSITES flawless.

**imperfection** noun **1** *the glass is free from imperfections*: defect, fault, flaw, deformity, discoloration, disfigurement; crack, scratch, chip, dent, blemish, stain, spot, mark. **2** *he was aware of his imperfections*: flaw, fault, failing, deficiency, weakness, weak point, shortcoming, foible, inadequacy, limitation. **3** *the imperfection of the fossil record*: incompleteness, patchiness, deficiency; roughness, crudeness.

– OPPOSITES strength.

**imperial** adjective **1** *imperial banners*: royal, regal, monarchical, monarchial, monarchial, sovereign, kingly, queenly, princely. **2** *her imperial bearing*: majestic, grand, dignified, proud, stately, noble, aristocratic, regal; magnificent, imposing, impressive. **3** *our customers thought we were imperial*: imperious, high-handed, peremptory, dictatorial, domineering, bossy, arrogant, overweening, overbearing.

**imperil** verb endanger, jeopardize, risk, put in danger, put in jeopardy, expose to danger; threaten, pose a threat to; old use peril.

**imperious** adjective peremptory, high-handed, commanding, imperial, overbearing, overweening, domineering, authoritarian, dictatorial, authoritative, lordly, assertive, bossy, arrogant; informal pushy, high and mighty.

**imperishable** adjective enduring, everlasting, undying, immortal, perennial, long-lasting; indestructible, inextinguishable, ineradicable, unfading, permanent, never-ending, never dying; literary sempiternal, perdurable.

**impermanent** adjective temporary, transient, transitory, passing, fleeting, momentary, ephemeral, fugitive; short-lived, brief, here today and gone tomorrow; literary evanescent.

**impermeable** adjective watertight, waterproof, damp-proof, airtight, (hermetically) sealed.

**impersonal** adjective **1** *the hand of fate is impersonal*: neutral, unbiased, non-partisan, unprejudiced, objective, detached, disinterested, dispassionate, without favouritism. **2** *he remained strangely impersonal*: aloof, distant, remote, reserved, withdrawn, unemotional, unsentimental, dispassionate, cold, cool, indifferent, unconcerned; formal, stiff, businesslike; informal starchy, stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES biased, warm.

**impersonate** verb imitate, mimic, do an impression of, ape; parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, satirize, lampoon; masquerade as, pose as, pass oneself off as; informal take off, send up; N. Amer. informal make like; formal personate; old use monkey.

**impersonation** noun impression, imitation; parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon, pastiche; informal take-off, send-up; formal personation.

**impertinence** noun rudeness, insolence, impoliteness, bad manners, discourtesy,

discourteousness, disrespect, incivility; impudence, cheek, cheekiness, audacity, temerity, effrontery, nerve, gall, boldness, cockiness, brazenness; informal brass (neck); Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sass, sassiness, chutzpah; old use assumption.

**impertinent adjective** **1** *she asked a lot of impertinent questions:* rude, insolent, impolite, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, uncivil, discourteous, disrespectful; impudent, cheeky, audacious, bold, brazen, brash, presumptuous, forward; tactless, undiplomatic; informal brass-necked, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use contumelious.

**2** (formal) *talk of 'rhetoric' is impertinent to this process:* irrelevant, inapplicable, inapposite, inappropriate, immaterial, unrelated, unconnected, not germane; beside the point, out of place.

– OPPOSITES polite, relevant.

**imperturbable adjective** self-possessed, composed, {cool, calm, and collected}, cool-headed, self-controlled, serene, relaxed, unexcitable, even-tempered, placid, phlegmatic; unperturbed, unflustered, unruffled; informal unflappable, unfazed, laid-back.

– OPPOSITES excitable.

**impervious adjective** **1** *he seemed impervious to the chill wind:* unaffected, untouched, immune, invulnerable, insusceptible, resistant, indifferent, heedless, oblivious; proof against.

**2** *an impervious damp-proof course:* impermeable, impenetrable, impregnable, waterproof, watertight; (hermetically) sealed.

– OPPOSITES susceptible, permeable.

**impetuous adjective** **1** *an impetuous decision:* impulsive, rash, hasty, overhasty, reckless, heedless, foolhardy, incautious, imprudent, injudicious, ill-considered, unthought-out; spontaneous, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, precipitate, precipitous, hurried, rushed. **2** *an impetuous flow of water:* torrential, powerful, forceful, vigorous, violent, raging, relentless, uncontrolled; rapid, fast, fast-flowing.

– OPPOSITES considered, sluggish.

**impetus noun** **1** *the flywheel lost all its impetus:* momentum, propulsion, impulsion, motive force, driving force, drive, thrust; energy, force, power, push, strength. **2** *the sales force were given fresh impetus:* motivation, stimulus, incitement, incentive, inducement, inspiration, encouragement, boost; informal a shot in the arm.

**impiety noun** **1** *a world of impiety and immorality:* godlessness, ungodliness, unholiness, irreligion, sinfulness, sin, vice, immorality, unrighteousness; apostasy, atheism, agnosticism, paganism, heathenism, non-belief, unbelief. **2** *one impiety will cost me my eternity in paradise:* sin, transgression, wrongdoing, evildoing, wrong, misdeed, misdemeanour.

– OPPOSITES faith.

**impinge verb** **1** *these issues impinge on all of*

*us:* affect, have an effect, touch, influence, make an impact, leave a mark. **2** *the proposed fencing would impinge on a public bridleway:* encroach, intrude, infringe, invade, trespass, obtrude, cut through, interfere with; violate; old use entrench on. **3** (Physics) *electrically charged particles impinge on the lunar surface:* strike, hit, collide with.

**impious adjective** godless, ungodly, unholy, irreligious, sinful, immoral, unrighteous, sacrilegious, profane, blasphemous, irreverent; apostate, atheistic, agnostic, pagan, heathen, faithless, non-believing, unbelieving; rare nullifidian.

**impish adjective** **1** *he takes an impish delight in shocking the press:* mischievous, naughty, wicked, rascally, roguish, playful, sportive; mischief-making, full of mischief. **2** *an impish grin:* elfin, elflike, pixie-like, puckish; mischievous, roguish.

**implacable adjective** unappeasable, uncapable, unplacatable, unmollifiable, unforgiving; intransigent, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, uncompromising, unrelenting, ruthless, remorseless, merciless, heartless, pitiless, cruel, hard, harsh, stern, tough.

**implant verb** **1** *the collagen is implanted under the skin:* insert, embed, bury, lodge, place; graft. **2** *he implanted the idea in my mind:* instil, inculcate, insinuate, introduce, inject, plant, sow, root, lodge.

• **noun** *a silicone implant:* transplant, graft, implantation, insert.

**implausible adjective** unlikely, improbable, questionable, doubtful, debatable; unrealistic, unconvincing, far-fetched, incredible, unbelievable, unimaginable, inconceivable, fantastic, fanciful, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous; informal cock and bull.

– OPPOSITES convincing.

**implement noun** *garden implements:* tool, utensil, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, contraption, appliance, machine, contrivance; informal gizmo.

• **verb** *the cost of implementing the new law:* execute, apply, put into effect/action, put into practice, carry out/through, perform, enact; fulfil, discharge, accomplish, bring about, achieve, realize; formal effectuate.

**implicate verb** **1** *he had been implicated in a financial scandal:* incriminate, compromise; involve, connect, embroil, enmesh; old use inculcate. **2** *viruses are implicated in the development of cancer:* involve in, concern with, associate with, connect with. **3** *when one asks a question one implicates that one desires an answer.* See IMPLY sense 1.

**implication noun** **1** *he was smarting at their implication:* suggestion, inference, insinuation, innuendo, hint, intimation, imputation. **2** *important political implications:* consequence, result, ramification, repercussion, reverberation, effect. **3** *his implication in the murder case:* incrimination, involvement, connection, entanglement, association; old use inculpation.



**implicit adjective 1** *implicit assumptions:*

**implied**, inferred, understood, hinted at, suggested, deducible; unspoken, unexpressed, undeclared, unstated, tacit, unacknowledged, taken for granted.

**2 assumptions implicit in the way questions are asked:** **inherent**, latent, underlying, inbuilt, incorporated. **3 an implicit trust in human nature:** **absolute**, complete, total, wholehearted, perfect, utter; unqualified, unconditional; unshakeable, unquestioning, firm, steadfast.

– OPPOSITES explicit.

**implicitly adverb completely, absolutely, totally, wholeheartedly, utterly, unconditionally, unreservedly, without reservation.**

**implied adjective implicit**, hinted at, suggested, insinuated, inferred, understood, deducible; unspoken, unexpressed, undeclared, unstated, tacit, unacknowledged, taken for granted.

– OPPOSITES explicit.

**implore verb 1** *his mother implored him to continue studying:* **plead with**, beg, entreat, appeal to, ask, request, call on; exhort, urge, enjoin, press, push, petition, bid; literary beseech. **2** (old use) *she implored pity:* **beg for**, plead for, appeal for, call for; ask for, request, sue for.

**imply verb 1** *are you implying he is mad?* **insinuate**, suggest, hint, intimate, say indirectly, indicate, give someone to understand, make out. **2** *the forecasted traffic increase implies more roads:* **involve**, entail; mean, point to, signify, indicate, signal; necessitate, require.

**impolite adjective rude**, bad-mannered, ill-mannered, discourteous, uncivil, disrespectful, inconsiderate, boorish, churlish, ill-bred, ungentlemanly, unladylike, ungracious; insolent, impudent, impertinent, cheeky; loutish, rough, crude, indelicate, indecorous; informal ignorant, lippy; old use malapert, contumelious.

**impolitic adjective imprudent**, unwise, injudicious, incautious, irresponsible; ill-judged, ill-advised, misguided, rash, reckless, foolhardy, foolish, short-sighted; undiplomatic, tactless.

– OPPOSITES prudent.

**import verb the UK imports iron ore:** **buy from abroad**, bring in, buy in, ship in.

– OPPOSITES export.

• **noun 1 a tax on imports:** **imported commodity**, foreign commodity. **2** *the import of foreign books:* **importation**, importing, bringing in, shipping in. **3 a matter of great import: **importance**, significance, consequence, momentousness, magnitude, substance, weight, note, gravity, seriousness; formal moment. **4** *the full import of her words:* **meaning**, sense, essence, gist, drift, purport, message, thrust, substance, implication.**

– OPPOSITES export, insignificance.

**importance noun 1** *an event of immense importance:* **significance**, momentousness,

import, consequence, note, noteworthiness, substance; seriousness, gravity, weightiness, urgency. **2** *she had a fine sense of her own importance:* **power**, influence, authority, sway, weight, dominance; prominence, eminence, pre-eminence, notability, worth.

– OPPOSITES insignificance.

**important adjective 1** *an important meeting:* **significant**, consequential, momentous, of great import, major; critical, crucial, vital, pivotal, decisive, urgent, historic; serious, grave, weighty, material; formal of great moment. **2** *the important thing is that you do well in your exams:* **main**, chief, principal, key, major, salient, prime, foremost, paramount, overriding, crucial, vital, critical, essential, significant; central, fundamental; informal number-one. **3** *the school was important to the community:* **of value**, valuable, beneficial, necessary, essential, indispensable, vital; of concern, of interest, relevant, pertinent. **4** *he was an important man:* **powerful**, influential, of influence, well-connected, high-ranking; prominent, eminent, pre-eminent, notable, noteworthy, of note; distinguished, esteemed, respected, prestigious, celebrated, famous, great; informal major league.

– OPPOSITES trivial, insignificant.

**importunate adjective persistent**, insistent, tenacious, persevering, dogged, unrelenting, tireless, indefatigable; aggressive, high-pressure; informal pushy; formal exigent, pertinacious.

**importune verb 1** *he importuned her for some spare change:* **beg**, entreat, implore, plead with, appeal to, call on; harass, pester, press, badger, bother, nag, harry; informal hassle; literary beseech. **2** *they arrested me for importuning:* **solicit**; informal proposition; N. Amer. informal hustle.

**impose verb 1** *he imposed his ideas on the art director:* **foist**, force, inflict, press, urge; informal saddle someone with, land someone with. **2** *new taxes will be imposed:* **levy**, charge, apply, enforce; set, establish, institute, introduce, bring into effect. **3** *how dare you impose on me like this!* **take advantage of**, exploit, take liberties with, treat unfairly; bother, trouble, disturb, inconvenience, put out, put to trouble. ■ **impose oneself** force oneself, foist oneself; control, take charge of; informal call the shots/tune, be in the driving seat, be in the saddle, run the show.

**imposing adjective impressive**, striking, arresting, eye-catching, dramatic, stunning, spectacular, awesome, formidable, splendid, grand, majestic.

– OPPOSITES modest.

**imposition noun 1** *the imposition of an alien culture:* **imposing**, foisting, forcing, inflicting. **2** *the imposition of VAT:* **levying**, charging, application, applying, enforcement, enforcing; setting, establishment, introduction, institution. **3** *it would be no imposition:* **burden**, encumbrance, strain, bother, worry; informal

hassle. **4** *the levying of special impositions:* tax, levy, duty, charge, tariff, toll, impost; formal mulct, exaction.

**impossible** adjective **1** *gale force winds made fishing impossible:* **not possible**, out of the question, unfeasible, impractical, impracticable, non-viable, unworkable; unthinkable, unimaginable, inconceivable.

**2** *an impossible dream:* **unattainable**, unachievable, unobtainable, hopeless, impractical, implausible, far-fetched, impracticable, unworkable. **3** *food shortages made life impossible:* **unbearable**, intolerable, unendurable. **4** (informal) *an impossible woman:* **unreasonable**, objectionable, difficult, awkward; intolerable, unbearable, unendurable; exasperating, maddening, infuriating.

– OPPOSITES attainable, bearable.

**impostor** noun **impersonator**, masquerader, pretender, deceiver, hoaxer, trickster, fraudster; fake, fraud, sham; informal phoney.

**imposture** noun **misrepresentation**, pretence, deceit, deception, trickery, artifice, subterfuge; hoax, trick, ruse, dodge; informal con (trick), scam, flimflam; Brit. informal wheeze.

**impotent** adjective **1** *the legal sanctions are impotent:* **powerless**, ineffective, ineffectual, inadequate, weak, useless, worthless, futile; literary impuissant. **2** *forces which man is impotent to control:* **unable**, incapable, powerless. **3** *an impotent opposition party:* **weak**, powerless, ineffective, feeble.

– OPPOSITES powerful, effective.

**impound** verb **1** *officials began impounding documents:* **confiscate**, appropriate, take possession of, seize, commandeer, expropriate, requisition, sequester, sequestrate; Law distrain. **2** *the cattle were impounded:* **pen in**, shut up/in, fence in, enclose, confine; N. Amer. corral. **3** *unfortunates impounded in prison:* **lock up**, incarcerate, imprison, confine, intern, immure, hold captive, hold prisoner.

**impoverish** verb **1** *the widow had been impoverished:* **make poor**, make penniless, reduce to penury, bankrupt, ruin, make insolvent, pauperize. **2** *the trees were impoverishing the soil:* **weaken**, sap, exhaust, deplete.

**impoverished** adjective **1** *an impoverished peasant farmer:* **poor**, poverty-stricken, penniless, destitute, indigent, impecunious, needy, pauperized, down and out, on the breadline; bankrupt, ruined, insolvent; informal (flat) broke, stony broke, on one's uppers, hard up, without a bean, on skid row; Brit. informal skint; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious. **2** *the soil is impoverished:* **weakened**, exhausted, drained, sapped, depleted, spent; barren, unproductive, unfertile.

– OPPOSITES rich.

**impracticable** adjective **unworkable**, unfeasible, non-viable, unachievable, unattainable, unrealizable; impractical.

– OPPOSITES workable, feasible.

**impractical** adjective **1** *an impractical suggestion:* **unrealistic**, unworkable, unfeasible, non-viable, impracticable; ill-thought-out, impossible, absurd, wild; informal cockeyed, crackpot, crazy. **2** *impractical white ankle boots:* **unsuitable**, not sensible, inappropriate, unserviceable. **3** *an impractical scholar:* **idealistic**, unrealistic, romantic, dreamy, fanciful, quixotic; informal airy-fairy.

– OPPOSITES practical, sensible.

**imprecation** noun (formal) **1** *the most dreadful imprecations:* **curse**, malediction; N. Amer. hex; literary anathema; old use execration. **2** *a stream of imprecations:* **swear word**, curse, expletive, oath, profanity, four-letter word, obscenity; (**imprecations**) swearing, cursing, foul language, strong language; N. Amer. informal cuss word; old use execration.

– OPPOSITES blessing.

**imprecise** adjective **1** *a rather imprecise definition:* **vague**, loose, indefinite, inexplicit, indistinct, non-specific, unspecific, sweeping, broad, general; hazy, fuzzy, woolly, nebulous, ambiguous, equivocal, uncertain. **2** *an imprecise estimate:* **inexact**, approximate, estimated, rough; N. Amer. informal ballpark.

– OPPOSITES exact.

**impregnable** adjective **1** *an impregnable castle:* **invulnerable**, impenetrable, unassailable, inviolable, secure, strong, well fortified, well defended; invincible, unconquerable, unbeatable, indestructible. **2** *an impregnable parliamentary majority:* **unassailable**, unbeatable, undefeatable, unshakeable, invincible, unconquerable, invulnerable.

– OPPOSITES vulnerable.

**impregnate** verb **a** *pad impregnated with natural oils:* **infuse**, soak, steep, saturate, drench.

**impresario** noun **organizer**, (stage) manager, producer; promoter, publicist, showman; director, conductor, maestro.

**impress** verb **1** *Hazel had impressed him mightily:* **make an impression on**, have an impact on, influence, affect, move, stir, rouse, excite, inspire; dazzle, awe, overawe, take someone's breath away, amaze, astonish; informal grab, stick in someone's mind. **2** *goldsmiths impressed his likeness on medallions:* **imprint**, print, stamp, mark, emboss, punch. **3** *you must impress upon her the need to save:* **emphasize** to, stress to, bring home to, instil in, inculcate into, drum into, knock into, din into.

– OPPOSITES disappoint.

**impression** noun **1** *he got the impression that she was hiding something:* **feeling**, feeling in one's bones, sense, fancy, (sneaking) suspicion, inkling, intuition, hunch; notion, idea, funny feeling; informal gut feeling. **2** *a favourable impression:* **opinion**, view, image, picture, perception, judgement, verdict, estimation. **3** *school made a profound impression on me:* **impact**, effect, influence.

**4** *the cap had left a circular impression:*  
**indentation**, dent, mark, outline, imprint.

**5** *he did a good impression of their science teacher:* **impersonation**, imitation; parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon; informal take-off, send-up, spoof; formal personation. **6** *an artist's impression of the gardens:* **representation**, portrayal, depiction, rendition, interpretation, picture, drawing. **7** *a revised impression of the 1981 edition:* **print run**, imprint, reprint, issue, edition.

**impressionable** adjective easily influenced, suggestible, susceptible, persuadable, pliable, malleable, pliant, ingenuous, trusting, naive, gullible.

**impressive** adjective **1** *an impressive building:* **magnificent**, majestic, imposing, splendid, spectacular, grand, awe-inspiring, stunning, breathtaking; stately, palatial.

**2** *they played some impressive football:* **admirable**, masterly, accomplished, expert, skilled, skilful, consummate; excellent, outstanding, first-class, first-rate, fine; informal great, mean, nifty, cracking, ace, wizard; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

– OPPOSITES ordinary, mediocre.

**imprint** verb **1** *patterns can be imprinted in the clay:* **stamp**, print, impress, mark, emboss. **2** *the image was imprinted on his mind:* **fix**, establish, stick, lodge, implant, embed.

• noun **1** *her feet left imprints on the floor:* **impression**, print, mark, indentation. **2** *colonialism has left its imprint:* **impact**, lasting effect, influence, impression.

**imprison** verb **incarcerate**, send to prison, jail, lock up, put away, intern, detain, hold prisoner, hold captive; informal send down, put behind bars, put inside; Brit. informal bang up.

– OPPOSITES free, release.

**imprisoned** adjective **incarcerated**, in prison, in jail, jailed, locked up, interned, detained, held prisoner, held captive; informal sent down, behind bars, doing time, inside; Brit. informal doing porridge, doing bird, banged up.

**imprisonment** noun **incarceration**, internment, confinement, detention, captivity; informal time; Brit. informal porridge, bird; old use durance.

**improbability** noun **unlikelihood**, implausibility; doubtfulness, uncertainty, dubiousness.

**improbable** adjective **1** *it seemed improbable that the hot weather should continue:* **unlikely**, doubtful, dubious, debatable, questionable, uncertain; unthinkable, inconceivable, unimaginable, incredible.

**2** *an improbable exaggeration:* **unconvincing**, unbelievable, incredible, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous.

– OPPOSITES certain, believable.

**impromptu** adjective *an impromptu lecture:* **unrehearsed**, unprepared, unscripted, extempore, extemporized, extemporaneous,

improvised, spontaneous, unplanned; informal off-the-cuff.

– OPPOSITES prepared, rehearsed.

• adverb *they played the song impromptu:* **extempore**, spontaneously, extemporaneously, without preparation, without rehearsal; informal off the cuff, off the top of one's head.

**improper** adjective **1** *it is improper for policemen to accept gifts:* **inappropriate**, unacceptable, unsuitable, unprofessional, irregular; unethical, corrupt, immoral, dishonest, dishonourable; informal not cricket.

**2** *it was improper for young ladies to drive a young man home:* **unseemly**, indecorous, unfitting, unladylike, ungentlemanly, indelicate, impolite; indecent, immodest, immoral. **3** *an extremely improper poem:* **indecent**, risqué, off colour, suggestive, naughty, ribald, earthy, smutty, dirty, filthy, vulgar, crude, rude, obscene, lewd; informal blue, raunchy, steamy; Brit. informal fruity, saucy.

– OPPOSITES acceptable, decent.

**impropriety** noun **1** *a suggestion of impropriety:* **wrongdoing**, misconduct, dishonesty, corruption, unscrupulousness, unprofessionalism, irregularity; unseemliness, indecorousness, indelicacy, indecency, immorality. **2** *fiscal improprieties:* **transgression**, misdemeanour, offence, misdeed, crime; indiscretion, mistake, peccadillo; old use trespass.

**improve** verb **1** *ways to improve the service:* **make better**, ameliorate, upgrade, refine, enhance, boost, build on, raise; informal tweak; formal meliorate. **2** *communications improved during the 18th century:* **get better**, advance, progress, develop; **make headway**, make progress, pick up, look up. **3** *the dose is not repeated if the patient improves:* **recover**, get better, recuperate, gain strength, rally, revive, get back on one's feet, get over something; be on the road to recovery, be on the mend, turn the corner, take a turn for the better. **4** *resources are needed to improve the offer:* **increase**, make larger, raise, augment, supplement, top up; informal up, hike up, bump up.

– OPPOSITES worsen, deteriorate.

■ **improve** on surpass, better, do better than, outdo, exceed, beat, top, cap.

**improvement** noun **advance**, development, upgrade, refinement, enhancement, advancement, upgrading, amelioration; boost, augmentation, raising; rally, recovery, upswing.

**improvident** adjective **spendthrift**, thriftless, wasteful, prodigal, profligate, extravagant, free-spending, lavish, immoderate, excessive; imprudent, irresponsible, careless, reckless.

– OPPOSITES thrifty.

**improvise** verb **1** *she was improvising in front of the cameras:* **extemporize**, ad-lib, speak impromptu; informal speak off the cuff, busk it, wing it. **2** *she improvised a sandpit:* **contrive**, devise, throw together, cobble



together, rig up; Brit. informal knock up; informal whip up, rustle up.

**improvised** adjective **1** *an improvised speech:* **impromptu**, unrehearsed, unprepared, unscripted, extempore, extemporized, spontaneous, unplanned; informal off-the-cuff. **2** *an improvised shelter:* **makeshift**, thrown together, cobbled together, rough and ready, make-do.

– OPPOSITES prepared, rehearsed.

**imprudent** adjective **unwise**, injudicious, incautious, misguided, ill-advised; thoughtless, unthinking, improvident, irresponsible, short-sighted, foolish.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**impudence** noun **impertinence**, insolence, effrontery, cheek, cockiness, brazenness; presumption, presumptuousness, disrespect, flippancy, bumptiousness, brashness; rudeness, impoliteness, ill manners, discourteousness, gall; informal brass neck, chutzpah, nerve; Brit. informal sauce; N. Amer. informal sassiness.

**impudent** adjective **impertinent**, insolent, cheeky, cocky, brazen; presumptuous, forward, disrespectful, insubordinate, flippant, bumptious, brash; rude, impolite, ill-mannered, discourteous, ill-bred; informal brass-necked, saucy, lippy; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use malapert, contumelious.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**impugn** verb **call into question**, challenge, question, dispute, query, take issue with.

**impulse** noun **1** *she had an impulse to run and hide:* **urge**, instinct, drive, compulsion, itch; whim, desire, fancy, notion. **2** *a man of impulse:* **spontaneity**, impetuosity, recklessness, rashness. **3** *passions provide the main impulse of poetry:* **inspiration**, stimulation, stimulus, incitement, motivation, encouragement, spur, catalyst. **4** *impulses from the spinal cord to the muscles:* **pulse**, current, wave, signal. ■ **on (an) impulse** impulsively, spontaneously, on the spur of the moment, without forethought, without premeditation.

**impulsive** adjective **1** *he had an impulsive nature:* **impetuous**, spontaneous, hasty, passionate, emotional, uninhibited; rash, reckless, foolhardy, unwise, madcap, devil-may-care, daredevil. **2** *an impulsive decision:* **impromptu**, snap, spontaneous, unpremeditated, spur-of-the-moment, extemporaneous; impetuous, precipitate, hasty, rash; sudden, ill-considered, ill-thought-out.

– OPPOSITES cautious, premeditated.

**impunity** noun *the impunity enjoyed by military officers:* **immunity**, indemnity, exemption (from punishment), non-liability, licence; privilege, special treatment.

– OPPOSITES liability.

■ **with impunity** without punishment, scot-free, unpunished.

**impure** adjective **1** *impure gold:* **adulterated**, mixed, combined, blended, alloyed; technical admixed. **2** *the water was*

*impure:* **contaminated**, polluted, tainted, unwholesome, poisoned; dirty, filthy, foul; unhygienic, unsanitary, insanitary; literary befouled. **3** *impure thoughts:* **immoral**, sinful, wrongful, wicked; unchaste, lustful, lecherous, lewd, lascivious, prurient, obscene, indecent, ribald, risqué, improper, crude, coarse; formal concupiscent.

– OPPOSITES clean, chaste.

**impurity** noun **1** *the impurity of the cast iron:* **adulteration**, debasement, degradation. **2** *the impurity of the air:* **contamination**, pollution; dirtiness, filthiness, uncleanness, foulness, unwholesomeness. **3** *the impurities in beer:* **contaminant**, pollutant, foreign body; dross, dirt, filth. **4** *sin and impurity:* **immorality**, sin, sinfulness, wickedness; unchastity, lustfulness, lechery, lecherousness, lewdness, lasciviousness, prurience, obscenity, dirtiness, crudeness, indecency, ribaldry, impropriety, vulgarity, coarseness; formal concupiscence.

**impute** verb **attribute**, ascribe, assign, credit; connect with, associate with.

**in** preposition **1** *she was hiding in a wardrobe:* **inside**, within, in the middle of; surrounded by, enclosed by. **2** *he was covered in mud:* **with**, by. **3** *he put a fruit gum in his mouth:* **into**, inside. **4** *they met in 1921:* **during**, in the course of, over. **5** *I'll see you in half an hour:* **after**, at the end of, following; within, in less than, in under. **6** *a tax of ten pence in the pound:* **to**, per, every, each.

– OPPOSITES outside.

■ **adjective 1** *there was no one in:* **present**, (at) home; inside, indoors, in the house/room. **2** (informal) *beards are in:* **fashionable**, in fashion, in vogue, popular, (bang) up to date, modern, modish, chic, à la mode, de rigueur; informal trendy, all the rage, with it, cool, the in thing, hip. **3** (informal) *I was in with all the right people:* **in favour**, popular, friendly, friends; liked, admired, accepted; informal in someone's good books.

– OPPOSITES out, unfashionable, unpopular.

■ **in for** due for, in line for; expecting, about to receive.

■ **in on** privy to, aware of, acquainted with, informed about/of, apprised of; informal wise to, in the know about, hip to; old use ware of.

■ **ins and outs** (informal) details, particulars, facts, features, characteristics, nuts and bolts; informal nitty gritty.

**inability** noun **lack of ability**, incapability, incapacity, powerlessness, impotence, helplessness; incompetence, ineptitude, unfitness.

**inaccessible** adjective **1** *an inaccessible woodland site:* **unreachable**, out of reach; cut-off, isolated, remote, in the back of beyond, out of the way, lonely, godforsaken. **2** *the book was elitist and inaccessible:*

**esoteric**, obscure, abstruse, recondite, arcane; elitist, exclusive, pretentious.

**inaccuracy** noun **1** *the inaccuracy of recent opinion polls:* **incorrectness**, inexactness, imprecision, erroneousness, mistakenness,

fallaciousness, faultiness. **2** *the article contained a number of inaccuracies*: error, mistake, fallacy, slip, oversight, fault, blunder, gaffe; erratum; Brit. literal; informal howler, boo-boo, typo; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal blooper, goof.

– OPPOSITES correctness.

**inaccurate** adjective **inexact**, imprecise, incorrect, wrong, erroneous, faulty, imperfect, flawed, defective, unsound, unreliable; fallacious, false, mistaken, untrue; informal off beam; Brit. informal adrift.

**inaction** noun **inactivity**, non-intervention; neglect, negligence, apathy, inertia, indolence.

**inactivate** verb **disable**, deactivate, make inoperative, immobilize.

**inactive** adjective **1** *over the next few days I was horribly inactive*: idle, indolent, lazy, lifeless, slothful, lethargic, inert, sluggish, unenergetic, listless, torpid. **2** *the device remains inactive while the computer is started up*: **inoperative**, non-functioning, idle; not working, out of service, unused, not in use.

**inactivity** noun **1** *years of inactivity*: idleness, indolence, laziness, lifelessness, slothfulness, lethargy, inertia, sluggishness, listlessness. **2** *government inactivity*: **inaction**, non-intervention; neglect, negligence, apathy.

– OPPOSITES action.

**inadequacy** noun **1** *the inadequacy of available resources*: **insufficiency**, deficiency, scarcity, scarceness, sparseness, dearth, paucity, shortage, want, lack, undersupply; paltriness, meagreness; formal exiguity. **2** *her feelings of personal inadequacy*: **incompetence**, incapability, unfitness, ineffectiveness, inefficiency, inefficacy, inexpertness, ineptness, uselessness, impotence, powerlessness. **3** *the inadequacies of the present system*: **shortcoming**, defect, fault, failing, weakness, weak point, limitation, flaw, imperfection.

– OPPOSITES abundance, competence.

**inadequate** adjective **1** *inadequate water supplies*: **insufficient**, deficient, poor, scant, scanty, scarce, sparse, in short supply; paltry, meagre, niggardly, limited; informal measly, pathetic; formal exiguous. **2** *inadequate staff*: **incompetent**, incapable, unsatisfactory, not up to scratch, unfit, ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, unskilful, inept, inept, amateurish, substandard, poor, useless, inferior; informal not up to snuff; Brit. informal duff, not much cop, no great shakes.

– OPPOSITES sufficient, competent.

**inadmissible** adjective **unallowable**, invalid, unacceptable, impermissible, disallowed, forbidden, prohibited, precluded.

**inadvertent** adjective **unintentional**, unintended, accidental, unpremeditated, unplanned, innocent, uncalculated, unconscious, unthinking, unwitting, involuntary.

– OPPOSITES deliberate.

**inadvertently** adverb **accidentally**, by accident, unintentionally, unwittingly.

**inadvisable** adjective **unwise**, ill-advised, imprudent, ill-judged, ill-considered, injudicious, impolitic, foolish, misguided.

– OPPOSITES shrewd.

**inalienable** adjective **inviolable**, absolute, sacrosanct; untransferable, non-transferable, non-negotiable; Law indefeasible.

**inane** adjective **silly**, foolish, stupid, fatuous, idiotic, ridiculous, ludicrous, asinine, frivolous, vapid; childish, puerile; informal dumb, gormless, moronic; Brit. informal daft.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**inanimate** adjective **lifeless**, insentient, without life; dead, defunct.

– OPPOSITES living.

**inapplicable** adjective **irrelevant**, immaterial, not germane, not pertinent, unrelated, unconnected, extraneous, beside the point; formal impertinent.

– OPPOSITES relevant.

**inapposite** adjective **inappropriate**, unsuitable, inapt, out of place, infelicitous, misplaced, ill-judged, ill-advised.

– OPPOSITES appropriate.

**inappreciable** adjective **imperceptible**, minute, tiny, slight, small; insignificant, inconsequential, unimportant, negligible, trivial, minor; informal piddling, piffling; formal exiguous.

– OPPOSITES considerable.

**inappropriate** adjective **unsuitable**, unfitting, unseemly, unbecoming, unbecoming, improper; incongruous, out of place/keeping, inapposite, inapt; informal out of order; formal malapropos.

– OPPOSITES suitable.

**inapt** adjective. See **INAPPROPRIATE**.

**inarticulate** adjective **1** *an inarticulate young man*: **tongue-tied**, lost for words, unable to express oneself; old use mumchance. **2** *an inarticulate reply*: **unintelligible**, incomprehensible, incoherent, unclear, indistinct, mumbled, muffled. **3** *inarticulate rage*: **unspoken**, silent, unexpressed, wordless, unvoiced.

– OPPOSITES silver-tongued, fluent.

**inattention** noun **1** *a moment of inattention*: **distraction**, inattentiveness, preoccupation, absent-mindedness, daydreaming, abstraction. **2** *his inattention to duty*: **negligence**, neglect, disregard; forgetfulness, carelessness, thoughtlessness, heedlessness.

– OPPOSITES concentration.

**inattentive** adjective **1** *an inattentive pupil*: **distracted**, lacking concentration, preoccupied, absent-minded, daydreaming, dreamy, abstracted, distraught; informal miles away. **2** *inattentive service*: **negligent**, neglectful, remiss, slack, sloppy, slapdash, lax; forgetful, careless, thoughtless, heedless.

– OPPOSITES alert.

**inaudible** adjective **unheard**, out of earshot;

indistinct, faint, muted, soft, low, muffled, whispered, muttered, murmured, mumbled.

**inaugural** adjective **1**, opening, initial, introductory, initiatory.

– OPPOSITES final.

**inaugurate** verb **1** *he inaugurated a new policy*: initiate, begin, start, institute, launch, start off, get going, get under way, establish, lay the foundations of; bring in, usher in; informal kick off. **2** *the new President will be inaugurated*: admit to office, install, instate, swear in; invest, ordain, crown. **3** *the museum was inaugurated in September*: open, declare open, unveil; dedicate, consecrate; N. Amer. *hansel*.

**inauspicious** adjective unpromising, unpropitious, unfavourable, unfortunate, infelicitous, ominous; discouraging, disheartening, bleak.

– OPPOSITES promising.

**inborn** adjective innate, congenital, connate, connatural; inherent, natural, inbred, inherited, hereditary, in one's genes.

**inbred** adjective. See **INBORN**.

**inbuilt** adjective **1** *an inbuilt CD-ROM drive*: built-in, integral, incorporated. **2** *our inbuilt survival instinct*: inherent, intrinsic, innate, congenital, natural, connatural, connate.

**incalculable** adjective inestimable, indeterminable, untold, immeasurable, incomputable; infinite, endless, limitless, boundless, measureless; enormous, immense, huge, vast, innumerable.

**incandescent** adjective **1** *incandescent fragments of lava*: white-hot, red-hot, burning, fiery, blazing, ablaze, aflame; glowing, aglow, radiant, bright, brilliant, luminous; literary fervid, rutilant, lucent. **2** *the minister was incandescent*: furious, enraged, raging, very angry, incensed, seething, infuriated, fuming, irate, in a temper, beside oneself; informal livid, foaming at the mouth, (hopping) mad, wild, apoplectic, steamed up, in a lather, in a paddy; literary wrathful; old use wroth.

**incantation** noun **1** *he muttered some weird incantations*: chant, invocation, conjuration, magic spell/formula, rune; N. Amer. hex, mojo; NZ *makutu*. **2** *ritual incantation*: chanting, intonation, recitation.

**incapable** adjective **1** *an incapable government*: incompetent, inept, inadequate, not good enough, leaving much to be desired, inexpert, unskilful, ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious, feeble, unfit, unqualified, unequal to the task; informal out of one's depth, not up to it, not up to snuff, useless, hopeless, pathetic, a dead loss. **2** *he was mentally incapable*: incapacitated, helpless, powerless, impotent.

– OPPOSITES competent.

**incapacitated** adjective disabled, debilitated, indisposed, unfit; immobilized, out of action, out of commission, hors de combat; informal laid up.

– OPPOSITES fit.

**incapacity** noun **1** *mental incapacity*: disability, incapability, inability, debility, impairment, indisposition; impotence, powerlessness, helplessness; incompetence, inadequacy, ineffectiveness. **2** *legal incapacity*: disqualification, lack of entitlement.

– OPPOSITES capability.

**incarcerate** verb imprison, put in prison, send to prison, jail, lock up, put under lock and key, put away, intern, confine, detain, hold, immure, put in chains, clap in irons, hold prisoner, hold captive; Brit. detain at Her Majesty's pleasure; informal send down, put behind bars, put inside; Brit. informal bang someone up.

– OPPOSITES release.

**incarceration** noun imprisonment, internment, confinement, detention, custody, captivity, restraint; informal time; Brit. informal porridge; old use *durance*, *duress*.

**incarnate** adjective in human form, in the flesh, in physical form, in bodily form, made flesh; corporeal, physical, fleshly, embodied.

**incarnation** noun **1** *the incarnation of artistic genius*: embodiment, personification, exemplification, type, epitome; manifestation, bodily form, avatar. **2** *a previous incarnation*: lifetime, life, existence.

**incautious** adjective rash, unwise, careless, heedless, thoughtless, reckless, unthinking, imprudent, misguided, ill-advised, ill-judged, injudicious, impolitic, unguarded, foolhardy, foolish; unwary, off-guard, inattentive; informal asleep on the job.

– OPPOSITES circumspect.

**incendiary** adjective **1** *an incendiary bomb*: combustible, flammable, inflammable. **2** *an incendiary speech*: inflammatory, rabble-raising, provocative, seditious, subversive; contentious, controversial.

• noun **1** *an aircraft loaded with incendiaries*: explosive, bomb, incendiary device. **2** *incendiaries set the village on fire*: arsonist, fire-bomber, fire-setter; pyromaniac; Brit. fire-raiser; informal firebug, pyro; N. Amer. informal torch. **3** *a political incendiary*: agitator, demagogue, rabble-rouser, firebrand, troublemaker, agent provocateur, revolutionary, insurgent, subversive.

**incense**<sup>1</sup> verb *his taunts used to incense me*: enrage, infuriate, anger, madden, outrage, inflame, exasperate, antagonize, provoke; informal make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, make someone's hackles rise, drive mad/crazy; N. Amer. informal burn up.

– OPPOSITES placate, please.

**incense**<sup>2</sup> noun *a whiff of incense*: perfume, fragrance, scent.

**incensed** adjective enraged, very angry, furious, infuriated, irate, in a temper, raging, incandescent, fuming, seething, beside oneself, outraged; informal mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, apoplectic, hot under the collar, foaming at the mouth,



steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied; literary wrathful; old use wroth.

**incentive** noun **inducement**, motivation, motive, reason, stimulus, stimulant, spur, impetus, encouragement, impulse; incitement, goad, provocation; attraction, lure, carrot, bait; informal sweetener, come-on.

– OPPOSITES deterrent.

**inception** noun **establishment**, institution, foundation, founding, formation, initiation, setting up, origination, constitution, inauguration, opening, day one; beginning, commencement, start, birth, dawn, genesis, origin; informal kick-off.

– OPPOSITES end.

**incessant** adjective **ceaseless**, unceasing, constant, continual, unabating, interminable, endless, unending, never-ending, everlasting, eternal, perpetual, continuous, non-stop, uninterrupted, unbroken, unremitting, persistent, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained.

– OPPOSITES intermittent.

**incessantly** adverb **constantly**, continually, all the time, non-stop, without stopping, without a break, round the clock, {morning, noon, and night}, interminably, unremittingly, ceaselessly, endlessly; informal 24-7.

– OPPOSITES occasionally.

**incidence** noun **occurrence**, prevalence; rate, frequency; amount, degree, extent.

**incident** noun **1** *incidents in his youth*: event, occurrence, episode, experience, happening, occasion, proceeding, eventuality, affair, business; adventure, exploit, escapade; matter, circumstance, fact, development.

**2** *police are investigating the incident*: **disturbance**, fracas, melee, commotion, rumpus, scene; fight, skirmish, clash, brawl, free-for-all, encounter, conflict, ruckus, confrontation, altercation, contretemps; informal ruction; Law, dated affray. **3** *the journey was not without incident*: **excitement**, adventure, drama; danger, peril.

**incidental** adjective **1** *incidental details*: less important, secondary, subsidiary; minor, peripheral, background, by-the-way, by-the-by, non-essential, inessential, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, tangential, extrinsic, extraneous. **2** *an incidental discovery*: **chance**, accidental, random; fluky, fortuitous, serendipitous, adventitious, coincidental, unlooked-for. **3** *the risks incidental to the job*: **connected with**, related to, associated with, accompanying, attending, attendant on, concomitant with.

– OPPOSITES essential, deliberate.

**incidentally** adverb **1** *incidentally, I haven't had a reply yet*: **by the way**, by the by(e), in passing, en passant, speaking of which; parenthetically; informal btw, as it happens. **2** *the infection was discovered incidentally*: **by chance**, by accident, accidentally, fortuitously, by a fluke, by happenstance; coincidentally, by coincidence.

**incinerate** verb **burn**, reduce to ashes,

consume by fire, carbonize; cremate.

**incipient** adjective **developing**, growing, emerging, emergent, dawning, just beginning, inceptive, initial; nascent, embryonic, fledgling, in its infancy, germinal.

– OPPOSITES full-blown.

**incise** verb **1** *the wound was incised*: **cut** (open), make an incision in, slit (open), lance. **2** *an inscription incised in Roman letters*: **engrave**, etch, carve, cut, chisel, inscribe, score, chase.

**incision** noun **1** *a surgical incision*: **cut**, opening, slit. **2** *incisions on the marble*: **notch**, nick, snick, scratch, scarification.

**incisive** adjective **penetrating**, acute, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, keen, astute, trenchant, shrewd, piercing, perceptive, insightful, percipient, perspicacious, discerning, analytical, clever, smart, quick; concise, succinct, pithy, to the point, crisp, clear; informal punchy.

– OPPOSITES rambling, vague.

**incite** verb **1** *he was arrested for inciting racial hatred*: **stir up**, whip up, encourage, fan the flames of, stoke up, fuel, kindle, ignite, inflame, stimulate, instigate, provoke, excite, arouse, awaken, inspire, trigger, spark off, ferment, foment; literary enkindle, waken. **2** *she incited him to commit murder*: **egg on**, encourage, urge, goad, provoke, spur on, drive, stimulate, push, prod, prompt, induce, impel; arouse, rouse, excite, inflame, sting, prick; informal put up to.

– OPPOSITES discourage, deter.

**incivility** noun **rudeness**, discourtesy, discourteousness, impoliteness, bad manners, disrespect, boorishness, ungraciousness; insolence, impertinence, impudence.

– OPPOSITES politeness.

**inclement** adjective **cold**, chilly, bleak, wintry, freezing, snowy, icy; wet, rainy, drizzly, damp; stormy, blustery, wild, rough, squally, windy; unpleasant, bad, foul, nasty, filthy, severe, extreme, harsh.

– OPPOSITES fine.

**inclination** noun **1** *his political inclinations*: **tendency**, propensity, proclivity, leaning, predisposition, disposition, predilection, desire, wish, impulse, bent; liking, penchant, partiality, preference, appetite, fancy, interest, affinity; stomach, taste; informal yen; formal velleity; old use list, humour. **2** *an inclination of his head*: **bowing**, bow, bending, nod, nodding, lowering. **3** *an inclination of ninety degrees*. See **INCLINE** noun.

– OPPOSITES aversion.

**incline** verb **1** *his prejudice inclines him to overlook obvious facts*: **predispose**, lead, make, make of a mind to, dispose, prejudice; prompt, induce, influence, sway; persuade, convince. **2** *I incline to the opposite view*: **prefer**, favour, go for; tend, lean, swing, veer, gravitate, be drawn. **3** *he inclined his head*: **bend**, bow, nod, bob, lower, dip. **4** *the columns incline away from the vertical*: **lean**, tilt, angle, tip, slope, slant, bend, curve,

bank, cant, bevel; list, heel.

• **noun** a steep *incline*: slope, gradient, pitch, ramp, bank, ascent, rise, acclivity, upslope, dip, descent, declivity, downslope; hill; N. Amer. grade, downgrade, upgrade.

**inclined** adjective 1 *I'm inclined to believe her*: disposed, minded, of a mind, willing, ready, prepared; predisposed. 2 *she's inclined to gossip*: prone, given, in the habit of, liable, likely, apt; literary wont.

**include** verb 1 *activities include sports, drama, music, and chess*: incorporate, comprise, encompass, cover, embrace, involve, take in, number, contain; consist of, be made up of, be composed of; formal comprehend. 2 *don't forget to include the cost of repairs*: allow for, count, take into account, take into consideration.

– OPPOSITES exclude.

**including** preposition inclusive of, counting; as well as, plus, together with.

**inclusive** adjective 1 *an inclusive price* | *an inclusive definition*: all-in, all-inclusive, comprehensive, in toto, overall, full, all-round, umbrella, catch-all, all-encompassing. 2 *prices are inclusive of VAT*: including, incorporating, taking in, counting; comprising, covering.

**incognito** adverb & adjective under an assumed name, under a false name, in disguise, disguised, under cover, in plain clothes, camouflaged; secretly, anonymously.

**incoherent** adjective 1 *a long, incoherent speech*: unclear, confused, muddled, unintelligible, incomprehensible, hard to follow, disjointed, disconnected, disordered, mixed up, garbled, jumbled, scrambled; rambling, wandering, discursive, disorganized, illogical; inarticulate, mumbling, slurred. 2 *she was incoherent and shivering violently*: delirious, raving, babbling, hysterical, irrational.

– OPPOSITES lucid.

**incombustible** adjective non-flammable, non-combustible; fireproof, flameproof, fire/flame resistant, fire/flame retardant; heatproof, ovenproof.

– OPPOSITES flammable, inflammable.

**income** noun earnings, salary, pay, remuneration, wages, stipend; revenue, receipts, takings, profits, gains, proceeds, turnover, yield, dividend, incomings; means; N. Amer. take; formal emolument.

– OPPOSITES expenditure, outgoings.

**incoming** adjective 1 *the incoming train*: arriving, entering; approaching, coming (in). 2 *the incoming president*: newly elected, newly appointed, succeeding, new, next, future; elect, to-be, designate.

– OPPOSITES outgoing.

**incommensurate** adjective out of proportion, not in proportion, disproportionate, inappropriate, out of keeping; insufficient, inadequate; excessive, inordinate, unreasonable, uncalled for, undue, unfair.

– OPPOSITES proportional.

**incommunicable** adjective indescribable, inexpressible, unutterable, unspeakable, undefinable, ineffable, beyond words, beyond description; overwhelming, intense, profound.

**incomparable** adjective without equal, beyond compare, unparalleled, matchless, peerless, unmatched, without parallel, beyond comparison, second to none, in a class of its own, unequalled, unrivalled, inimitable, nonpareil, par excellence; transcendent, superlative, surpassing, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, supreme, top, outstanding, consummate, singular, unique, rare, perfect; informal one-in-a-million; formal unexemplary.

**incomparably** adverb far and away, by far, infinitely, immeasurably, easily; inimitably, supremely, superlatively, uniquely, transcendently.

**incompatible** adjective 1 *she and McBride are totally incompatible*: unsuited, mismatched, ill-matched, poles apart, worlds apart, like day and night; Brit. like chalk and cheese. 2 *incompatible economic objectives*: irreconcilable, conflicting, opposed, opposite, contradictory, antagonistic, antipathetic; clashing, inharmonious, discordant; mutually exclusive. 3 *a theory incompatible with that of his predecessor*: inconsistent with, at odds with, out of keeping with, at variance with, in consonant with, different to, divergent from, contrary to, in conflict with, in opposition to, (diametrically) opposed to, counter to, irreconcilable with.

– OPPOSITES well matched, harmonious, consistent.

**incompetent** adjective inept, unskilful, unskilled, inexpert, amateurish, unprofessional, bungling, blundering, clumsy, inadequate, substandard, inferior, ineffective, deficient, inefficient, ineffectual, wanting, lacking, leaving much to be desired; incapable, unfit, unqualified; informal useless, pathetic, cack-handed, ham-fisted, not up to it, not up to scratch; Brit. informal not much cop.

**incomplete** adjective 1 *the project is still incomplete*: unfinished, uncompleted, partial, half-finished, half-done, half-completed. 2 *inaccurate or incomplete information*: deficient, insufficient, imperfect, defective, partial, patchy, sketchy, fragmentary, fragmented, scrappy, bitty; abridged, shortened; expurgated, bowdlerized.

**incomprehensible** adjective unintelligible, impossible to understand, impenetrable, unclear, indecipherable, beyond one's comprehension, beyond one, beyond one's grasp, complicated, complex, involved, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, puzzling, confusing, perplexing; abstruse, esoteric, recondite, arcane, mysterious, Delphic; informal over one's head, all Greek to someone; Brit. informal double Dutch.

– OPPOSITES intelligible, clear.

**inconceivable** adjective unbelievable, beyond belief, incredible, unthinkable, unimaginable, extremely unlikely; impossible, beyond the bounds of possibility, out of the question, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd, incomprehensible; informal hard to swallow.  
– OPPOSITES likely.

**inconclusive** adjective indecisive, proving nothing; indefinite, indeterminate, unresolved, unproven, unsettled, still open to question/doubt, debatable, unconfirmed; moot; vague, ambiguous; informal up in the air, left hanging.

**incongruous** adjective **1** *the women looked incongruous in their smart hats and fur coats:* out of place, out of keeping, inappropriate, unsuitable, unsuited; wrong, strange, odd, absurd, bizarre, off-key, extraneous.

**2** *an incongruous collection of objects:* ill-matched, ill-assorted, mismatched, unharmonious, discordant, dissonant, conflicting, clashing, jarring, incompatible, different, dissimilar, contrasting, disparate.  
– OPPOSITES appropriate, harmonious.

**inconsequential** adjective insignificant, unimportant, of little no/consequence, neither here nor there, incidental, inessential, non-essential, immaterial, irrelevant; negligible, inappreciable, inconsiderable, slight, minor, trivial, trifling, petty; informal piddling, piffling.  
– OPPOSITES important.

**inconsiderable** adjective insignificant, negligible, trifling, small, tiny, little, minuscule, nominal, token, petty, slight, minor, inappreciable, insubstantial, inconsequential; informal piffling; formal exiguous.

**inconsiderate** adjective thoughtless, unthinking, insensitive, selfish, self-centred, unsympathetic, uncaring, heedless, unmindful, unkind, uncharitable, ungracious, impolite, discourteous, rude, disrespectful; tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, indelicate; informal ignorant.  
– OPPOSITES thoughtful.

**inconsistent** adjective **1** *his inconsistent behaviour:* erratic, changeable, unpredictable, variable, varying, changing, changeful, inconstant, unstable, irregular, fluctuating, unsteady, unsettled, uneven; self-contradictory, contradictory, paradoxical; capricious, fickle, flighty, whimsical, unreliable, mercurial, volatile, blowing hot and cold, ever-changing, chameleon-like; informal up and down; technical labile. **2** *he had done nothing inconsistent with his morality:* incompatible with, conflicting with, in conflict with, at odds with, at variance with, differing from, contrary to, in opposition to, (diametrically) opposed to, irreconcilable with, out of keeping with, out of step with; antithetical to.

**inconsolable** adjective heartbroken, broken-hearted, grief-stricken, beside oneself with grief, devastated, wretched,

sick at heart, desolate, despairing, distraught, comfortless; miserable, unhappy, sad; literary heartsick.

**inconspicuous** adjective unobtrusive, unnoticeable, unremarkable, unspectacular, unostentatious, undistinguished, modest, unexceptional, unassuming, discreet, hidden, concealed; unseen, in the background, low-profile.  
– OPPOSITES noticeable.

**inconstant** adjective fickle, faithless, unfaithful, false, false-hearted; wayward, unreliable, untrustworthy, capricious, volatile, flighty, unpredictable, erratic, blowing hot and cold; informal cheating, two-timing.  
– OPPOSITES faithful.

**incontestable** adjective incontrovertible, indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, unassailable, beyond dispute, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, beyond doubt; airtight, watertight, unarguable, undebatable, emphatic, categorical, certain, definite, definitive, proven, demonstrable, decisive, conclusive.  
– OPPOSITES questionable.

**incontinent** adjective unrestrained, uncontrolled, lacking self-restraint, unbridled, unchecked; uncontrollable, ungovernable.

**incontrovertible** adjective indisputable, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, unassailable, beyond dispute, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, beyond doubt, unarguable, undebatable; certain, sure, definite, definitive, proven, decisive, conclusive, demonstrable, emphatic, categorical, airtight, watertight.  
– OPPOSITES questionable.

**inconvenience** noun **1** *we apologize for any inconvenience caused:* trouble, bother, problems, disruption, difficulty, disturbance; vexation, irritation, annoyance; informal aggravation, hassle. **2** *his early arrival was clearly an inconvenience:* nuisance, trouble, bother, problem, vexation, worry, trial, bind, bore, irritant, thorn in someone's flesh; informal headache, pain, pain in the neck, pain in the backside, drag, aggravation, hassle; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt.

• verb *I don't want to inconvenience you:* trouble, bother, put out, put to any trouble, disturb, impose on, burden; vex, annoy, irritate; informal hassle; formal discommode.

**inconvenient** adjective awkward, difficult, inopportune, untimely, ill-timed, unsuitable, inappropriate, unfortunate; tiresome, irritating, annoying, vexing, bothersome; informal aggravating.

**incorporate** verb **1** *the region was incorporated into Moldavian territory:* absorb, include, subsume, assimilate, integrate, take in, swallow up. **2** *the model incorporates some advanced features:* include, contain, comprise, embody, embrace, build in, encompass. **3** *a small*



*amount of salt is incorporated with the butter:* **blend**, mix, mingle, meld, combine; fold in, stir in.

**incorporeal** adjective **intangible**, impalpable, non-physical; bodiless, disembodied, discarnate; spiritual, ethereal, unsubstantial, insubstantial, transcendental; ghostly, spectral, supernatural.  
– **OPPOSITES** tangible.

**incorrect** adjective **1** *an incorrect answer:* **wrong**, erroneous, in error, mistaken, inaccurate, wide of the mark, off target; untrue, false, fallacious; informal off beam, out, way out, full of holes. **2** *incorrect behaviour:* **inappropriate**, wrong, unsuitable, inapt, inapposite; ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, injudicious, unacceptable, unfitting, out of keeping, improper, unseemly, unbecoming, indecorous; informal out of order.

**incorrigible** adjective **inveterate**, habitual, confirmed, hardened, incurable, irredeemable, hopeless, beyond hope, beyond redemption; impenitent, uncontrite, unrepentant, unapologetic, unashamed.

**incorruptible** adjective **1** *an incorruptible man:* **honest**, honourable, trustworthy, principled, high-principled, unbribable, moral, ethical, good, virtuous. **2** *an incorruptible substance:* **imperishable**, indestructible, indissoluble, enduring, everlasting.

– **OPPOSITES** venal.

**increase** verb **1** *demand is likely to increase:* **grow**, get bigger, get larger, enlarge, expand, swell; rise, climb, escalate, soar, surge, rocket, shoot up, spiral; intensify, strengthen, extend, heighten, stretch, spread, widen; multiply, snowball, mushroom, proliferate, balloon, build up, mount up, pile up, accrue, accumulate; literary wax. **2** *higher expectations will increase user demand:* **add** to, make larger, make bigger, augment, supplement, top up, build up, extend, raise, swell, inflate; magnify, intensify, strengthen, heighten, amplify; informal up, jack up, hike up, bump up, crank up.

– **OPPOSITES** decrease, reduce.

• **noun** *the increase in size* | *an increase in demand:* **growth**, rise, enlargement, expansion, extension, multiplication, elevation, inflation; increment, addition, augmentation; magnification, intensification, amplification, step up, climb, escalation, surge, upsurge, upswing, spiral, spurt; informal hike.

**increasingly** adverb **more and more**, progressively, to an increasing extent, ever more.

**incredible** adjective **1** *I find his story incredible:* **unbelievable**, beyond belief, hard to believe, unconvincing, far-fetched, implausible, improbable, highly unlikely, dubious, doubtful; inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable, impossible; feeble, weak, thin, lame; informal hard to swallow/take, cock-and-bull. **2** *an incredible*

*feat of engineering:* **magnificent**, wonderful, marvellous, spectacular, remarkable, phenomenal, prodigious, breathtaking, extraordinary, unbelievable, amazing, stunning, astounding, astonishing, awe-inspiring, staggering, formidable, impressive, supreme, great, awesome, superhuman; informal fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, out of this world; literary wondrous.

**incredulity** noun **disbelief**, incredulousness, scepticism, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness, lack of conviction; cynicism.

**incredulous** adjective **disbelieving**, unbelieving, sceptical, distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, doubtful, dubious, unconvinced; cynical.

**increment** noun **increase**, addition, supplement, gain, augmentation, boost; informal hike.

– **OPPOSITES** reduction.

**incriminate** verb **implicate**, involve, enmesh; blame, accuse, denounce, inform against, point the finger at; entrap; informal frame, set up, stick/pin the blame on, rat on; Brit. informal fit up, grass on; old use inculcate.

**inculcate** verb **1** *the beliefs inculcated in him by his father:* **instil**, implant, fix, impress, imprint; hammer into, drum into, drive into, drill into, din into. **2** *they will try to inculcate you with a respect for culture:* **imbue**, infuse, inspire, teach.

**inculpate** verb (old use). See **INCRIMINATE**.

**incumbent** adjective **1** *it is incumbent on the government to give a clear lead:* **necessary**, essential, required, imperative; compulsory, binding, obligatory, mandatory. **2** *the incumbent president:* **current**, present, in office, in power; reigning.  
• **noun** *the first incumbent of the post:* **holder**, bearer, occupant.

**incur** verb **bring on oneself**, expose oneself to, lay oneself open to; run up; attract, invite, earn, arouse, cause, give rise to, be liable/subject to, meet with, sustain, experience.

**incurable** adjective **1** *an incurable illness:* **untreatable**, inoperable, irremediable; terminal, fatal, mortal; chronic. **2** *an incurable romantic:* **inveterate**, dyed-in-the-wool, confirmed, established, long-established, long-standing, absolute, complete, utter, thorough, thoroughgoing, out-and-out, through and through; unashamed, unapologetic, unrepentant, incorrigible, hopeless.

**incursion** noun **attack**, assault, raid, invasion, storming, foray, blitz, sortie, sally, advance, push, thrust.

– **OPPOSITES** retreat.

**indebted** adjective **beholden**, under an obligation, obliged, obligated, grateful, thankful, in someone's debt, owing a debt of gratitude.

**indecent** adjective **1** *indecent photographs:*

obscene, dirty, filthy, rude, coarse, naughty, vulgar, gross, crude, lewd, salacious, improper, smutty, off colour; pornographic, offensive, prurient, sordid, scatological; ribald, risqué, racy; informal blue, nudge-nudge, porn, porno, X-rated, raunchy, skin; Brit. informal saucy; euphemistic adult. **2** *indecent clothes*: revealing, short, brief, skimpy, scanty, low-cut, flimsy, thin, see-through; erotic, arousing, sexy, suggestive, titillating. **3** *indecent haste*: **unseemly**, improper, indecorous, unceremonious, indelicate, unbecoming, ungentlemanly, unladylike, unfitting, unbefitting; untoward, unsuitable, inappropriate; in bad taste, tasteless, unacceptable, offensive, crass.

**indecipherable** adjective illegible, unreadable, hard to read, unintelligible, unclear; scribbled, scrawled, hieroglyphic, squiggly, cramped, crabbed.

**indecision** noun indecisiveness, irresolution, hesitancy, hesitation, tentativeness; ambivalence, doubt, doubtfulness, uncertainty, incertitude; vacillation, equivocation, second thoughts; shilly-shallying, dithering, temporizing; Brit. humming and hawing; Scottish swithering; informal dilly-dallying, sitting on the fence; formal dubiety.

**indecisive** adjective **1** *an indecisive result*: inconclusive, proving nothing, settling nothing, open, indeterminate, undecided, unsettled, borderline, indefinite, unclear, ambiguous; informal up in the air. **2** *an indecisive leader*: **irresolute**, hesitant, tentative, weak; vacillating, equivocating, dithering, wavering, faltering, shilly-shallying; ambivalent, divided, blowing hot and cold, in two minds, in a dilemma, in a quandary, torn; doubtful, unsure, uncertain; undecided, uncommitted; informal iffy, sitting on the fence.

**indecorous** adjective improper, unseemly, unbecoming, undignified, immodest, indelicate, indecent, unladylike, ungentlemanly; inappropriate, incorrect, unsuitable, undesirable, unfitting, in bad taste, ill-bred.

**indecorum** noun impropriety, unseemliness, immodesty, indecency, indelicacy; inappropriateness, unsuitability, undesirability, unacceptability, bad taste.

**indeed** adverb **1** *there was, indeed, quite a furor*: **as expected**, to be sure; in fact, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, actually, as it happens/happened, if truth be told; old use in sooth. **2** *'May I join you?'* *'Indeed you may.'*: yes, certainly, assuredly, of course, naturally, without (a) doubt, without question, by all means; informal you bet, I'll say. **3** *lan's future with us looked rosy indeed*: **very**, extremely, exceedingly, tremendously, immensely, singularly, decidedly, particularly, remarkably, really.

**indefatigable** adjective tireless, untiring, unwearied, unwearying, unflagging; determined, tenacious, dogged, single-minded, assiduous, industrious, unswerving,

unfaltering, unshakeable, indomitable; persistent, relentless, unremitting.

**indefensible** adjective **1** *indefensible cruelty*: **inexcusable**, unjustifiable, unjustified, unpardonable, unforgivable; uncalled for, unprovoked, gratuitous, unreasonable, unnecessary. **2** *an indefensible system of dual justice*: **untenable**, unsustainable, insupportable, unwarranted, unwarrantable, unjustifiable, unjustified, flawed, unacceptable. **3** *an indefensible island*: **defenceless**, vulnerable, exposed, open to attack, pregnable, undefended, unfortified, unguarded, unprotected, unarmed.

**indefinable** adjective hard to define, hard to describe, indescribable, inexpressible, nameless; vague, obscure, impalpable, elusive.

**indefinite** adjective **1** *an indefinite period*: **indeterminate**, unspecified, unlimited, unrestricted, undecided, undetermined, undefined, unfixed, unsettled, unknown, uncertain; limitless, infinite, endless, immeasurable. **2** *an indefinite meaning*: **vague**, ill-defined, unclear, loose, general, imprecise, inexact, nebulous, blurred, fuzzy, hazy, obscure, ambiguous, equivocal.

– **OPPOSITES** fixed, clear.

**indefinitely** adverb for an unspecified period, for an unlimited period, without limit, sine die.

**indelible** adjective **ineradicable**, permanent, lasting, persisting, enduring, unfading, unforgettable, haunting, never to be forgotten.

**indelicate** adjective **1** *an indelicate question*: insensitive, tactless, undiplomatic, impolitic, indiscreet. **2** *an indelicate sense of humour*: **vulgar**, rude, crude, bawdy, racy, risqué, ribald, earthy, indecent, improper, naughty, indecorous, off colour, dirty, smutty, salacious; informal blue, nudge-nudge, raunchy; Brit. informal saucy.

**indemnify** verb **1** *he should be indemnified for his losses*: **reimburse**, compensate, recompense, repay, pay back, remunerate, recoup. **2** *they are indemnified against breach of contract*: **insure**, guarantee, protect, secure, underwrite.

**indemnity** noun **1** *no indemnity will be given for loss of cash*: **insurance**, assurance, protection, security, indemnification, surety, guarantee, warranty, safeguard. **2** *indemnity from prosecution*: **immunity**, exemption, dispensation, freedom; special treatment, privilege. **3** *the company was paid \$100,000 in indemnity*: **compensation**, reimbursement, recompense, repayment, restitution, payment, redress, reparation(s), damages.

**indent** verb **1** *a coastline indented by many fjords*: **notch**, make an indentation in, scallop, groove, furrow. **2** *you'll have to indent for a new uniform*: **order**, put in an order for, requisition, apply for, put in for, request, ask for, claim, put in a request/claim for, call for.

• **noun** (Brit.) *an indent for silk scarves*: **order**, requisition, purchase order, request, call, application; claim.

**indentation** **noun** **hollow**, depression, dip, dent, dint, cavity, concavity, pit, trough; dimple, cleft; snick, nick, notch; recess, bay, inlet, cove.

**indenture** **noun** **contract**, agreement, compact, covenant, bond, warrant; certificate, deed, document, instrument.

**independence** **noun** **1** *the struggle for American independence*: **self-government**, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, non-alignment, freedom, liberty. **2** *he valued his independence*: **self-sufficiency**, self-reliance. **3** *the adviser's independence*: **impartiality**, neutrality, disinterest, disinterestedness, detachment, objectivity. **4** *independence of spirit*: **freedom**, individualism, unconventionality, unorthodoxy.

**independent** **adjective** **1** *an independent country*: **self-governing**, self-ruling, self-determining, sovereign, autonomous, autarchic, free, non-aligned. **2** *two independent groups of biologists verified the results*: **separate**, different, unconnected, unrelated, dissociated, discrete. **3** *an independent school*: **private**, non-state-run, private-sector, fee-paying; privatized, denationalized. **4** *her grown-up, independent children*: **self-sufficient**, self-supporting, self-reliant, standing on one's own two feet. **5** *independent advice*: **impartial**, unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, disinterested, uninvolved, uncommitted, detached, dispassionate, objective, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, with no axe to grind, without fear or favour. **6** *an independent spirit*: **freethinking**, free, individualistic, unconventional, maverick, bold, unconstrained, unfettered, untrammelled. – **OPPOSITES** subservient, related, public, biased.

**independently** **adverb** **alone**, on one's own, separately, unaccompanied, solo; unaided, unassisted, without help, by one's own efforts, under one's own steam, single-handed(ly), off one's own bat, on one's own initiative.

**indescribable** **adjective** **inexpressible**, indefinable, beyond words/description, incommunicable, ineffable; unutterable, unspeakable; intense, extreme, acute, strong, powerful, profound; incredible, extraordinary, remarkable, prodigious.

**indestructible** **adjective** **unbreakable**, shatterproof, durable; lasting, enduring, everlasting, perennial, deathless, undying, immortal, inextinguishable, imperishable; literary adamant. – **OPPOSITES** fragile.

**indeterminate** **adjective** **1** *an indeterminate period of time*: **undetermined**, uncertain, unknown, unspecified, unstipulated, indefinite, unfixed. **2** *some indeterminate background noise*: **vague**, indefinite, unspecific, unclear, nebulous, indistinct;

amorphous, shapeless, formless; hazy, faint, shadowy, dim.

**index** **noun** **1** *the library's subject index*: **list**, listing, inventory, catalogue, register, directory. **2** *literature is an index to the condition of civilization*: **guide**, sign, indication, indicator, measure, signal, mark, evidence, symptom, token; clue, hint. **3** *the index jumped up the dial*: **pointer**, indicator, needle, hand, finger, marker.

**indicate** **verb** **1** *sales indicate a growing market for such art*: **point to**, be a sign of, be evidence of, evidence, demonstrate, show, testify to, bespeak, be a symptom of, be symptomatic of, denote, connote, mark, signal, signify, suggest, imply; manifest, reveal, betray, display, reflect, represent; formal evince; literary betoken. **2** *the president indicated his willingness to use force*: **state**, declare, make known, communicate, announce, mention, reveal, divulge, disclose. **3** *please indicate your choice of prize on the form*: **specify**, designate, stipulate; show. **4** *he indicated the room with a sweep of his arm*: **point to**, point out, gesture towards.

**indicated** **adjective** *in such cases surgery is indicated*: **advisable**, recommended, suggested, desirable, preferable, best, sensible, wise, commonsensical, prudent, in someone's (best) interests; necessary, needed, required, called for.

**indication** **noun** **sign**, signal, indicator, symptom, mark, manifestation, demonstration, show, evidence; pointer, guide, hint, clue, intimation, omen, augury, portent, warning, forewarning.

**indicative** **adjective** **symptomatic**, expressive, suggestive, representative, emblematic, symbolic; typical, characteristic; rare indicator.

**indicator** **noun** **1** *these tests are a reliable indicator of performance*: **measure**, gauge, barometer, guide, index, mark, sign, signal; standard, touchstone, yardstick, benchmark, criterion, point of reference, guideline, test, litmus test. **2** *the depth indicator*: **meter**, measuring device, measure, gauge, dial. **3** *a position indicator*: **pointer**, needle, hand, arrow, marker.

**indict** **verb** **charge**, accuse, arraign, take to court, put on trial, prosecute; summons, cite, prefer charges against; N. Amer. impeach. – **OPPOSITES** acquit.

**indictment** **noun** **charge**, accusation, arraignment; citation, summons; Brit. plaint; N. Amer. impeachment.

**indifference** **noun** **1** *his apparent indifference infuriated her*: **lack of concern**, unconcern, disinterest, lack of interest, lack of enthusiasm, apathy, nonchalance; boredom, unresponsiveness, impassivity, dispassion, detachment, coolness. **2** *the indifference of the midfield players*: **mediocrity**, lack of distinction, amateurism, amateurishness, lack of inspiration.

**indifferent** **adjective** **1** *an indifferent shrug*: **unconcerned**, uninterested, uncaring, casual, nonchalant, offhand, uninvolved,



unenthusiastic, apathetic, lukewarm, phlegmatic; unimpressed, bored, unmoved, unresponsive, impassive, dispassionate, detached, cool. **2** *an indifferent performance*: mediocre, ordinary, average, middling, middle-of-the-road, uninspired, undistinguished, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, forgettable, amateur, amateurish; informal OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much; Brit. informal not much cop; N. Amer. informal bush-league; NZ informal half-pie.

– OPPOSITES enthusiastic, brilliant.

**indigenous** adjective native, original, aboriginal, autochthonous; earliest, first.

**indigent** adjective poor, impecunious, destitute, penniless, impoverished, insolvent, poverty-stricken; needy, in need, hard up, on the breadline, deprived, disadvantaged, badly off, on one's beam-ends; informal on one's uppers, broke, flat broke, strapped (for cash), without a brass farthing, without a bean/sou, as poor as a church mouse; Brit. informal stony broke, skint, boracic; N. Amer. informal on skid row; formal penurious.

– OPPOSITES rich.

**indigestion** noun dyspepsia, heartburn, pyrosis, acidity, stomach ache; (an) upset stomach, (a) stomach upset; informal bellyache, tummy ache, collywobbles.

**indignant** adjective aggrieved, resentful, affronted, disgruntled, displeased, cross, angry, annoyed, offended, exasperated, irritated, piqued, nettled, in high dudgeon, chagrined; informal peeved, vexed, irked, put out, miffed, aggravated, riled, in a huff; Brit. informal narked; N. Amer. informal sore.

**indignation** noun resentment, umbrage, affront, disgruntlement, displeasure, anger, annoyance, irritation, exasperation, vexation, offence, pique; informal aggravation; literary ire.

**indignity** noun shame, humiliation, loss of self-respect, loss of pride, loss of face, embarrassment, mortification; disgrace, dishonour, stigma, discredit; affront, insult, abuse, mistreatment, injury, offence, injustice, slight, snub, discourtesy, disrespect; informal slap in the face, kick in the teeth.

**indirect** adjective **1** *an indirect effect*: incidental, accidental, unintended, secondary, subordinate, ancillary, collateral, concomitant, contingent. **2** *the indirect route*: roundabout, circuitous, wandering, meandering, serpentine, winding, tortuous, zigzag. **3** *an indirect attack*: oblique, inexplicit, implicit, implied, allusive.

**indirectly** adverb **1** *I heard of the damage indirectly*: second-hand, at second hand, from others; informal on the grapevine, on the bush/jungle telegraph. **2** *he referred to the subject indirectly*: obliquely, by implication, allusively.

**indiscernible** adjective **1** *an almost indiscernible change*: unnoticeable,

imperceptible, invisible, hidden, undetectable, indistinguishable, inappreciable; tiny, minute, minuscule, microscopic, nanoscopic, infinitesimal, negligible, inconsequential. **2** *an indiscernible shape*: indistinct, nebulous, unclear, fuzzy, obscure, vague, indefinite, amorphous, shadowy, dim, hard to make out. – OPPOSITES distinct.

**indiscreet** adjective **1** *an indiscreet remark*: imprudent, unwise, impolitic, injudicious, incautious, irresponsible, ill-judged, ill-advised, misguided, ill-considered, careless, rash, unwary, hasty, reckless, precipitate, impulsive, foolhardy, foolish, short-sighted; undiplomatic, indelicate, tactless, insensitive; inexpedient, untimely, infelicitous. **2** *her indiscreet behaviour*: immodest, indecorous, unseemly, improper, indecent, indelicate.

**indiscretion** noun **1** *he was prone to indiscretion*: imprudence, injudiciousness, incaution, irresponsibility; carelessness, rashness, recklessness, precipitateness, impulsiveness, foolhardiness, foolishness, folly; tactlessness, insensitivity. **2** *his past indiscretions*: blunder, lapse, gaffe, mistake, faux pas, error, slip, miscalculation, impropriety; misdemeanour, transgression, peccadillo, misdeed; informal slip-up.

**indiscriminate** adjective non-selective, unselective, indiscriminating, uncritical, aimless, hit-or-miss, haphazard, random, arbitrary, unsystematic, undirected; wholesale, general, sweeping, blanket; thoughtless, unthinking, unconsidered, casual, careless.

– OPPOSITES selective.

**indispensable** adjective essential, necessary, all-important, of the utmost importance, of the essence, vital, crucial, key, needed, required, requisite; invaluable. – OPPOSITES superfluous.

**indisposed** adjective **1** *my wife is indisposed*: ill, unwell, sick, on the sick list, poorly, ailing, not (very) well, out of sorts, under/below par; out of action, hors de combat; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather.

**2** *she was indisposed to help him*: reluctant, unwilling, disinclined, loath, unprepared, not disposed, not minded, averse.

– OPPOSITES well, willing.

**indisposition** noun **1** *a mild indisposition*: illness, malady, ailment, disorder, sickness, disease, infection; condition, complaint, problem; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy. **2** *his indisposition to leave the house*: reluctance, unwillingness, disinclination, aversion.

**indisputable** adjective incontrovertible, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, beyond dispute, unassailable, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, not in doubt, beyond doubt, beyond a shadow of a doubt, unarguable, undebatable, airtight, watertight; unequivocal, unmistakable, certain, sure, definite, definitive, proven, decisive,

conclusive, demonstrable, self-evident, clear, clear-cut, plain, obvious, manifest, patent, palpable.

– OPPOSITES questionable.

**indistinct** adjective **1** *the distant shoreline was indistinct*: blurred, out of focus, fuzzy, hazy, misty, foggy, cloudy, shadowy, dim, nebulous; unclear, obscure, vague, faint, indistinguishable, barely perceptible, hard to see, hard to make out. **2** *the last two digits are indistinct*: indecipherable, illegible, unreadable, hard to read. **3** *indistinct sounds*: muffled, muted, low, quiet, soft, faint, inaudible, hard to hear; muttered, mumbled.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**indistinguishable** adjective **1** *the two girls were indistinguishable*: identical, difficult to tell apart, like (two) peas in a pod, like Tweedledum and Tweedledee, very similar, two of a kind. **2** *his words were indistinguishable*: unintelligible, incomprehensible, hard to make out, indistinct, unclear; inaudible.

– OPPOSITES unlike, clear.

**individual** adjective **1** *exhibitions devoted to individual artists*: single, separate, discrete, independent; sole, lone, solitary, isolated. **2** *he had his own individual style of music*: characteristic, distinctive, distinct, typical, particular, peculiar, personal, personalized, special. **3** *a chic and highly individual apartment*: original, unique, exclusive, singular, idiosyncratic, different, unusual, novel, unorthodox, atypical, out of the ordinary.

• **noun** **1** *Peter was a rather stuffy individual*: person, human being, mortal, soul, creature; man, boy, woman, girl; character, personage; informal type, sort, beggar, cookie, customer, guy, geezer, devil, bastard; Brit. informal bod, gent, punter; informal, dated body, cove; old use wight. **2** *she was a real individual*: individualist, free spirit, nonconformist, original, eccentric, character, maverick, rare bird; Brit. informal one-off.

**individualism** noun independence, freethinking, freedom of thought, originality; unconventionality, eccentricity.

**individualist** noun free spirit, individual, nonconformist, original, eccentric, maverick, rare bird; Brit. informal one-off.

– OPPOSITES conformist.

**individualistic** adjective unconventional, unorthodox, atypical, singular, unique, original, nonconformist, independent, freethinking; eccentric, maverick, strange, odd, peculiar, idiosyncratic.

**individuality** noun distinctiveness, distinction, uniqueness, originality, singularity, particularity, peculiarity, differentness, separateness; personality, character, identity, self.

**individually** adverb one at a time, one by one, singly, separately, severally, independently, apart.

– OPPOSITES together.

**indoctrinate** verb brainwash, propagandize, proselytize, inculcate,

re-educate, persuade, convince, condition, mould, discipline; instruct, teach, school, drill.

**indolence** noun laziness, idleness, slothfulness, sloth, shiftlessness, inactivity, inaction, inertia, sluggishness, lethargy, languor, languidness, torpor; literary hebetude.

**indolent** adjective lazy, idle, slothful, loafing, work-shy, do-nothing, sluggardly, shiftless, lackadaisical, languid, inactive, inert, sluggish, lethargic, torpid; slack, lax, remiss, negligent, good-for-nothing, feckless; informal bone idle.

– OPPOSITES industrious, energetic.

**indomitable** adjective invincible, unconquerable, unbeatable, unsailable, invulnerable, unshakeable; indefatigable, unyielding, unbending, stalwart, stout-hearted, lionhearted, strong-willed, strong-minded, steadfast, staunch, resolute, firm, determined, intransigent, inflexible, adamant; unflinching, courageous, brave, valiant, heroic, intrepid, fearless, plucky, mettlesome, gritty, steely.

– OPPOSITES submissive.

**indubitable** adjective unquestionable, undoubtable, indisputable, unarguable, undebatable, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, incontrovertible, unmistakable, unequivocal, certain, sure, positive, definite, absolute, conclusive, watertight; beyond doubt, beyond the shadow of a doubt, beyond dispute, beyond question, not in question, not in doubt.

– OPPOSITES doubtful.

**induce** verb **1** *the pickets induced many workers to stay away*: persuade, convince, prevail on, get, make, prompt, move, inspire, influence, encourage, motivate; coax into, wheedle into, cajole into, talk into, prod into; informal twist someone's arm. **2** *these activities induce a feeling of togetherness*: bring about, cause, produce, effect, create, give rise to, generate, instigate, engender, occasion, set in motion, lead to, result in, trigger off, spark off, whip up, stir up, kindle, arouse, rouse, foster, promote, encourage; literary beget, enkindle.

– OPPOSITES dissuade, prevent.

**inducement** noun incentive, encouragement, attraction, temptation, stimulus, bait, carrot, lure, pull, draw, spur, goad, impetus, motive, motivation, provocation; bribe, reward; informal come-on, sweetener.

– OPPOSITES deterrent.

**induct** verb **1** *the new ministers were inducted into the government*: admit to, allow into, introduce to, initiate into, install in, instate in, swear into; appoint to. **2** *he inducted me into the skills of magic*: introduce to, acquaint with, familiarize with, make conversant with; ground in, instruct in, teach in, educate in, school in.

**indulge** verb **1** *Sally indulged her passion for long walks*: satisfy, gratify, fulfil, feed, accommodate; yield to, give in to, give way

to. **2** *she indulged in a fit of sulks:* **wallow in**, give oneself up to, give way to, yield to, abandon oneself to, give free rein to; luxuriate in, revel in, lose oneself in. **3** *she did not like her children to be indulged:* **pamper**, spoil, overindulge, coddle, mollycoddle, cosset, baby, pet, spoon-feed, feather-bed, wrap in cotton wool; pander to, wait on hand and foot, cater to someone's every whim, kill with kindness; old use cocker.

– OPPOSITES frustrate.

■ **indulge oneself** treat oneself, give oneself a treat; have a spree, splash out; informal go to town, splurge.

**indulgence** **noun** **1** *the indulgence of all his desires:* **satisfaction**, gratification, fulfilment. **2** *excess indulgence contributed to his ill-health:* **self-gratification**, self-indulgence, overindulgence, intemperance, immoderation, excess, excessiveness, lack of restraint, extravagance, decadence, pleasure-seeking, sybaritism. **3** *they viewed holidays as an indulgence:* **extravagance**, luxury, treat, non-essential, extra, frill. **4** *her indulgence left him spoilt:* **pampering**, coddling, mollycoddling, cossetting, babying. **5** *his parents view his lapses with indulgence:* **tolerance**, forbearance, understanding, kindness, compassion, sympathy, forgiveness, leniency.

**indulgent** **adjective** **generous**, permissive, easy-going, liberal, tolerant, forgiving, forbearing, lenient, kind, kindly, soft-hearted, compassionate, understanding, sympathetic; fond, doting, soft; compliant, obliging, accommodating.

– OPPOSITES strict.

**industrial** **adjective** **1** *industrial areas of the city:* **manufacturing**, factory; commercial, business, trade. **2** (Brit.) *industrial action:* **strike**, protest.

**industrialist** **noun** **manufacturer**, producer, factory owner; captain of industry, big businessman, magnate, tycoon, capitalist, financier; informal, derogatory fat cat.

**industrious** **adjective** **hard-working**, diligent, assiduous, conscientious, steady, painstaking, sedulous, persevering, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, studious; busy, as busy as a bee, active, bustling, energetic, on the go, vigorous, determined, dynamic, zealous, productive; with one's shoulder to the wheel, with one's nose to the grindstone.

– OPPOSITES indolent.

**industry** **noun** **1** *British industry:* **manufacturing**, production; construction. **2** *the publishing industry:* **business**, trade, field, line (of business); informal racket. **3** *the kitchen was a hive of industry:* **activity**, busyness, energy, vigour, productiveness; hard work, industriousness, diligence, application, dedication.

**inebriated** **adjective** **drunk**, intoxicated, drunken, incapable, tipsy, the worse for drink, under the influence; informal tight, merry, in one's cups, three sheets to

the wind, pie-eyed, plastered, smashed, wrecked, wasted, sloshed, soused, sozzled, blotto, stewed, pickled, tanked (up), off one's face, out of one's head, ratted; Brit. informal legless, bevved, paralytic, Brahm's and Liszt, half cut, out of it, bladdered, trolleyed, slaughtered, mulled, squiffy, tiddly; N. Amer. informal loaded, trashed, juiced, sauced, out of one's gourd, in the bag, zoned; euphemistic tired and emotional; informal, dated lit up.

– OPPOSITES sober.

**inedible** **adjective** **uneatable**, indigestible, unsavoury, unpalatable, unwholesome; stale, rotten, off, bad.

**ineffable** **adjective** **1** *the ineffable beauty of the Everglades:* **indescribable**, inexpressible, beyond words; undefinable, unutterable, untold, unimaginable; overwhelming, breathtaking, awesome, staggering, amazing. **2** *the ineffable name of God:* **unutterable**, unmentionable; taboo, forbidden, off limits; informal no go.

**ineffective** **adjective** **1** *an ineffective scheme:* **unsuccessful**, unproductive, fruitless, unprofitable, abortive, futile, purposeless, useless, worthless, ineffectual, inefficient, inefficacious, inadequate; feeble, inept, lame; old use bootless. **2** *an ineffective president:* **ineffectual**, inefficient, inefficacious, unsuccessful, powerless, impotent, inadequate, incompetent, incapable, unfit, inept, weak, poor; informal useless, hopeless.

**ineffectual** **adjective**. See **INEFFECTIVE** senses 1, 2.

**inefficacious** **adjective**. See **INEFFECTIVE** sense 1.

**inefficient** **adjective** **1** *an inefficient worker:* **ineffective**, ineffectual, incompetent, inept, incapable, unfit, unskilful, inexpert, amateurish; disorganized, unprepared; negligent, lax, sloppy, slack, careless; informal lousy, useless. **2** *inefficient processes:* **uneconomical**, wasteful, unproductive, time-wasting, slow; deficient, disorganized, unsystematic.

**inelegant** **adjective** **1** *an inelegant bellow of laughter:* **unrefined**, uncouth, unsophisticated, unpolished, uncultivated; ill-bred, coarse, vulgar, rude, impolite, unmannerly. **2** *inelegant dancing:* **graceless**, ungraceful, ungainly, uncoordinated, awkward, clumsy, lumbering; inept, unskilful, inexpert; informal having two left feet.

– OPPOSITES refined, graceful.

**ineligible** **adjective** **1** *we are ineligible for a grant:* **unqualified**, ruled out, disqualified, disintitled; Law incompetent. **2** (dated) *she was in love with someone ineligible:* **unmarriageable**, unavailable; unsuitable, unacceptable, undesirable, inappropriate, unworthy.

– OPPOSITES suitable.

**inept** **adjective** **incompetent**, unskilful, unskilled, inexpert, amateurish; clumsy, awkward, maladroit, unhandy, bungling,



blundering; unproductive, unsuccessful, ineffectual, not up to scratch; informal cack-handed, ham-fisted, butterfingers, klutzy; Brit. informal all (fingers and) thumbs.

– OPPOSITES competent.

**inequality** *noun* imbalance, inequity, inconsistency, variation, variability; divergence, polarity, disparity, discrepancy, dissimilarity, difference; bias, prejudice, discrimination, unfairness.

**inequitable** *adjective* unfair, unjust, unequal, uneven, unbalanced, one-sided, discriminatory, preferential, biased, partisan, partial, prejudiced.

– OPPOSITES fair.

**inequity** *noun* unfairness, injustice, unjustness, discrimination, partisanship, partiality, favouritism, bias, prejudice.

**inert** *adjective* unmoving, motionless, immobile, inanimate, still, stationary, static; dormant, sleeping; unconscious, comatose, lifeless, insensible, insensate, insentient; idle, inactive, sluggish, lethargic, stagnant, listless, torpid.

– OPPOSITES active.

**inertia** *noun* inactivity, inaction, inertness; apathy, accidie, malaise, stagnation, enervation, lethargy, listlessness, torpor, idleness, sloth; motionlessness, immobility, lifelessness; formal stasis.

**inescapable** *adjective* unavoidable, inevitable, ineluctable, inexorable; assured, sure, certain; necessary, required, compulsory, mandatory; rare ineludible.

– OPPOSITES avoidable.

**inessential** *adjective* unnecessary, non-essential, unwanted, uncalled-for, needless, redundant, superfluous, excessive, surplus, dispensable, expendable; unimportant, peripheral, minor, secondary.

**inestimable** *adjective* immeasurable, incalculable, innumerable, unfathomable, indeterminable, measureless, untold; limitless, boundless, unlimited, infinite, endless, inexhaustible; informal no end of; literary myriad.

– OPPOSITES few.

**inevitable** *adjective* unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable; assured, certain, sure; fated, predestined, predetermined; rare ineludible.

– OPPOSITES uncertain.

**inevitably** *adverb* naturally, necessarily, automatically, as a matter of course, of necessity, inescapably, unavoidably, certainly, surely, definitely, undoubtedly; informal like it or not; formal perforce.

**inexact** *adjective* imprecise, inaccurate, approximate, rough, crude, general, vague; incorrect, erroneous, wrong, false; off, out; N. Amer. informal ballpark.

**inexcusable** *adjective* indefensible, unjustifiable, unwarranted, unpardonable, unforgivable; blameworthy, censurable, reprehensible, deplorable, unconscionable, unacceptable, unreasonable; uncalled-for, unprovoked, gratuitous.

**inexhaustible** *adjective* 1 *her patience*

*is inexhaustible*: unlimited, limitless, illimitable, infinite, boundless, endless, never-ending, unfailing, everlasting; immeasurable, incalculable, inestimable, untold; copious, abundant. 2 *the dancers were inexhaustible*: tireless, indefatigable, untiring, unfaltering, unflagging, unremitting, persevering, persistent, dogged.

– OPPOSITES limited, weary.

**inexorable** *adjective* 1 *the inexorable advance of science*: relentless, unstoppable, inescapable, inevitable, unavoidable, irrevocable; persistent, continuous, non-stop, steady, interminable, incessant, unceasing, unremitting, unrelenting.

2 *inexorable creditors*: intransigent, unbending, unyielding, inflexible, adamant, obdurate, immovable, unshakable; implacable, unappeasable, unforgiving, unsparing, uncompromising, ruthless, relentless, pitiless, merciless.

**inexpedient** *adjective* unadvisable, injudicious, unwise, impolitic, imprudent, incautious; irresponsible, foolhardy, foolish, ill-advised, ill-considered, inappropriate; disadvantageous, prejudicial.

– OPPOSITES wise.

**inexpensive** *adjective* cheap, low-priced, low-cost, economical, competitive, affordable, reasonable, budget, economy, bargain, cut-price, reduced, discounted, discount, rock-bottom, giveaway, bargain-basement; informal dirt cheap.

**inexperience** *noun* ignorance, unworldliness, naivety, naiveness, innocence, greenness, immaturity; literary nescience.

**inexperienced** *adjective* inexperienced, unpractised, untrained, unschooled, unqualified, unskilled, amateur; ignorant, unversed, unseasoned; naive, unsophisticated, callow, immature, green; informal wet behind the ears, wide-eyed.

**inexpert** *adjective* unskilled, unskilful, amateur, amateurish, unprofessional, inexperienced; inept, incompetent, maladroit, clumsy, bungling, blundering, unhandy; informal cack-handed, ham-fisted, butterfingers.

**inexplicable** *adjective* unaccountable, unexplainable, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, insoluble; baffling, puzzling, perplexing, mystifying, bewildering; mysterious, strange.

– OPPOSITES understandable.

**inexpressible** *adjective* indescribable, undefinable, unutterable, unspeakable, ineffable, beyond words; unimaginable, inconceivable, unthinkable, untold.

**inexpressive** *adjective* expressionless, impassive, emotionless; inscrutable, unreadable, blank, vacant, glazed, lifeless, deadpan, wooden, stony; poker-faced, straight-faced.

**inextinguishable** *adjective* irrepressible,

unquenchable, indestructible, undying, unfailing, unceasing, ceaseless, enduring, everlasting, eternal, persistent.

**inextricable** adjective **1** *our lives are inextricable*: inseparable, indivisible, entangled, tangled, mixed up. **2** *an inextricable situation*: inescapable, unavoidable, ineluctable.

**infallible** adjective **1** *an infallible sense of timing*: unerring, unfailing, faultless, flawless, impeccable, perfect, precise, accurate, meticulous, scrupulous; Brit. informal spot on. **2** *infallible cures*: unfailing, guaranteed, dependable, trustworthy, reliable, sure, certain, safe, foolproof, effective; informal sure-fire; formal efficacious.

**infamous** adjective **1** *an infamous mass murderer*: notorious, disreputable; legendary, fabled. **2** *infamous misconduct*: abominable, outrageous, shocking, shameful, disgraceful, dishonourable, discreditable, unworthy; monstrous, atrocious, appalling, dreadful, terrible, heinous, egregious, detestable, loathsome, hateful, vile, unspeakable, unforgivable, iniquitous, scandalous; informal dirty, filthy, low-down; Brit. informal beastly.

– OPPOSITES reputable, honourable.

**infamy** noun **1** *these acts brought him infamy*: notoriety, disrepute, ill fame, disgrace, discredit, shame, dishonour, ignominy, scandal, censure, blame, disapprobation, condemnation. **2** *she was punished for her infamy*: wickedness, evil, vileness, iniquity, depravity, degeneracy, immorality; sin, wrongdoing, offence, abuse; formal turpitude.

**infancy** noun **1** *she died in infancy*: babyhood, early childhood. **2** *the infancy of broadcasting*: beginnings, early days, early stages; seeds, roots; start, commencement, launch, debut, rise, emergence, dawn, birth, inception.

– OPPOSITES end.

**infant** noun **a** *fretful infant*: baby, newborn, young child, (tiny) tot, little one; Medicine neonate; Scottish & N. English bairn, wean; informal tiny, sprog; literary babe.

• adjective *infant industries*: developing, emergent, emerging, embryonic, nascent, new, fledgling, budding, up-and-coming.

**infantile** adjective childish, babyish, immature, puerile, juvenile, adolescent; silly, inane, fatuous.

**infantry** noun *infantrymen*, foot soldiers, foot guards; the ranks; cannon fodder; US GIs; Brit. informal Tommies; Military slang infanters, grunts; US informal, dated dogfaces; historical footmen.

**infatuated** adjective *besotted*, in love, head over heels, obsessed, taken; enamoured of, attracted to, devoted to, captivated by, enchanted by, bewitched by, under the spell of; informal smitten with, sweet on, keen on, gone on, mad about, crazy about, stuck on, bowled over by, carrying a torch for.

**infatuation** noun passion, love, adoration, desire, feeling, devotion; obsession, fixation; fancy; informal crush, thing, hang-up, pash.

**infect** verb **1** *the ill can infect their partners*: pass infection to, spread disease to, contaminate. **2** *nitrates were infecting rivers*: contaminate, pollute, taint, foul, dirty, blight, damage, ruin; poison. **3** *his high spirits infected everyone*: affect, influence, impact on, touch; excite, inspire, stimulate, animate.

**infection** noun **1** *a kidney infection*: disease, virus; disorder, condition, affliction, complaint, illness, ailment, sickness, infirmity; informal bug; Brit. informal lurgy; dated contagion. **2** *the infection in his wounds*: contamination, poison; septicity, septicaemia, suppuration, inflammation; germs, bacteria; Medicine sepsis.

**infectious** adjective **1** *infectious disease*: contagious, communicable, transmittable, transmissible, transferable, spreadable; epidemic; informal catching; dated infective. **2** *infectious fluids*: contaminating, germ-laden, polluting; poisonous, toxic, noxious. **3** *her laughter is infectious*: irresistible, compelling, contagious, catching.

**infelicitous** adjective unfortunate, unsuitable, inappropriate, inapposite, inapt; untimely, inopportune; injudicious, imprudent, indiscreet, indelicate.

– OPPOSITES appropriate.

**infelicity** noun mistake, error, blunder, slip, lapse, solecism.

**infer** verb deduce, conclude, conjecture, surmise, reason; gather, understand, presume, assume, take it; read between the lines; N. Amer. figure; Brit. informal suss (out).

**inference** noun deduction, conclusion, reasoning, conjecture, speculation, presumption, assumption, supposition, reckoning, extrapolation; guesswork.

**inferior** adjective **1** *she regards him as inferior*: second-class, lower-ranking, subordinate, junior, minor, second-fiddle, lowly, humble, menial, beneath one. **2** *inferior accommodation*: second-rate, substandard, low-quality, low-grade, unsatisfactory, shoddy, deficient; poor, bad, awful, dreadful, wretched; Brit. downmarket; informal crummy, dire, rotten, lousy, third-rate; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, ropy, dodgy.

– OPPOSITES superior, luxury.

• noun *how dare she treat him as an inferior?* subordinate, junior, underling, minion.

**infernal** adjective **1** *the infernal regions*: hellish, lower, nether, subterranean, underworld, chthonic; Hadean, Tartarean. **2** (informal) *an infernal nuisance*: damnable, wretched; annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating; informal damned, damn, flaming, blasted, blessed, pesky, aggravating; Brit. informal blinking, blooming, flipping; Brit. informal, dated bally, ruddy.

**infertile** adjective **1** *infertile soil*: barren, unfruitful, unproductive, uncultivable; sterile, impoverished, arid. **2** *she was infertile*: sterile, barren; childless; technical infecund.

**infest** verb overrun, spread through, invade,

infiltrate, pervade, permeate, inundate, overwhelm; beset, plague.

**infested** adjective **overrun**, swarming, teeming, crawling, alive, ridden; plagued, beset.

**infidel** noun **unbeliever**, disbeliever, non-believer, agnostic, atheist; heathen, pagan, idolater, idolatress, heretic, freethinker, dissenter, nonconformist; old use paynim; rare nullifidian.

**infidelity** noun **unfaithfulness**, adultery, unchastity; faithlessness, disloyalty, treachery, double-dealing, duplicity, deceit; affair; informal playing around, fooling around, cheating, two-timing; formal fornication; dated cuckoldry.

**infiltrate** verb **1** *he infiltrated the smuggling operation: insinuate oneself into*, worm one's way into, sneak into, invade, intrude on, butt into; informal gatecrash, muscle in on. **2** *mineral solutions infiltrate the rocks: permeate*, penetrate, pervade, seep into/through, soak into, get into, enter.

**infiltrator** noun **spy**, (secret) agent, plant, intruder, interloper, subversive, informant, informer, mole, entrust, entryist; N. Amer. informal spook.

**infinite** adjective **1** *the universe is infinite: boundless*, unbounded, unlimited, limitless, never-ending, interminable; immeasurable, fathomless; extensive, vast. **2** *an infinite number of birds: countless*, uncountable, inestimable, innumerable, numberless, immeasurable, incalculable, untold; great, huge, enormous. **3** *she bathed him with infinite care: great*, immense, supreme, absolute, real; informal no end of.

– OPPOSITES limited, small.

**infinitesimal** adjective **minute**, tiny, minuscule, very small; microscopic, nanoscopic, imperceptible, indiscernible; Scottish wee; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy, tiddly; Brit. informal titchy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

– OPPOSITES huge.

**infinity** noun **1** *the infinity of space: endlessness*, infinitude, infiniteness, boundlessness, limitlessness; vastness, immensity. **2** *an infinity of different molecules: infinite number*; abundance, profusion, host, multitude, mass, wealth; informal heap, stack.

**infirm** adjective **1** *she cares for infirm people: frail*, weak, feeble, debilitated, decrepit, disabled; ill, unwell, sick, sickly, poorly, indisposed, ailing. **2** (old use) *he was infirm of purpose: weak*, uncertain, indefinite, indecisive, irresolute, unresolved, undecided; wavering, vacillating.

– OPPOSITES healthy, strong.

**infirmity** noun **1** *they were excused due to infirmity: frailty*, weakness, feebleness, delicacy, debility, decrepitude; disability, impairment; illness, sickness, indisposition, poor health. **2** *the infirmities of old age: ailment*, malady, illness, disease, disorder, sickness, affliction, complaint, indisposition.

**inflame** verb **1** *the play inflames anti-Semitism: incite*, arouse, rouse, provoke, stir up, whip up, kindle, ignite, touch off, foment, inspire, stimulate, agitate. **2** *he inflamed a sensitive situation: aggravate*, exacerbate, intensify, worsen, compound. **3** *his opinions inflamed his rival: enrage*, incense, anger, madden, infuriate, exasperate, provoke, antagonize, rile; informal make someone see red, make someone's blood boil.

– OPPOSITES calm, soothe, placate.

**inflamed** adjective **swollen**, puffed up; red, hot, burning, itchy; raw, sore, painful, tender; infected, septic.

**inflammable** adjective **flammable**, combustible, incendiary, ignitable; volatile, unstable.

– OPPOSITES fireproof.

**inflammation** noun **swelling**, puffiness; redness, heat, burning; rawness, soreness, tenderness; infection, festering, septicity.

**inflammatory** adjective **1** *an inflammatory lung condition: causing inflammation*; Medicine erythrogenic. **2** *inflammatory language: provocative*, incendiary, stirring, rousing, rabble-rousing, seditious, mutinous; like a red rag to a bull; fiery, passionate; controversial, contentious.

**inflate** verb **1** *the mattress inflated: blow up*, fill up, fill with air, aerate, puff up/out, pump up; dilate, distend, swell. **2** *the demand inflated prices: increase*, raise, boost, escalate, put up; informal hike up, jack up, bump up. **3** *the figures were inflated by the press: exaggerate*, magnify, overplay, overstate, enhance, embellish, touch up; increase, amplify, augment.

– OPPOSITES decrease, understate.

**inflated** adjective **1** *an inflated balloon: blown up*, aerated, filled, puffed up/out, pumped up; distended, expanded, engorged, swollen. **2** *inflated prices: high*, sky-high, excessive, unreasonable, prohibitive, outrageous, exorbitant, extortionate; Brit. over the odds; informal steep. **3** *an inflated opinion of himself: exaggerated*, magnified, aggrandized, immoderate, overblown, overstated. **4** *inflated language: high-flown*, extravagant, exaggerated, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overwrought, grandiloquent, magniloquent, lofty, grandiose; affected, pretentious; informal windy, highfalutin.

**inflection** noun **1** (Grammar) *verbal inflections: conjugation*, declension; form, ending, case. **2** *his voice was without inflection: stress*, cadence, rhythm, accentuation, intonation, emphasis, modulation, lilt.

**inflexible** adjective **1** *his inflexible attitude: stubborn*, obstinate, obdurate, intractable, intransigent, unbending, immovable, unaccommodating; hidebound, single-minded, pig-headed, mulish, uncompromising, adamant, firm, resolute, diehard, dyed-in-the-wool; formal refractory. **2** *inflexible rules: unalterable*, unchangeable, immutable, unvarying;



firm, fixed, set, established, entrenched, hard and fast; stringent, strict. **3** *an inflexible structure*: rigid, stiff, unyielding, unbending, unbendable; hard, firm, inelastic.

– OPPOSITES accommodating, pliable.

**infect** verb **1** *he infected an injury on Frank*: impose, exact, wreak; administer to, deal out to, mete out to, cause to, give to. **2** *I won't infect my pain on my children*: impose, force, thrust, foist; saddle someone with, burden someone with.

**infection** noun **1** *the infection of pain*: administration, delivery, application; imposition, perpetration; formal exaction. **2** (informal, dated) *they bore the infection with heroism*: affliction, trial, problem, nuisance, trouble, annoyance, bother, irritant; suffering, torment, tribulation.

**influence** noun **1** *the influence of parents on their children*: effect, impact; control, sway, hold, power, authority, mastery, domination, supremacy; guidance, direction; pressure. **2** *a bad influence on young girls*: example to, (role) model for, guide for, inspiration to. **3** *political influence*: power, authority, sway, leverage, weight, pull, standing, prestige, stature, rank; informal clout, muscle, teeth; N. Amer. informal drag.

• verb **1** *bosses can influence our careers*: affect, have an impact on, determine, guide, control, shape, govern, decide; change, alter, transform. **2** *an attempt to influence the jury*: sway, bias, prejudice, suborn; pressurize, coerce; dragoon, intimidate, browbeat, brainwash; informal twist someone's arm, lean on; Brit. informal noddle.

**influential** adjective **1** *an influential leader*: powerful, dominant, controlling, strong, authoritative; important, prominent, distinguished. **2** *he was influential in shaping her career*: instrumental, significant, important, crucial, pivotal.

**influx** noun **1** *an influx of tourists*: inundation, rush, stream, flood, incursion; invasion, intrusion. **2** *influxes of river water*: inflow, inrush, flood, inundation.

**inform** verb **1** *she informed him that she was ill*: tell, notify, apprise, advise, impart to, communicate to, let someone know; brief, prime, enlighten, send word to; informal fill in, clue in/up. **2** *he informed on two villains*: denounce, give away, betray, incriminate, inculcate, report; sell out, stab in the back; informal rat, squeal, split, tell, blow the whistle, sell down the river, snitch, peach, stitch up; Brit. informal grass, shop, sneak; Scottish informal clype; N. Amer. informal rat out, finger; Austral./NZ informal dob. **3** *the articles were informed by feminism*: suffuse, pervade, permeate, infuse, imbue; characterize, typify.

**informal** adjective **1** *an informal discussion*: unofficial, casual, relaxed, easy-going, unceremonious; open, friendly, intimate; simple, unpretentious, easy, homely, cosy; informal unstuffy, laid-back, chummy, pally, matey. **2** *an informal speech style*: colloquial,

vernacular, idiomatic, demotic, popular; familiar, everyday, unofficial; simple, natural, unpretentious; informal slangy, chatty, folksy. **3** *informal clothes*: casual, relaxed, comfortable, everyday, sloppy, leisure; informal comfy.

– OPPOSITES formal, official, literary, smart.

**informality** noun *lack of ceremony*, casualness, unceremoniousness, unpretentiousness; homeliness, cosiness; ease, naturalness, approachability.

**information** noun *details, particulars*, facts, figures, statistics, data; knowledge, intelligence; instruction, advice, guidance, direction, counsel, enlightenment; news; informal info, gen, the low-down, the dope, the inside story.

**informative** adjective *instructive*, instructional, illuminating, enlightening, revealing, explanatory; factual, educational, educative, edifying, didactic; informal newsy.

**informed** adjective *knowledgeable*, enlightened, literate, educated; sophisticated, cultured; briefed, up to date, up to speed, in the picture, in the know, au courant, au fait; informal clued-up, genned-up, plugged-in; Brit. informal switched-on, sussed.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**informer** noun *informant*, betrayer, traitor, Judas, collaborator, stool pigeon, fifth columnist, spy, double agent, infiltrator, plant; telltale, taleteller; N. Amer. tattletale; informal rat, squealer, whistle-blower, snake in the grass, snitch; Brit. informal grass, supergrass, nark, snout; Scottish informal clype; N. Amer. informal fink, stoolie.

**infraction** noun *infringement*, contravention, breach, violation, transgression; neglect, dereliction, non-compliance; Law delict, contumacy.

**infrequent** adjective *rare*, uncommon, unusual, exceptional, few (and far between), like gold dust, as scarce as hens' teeth; unaccustomed, unwonted; isolated, scarce, scattered; sporadic, irregular, intermittent; informal once in a blue moon; dated seldom.

– OPPOSITES common.

**infringe** verb **1** *the bid infringed EU rules*: contravene, violate, transgress, break, breach; disobey, defy, flout, fly in the face of; disregard, ignore, neglect; go beyond, overstep, exceed; Law infract. **2** *surveillance could infringe personal liberties*: undermine, erode, diminish, weaken, impair, damage, compromise; limit, curb, check, encroach on.

– OPPOSITES obey, preserve.

**infuriate** verb *enrage*, incense, anger, madden, inflame; exasperate, antagonize, provoke, rile, annoy, irritate, nettle, gall, irk, vex, pique, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience; N. Amer. rankle; informal aggravate, make someone see red, get someone's back up, make someone's blood boil, get up someone's nose, needle, hack off, brown off; Brit. informal wind up, get to, nark, cheese off; N. Amer. informal bug, tick off.

– OPPOSITES please.

**infuriating** adjective exasperating, maddening, annoying, irritating, irksome, vexatious, trying, tiresome; informal aggravating, pesky.

**infuse** verb **1** *she was infused with a sense of hope*: fill, suffuse, imbue, inspire, charge, pervade, permeate. **2** *he infused new life into the group*: instil, breathe, inject, impart, inculcate, introduce, add. **3** *infuse the dried leaves*: steep, brew, stew, soak, immerse, souse; Brit. informal mash.

**ingenious** adjective inventive, creative, imaginative, original, innovative, pioneering, resourceful, enterprising, inspired; clever, intelligent, smart, brilliant, masterly, talented, gifted, skilful; astute, sharp-witted, quick-witted, shrewd; elaborate, sophisticated.

**ingenuous** adjective naive, innocent, simple, childlike, trusting, trustful, over-trusting, unwary; unsuspicious, unworldly, wide-eyed, inexperienced, green; open, sincere, honest, frank, candid, forthright, artless, guileless, genuine.

– OPPOSITES artful.

**inglorious** adjective shameful, dishonourable, ignominious, discreditable, disgraceful, scandalous; humiliating, mortifying, demeaning, ignoble, undignified, wretched.

**ingrained, engrained** adjective **1** *ingrained attitudes*: entrenched, established, deep-rooted, deep-seated, fixed, firm, unshakeable, ineradicable; inveterate, dyed-in-the-wool, abiding, enduring, stubborn. **2** *ingrained dirt*: ground-in, fixed, implanted, embedded; permanent, indelible, ineradicable, inexpungible.

– OPPOSITES transient, superficial.

**ingratiate** verb

■ **ingratiate oneself** curry favour with, cultivate, win over, get in someone's good books; toady to, crawl to, grovel to, fawn over, kowtow to, play up to, pander to, flatter, court; informal suck up to, lick someone's boots.

**ingratiating** adjective sycophantic, toadying, fawning, unctuous, obsequious; flattering, insincere; smooth-tongued, silver-tongued, slick; greasy, oily, saccharine; informal smarmy, slimy, creepy, sucky.

**ingratitude** noun ungratefulness, unthankfulness, non-recognition.

**ingredient** noun constituent, component, element; part, piece, bit, strand, portion, unit, feature, aspect, attribute; (ingredients) contents, makings.

**ingress** noun **1** *the doors gave ingress to the station*: entry, entrance, access, admittance, admission; way in, approach. **2** *the ingress of water*: seepage, leakage, inundation, inrush, intrusion, incursion, entry, entrance.

– OPPOSITES exit.

**inhabit** verb live in, occupy; settle (in), people, populate, colonize; dwell in, reside in, tenant, lodge in, have one's home in; formal be domiciled in, abide in.

**inhabitable** adjective habitable, fit to live in, usable; informal liveable-in; formal tenantable.

**inhabitant** noun resident, occupant, occupier, dweller, settler; local, native; (inhabitants) population, populace, people, public, community, citizenry, townsfolk, townspeople; formal denizen; old use burgher, habitant.

**inhale** verb breathe in, inspire, draw in, suck in, sniff in, drink in; literary inbreathe.

**inharmonious** adjective **1** *inharmonious sounds*: unmelodious, unharmonious, unmusical, tuneless, discordant, dissonant, off-key; harsh, grating, jarring, cacophonous; old use absonant. **2** *an inharmonious modern building*: out of place, unsuitable, inappropriate, clashing, conflicting, incompatible, mismatched; jarring, discordant. **3** *his relationships are inharmonious*: antagonistic, quarrelsome, argumentative, disputatious, cantankerous, confrontational, belligerent.

– OPPOSITES musical, fitting, congenial.

**inherent** adjective intrinsic, innate, connate, connatural, immanent, built-in, inborn, ingrained, deep-rooted; essential, fundamental, basic, structural, organic; natural, instinctive, instinctual, congenital, native.

– OPPOSITES acquired.

**inherit** verb **1** *she inherited his farm*: become heir to, come into/by, be bequeathed, be left, be willed; Law be devised. **2** *Richard inherited the title*: succeed to, assume, take over, come into; formal accede to.

**inheritance** noun **1** *a comfortable inheritance*: legacy, bequest, endowment, bestowal, bequeathal, provision; birthright, heritage, patrimony; Law devise. **2** *his inheritance of the title*: succession to, accession to, assumption of, elevation to.

#### WORD LINKS

**hereditary** passed on by or relating to inheritance

**primogeniture** a system by which an eldest son inherits all his parents' property  
**entail** limit the inheritance of a property so that ownership remains within a family

**inheritor** noun heir, heirress, legatee; successor, next in line; Law devisee, grantee, cestui que trust; Scottish Law heritor.

**inhibit** verb **1** *the obstacles which inhibit change*: impede, hinder, hamper, hold back, discourage, interfere with, obstruct, slow down, retard; curb, check, suppress, restrict, fetter, cramp, frustrate, stifle, prevent, block, thwart, foil, stop, halt. **2** *she feels inhibited from taking part*: prevent, disallow, exclude, forbid, prohibit, preclude, ban, bar, interdict.

– OPPOSITES assist, encourage, allow.

**inhibited** adjective shy, reticent, reserved, self-conscious, diffident, bashful, coy; wary, reluctant, hesitant, insecure, unconfident, unassertive, timid; withdrawn, repressed, undemonstrative; informal uptight.

**inhibition** noun **1** *they overcame their inhibitions*: shyness, reticence, self-consciousness, reserve, diffidence; wariness, hesitance, hesitancy, insecurity; unassertiveness, timidity; repression, reservation; psychological block; informal hang-up. **2** *the inhibition of publishing*: hindrance, hampering, discouragement, obstruction, impediment, retardation; suppression, repression, restriction, restraint, constraint, cramping, stifling, prevention; curb, check, bar, barrier.

**inhospitable** adjective **1** *the inhospitable landscape*: uninviting, unwelcoming; bleak, forbidding, cheerless, hostile, harsh, inimical; uninhabitable, barren, bare, desolate, stark. **2** *forgive me if I seem inhospitable*: unwelcoming, unfriendly, unsociable, unsocial, antisocial, unneighbourly, uncongenial; cool, cold, frosty, distant, remote, aloof, indifferent, offhand; uncivil, discourteous, ungracious; ungenerous, unkind, unsympathetic; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES welcoming.

**inhuman** adjective **1** *inhuman treatment*: cruel, harsh, inhumane, brutal, callous, sadistic, severe, savage, vicious, barbaric; monstrous, heinous, egregious; merciless, ruthless, pitiless, remorseless, cold-blooded, heartless, hard-hearted; unkind, inconsiderate, unfeeling, uncaring; Brit. informal beastly; dated dastardly. **2** *hellish and inhuman shapes*: non-human, non-mortal, monstrous, devilish, ghostly; subhuman, animal; strange, odd, unearthly.

– OPPOSITES humane.

**inhumane** adjective. See **INHUMAN** sense 1.

**inhume** verb (literary) *bury*, inter, lay to rest, entomb; informal plant; literary sepulchre.

**inimical** adjective **1** *this is inimical to genuine democracy*: harmful, injurious, detrimental, deleterious, prejudicial, damaging, hurtful, destructive, ruinous; antagonistic, contrary, antipathetic, unfavourable, adverse, opposed, hostile; literary malefic. **2** *he fixed her with an inimical gaze*: hostile, unfriendly, antagonistic, unkind, unsympathetic, malevolent; unwelcoming, cold, frosty.

– OPPOSITES advantageous, friendly.

**inimitable** adjective *unique*, exclusive, distinctive, individual, special, idiosyncratic; incomparable, unparalleled, unrivalled, peerless, matchless, unequalled, unsurpassable, superlative, supreme, beyond compare, second to none, in a class of one's own; formal unexampled.

**iniquity** noun **1** *the iniquity of his conduct*: wickedness, sinfulness, immorality, impropriety; vice, evil, sin; villainy, criminality; odiousness, atrocity, egregiousness; outrage, monstrosity, obscenity, reprehensibility. **2** *I will forgive their iniquity*: sin, crime, transgression, wrongdoing, wrong, violation, offence, vice; atrocity, outrage.

– OPPOSITES goodness, virtue.

**initial** adjective *the initial stages*: beginning,

opening, commencing, starting, inceptive, embryonic, fledgling; first, early, primary, preliminary, elementary, foundational, preparatory; introductory, inaugural.

– OPPOSITES final.

• noun *what do the initials stand for?* **initial letter**; (initials) acronym, abbreviation, initialism.

• verb **1** *he initialled the warrant*: put one's initials on, sign, countersign, autograph, endorse, inscribe, witness. **2** *they initialled a new agreement*: ratify, accept, approve, authorize, validate, recognize.

**initially** adverb **at first**, at the start, at the outset, in/at the beginning, to begin with, to start with, originally.

**initiate** verb **1** *the government initiated the scheme*: begin, start (off), commence; institute, inaugurate, launch, instigate, establish, set up, sow the seeds of, start the ball rolling; originate, pioneer; informal kick off. **2** *he was initiated into a cult*: introduce, admit, induct, install, incorporate, enlist, enrol, recruit, sign up, swear in; ordain, invest. **3** *they were initiated into the world of maths*: teach about, instruct in, tutor in, school in, prime in, ground in; familiarize with, acquaint with; indoctrinate, inculcate; informal show someone the ropes.

– OPPOSITES finish, expel.

• noun *an initiate on the team*: novice, starter, beginner, newcomer; learner, student, pupil, trainee, apprentice; new boy, new girl, recruit, tyro, neophyte; postulant, novitiate; informal rookie, new kid (on the block), newbie, greenhorn.

**initiative** noun **1** *employers are looking for initiative*: enterprise, resourcefulness, inventiveness, imagination, ingenuity, originality, creativity; drive, dynamism, ambition, motivation, spirit, energy, vision; informal get-up-and-go, pep, punch. **2** *he has lost the initiative*: advantage, upper hand, edge, lead, whip hand, trump card. **3** *a recent initiative on recycling*: plan, scheme, strategy, stratagem, measure, proposal, step, action, approach.

**inject** verb **1** *he injected a dose of codeine*: administer, introduce; inoculate, vaccinate; informal shoot (up), mainline, fix (up). **2** *a pump injects air into the valve*: insert, introduce, feed, push, force, shoot. **3** *he injected new life into the team*: introduce, instil, infuse, imbue, breathe.

**injection** noun inoculation, vaccination, vaccine, immunization, booster; dose; informal jab, shot, hype.

**injudicious** adjective imprudent, unwise, inadvisable, ill-advised, misguided; ill-considered, ill-judged, incautious, hasty, rash, foolish, foolhardy, hare-brained; inappropriate, impolitic, inexperienced; informal dumb.

– OPPOSITES prudent.

**injunction** noun order, ruling, direction, directive, command, instruction; decree, edict, dictum, dictate, fiat, mandate.

**injure** verb **1** *he injured his foot*: hurt, wound,



damage, harm; cripple, lame, disable; maim, mutilate, deform, mangle, break; Brit. informal knacker; old use scathe. **2** *a libel injured her reputation*: damage, mar, spoil, ruin, blight, blemish, tarnish, blacken. **3** (old use) *I have injured no one by my folly*: wrong, do an injustice to, offend against, maltreat, mistreat, ill-use; informal do the dirty on.

**injured** adjective **1** *his injured arm*: hurt, wounded, damaged, sore, bruised; crippled, lame, game, disabled; maimed, mutilated, deformed, mangled, broken, fractured; Brit. informal gammy. **2** *the injured party*: wronged, offended, maltreated, mistreated, ill-used, harmed; defamed, maligned, insulted, dishonoured. **3** *an injured tone*: upset, hurt, wounded, offended, reproachful, pained, aggrieved, unhappy, put out.

– OPPOSITES healthy, offending.

**injurious** adjective harmful, damaging, deleterious, detrimental, hurtful; disadvantageous, unfavourable, undesirable, adverse, inimical, unhealthy, pernicious; literary malefic.

**injury** noun **1** *minor injuries*: wound, bruise, cut, gash, scratch, graze, abrasion, contusion, lesion; Medicine trauma. **2** *they escaped without injury*: harm, hurt, damage, pain, suffering, impairment, affliction, incapacity. **3** *the injury to her feelings*: offence, abuse; affront, insult, slight, snub; wrong, wrongdoing, injustice.

**injustice** noun **1** *the injustice of the world*: unfairness, unjustness, inequity; cruelty, tyranny, repression, exploitation, corruption; bias, prejudice, discrimination, intolerance. **2** *his sacking was an injustice*: wrong, offence, crime, sin, misdeed, outrage, atrocity, scandal, disgrace, affront.

**inkling** noun *idea*, notion, sense, impression, suggestion, indication, whisper, glimmer, (sneaking) suspicion, fancy, hunch; hint, clue, intimation, sign; informal the foggiest (idea), the faintest (idea).

**inky** adjective **1** *the inky darkness*: black, jet-black, pitch-black; sable, ebony, dark; literary Stygian. **2** *inky fingers*: ink-stained, stained, blotchy.

**inlaid** adjective inset, set, studded, lined, panelled; ornamented, decorated; mosaic, intarsia, marquetry.

**inland** adjective **1** *inland areas*: interior, inshore, central, internal, upcountry. **2** *inland trade*: domestic, internal, home, local.

– OPPOSITES coastal, international.

• *adverb the goods were carried inland*: upcountry, inshore, to the interior.

**inlet** noun **1** *cove*, bay, bight, creek, estuary, fjord, sound; Scottish firth. **2** *a fresh air inlet*: vent, flue, shaft, duct, channel, pipe, pipeline.

**inmate** noun **1** *the inmates of the hospital*: patient, inpatient; convalescent; resident, inhabitant, occupant. **2** *the prison's inmates*: prisoner, convict, captive, detainee, internee; informal jailbird, con; Brit. informal lag; N. Amer. informal yardbird.

**inmost** adjective. See INNERMOST.

**inn** noun *tavern*, bar, hostelry, taproom; hotel, guest house; Brit. pub, public house; Canadian beer parlour; informal watering hole; dated alehouse.

**innards** plural noun (informal) *entrails*, internal organs, viscera, intestines, bowels, guts; informal insides.

**innate** adjective *inborn*, inbred, congenital, inherent, natural, intrinsic, instinctive, intuitive, unlearned; hereditary, inherited, in the blood, in the family; inbuilt, deep-rooted, deep-seated, connate, connatural.

– OPPOSITES acquired.

**inner** adjective **1** *inner London*: central, innermost, mid, middle. **2** *the inner gates*: internal, interior, inside, inmost, innermost, intramural. **3** *the Queen's inner circle*: privileged, restricted, exclusive, private, confidential, intimate. **4** *the inner meaning*: hidden, secret, deep, underlying, unapparent; veiled, esoteric, unrevealed. **5** *one's inner life*: mental, intellectual, psychological, spiritual, emotional.

– OPPOSITES external, apparent.

**innermost** adjective **1** *the innermost shrine*: central, middle, internal, interior. **2** *her innermost feelings*: deepest, deep-seated, inward, underlying, intimate, private, personal, secret, hidden, concealed, unexpressed, unrevealed, unapparent; true, real, honest.

**innkeeper** noun *landlord*, landlady, hotelier, hotel owner, proprietor, manager, manageress; licensee, barman, barmaid; Brit. publican.

**innocence** noun **1** *he protested his innocence*: guiltlessness, blamelessness, irreproachability. **2** *the innocence of his bride*: virginity, chastity, chasteness, purity; integrity, morality, decency; dated honour; old use virtue. **3** *she took advantage of his innocence*: naivety, ingenuousness, credulity, inexperience, gullibility, simplicity, unworldliness, guilelessness, greenness.

**innocent** adjective **1** *he was entirely innocent*: guiltless, blameless, in the clear, unimpeachable, irreproachable, above suspicion, faultless; honourable, honest, upright, law-abiding; informal squeaky clean. **2** *innocent fun*: harmless, innocuous, safe, inoffensive. **3** *nice innocent girls*: virtuous, pure, moral, decent, righteous, upright, wholesome; demure, modest, chaste, virginal; impeccable, spotless, sinless, unsullied, incorrupt, undefiled; informal squeaky clean, whiter than white. **4** *she is innocent of guile*: free from, without, lacking (in), clear of, ignorant of, unaware of, untouched by; literary nescient of.

**5** *innocent foreigners*: naive, ingenuous, trusting, credulous, unsuspicious, unwary, unguarded; impressionable, gullible, easily led; inexperienced, unworldly, unsophisticated, green; simple, artless, guileless; informal wet behind the ears, born yesterday.

– OPPOSITES guilty, sinful, worldly.

• **noun** *an innocent in a strange land*: **ingénue**, unworldly person; child; novice; N. Amer. informal greenhorn; literary babe in arms.

**innocuous** adjective **1** *an innocuous fungus*: harmless, safe, non-toxic, innocent; edible, eatable. **2** *an innocuous comment*: inoffensive, unobjectionable, unexceptionable, harmless, mild, tame; anodyne, unremarkable, commonplace, run-of-the-mill.

– OPPOSITES harmful, offensive.

**innovation** noun change, alteration, revolution, upheaval, transformation, metamorphosis; reorganization, restructuring, rearrangement, remodelling; new measures, new methods, modernization, modernism; novelty, newness; informal a shake up, a shakedown.

**innovative** adjective original, innovative, innovational, new, novel, fresh, unusual, unprecedented, avant-garde, experimental, inventive, ingenious; advanced, modern, state-of-the-art, pioneering, groundbreaking, revolutionary, radical, newfangled.

**innovator** noun pioneer, trailblazer, pathfinder, groundbreaker; developer, modernizer, reformer, reformist, progressive; experimenter, inventor, creator.

**innuendo** noun insinuation, suggestion, intimation, implication, hint, overtone, undertone, allusion, reference; aspersion, slur.

**innumerable** adjective countless, numerous, untold, legion, without number, numberless, unnumbered, multitudinous, incalculable, limitless; informal umpteen, a slew of, no end of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, zillions of; N. Amer. informal gazillions of; literary myriad.

– OPPOSITES few.

**inoculate** verb immunize, vaccinate, inject; protect from, safeguard against; informal give someone a jab/shot.

**inoculation** noun immunization, vaccination, vaccine; injection, booster; informal jab, shot.

**inoffensive** adjective harmless, innocuous, unobjectionable, unexceptionable; non-violent, non-aggressive, mild, peaceful, peaceable, gentle; tame, innocent.

**inoperable** adjective **1** *an inoperable tumour*: untreatable, incurable, irremediable; malignant; terminal, fatal, deadly, lethal; old use immedicable. **2** *the airfield was left inoperable*: unusable, out of action, out of service, non-active. **3** *the agreement is now inoperable*: impractical, unworkable, unfeasible, unrealistic, non-viable, impracticable, unsuitable.

– OPPOSITES curable, workable.

**inoperative** adjective **1** *the fan is inoperative*: out of order, out of service, broken, out of commission, unserviceable, faulty, defective; down; informal bust, kaput, on the blink, acting up, shot; Brit. informal

knackered. **2** *the contract is inoperative*: void, null and void, invalid, ineffective, non-viable; cancelled, revoked, terminated; worthless, valueless, unproductive, abortive.

– OPPOSITES working, valid.

**inopportune** adjective inconvenient, unsuitable, inappropriate, unfavourable, unfortunate, infelicitous, inexpedient; untimely, ill-timed, unseasonable; awkward, difficult.

– OPPOSITES convenient.

**inordinate** adjective excessive, undue, unreasonable, unjustifiable, unwarrantable, disproportionate, unwarranted, unnecessary, needless, uncalled for, exorbitant, extreme; immoderate, extravagant; informal over the top, OTT.

– OPPOSITES moderate.

**inorganic** adjective inanimate, inert; lifeless, dead, defunct, extinct; mineral.

**input** noun *an error resulted from invalid input*: data, details, information, material; figures, statistics, particulars, specifics; informal info.

• **verb** *she input data into the file*: feed in, put in, load, insert; key in, type in; code, store.

**inquest** noun inquiry, investigation, inquisition, probe, examination, review, analysis; hearing.

**inquire** verb. See **ENQUIRE**.

**inquiring** adjective. See **ENQUIRING**.

**inquiry** noun. See **ENQUIRY**.

**inquisition** noun interrogation, questioning, quizzing, cross-examination; investigation, inquiry, inquest; informal grilling; Law examination.

**inquisitive** adjective curious, interested, intrigued, agog; prying, spying, eavesdropping, intrusive, busybody, meddlesome; inquiring, questioning, probing; informal nosy, nosy-parker, snoopy.

– OPPOSITES uninterested.

**insalubrious** adjective seedy, unsavoury, sordid, seamy, sleazy, unpleasant, dismal, wretched; slummy, squalid, shabby, ramshackle, tumbledown, dilapidated, neglected, crumbling, decaying; informal scruffy, scuzzy, crummy; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal shabby.

– OPPOSITES smart.

**insane** adjective **1** *she was declared insane*: mentally ill, mentally disordered, of unsound mind, certifiable; psychotic, schizophrenic; mad, deranged, demented, out of one's mind, non compos mentis, sick in the head, unhinged, unbalanced, unstable, disturbed, crazed; informal crazy, (stark) raving mad, not all there, bonkers, cracked, batty, cuckoo, loony, loopy, nuts, screws, bananas, wacko, off one's rocker, off one's head, round the bend; Brit. informal crackers, barmy, barking (mad), off one's trolley, round the twist, not the full shilling; N. Amer. informal buggy, nutso, out of one's tree; Austral./NZ informal bushed. **2** *an insane suggestion*: foolish, idiotic,

stupid, silly, senseless, nonsensical, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous, fatuous, inane, asinine, hare-brained, half-baked; impracticable, implausible, irrational, illogical; informal crazy, mad, cockeyed; Brit. informal daft, barmy.

– OPPOSITES sane, sensible.

**insanitary** adjective **unhygienic**, unsanitary, unhealthy, insalubrious, dirty, filthy, unclean, impure, contaminated, polluted, foul; infected, infested, germ-ridden; informal germy.

– OPPOSITES hygienic.

**insanity** noun **1** *insanity runs in her family: mental illness, madness, dementia; lunacy, instability; mania, psychosis; informal craziness.* **2** *it would be insanity to take this loan: folly, foolishness, madness, idiocy, stupidity, lunacy, silliness; informal craziness.*

**insatiable** adjective **unquenchable**, unappeasable, uncontrollable; voracious, gluttonous, greedy, hungry, ravenous, wolfish; avid, eager, keen; informal piggy; literary insatiate.

**inscribe** verb **1** *his name was inscribed above the door: carve, write, engrave, etch, cut; imprint, stamp, impress, mark.* **2** *a book inscribed to him by the author: dedicate, address, name, sign.*

**inscription** noun **1** *the inscription on the sarcophagus: engraving, etching; wording, writing, lettering, legend, epitaph, epigraph.* **2** *the book had an inscription: dedication, message; signature, autograph.*

**inscrutable** adjective **1** *her inscrutable face: enigmatic, unreadable, mysterious; unexpressive, inexpressive, emotionless, unemotional, expressionless, impassive, blank, vacant, deadpan, poker-faced, dispassionate.* **2** *God's ways are inscrutable: mysterious, inexplicable, unexplainable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, unfathomable, opaque, abstruse, arcane, obscure, cryptic.*

– OPPOSITES expressive, transparent.

**insect** noun bug; informal creepy-crawly, beastie; S. African informal gogga.

#### WORD LINKS

**entomology** the study of insects

**insecure** adjective **1** *an insecure young man: unconfident, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, hesitant, self-conscious, unassertive, diffident, unforthcoming, shy, timid, retiring, timorous, inhibited, introverted; anxious, fearful, worried; informal mousy.* **2** *insecure windows: unguarded, unprotected, vulnerable, defenceless, unshielded, exposed, assailable, pregnable; unlocked, unsecured.* **3** *an insecure footbridge: unstable, rickety, rocky, wobbly, shaky, unsteady, precarious; weak, flimsy, unsound, unsafe; informal jerry-built; Brit. informal dicky, dodgy.*

– OPPOSITES confident, stable, secure.

**insecurity** noun **1** *he hid his insecurity: lack of confidence, self-doubt, diffidence, unassertiveness, timidity, uncertainty,*

*nervousness, inhibition; anxiety, worry, unease.* **2** *the insecurity of our situation: vulnerability, defencelessness, peril, danger; instability, fragility, frailty, shakiness, unreliability.*

**insensate** adjective. See **INSENSIBLE** sense 1.

**insensible** adjective **1** *she was insensible on the floor: unconscious, insensate, senseless, insentient, inert, comatose, knocked out, passed out, blacked out; stunned, numb, numbed; informal out (cold), out for the count, out of it, zonked (out), dead to the world; Brit. informal spark out.* **2** *he was insensible to the risks: unaware of, ignorant of, unconscious of, unmindful of, oblivious to; indifferent to, impervious to, deaf to, blind to, unaffected by; informal in the dark about.* **3** *he scared even the most insensible person: insensitive, dispassionate, cool, emotionless, unfeeling, unconcerned, detached, indifferent, hardened, tough; informal hard-boiled.*

– OPPOSITES conscious, aware, sensitive.

**insensitive** adjective **1** *an insensitive bully: heartless, unfeeling, inconsiderate, thoughtless, thick-skinned; hard-hearted, cold-blooded, uncaring, unconcerned, unsympathetic, unkind, callous, cruel, merciless, pitiless.* **2** *he was insensitive to her feelings: impervious to, oblivious to, unaware of, unresponsive to, indifferent to, unaffected by, unmoved by, untouched by; informal in the dark about.*

– OPPOSITES compassionate.

**insentient** adjective **inanimate**, lifeless, inorganic, inert; insensate, unconscious, comatose, anaesthetized, desensitized, numb; informal dead to the world, out (cold).

**inseparable** adjective **1** *inseparable friends: devoted, bosom, close, fast, firm, good, best, intimate, boon, faithful; informal as thick as thieves.* **2** *the laws are inseparable: indivisible, indissoluble, inextricable, entangled; (one and) the same.*

**insert** verb **1** *he inserted a tape in the machine: put, place, push, thrust, slide, slip, load, fit, slot, lodge, install; informal pop, stick, bung.* **2** *she inserted a clause: enter, introduce, incorporate, interpolate, interpose, interject.*

– OPPOSITES extract, remove.

• noun *the newspaper carried an insert: enclosure, insertion, inlay, supplement; circular, advertisement, pamphlet, leaflet; informal ad.*

**inside** noun **1** *the inside of a volcano: interior, inner part; centre, core, middle, heart.* **2** (informal) *my insides are out of order: stomach, gut, bowels, intestines; informal belly, tummy, guts.*

– OPPOSITES exterior.

• adjective **1** *his inside pocket: inner, interior, internal, innermost.* **2** *inside information: confidential, classified, restricted, privileged, private, secret, exclusive; informal hush-hush.*

– OPPOSITES outer, public.

• adverb **1** *she ushered me inside: indoors,*



within, in. **2** *how do you feel inside?*  
**inwardly**, within, secretly, privately, deep down, at heart, emotionally, intuitively, instinctively. **3** (informal) *if I burgle again I'll be back inside*: **in prison**, in jail, in custody; locked up, imprisoned, incarcerated; informal behind bars, doing time; Brit. informal banged up.

– OPPOSITES outside.

**insider** noun **member**, worker, employee, representative; person in the know.

**insidious** adjective **stealthy**, subtle, surreptitious, cunning, crafty, artful, sly, wily, underhand, backhanded, indirect; informal sneaky.

**insight** noun **1** *your insight has been invaluable*: **intuition**, discernment, perception, awareness, understanding, comprehension, apprehension, appreciation, penetration, acumen, perspicacity, judgement, acuity; vision, prescience, imagination; informal nous, savvy. **2** *an insight into the government*: **understanding** of, appreciation of, revelation about; introduction to; informal eye-opener.

**insignia** noun **badge**, crest, emblem, symbol, sign, device, mark, seal, colours.

**insignificant** adjective **unimportant**, trivial, trifling, negligible, inconsequential, of no account, inconsiderable; nugatory, paltry, petty, insubstantial, frivolous, pointless, worthless, irrelevant, immaterial, peripheral; informal piddling.

**insincere** adjective **false**, fake, hollow, artificial, feigned, pretended, put-on; disingenuous, hypocritical, cynical, deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous, double-dealing, two-faced, lying, untruthful, mendacious; informal phoney, pretend, pseud.

**insinuate** verb **1** *he insinuated that she lied*: **imply**, suggest, hint, intimate, indicate, let it be known, give someone to understand; informal make out, tip someone the wink. **2** *he insinuated his hand under hers*: **slide**, slip, manoeuvre, insert, edge.

■ **insinuate oneself into** worm one's way into, ingratiate oneself with, curry favour with; foist oneself on, introduce oneself into; infiltrate, invade, sneak into, intrude on, impinge on; informal muscle in on.

**insinuation** noun **implication**, inference, suggestion, hint, intimation, innuendo, reference, allusion, indication, undertone, overtone; aspersion, slur, allegation.

**insipid** adjective **1** *insipid coffee*: **tasteless**, flavourless, savourless, bland, weak, wishy-washy; unappetizing, unpalatable.

**2** *insipid pictures*: **unimaginative**, uninspired, uninspiring, characterless, flat, uninteresting, lacklustre, dull, boring, dry (as dust), jejune, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, pedestrian, trite, tired, hackneyed, stale, lame, tame, poor, inadequate, sterile, anaemic.

– OPPOSITES tasty, interesting.

**insist** verb **1** *be prepared to insist*: **stand firm**, stand one's ground, be resolute, be determined, hold out, be emphatic, not take

no for an answer; persevere, persist; informal stick to one's guns. **2** *she insisted that they pay up*: **demand**, command, require, dictate; urge, exhort. **3** *he insisted that he knew nothing*: **maintain**, assert, hold, contend, argue, protest, claim, vow, swear, declare, stress, repeat, reiterate; formal aver.

**insistence** noun **1** *she sat down at Anne's insistence*: **demand**, bidding, command, dictate, instruction, requirement, request, entreaty, exhortation; informal say-so; literary behest. **2** *his insistence that he loved her*: **assertion**, declaration, contention, claim, pronouncement, assurance, affirmation, avowal, profession.

**insistent** adjective **1** *Tony's insistent questioning*: **persistent**, determined, adamant, importunate, tenacious, unyielding, dogged, unrelenting, inexorable; demanding, pushy, urgent; emphatic, firm, assertive. **2** *an insistent buzzing*: **incessant**, constant, unremitting, repetitive; obtrusive, intrusive.

**insobriety** noun **drunkenness**, intoxication, inebriation, tipsiness; informal tightness; literary crapulence.

**insolent** adjective **impertinent**, impudent, cheeky, ill-mannered, bad mannered, unmannerly, rude, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, disrespectful, insubordinate, contemptuous; audacious, bold, cocky, brazen; insulting, abusive; informal fresh, flip, lippy, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use contumelious, malapert.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**insoluble** adjective **1** *some problems are insoluble*: **unsolvable**, unanswerable, unresolvable; unfathomable, impenetrable, unexplainable, inscrutable, inexplicable. **2** *these minerals are insoluble*: **indissoluble**.

**insolvency** noun **bankruptcy**, liquidation, failure, collapse, (financial) ruin; pennilessness, penury; Brit. receivership.

**insolvent** adjective **bankrupt**, ruined, liquidated, wiped out; penniless, impoverished, impecunious; Brit. in receivership, without a penny (to one's name); informal bust, (flat) broke, belly-up, gone to the wall, on the rocks, in the red, hard up, strapped for cash; Brit. informal skint, in Queer Street, stony broke, cleaned out; formal penurious.

**insomnia** noun **sleeplessness**, wakefulness, restlessness; old use watchfulness.

**insouciance** noun **nonchalance**, unconcern, indifference, heedlessness, calm, equanimity, composure, ease, airiness; informal cool.

– OPPOSITES anxiety.

**insouciant** adjective **nonchalant**, untroubled, unworried, unruffled, unconcerned, indifferent, blasé, heedless; relaxed, calm, equable, equanimous, serene, composed, easy, carefree, free and easy, happy-go-lucky, light-hearted; informal cool, laid-back.

**inspect** verb **examine**, check, scrutinize,

investigate, vet, test, monitor, survey, study, look over, scan, explore, probe; assess, appraise, review; informal check out, give something a/the once-over.

**inspection** noun **examination**, check-up, survey, scrutiny, probe, exploration, observation, investigation; assessment, appraisal, review, evaluation; informal once-over, going-over, look-see, overhaul.

**inspector** noun **examiner**, checker, scrutinizer, scrutineer, investigator, surveyor, assessor, appraiser, reviewer, analyst; observer, overseer, supervisor, monitor, watchdog, ombudsman; auditor.

**inspiration** noun **1** *she's a real inspiration to others*: stimulus, stimulation, motivation, fillip, encouragement, influence, muse, spur, lift, boost, incentive, impulse, catalyst; example, model. **2** *his work lacks inspiration*: creativity, inventiveness, innovation, ingenuity, imagination, originality; artistry, insight, vision; finesse, flair. **3** *she had a sudden inspiration*: bright idea, revelation; informal brainwave; N. Amer. informal brainstorm. **4** *inspiration pains her*: inhalation, breathing in; respiration.

**inspire** verb **1** *the landscape inspired him to write*: stimulate, motivate, encourage, influence, rouse, move, stir, energize, galvanize, incite; animate, fire, inspirit, incentivize. **2** *the film inspired a musical*: give rise to, lead to, bring about, cause, prompt, spawn, engender; literary beget. **3** *Charles inspired awe in her*: arouse, awaken, prompt, induce, ignite, trigger, kindle, produce, bring out; literary enkindle.

**inspired** adjective **outstanding**, wonderful, marvellous, excellent, magnificent, fine, exceptional, first-class, first-rate, virtuoso, supreme, superlative; innovative, innovatory, innovational, ingenious, original; informal tremendous, superb, super, ace, wicked, awesome, out of this world; Brit. informal brilliant, brill.

– OPPOSITES poor.

**inspiring** adjective **inspirational**, encouraging, heartening, uplifting, life-affirming, stirring, rousing, stimulating, electrifying; moving, affecting, influential.

**instability** noun **1** *the instability of political life*: unreliability, uncertainty, unpredictability, insecurity, perilousness, riskiness; impermanence, inconstancy, changeability, variability, fluctuation, mutability. **2** *emotional instability*: volatility, unpredictability, variability, capriciousness, vacillation; frailty; infirmity, weakness, irregularity. **3** *the instability of the foundations*: unsteadiness, unsoundness, shakiness, frailty, fragility.

– OPPOSITES steadiness.

**install** verb **1** *a photocopier was installed in the office*: put, position, place, locate, situate, station, site, lodge; insert. **2** *they installed a new president*: swear in, induct, instate, inaugurate, invest; appoint, take on; ordain, consecrate, anoint; enthrone, crown. **3** *she installed herself behind the table*: ensconce,

establish, position, settle, seat, lodge, plant; sit (down); informal plonk, park; Brit. informal take a pew.

– OPPOSITES remove.

**installation** noun **1** *the installation of radiators*: installing, fitting, putting in; insertion. **2** *the installation of the chancellor*: swearing in, induction, instatement, inauguration, investiture; ordination, consecration; enthronement, coronation. **3** *a new computer installation*: unit, appliance, fixture; equipment, machinery. **4** *an army installation*: base, camp, post, depot, centre, facility; premises.

**instalment** noun **1** *I pay by monthly instalments*: part payment; deferred payment; Brit. hire purchase, HP; Brit. informal the never-never. **2** *a story published in instalments*: part, portion, section, segment, bit; chapter, episode, volume, issue.

**instance** noun **1** *an instance of racism*: example, exemplar, occasion, occurrence, case; illustration. **2** (formal) *proceedings began at the instance of the director*: instigation, prompting, suggestion; request, entreaty, demand, insistence; wish, desire.

• verb as an example *I would instance Jones's work*: cite, quote, refer to, mention, allude to, give; specify, name, identify, draw attention to, put forward, offer, advance.

■ **in the first instance** initially, at first, at the start, at the outset, in/at the beginning, to begin with, to start with, originally.

**instant** adjective **1** *instant access to your money*: immediate, instantaneous, on-the-spot, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, express, lightning; sudden, precipitate, abrupt; informal snappy, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick). **2** *instant meals*: pre-prepared, pre-cooked, ready mixed, fast; microwaveable, convenience, TV.

– OPPOSITES delayed.

• noun **1** *come here this instant!* moment, time, minute, second; juncture, point. **2** *it all happened in an instant*: trice, moment, minute, (split) second, the twinkling of an eye, flash, no time (at all); informal sec, jiffy, the blink of an eye; Brit. informal mo; N. Amer. informal snap.

**instantaneous** adjective immediate, instant, on-the-spot, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, express, lightning; sudden, hurried, precipitate; informal snappy, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick).

– OPPOSITES delayed.

**instantly** adverb immediately, at once, straight away, right away, instantaneously; suddenly, abruptly, all of a sudden; forthwith, there and then, here and now, this/that minute, this/that instant; quickly, rapidly, speedily, promptly; in an instant, in a moment, in a (split) second, in a trice, in/like a flash, like a shot, in the twinkling of an eye, in no time (at all), before you know it; informal in a jiffy, pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson, double quick, like (greased) lightning; old use instanter.

**instead** adverb *travel by train instead*: as an

**alternative**, in lieu, alternatively; rather, by contrast, for preference, by/from choice; on second thoughts, all things being equal, ideally; N. Amer. alternately.

■ **instead of** as an alternative to, as a substitute for, as a replacement for, in place of, in lieu of, in preference to; rather than, as opposed to, as against, as contrasted with, before.

**instigate** verb **1** *they instigated formal proceedings: set in motion*, get under way, get off the ground, start, commence, begin, initiate, launch, institute, set up, inaugurate, establish, organize; actuate, generate, bring about; start the ball rolling; informal kick off. **2** *he instigated men to refuse allegiance: incite*, encourage, urge, goad, provoke, spur on, push, press, prompt, induce, prevail on, motivate, influence, persuade, sway; informal put up to.  
– OPPOSITES halt, dissuade.

**instigation** noun **1** *they became involved at his instigation: prompting*, suggestion; request, entreaty, demand, insistence; wish, desire, persuasion; formal instance. **2** *foreign instigation of the disorder: initiation*, incitement, provocation, fomentation, encouragement, inducement, inception.

**instigator** noun **instigator**, prime mover, motivator, architect, designer, planner, inventor, mastermind, originator, author, creator, agent; founder, pioneer, founding father; agitator, fomenter, troublemaker, ringleader.

**instil** verb **1** *we instil vigilance in our children: inculcate*, implant, ingrain, impress, imprint, introduce; engender, produce, generate, induce, inspire, promote, foster; drum into. **2** *he instilled Monet with a love of nature: imbue*, inspire, infuse, inculcate; indoctrinate; teach. **3** *she instilled the eye drops: administer*, introduce, infuse, inject.

**instinct** noun **1** *some instinct told me to be careful: natural tendency*, inherent tendency, inclination, urge, drive, compulsion, need; intuition, feeling, sixth sense, insight; nose. **2** *a good instinct for acting: talent*, gift, ability, aptitude, skill, flair, feel, genius, knack, bent.

**instinctive** adjective **instinctive**, natural, instinctual, innate, inborn, inherent; unconscious, subconscious, intuitional; automatic, reflex, knee-jerk, mechanical, spontaneous, involuntary, impulsive; informal gut.

– OPPOSITES learned, voluntary.

**institute** noun *a research institute: organization*, establishment, institution, foundation, centre; academy, school, college, university; society, association, federation, body, guild.

• verb **1** *we instituted a search: initiate*, set in motion, get under way, get off the ground, start, commence, begin, launch; set up, inaugurate, found, establish, organize, generate, bring about; start the ball rolling; informal kick off. **2** *he will be*

*instituted as vicar: install*, instate, induct, invest, inaugurate, swear in, initiate; ordain, consecrate, anoint; appoint, create.

– OPPOSITES end, dismiss.

**institution** noun **1** *an academic institution: establishment*, organization, institute, foundation, centre; academy, school, college, university; society, association, body, guild, consortium. **2** *they spent their lives in institutions: (residential) home*, hospital, asylum. **3** *the institution of the rector: installation*, instatement, induction, investiture, inauguration; ordination, consecration, anointing, appointment, creation. **4** *the institution of adoption: practice*, custom, convention, tradition; phenomenon, fact; procedure, usage, method, system, policy; idea, notion, concept. **5** *the institution of legal proceedings: initiation*, instigation, launch, start, commencement, beginning, inauguration, generation, origination.

**institutional** adjective **1** *an institutional framework for discussions: organized*, established, bureaucratic, conventional, procedural, prescribed, set, routine, formal, systematic, systematized, methodical, businesslike, orderly, coherent, structured, regulated. **2** *the rooms are rather institutional: impersonal*, formal, regimented, uniform, unvaried, monotonous; insipid, bland, uninteresting, dull; unappealing, uninviting, unattractive, unwelcoming, dreary, drab, colourless; stark, spartan, bare, clinical, sterile.

**instruct** verb **1** *the union instructed them to strike: order*, direct, command, tell, enjoin, require, call on, mandate, charge; literary bid. **2** *nobody instructed him in how to operate it: teach*, school, coach, train, enlighten, inform, educate, tutor, guide, prepare, prime. **3** *she instructed a solicitor of her own choice: employ*, authorize, brief. **4** *the bank was instructed that money would be withdrawn: inform*, tell, notify, apprise, advise, brief, prime; informal put in the picture, fill in.

**instruction** noun **1** *do not disobey my instructions: order*, command, directive, direction, decree, edict, injunction, mandate, dictate, commandment, bidding; requirement, stipulation; informal say-so; literary behest. **2** *read the instructions: directions*, key, specification; handbook, manual, guide. **3** *he gave instruction in demolition work: tuition*, teaching, coaching, schooling, tutelage; lessons, classes, lectures; training, drill, preparation, grounding, guidance.

**instructive** adjective **informative**, instructional, informational, illuminating, enlightening, explanatory; educational, educative, edifying, didactic, pedagogic, heuristic; improving, moralistic, homiletic; useful, helpful.

**instructor** noun **trainer**, coach, teacher, tutor; adviser, counsellor, guide; educator; formal pedagogue.



**instrument** noun **1** *a wound made with a sharp instrument: implement, tool, utensil; device, apparatus, contrivance, gadget.* **2** *check all the cockpit instruments: measuring device, gauge, meter; indicator, dial, display.* **3** *an instrument of learning: agent, agency, cause, channel, medium, means, mechanism, vehicle, organ.* **4** *a mere instrument acting under coercion: pawn, puppet, creature, dupe, cog; tool, cat's paw; informal stooge.*

**instrumental** adjective involved, active, influential, contributory; helpful, useful, of service; significant, important; (**be instrumental in**) play a part in, contribute to, be a factor in, have a hand in; add to, help, promote, advance, further; be conducive to, make for, lead to, cause.

**insubordinate** adjective disobedient, unruly, wayward, errant, badly behaved, disorderly, undisciplined, delinquent, troublesome, rebellious, defiant, recalcitrant, uncooperative, wilful, intractable, unmanageable, uncontrollable; awkward, difficult, perverse, contrary; Brit. informal bolshie.

– OPPOSITES obedient.

**insubordination** noun disobedience, unruliness, indiscipline, bad behaviour, misbehaviour, misconduct, delinquency; rebellion, defiance, mutiny, revolt; recalcitrance, wilfulness, awkwardness, perversity; informal acting-up; Law contumacy.

**insubstantial** adjective **1** *an insubstantial structure: flimsy, slight, fragile, breakable, weak, frail, unstable, shaky, wobbly, rickety, ramshackle, jerry-built.* **2** *insubstantial evidence: weak, flimsy, feeble, poor, inadequate, insufficient, tenuous, insignificant, inconsequential, unsubstantial, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory, paltry.* **3** *the light made her seem insubstantial: intangible, impalpable, untouchable, discarnate, unsubstantial, incorporeal; imaginary, unreal, illusory, spectral, ghostlike, vaporous; Philosophy immaterial.*

– OPPOSITES sturdy, sound, tangible.

**insufferable** adjective **1** *the heat was insufferable: intolerable, unbearable, unendurable, insupportable, unacceptable, oppressive, overwhelming, overpowering; more than flesh and blood can stand; informal too much.* **2** *his win made him insufferable: conceited, arrogant, boastful, cocky, cocksure, full of oneself, self-important, swollen-headed, swaggering; vain, self-satisfied, self-congratulatory, smug; informal big-headed, too big for one's boots; literary vainglorious.*

– OPPOSITES bearable, modest.

**insufficient** adjective inadequate, deficient, poor, scant, scanty; not enough, too little, too few, too small; scarce, sparse, in short supply, lacking, wanting; paltry, meagre, niggardly; incomplete, restricted, limited; informal measly, pathetic, piddling.

**insular** adjective **1** *insular people: narrow-*

*minded, small-minded, blinkered, inward-looking, parochial, provincial, small-town, short-sighted, hidebound, set in one's ways, inflexible, rigid, entrenched; illiberal, intolerant, prejudiced, bigoted, biased, partisan, xenophobic; Brit. blimpish.* **2** *an insular existence: isolated, inaccessible, cut off, segregated, detached, solitary, lonely.*

– OPPOSITES broad-minded, cosmopolitan.

**insulate** verb **1** *pipes must be insulated: wrap, sheathe, cover, encase, enclose, envelop; lag, heatproof, soundproof; pad, cushion.* **2** *they were insulated from the impact of the war: protect, save, shield, shelter, screen, cushion, cocoon; isolate, segregate, sequester, detach, cut off.*

**insulation** noun **1** *a layer of insulation: lagging; blanket, jacket, wrap.* **2** *insulation from the rigours of city life: protection, defence, shelter, screen, shield; isolation, segregation, separation, sequestration, detachment.*

**insult** verb *he insulted my wife: abuse, be rude to, call someone names, slight, disparage, discredit, libel, slander, malign, defame, denigrate, cast aspersions on; offend, affront, hurt, humiliate, wound; informal bad-mouth; Brit. informal slag off; formal derogate, calumniate; rare asperse.*

– OPPOSITES compliment.

• noun *he hurled insults at us: abusive remark, jibe, affront, slight, barb, slur, indignity, injury, libel, slander, defamation; abuse, disparagement, aspersions; informal dig, put-down, slap in the face, kick in the teeth.*

**insulting** adjective abusive, rude, offensive, disparaging, belittling, derogatory, deprecatory, disrespectful, denigratory, uncomplimentary, pejorative; disdainful, derisive, scornful, contemptuous; defamatory, slanderous, libellous, scurrilous, blasphemous; informal bitchy, catty.

**insuperable** adjective insurmountable, invincible, unassailable; overwhelming, hopeless, impossible.

**insupportable** adjective **1** *this view is insupportable: unjustifiable, indefensible, inexcusable, unwarrantable, unreasonable; baseless, groundless, unfounded, unsupported, unsubstantiated, unconfirmed, uncorroborated, invalid, untenable, implausible, weak, flawed, specious, defective.* **2** *the heat was insupportable: intolerable, insufferable, unbearable, unendurable; oppressive, overwhelming, overpowering, more than flesh and blood can stand; informal too much.*

– OPPOSITES justified, bearable.

**insurance** noun **1** *insurance for his new car: indemnity, indemnification, assurance, (financial) protection, security, cover.* **2** *insurance against a third World War: protection, defence, safeguard, security, precaution, provision; immunity; guarantee, warranty; informal backstop.*

**insure** verb provide insurance for,

indemnify, cover, assure, protect, underwrite; guarantee, warrant.

**insurgent** adjective *insurgent forces*: rebellious, rebel, revolutionary, mutinous, insurrectionist; renegade, seditious, subversive.

– OPPOSITES loyal.

• **noun** *the troops are fighting insurgents*:

rebel, revolutionary, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, agitator, subversive, renegade; guerrilla, freedom fighter, anarchist, terrorist.

– OPPOSITES loyalist.

**insurmountable** adjective *insuperable*, unconquerable, invincible, unassailable; overwhelming, hopeless, impossible.

**insurrection** noun *rebellion*, revolt, uprising, mutiny, revolution, insurgence, riot, sedition; civil disorder, unrest, anarchy; coup (d'état).

**intact** adjective *whole*, entire, complete, unbroken, undamaged, unimpaired, faultless, flawless, unscathed, untouched, unspoiled, unblemished, unmarked, perfect, pristine, inviolate, undefiled, unsullied, in one piece; sound, solid.

– OPPOSITES damaged.

**intangible** adjective **1** *the moonlight made things seem intangible*: **impalpable**, untouchable, incorporeal, discarnate, abstract; ethereal, insubstantial, airy; ghostly, spectral, unearthly, supernatural; Philosophy immaterial. **2** *an intangible atmosphere*: **indefinable**, indescribable, inexpressible, nameless; vague, obscure, unclear, indefinite, subtle, elusive, fugitive.

**integral** adjective **1** *an integral part of human behaviour*: **essential**, fundamental, basic, intrinsic, inherent, constitutive, innate, structural; vital, necessary, requisite. **2** *the dryer has integral cord storage*: **built-in**, inbuilt, integrated, incorporated, fitted. **3** *an integral approach to learning*: **unified**, integrated, comprehensive, composite, combined, aggregate; complete, whole.

– OPPOSITES peripheral, fragmented.

**integrate** verb *combine*, amalgamate, merge, unite, fuse, blend, mingle, coalesce, consolidate, meld, intermingle, mix; incorporate, unify, assimilate, homogenize; desegregate.

– OPPOSITES separate.

**integrated** adjective **1** *an integrated package of services*: **unified**, united, consolidated, amalgamated, combined, merged, fused, homogeneous, assimilated, cohesive. **2** *an integrated school*: **desegregated**, non-segregated, unsegregated, mixed.

**integrity** noun **1** *I never doubted his integrity*: **honesty**, probity, rectitude, honour, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, virtue, decency, fairness, scrupulousness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness. **2** *the integrity of the federation*: **unity**, unification, coherence, cohesion, togetherness, solidarity. **3** *the structural integrity of the aircraft*: **soundness**, strength, sturdiness,

solidity, durability, stability, stoutness, toughness.

– OPPOSITES dishonesty, division, fragility.

**intellect** noun **1** *a film that appeals to the intellect*: **mind**, brain(s), intelligence, reason, understanding, thought, brainpower, sense, judgement, wisdom, wits; informal nous, grey matter, brain cells, upper storey; Brit. informal loaf; N. Amer. informal smarts. **2** *one of the finest intellects*: **thinker**, intellectual, sage; mind, brain.

**intellectual** adjective **1** *his intellectual capacity*: **mental**, cerebral, cognitive, psychological; rational, abstract, conceptual, theoretical, analytical, logical; academic. **2** *an intellectual man*: **intelligent**, clever, academic, educated, well read, erudite, cerebral, learned, knowledgeable, literary, bookish, donnish, highbrow, scholarly, studious, enlightened, sophisticated; informal brainy.

– OPPOSITES physical, stupid.

• **noun** *intellectuals are appalled by television*: **highbrow**, intelligent person, learned person, academic, bookworm, man/woman of letters, bluestocking; thinker, brain, scholar, sage; genius, Einstein, polymath, mastermind; informal egghead, brains; Brit. informal brainbox, clever clogs, boffin; N. Amer. informal brainiac, rocket scientist.

– OPPOSITES dunce.

**intelligence** noun **1** *a man of great intelligence*: **intellectual capacity**, mental capacity, intellect, mind, brain(s), brainpower, judgement, reasoning, understanding, comprehension; acumen, wit, sense, insight, perception, penetration, discernment, quick-wittedness, smartness, caninness, astuteness, intuition, acuity, cleverness, brilliance, ability, talent; informal braininess. **2** *intelligence from our agents*: **information**, facts, details, particulars, data, knowledge, reports; informal info, gen, dope. **3** *military intelligence*: **information gathering**, surveillance, observation, reconnaissance, spying, espionage, infiltration, ELINT, Humint; informal recon.

**intelligent** adjective **1** *an intelligent writer*: **clever**, bright, brilliant, quick-witted, quick on the uptake, smart, canny, astute, intuitive, insightful, perceptive, perspicacious, discerning; knowledgeable; able, gifted, talented; informal brainy. **2** *an intelligent being*: **rational**, higher-order, capable of thought. **3** *intelligent machines*: **self-regulating**, capable of learning, smart.

**intelligentsia** plural noun *intellectuals*, intelligent people, academics, scholars, literati, culturati, cognoscenti, illuminati, highbrows, thinkers, brains; the intelligent; informal eggheads; Brit. informal boffins.

**intelligible** adjective *comprehensible*, understandable; accessible, digestible, user-friendly, penetrable, fathomable; lucid, clear, coherent, plain, explicit, precise, unambiguous, self-explanatory.

**intemperance** noun **1** *they were criticized for intemperance*: **overindulgence**,

immoderation, excess, extravagance, prodigality, profligacy, lavishness; self-indulgence, self-gratification; debauchery, decadence, dissipation, dissolution. **2** *he said intemperance was a disease: drinking, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, dipsomania; drunkenness, intoxication, inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness; formal inebriety; literary crapulence.*

**intemperate** adjective **immoderate**, excessive, undue, inordinate, extreme, unrestrained, uncontrolled; self-indulgent, overindulgent, extravagant, lavish, prodigal, profligate; imprudent, reckless, wild; dissolute, debauched, wanton, dissipated.

– OPPOSITES moderate.

**intend** verb **plan**, mean, have in mind, have the intention, aim, propose; aspire, hope, expect, be resolved, be determined; want, wish; contemplate, think of, envisage; design, earmark, set aside; formal purpose.

**intended** adjective *the foul was not intended: deliberate*, intentional, calculated, conscious, planned, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, done on purpose, premeditated, pre-planned, preconceived; Law *forethought*; Law, dated *prepen*se.

– OPPOSITES accidental.

• **noun** (informal) *do you share everything with your intended?* **fiancé(e)**, betrothed, bride-to-be, wife-to-be, husband-to-be, future wife, future husband, prospective spouse.

**intense** adjective **1** *intense heat: extreme*, great, acute, fierce, severe, high; exceptional, extraordinary; harsh, strong, powerful, potent, vigorous; informal **serious**. **2** *a very intense young man: passionate*, impassioned, ardent, fervent, zealous, vehement, fiery, emotional; earnest, eager, animated, spirited, vigorous, energetic, fanatical, committed.

– OPPOSITES mild, apathetic.

**intensity** verb **escalate**, increase, step up, boost, raise, strengthen, augment, reinforce; pick up, build up, heighten, deepen, extend, expand, amplify, magnify; aggravate, exacerbate, worsen, inflame, compound.

– OPPOSITES abate.

**intensity** noun **1** *the intensity of the sun: strength*, power, potency, force; severity, ferocity, vehemence, fierceness, harshness; magnitude, greatness, acuteness, extremity. **2** *his eyes had a glowing intensity: passion*, ardour, fervour, zeal, vehemence, fire, heat, emotion; eagerness, animation, spirit, vigour, strength, energy; fanaticism.

**intensive** adjective **thorough**, thoroughgoing, in-depth, rigorous, exhaustive, all-out; all-embracing, all-inclusive, comprehensive, complete, full; vigorous, strenuous, detailed, minute, close, meticulous, scrupulous, painstaking, methodical, careful; extensive, widespread, sweeping; determined, resolute, persistent.

– OPPOSITES cursory.

**intent** noun *he tried to divine his father's intent: aim*, intention, purpose, objective,

object, goal, target; design, plan, scheme; wish, desire, ambition, idea, aspiration.

• **adjective** **1** *he was intent on proving his point: bent*, set, determined, insistent, resolved, hell-bent, keen; committed to, obsessive about, fanatical about; determined to, anxious to, impatient to. **2** *an intent expression: attentive*, absorbed, engrossed, fascinated, enthralled, rapt; focused, earnest, concentrating, intense, studious, preoccupied; alert, watchful.

■ **to all intents and purposes** in effect, effectively, in essence, essentially, virtually, practically; more or less, just about, all but, as good as, in all but name, as near as dammit; almost, nearly, nigh on; informal pretty much, pretty well.

**intention** noun **1** *it is his intention to be leader: aim*, purpose, intent, objective, object, goal, target; design, plan, scheme; resolve, resolution, determination; wish, desire, ambition, idea, dream, aspiration. **2** *he managed, without intention, to upset me: intent*, intentionality, deliberateness, design, calculation; premeditation, forethought, pre-planning; Law *malice aforethought*.

**intentional** adjective **deliberate**, calculated, conscious, intended, planned, meant, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, purposive, done on purpose, premeditated, pre-planned, preconceived; Law *aforethought*; Law, dated *prepen*se.

**intently** adverb **attentively**, closely, keenly, earnestly, hard, carefully, fixedly, steadily.

**inter** verb **bury**, lay to rest, entomb, inurn; informal put six feet under, plant; literary *sepulchre*, inhumate.

– OPPOSITES exhumate.

**intercede** verb **mediate**, intermediate, arbitrate, conciliate, negotiate, moderate; intervene, interpose, step in, act; plead, petition.

**intercept** verb **stop**, head off, cut off; catch, seize, grab, snatch; obstruct, impede, interrupt, block, check, detain; ambush, challenge, waylay.

**intercession** noun **mediation**, intermediation, arbitration, conciliation, negotiation; intervention, involvement; pleading, petition, entreaty, agency; diplomacy.

**interchange** verb **1** *they interchange ideas: exchange*, trade, swap, barter, bandy, reciprocate; old use truck. **2** *the terms are often interchanged: substitute*, transpose, exchange, switch, swap (round), change (round), reverse, invert, replace.

• **noun** **1** *the interchange of ideas: exchange*, trade, swap, barter, give and take, traffic, reciprocation, reciprocity; old use truck.

**2** *a motorway interchange: junction*, intersection, crossing; N. Amer. *cloverleaf*.

**interchangeable** adjective **1** *the gun has interchangeable barrels: exchangeable*, transposable, replaceable. **2** *two more or less interchangeable roads: similar*, identical, indistinguishable, alike, the same, uniform,



twin, undifferentiated; corresponding, commensurate, equivalent, comparable, equal; informal much of a muchness.

**intercourse** noun **1** *social intercourse:*

dealings, relations, relationships, association, connections, contact; interchange, communication, communion, correspondence; negotiations, bargaining, transactions; trade, traffic; informal truck, doings. **2** *she did not consent to intercourse:* sexual intercourse, sex, lovemaking, sexual relations, intimacy, coupling, mating, copulation; informal nooky; Brit. informal bonking, rumpy pump, how's your father; technical coitus, coition; formal fornication; dated carnal knowledge.

**interdict** noun *they breached an interdict:*

prohibition, ban, bar, veto, proscription, interdiction, embargo, moratorium, injunction.

– OPPOSITES permission.

• **verb 1** *they interdicted foreign commerce:* prohibit, forbid, ban, bar, veto, proscribe, embargo, disallow, debar, outlaw; stop, suppress; law enjoin, estop. **2** *efforts to interdict asylum seekers:* intercept, stop, head off, cut off; obstruct, impede, block; detain.

– OPPOSITES permit.

**interest** noun **1** *we listened with interest:*

attentiveness, attention, absorption; heed, regard, notice; curiosity, inquisitiveness; enjoyment, delight. **2** *places of interest:* attraction, appeal, fascination, charm, beauty, allure. **3** *this will be of interest to those involved:* concern, consequence, importance, import, significance, note, relevance, value, weight; formal moment. **4** *her interests include reading:* hobby, pastime, leisure pursuit, recreation, diversion, amusement, relaxation; passion, enthusiasm; informal thing, bag, cup of tea. **5** *a financial interest in the firm:* stake, share, claim, investment, stock, equity; involvement, concern. **6** *what is your interest in the case?* involvement, partiality, partisanship, preference, loyalty; bias, prejudice. **7** *his attorney guarded his interests:* concern, business, affair. **8** *her savings earned interest:* dividends, profits, returns; a percentage.

– OPPOSITES boredom.

• **verb 1** *a topic that interests you:* appeal to, be of interest to, attract, intrigue, fascinate; absorb, engross, rivet, grip, captivate; amuse, divert, entertain; arouse one's curiosity, whet one's appetite; informal float someone's boat, tickle someone's fancy. **2** *can I interest you in a drink?* persuade to have; sell.

– OPPOSITES bore.

■ **in someone's interests** of benefit to, to the advantage of; for the sake of, for the benefit of.

**interested** adjective **1** *an interested crowd:*

attentive, intent, absorbed, engrossed, fascinated, riveted, gripped, captivated, rapt, agog; intrigued, inquisitive, curious; keen, eager; informal all ears, nosy, snoopy. **2** *the government consulted with interested bodies:*

concerned, involved, affected, connected, related. **3** *no interested party can judge the contest:* partisan, partial, biased, prejudiced, one-sided, preferential.

**interesting** adjective absorbing, engrossing, fascinating, riveting, gripping, compelling, compulsive, captivating, engaging, enthralling; appealing, attractive; amusing, entertaining, stimulating, thought-provoking, diverting, intriguing; informal unputdownable.

**interfere** verb **1** *don't let emotion interfere with duty:* impede, obstruct, stand in the way of, hinder, inhibit, restrict, constrain,

hamper, handicap, cramp, check, block; disturb, disrupt, influence, affect, confuse. **2** *she tried not to interfere in his life:*

butt into, barge into, pry into, nose into, intrude into, intervene in, get involved in, encroach on, impinge on; meddle in, tamper with; informal poke one's nose into, horn in on, muscle in on, stick one's oar in. **3** (Brit. euphemistic) *he interfered with local children:* (sexually) abuse, sexually assault, indecently assault, molest, grope; informal feel up, touch up.

**interference** noun **1** *they resent state*

*interference:* intrusion, intervention, intercession, involvement, trespass, obtrusion; meddling, prying. **2** *radio interference:* disruption, disturbance, static.

**interfering** adjective meddlesome,

meddling, intrusive, prying, inquisitive, overcurious, busybody; informal nosy, nosy-parker, snoopy.

**interim** noun *in the interim they did*

*more research:* meantime, meanwhile, intervening time.

• **adjective** *an interim advisory body:*

provisional, temporary, pro tem, stopgap, short-term, fill-in, caretaker, acting, intervening, transitional, makeshift, improvised, impromptu.

– OPPOSITES permanent.

**interior** adjective **1** *the house has interior*

*panelling:* inside, inner, internal, intramural.

**2** *the interior deserts of the US:* inland,

inshore, upcountry, inner, innermost,

central. **3** *the country's interior affairs:*

internal, home, domestic, national, state,

civil, local. **4** *an interior monologue:* inner,

mental, spiritual, psychological; private,

personal, intimate, secret.

– OPPOSITES exterior, outer, foreign.

• **noun 1** *the interior of the yacht:* inside,

inner part, depths, recesses, bowels, belly;

centre, core, heart. **2** *the country's interior:*

centre, heartland, hinterland.

– OPPOSITES exterior, outside.

**interject** verb **1** *she interjected a comment:*

interpose, introduce, throw in, interpolate,

add. **2** *he interjected before there was a*

*fight:* interrupt, intervene, cut in, break

in, butt in, chime in; put one's oar in; Brit.

informal chip in; N. Amer. informal put in one's

two cents.

**interjection** noun **1** *an astonished*

*interjection:* exclamation; cry, shout,

vociferation, utterance; dated ejaculation.

**2** *the interjection of a question:*

**interposition**, interpolation, insertion, addition, introduction.

**interlock** **verb** **interconnect**, interlink, engage, mesh, intermesh, join, unite, connect, couple.

**interloper** **noun** intruder, encroacher, trespasser, invader, infiltrator; uninvited guest; outsider, stranger, alien; informal gatercrasher.

**interlude** **noun** interval, intermission, break, recess, pause, respite, rest, breathing space, halt, gap, stop, stoppage, hiatus, lull; informal breather, let-up, time out, down time.

**intermediary** **noun** mediator, go-between, negotiator, intervenor, interceder, intercessor, arbitrator, arbiter, conciliator, peacemaker; middleman, broker, linkman.

**intermediate** **adjective** halfway, in-between, middle, mid, midway, median, medial, intermediary, intervening, transitional.

**interment** **noun** burial, burying, committal, entombment, inhumation; funeral; old use sepulture.

**interminable** **adjective** endless, never-ending, unending, non-stop, everlasting, ceaseless, unceasing, incessant, constant, continual, uninterrupted, sustained; monotonous, long-winded, overlong, rambling.

**intermingle** **verb** mix, intermix, mingle, blend, fuse, merge, combine, amalgamate; unite, affiliate, associate, fraternize; literary commingle.

**intermission** **noun** interval, interlude, entr'acte, break, recess, pause, rest, respite, breathing space, lull, gap, stop, stoppage, halt; cessation, suspension; informal let-up, breather, time out, down time.

**intermittent** **adjective** sporadic, irregular, fitful, spasmodic, broken, fragmentary, discontinuous, isolated, random, patchy, scattered; occasional, periodic.

— **OPPOSITES** continuous.

**intern** **verb** *they were interned without trial:* imprison, incarcerate, impound, jail, put behind bars, detain, hold (captive), lock up, confine; informal put away, put inside, send down; Brit. informal bang up.

• **noun** *an intern at a local firm:* trainee, apprentice, probationer, student, novice, beginner.

**internal** **adjective** **1** *an internal courtyard:* inner, interior, inside, intramural; central.

**2** *the state's internal affairs:* domestic, home, interior, civil, local; national, state.

**3** *an internal battle with herself:* mental, psychological, emotional; personal, private, secret, hidden.

— **OPPOSITES** external, foreign.

**international** **adjective** global, worldwide, intercontinental, universal; cosmopolitan, multiracial, multinational.

— **OPPOSITES** national, local.

**interplay** **noun** interaction, interchange; teamwork, cooperation, reciprocation, reciprocity, give and take.

**interpolate** **verb** insert, interpose, enter, add, incorporate, inset, put, introduce.

**interpose** **verb** **1** *he interposed himself between the girls:* insinuate, place, put. **2** *I must interpose a note of caution:* introduce, insert, interject, add. **3** *they interposed to suppress the custom:* intervene, intercede, step in, involve oneself; interfere, intrude, butt in, cut in; informal barge in, horn in, muscle in.

**interpret** **verb** **1** *the rabbis interpreted the Jewish laws:* explain, elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify, illuminate, shed light on. **2** *the remark was interpreted as an invitation:* understand, construe, take (to mean), see, regard. **3** *the symbols are difficult to interpret:* decipher, decode, make intelligible; understand, comprehend, make sense of; informal crack.

**interpretation** **noun** **1** *the interpretation of the Bible's teachings:* explanation, elucidation, expounding, exposition, explication, exegesis, clarification. **2** *she did not care what interpretation he put on her haste:* meaning, understanding, construal, connotation, explanation, inference. **3** *the interpretation of experimental findings:* analysis, evaluation, review, study, examination. **4** *his interpretation of the sonata:* rendition, rendering, execution, presentation, performance, reading, playing, singing.

**interpreter** **noun** **1** *a Japanese interpreter:* translator, dragoman. **2** *a vocal interpreter of his music:* performer, presenter, exponent; singer, player. **3** *interpreters of Soviet history:* analyst, evaluator, reviewer, commentator.

**interrogate** **verb** question, cross-question, cross-examine, quiz; interview, examine, debrief, give someone the third degree; informal pump, grill.

**interrogative** **adjective** questioning, inquiring, inquisitive, probing, searching, quizzing, quizzical, curious.

**interrupt** **verb** **1** *she opened her mouth to interrupt:* cut in (on), break in (on), barge in (on), intervene (in), put one's oar in; Brit. put one's pennyworth in; N. Amer. put one's two cents in; informal butt in (on), chime in (on); Brit. informal chip in (on). **2** *the band had to interrupt their tour:* suspend, adjourn, discontinue, break off; stop, halt, cease, end, bring to an end/close; informal put on ice, put on a back burner. **3** *the coastal plain is interrupted by large lagoons:* break (up), punctuate; pepper, strew, dot, scatter. **4** *their view was interrupted by houses:* obstruct, impede, block, restrict.

**interruption** **noun** **1** *he was not pleased at her interruption:* cutting in, barging in, intervention, intrusion; informal butting in. **2** *an interruption of the power supply:* discontinuation, breaking off, suspension, stopping, halting, cessation.

**3** *an interruption in her career:* **interval**, interlude, break, pause, gap.

**intersect** verb **1** *the lines intersect at right angles:* **cross**, criss-cross; technical decussate. **2** *the cornfield is intersected by a track:* **bisect**, divide, cut in two/half, cut across/through; **cross**, traverse.

**intersection** noun **1** *the intersection of the two curves:* **crossing**, criss-crossing. **2** *the driver stopped at an intersection:* (road) **junction**, T-junction, interchange, crossroads; Brit. roundabout.

**interperse** verb **1** *giant lobelia were interspersed among the rocks:* **scatter**, disperse, spread, strew, dot, sprinkle, pepper; literary **bestrew**. **2** *the beech trees are interspersed with conifers:* **intermix**, mix, mingle, punctuate.

**interstice** noun **space**, gap, aperture, opening, hole, crevice, chink, slit, slot, crack.

**intertwine** verb **entwine**, interweave, interlace, interwind, twist, coil.

**interval** noun **1** *a 15-minute interval:* **intermission**, interlude, entr'acte, break, recess; half-time. **2** *Baldwin made two speeches in the interval:* **interim**, interlude, intervening time/period, meantime, meanwhile. **3** *short intervals of still water:* **stretch**, distance, span, area.

**intervene** verb **1** *had the war not intervened, they might have married:* **occur**, happen, take place, arise, crop up, come about; result, ensue, follow; literary come to pass, befall, betide. **2** *she intervened in the row:* **intercede**, involve oneself, get involved, interpose oneself, step in; interfere, intrude.

**intervention** noun **involvement**, intercession, interceding, interposing; interference, intrusion.

**interview** noun *all applicants will be called for an interview:* **meeting**, discussion, conference, examination, interrogation; audience, talk, dialogue, exchange; talks.

• **verb** *we interviewed seventy subjects for the survey:* **talk to**, have a discussion/dialogue with; question, interrogate, cross-examine; poll, canvass, survey, sound out; informal grill, pump; Law examine.

**interviewer** noun **questioner**, interrogator, examiner, assessor, appraiser; journalist, reporter.

**interweave** verb **1** *the threads are interwoven:* **intertwine**, entwine, interlace, splice, braid, plait; twist together, weave together, wind together; Nautical marry. **2** *their fates were interwoven:* **interlink**, link, connect; intermix, mix, merge, blend, interlock, knit/bind together.

**intestinal** adjective **enteric**, gastro-enteric, duodenal, coeliac, gastric, ventral, stomach, abdominal.

**intestines** plural noun **gut**, guts, entrails, viscera; small intestine, large intestine, bowel; informal insides, innards.

#### WORD LINKS

**enteric**, **visceral** relating to the intestines  
**enteritis** inflammation of the intestine  
**peristalsis** the contraction and relaxation of the muscles of the intestines

**intimacy** noun **1** *the sisters re-established their old intimacy:* **closeness**, togetherness, affinity, rapport, attachment, familiarity, friendliness, amity, affection, warmth; informal chumminess, palliness; Brit. informal mateyness. **2** *the memory of their intimacy:* **sexual relations**, (sexual) intercourse, sex, lovemaking, copulation; technical coitus.

**intimate**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *an intimate friend:* **close**, bosom, boon, dear, cherished, faithful, fast, firm; informal chummy, pally. **2** *an intimate atmosphere:* **friendly**, warm, welcoming, hospitable, relaxed, informal; cosy, comfortable, snug; informal comfy. **3** *intimate thoughts:* **personal**, private, confidential, secret; innermost, inner, inward, unspoken, undisclosed. **4** *an intimate knowledge of the industry:* **detailed**, thorough, exhaustive, deep, in-depth, profound. **5** *intimate relations:* **sexual**, carnal, amorous, amatory.

– **OPPOSITES** distant, formal.

• **noun** *his circle of intimates:* **close friend**, best friend, bosom friend, confidant, confidante; informal chum, pal, crony; Brit. informal mate; N. Amer. informal buddy.

**intimate**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *he intimidated his decision:* **announce**, state, proclaim, make known, make public, disclose, reveal, divulge. **2** *her feelings were subtly intimidated:* **imply**, suggest, hint at, insinuate, indicate, signal, allude to, refer to, convey.

**intimation** noun **1** *the early intimation of session dates:* **announcement**, statement, communication, notification, notice, reporting, publishing; disclosure, revelation, divulging. **2** *the first intimation of discord:* **suggestion**, hint, indication, sign, signal, inkling, suspicion, impression; clue to, undertone of, whisper of.

**intimidate** verb **frighten**, menace, terrify, scare, terrorize, cow, subdue; threaten, browbeat, bully, pressure, pressurize, harass, harry, hound; informal lean on, bulldoze, steamroller, railroad, use strong-arm tactics on.

**intolerable** adjective **unbearable**, insufferable, unsupportable, insupportable, unendurable, beyond endurance, more than flesh and blood can stand, too much to bear.

– **OPPOSITES** bearable.

**intolerant** adjective **1** *intolerant in religious matters:* **bigoted**, narrow-minded, small-minded, parochial, provincial, illiberal, uncompromising; prejudiced, biased, partial, partisan, discriminatory. **2** *foods to which you are intolerant:* **allergic**, sensitive, hypersensitive.

**intonation** noun **1** *she read the sentence with the wrong intonation:* **inflection**, pitch, tone, timbre, cadence, cadency, lilt, modulation, speech pattern. **2** *the intonation of hymns:*



**chanting**, incantation, recitation, singing; rare cantillation.

**intone** verb **chant**, sing, recite; rare cantillate.

**intoxicate** verb **1** *one glass of wine*

*intoxicated him: inebriate*, make drunk, make intoxicated, befuddle, go to someone's head; informal make legless, make woozy. **2** *he was intoxicated by cinema: exhilarate*, thrill, elate, delight, captivate, enthrall, entrance, enrapture, excite, stir, rouse, inspire, fire with enthusiasm; informal give someone a buzz, give someone a kick; N. Amer. informal give someone a charge.

**intoxicated** adjective **drunk**, inebriated, inebriate, drunken, tipsy, under the influence; informal tight, merry, the worse for wear, pie-eyed, in one's cups, three sheets to the wind, plastered, smashed, sloshed, sozzled, well oiled, wrecked, blotto, stewed, pickled, tanked up, soaked, off one's face, out of one's head/skull; Brit. informal paralytic, legless, Brahms and Liszt, half cut, bladdered, trolleyed, slaughtered, mulled, tiddly; N. Amer. informal loaded, trashed, out of one's gourd; euphemistic tired and emotional; formal bibulous; literary crapulent.

– OPPOSITES sober.

**intoxicating** adjective **1** *intoxicating drink: alcoholic*, strong, hard, potent,

stiff, intoxicant; formal spiritous. **2** *an intoxicating sense of freedom: heady*, exhilarating, thrilling, exciting, rousing, stirring, stimulating, invigorating, electrifying; strong, powerful, potent; informal mind-blowing.

– OPPOSITES non-alcoholic.

**intoxication** noun **drunkenness**,

inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness; informal tightness; literary crapulence.

**intractable** adjective **1** *intractable problems:*

**unmanageable**, uncontrollable, difficult, awkward, troublesome, demanding, burdensome. **2** *an intractable man: stubborn*, obstinate, obdurate, inflexible, unadaptable, unbending, unyielding, uncompromising, unaccommodating, uncooperative, difficult, awkward, perverse, contrary, pig-headed; N. Amer. rock-ribbed; informal stiff-necked.

– OPPOSITES manageable, compliant.

**intransigent** adjective **uncompromising**,

inflexible, unbending, unyielding, unshakeable, unwavering, resolute, rigid, unaccommodating, uncooperative, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, pig-headed, single-minded, iron-willed; informal stiff-necked.

– OPPOSITES compliant.

**intrench** verb. See **ENTRENCH**.

**intrenched** adjective. See **ENTRENCHED**.

**intrepid** adjective **fearless**, unafraid,

undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, bold, daring, audacious, adventurous, heroic, dynamic, spirited, indomitable; brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, stout-hearted, stalwart, plucky, doughty; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES fearful.

**intricate** adjective **complex**, complicated, convoluted, tangled, entangled, twisted; elaborate, ornate, detailed, involved; Brit. informal fiddly.

**intrigue** verb **1** *her answer intrigued him:*

**interest**, be of interest to, fascinate, arouse someone's curiosity, attract. **2** *the ministers were intriguing: plot*, conspire, make secret plans, scheme, manoeuvre, connive, collude, machinate.

• noun **1** *the intrigue that accompanied the selection of a new leader: plotting*, conspiracy, collusion, conniving, scheming, machination, trickery, sharp practice, double-dealing, underhandedness, subterfuge; informal dirty tricks. **2** *the king's intrigues with his nobles' wives: (love) affair*, affair of the heart, liaison, amour, fling, flirtation, dalliance; adultery, infidelity, unfaithfulness; informal fooling around, playing around, hanky-panky; Brit. informal carryings-on.

**intriguer** noun **conspirator**, co-conspirator, plotter, schemer, colluder, conniver, machinator, Machiavelli.

**intriguing** adjective **interesting**, fascinating, absorbing, compelling, gripping, riveting, captivating, engaging, enthralling.

**intrinsic** adjective **inherent**, innate, inborn, inbred, congenital, connate, connatural, natural; deep-rooted, indelible, ineradicable; integral, basic, fundamental, essential.

**introduce** verb **1** *he has introduced a*

*new system: institute*, initiate, launch, inaugurate, establish, found; bring in, set in motion, start, begin, commence, get going, get under way, originate, pioneer; informal kick off. **2** *you can introduce new ideas: propose*, put forward, suggest, table; raise, broach, bring up, mention, air, float.

**3** *she introduced Lindsey to the young man: present (formally)*, make known, acquaint with. **4** *introducing nitrogen into canned beer: insert*, inject, put, force, shoot, feed.

**5** *she introduced a note of severity into her voice: instil*, infuse, inject, add. **6** *the same presenter introduces the programme each week: announce*, present, give an introduction to; start off, begin, open.

**introduction** noun **1** *the introduction of democratic reforms: institution*, establishment, initiation, launch, inauguration, foundation; start, commencement, inception, origination, pioneering. **2** *an introduction to the king: (formal) presentation*; meeting, audience. **3** *an introduction to the catalogue: foreword*, preface, preamble, prologue, prelude; opening (statement), beginning; informal intro; formal proem, prolegomenon. **4** *an introduction to the history of the period: basic explanation/account of*; the basics, the rudiments, the fundamentals. **5** *a gentle introduction to the life of the school: initiation*, induction, inauguration.

– OPPOSITES afterword.

**introductory** adjective **1** *the introductory chapter: opening*, initial, starting,

initiatory, first; prefatory, preliminary. **2** *an introductory course*: **elementary**, basic, rudimentary; initiatory, preparatory.

– OPPOSITES final, advanced.

**introspection** noun **self-analysis**, soul-searching, introversion; contemplation, meditation, thoughtfulness, pensiveness, reflection; informal navel-gazing; formal cogitation.

**introspective** adjective **inward-looking**, self-analysing, introverted, introvert; contemplative, thoughtful, pensive, meditative, reflective; informal navel-gazing.

**introverted** adjective **shy**, reserved, withdrawn, reticent, diffident, retiring, quiet; introspective, introvert, inward-looking, indrawn, self-absorbed; contemplative, thoughtful, pensive, meditative, reflective.

– OPPOSITES extroverted.

**intrude** verb **1** *intruding on people's privacy*: **encroach**, impinge, trespass, infringe, obtrude, invade, violate, disturb, disrupt; informal horn in, muscle in. **2** *he intruded his own personality into his work*: **force**, push, obtrude, impose, thrust.

**intruder** noun **trespasser**, interloper, invader, infiltrator; burglar, house-breaker, thief.

**intrusion** noun **encroachment**, obtrusion; invasion, incursion, intervention, disturbance, disruption, infringement, impingement.

**intrusive** adjective **1** *an intrusive journalist*: **intruding**, invasive, obtrusive, unwelcome; inquisitive, prying; informal nosy. **2** *opinion polls play an intrusive role in elections*: **invasive**, high-profile, prominent; informal in one's face. **3** *intrusive questions*: **personal**, prying, forward, impertinent; informal nosy.

**intuition** noun **1** *he works according to intuition*: **instinct**, intuitiveness; sixth sense, clairvoyance, second sight. **2** *this confirms an intuition I had*: **hunch**, feeling (in one's bones), inkling, (sneaking) suspicion; premonition, presentiment; informal gut feeling.

**intuitive** adjective **instinctive**, intuitional, instinctual; innate, inborn, inherent, natural, congenital; unconscious, subconscious, involuntary; informal gut.

**intumescence** noun (rare) **swelling**, bulging, bloating, distension, dilatation, turgidity.

**inundate** verb **1** *many buildings were inundated*: **flood**, deluge, overrun, swamp, submerge, engulf. **2** *we have been inundated by complaints*: **overwhelm**, overrun, overload, bog down, swamp, besiege, snow under.

**inundation** noun **flood**, deluge, torrent, flash flood, freshet; Brit. spate.

**inure** verb **harden**, toughen, season, temper, condition; accustom, habituate, familiarize, acclimatize, adjust, adapt.

– OPPOSITES sensitize.

**invade** verb **1** *the island was invaded*: **occupy**, conquer, capture, seize, take (over), annex,

win, gain, secure; march into, overrun, overwhelm, storm. **2** *someone had invaded our privacy*: **intrude on**, violate, encroach on, infringe on, trespass on, obtrude on, disturb, disrupt; informal horn in on, muscle in on. **3** *the feeling of betrayal invaded my being*: **permeate**, pervade, spread through/over, diffuse through, imbue.

– OPPOSITES withdraw.

**invader** noun **attacker**, raider, marauder; occupier, conqueror; intruder.

**invalid**<sup>1</sup> noun *my mother is an invalid*: **ill person**, sick person, valetudinarian; patient, convalescent.

• adjective *her invalid husband*: **ill**, sick, ailing, unwell, infirm, valetudinarian, in poor health; incapacitated, bedridden, frail, feeble, weak, debilitated, sickly, poorly.

– OPPOSITES healthy.

• verb *an officer invalidated by a chest wound*: **disable**, incapacitate, indispose, hospitalize, put out of action, lay up; injure, wound, hurt.

**invalid**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *the law was invalid*: (legally) **void**, null and void, unenforceable, not binding, illegitimate, inapplicable.

**2** *the whole theory is invalid*: **false**, untrue, inaccurate, faulty, fallacious, spurious, unconvincing, unsound, weak, wrong, wide of the mark, off target; untenable, baseless, ill-founded, groundless; informal off beam, full of holes.

– OPPOSITES binding, true.

**invalidate** verb **1** *a low turnout invalidated the ballot*: **render invalid**, void, nullify, annul, negate, cancel, overturn, overrule. **2** *this case invalidates the general argument*: **disprove**, refute, explode, contradict, rebut, negate, belie, discredit, debunk; weaken, undermine, compromise; informal shoot full of holes; formal confute.

**invaluable** adjective **indispensable**, crucial, critical, key, vital, irreplaceable, all-important.

– OPPOSITES dispensable.

**invariable** adjective **unvarying**, unchanging, unvaried; constant, stable, set, steady, predictable, regular, consistent; unchangeable, unalterable, immutable, fixed.

– OPPOSITES varied.

**invariably** adverb **always**, on every occasion, at all times, without fail, without exception; everywhere, in all places, in all cases/instances; regularly, consistently, repeatedly, habitually, unfailingly.

– OPPOSITES sometimes, never.

**invasion** noun **1** *the invasion of the islands*: **occupation**, conquering, capture, seizure, annexation, annexing, takeover; overrunning, overwhelming, storming.

**2** *an invasion of cars*: **influx**, inundation, inrush, flood, torrent, deluge, avalanche.

**3** *an invasion of my privacy*: **violation**, infringement, interruption, intrusion, encroachment, obtrusion, disturbance, disruption, breach.

– OPPOSITES withdrawal.

**invective** noun abuse, insults, vituperation, expletives, swear words, swearing, curses, bad/foul language, obloquy; Brit. informal industrial language; old use contumely.  
– OPPOSITES praise.

**inveigh** verb fulminate, declaim, protest, rail, rage, remonstrate; denounce, censure, condemn, decry, criticize; disparage, denigrate, run down, abuse, vilify, impugn; informal kick up a fuss/stink about, bellyache about, sound off about.  
– OPPOSITES support.

**inveigle** verb cajole, wheedle, coax, persuade, talk; tempt, lure, entice, seduce, beguile; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, con; N. Amer. informal sucker; old use blandish.

**invent** verb 1 *Louis Braille invented an alphabet to help blind people*: originate, create, innovate, design, devise, contrive, develop; conceive, think up, dream up, come up with, pioneer. 2 *they invented the story for a laugh*: make up, fabricate, concoct, hatch, dream up; informal cook up.

**invention** noun 1 *the invention of the telescope*: origination, creation, innovation, devising, contriving, development, design. 2 *medieval inventions*: innovation, creation, design, contraption, contrivance, construction, device, gadget; informal brainchild. 3 *his invention was flagging*: inventiveness, originality, creativity, creativeness, imagination, imaginativeness, inspiration. 4 *a journalistic invention*: fabrication, concoction, (piece of) fiction, story, tale; lie, untruth, falsehood, fib; myth, fantasy; informal tall story, cock and bull story.

**inventive** adjective 1 *the most inventive composer of his time*: creative, original, innovational, innovative, imaginative, ingenious, resourceful. 2 *a fresh, inventive comedy*: original, innovative, unusual, fresh, novel, new; experimental, avant-garde, groundbreaking, unorthodox, unconventional.

– OPPOSITES unimaginative, hackneyed.

**inventor** noun originator, creator, innovator; designer, deviser, developer, maker, producer; author, architect; pioneer, mastermind, father.

**inventory** noun a complete inventory of all their belongings: list, listing, catalogue, record, register, checklist, log, archive.

• verb I inventoried his collection: list, catalogue, record, register, log.

**inverse** adjective *inverse snobbery*: reverse, reversed, inverted, opposite, converse, contrary, counter, antithetical.

• noun alkalinity is the inverse of acidity: opposite, converse, obverse, antithesis; informal flip side.

**inversion** noun reversal, transposition; reverse, contrary, antithesis, converse.

**invert** verb turn upside down, upturn, upend, turn around/about, turn inside out, turn back to front, reverse, flip (over).

**invest** verb 1 *he invested in a cotton mill*: put/plough money into, provide capital for,

fund, back, finance, underwrite; buy into, buy shares in. 2 *they invested £18 million*: spend, expend, put in, plough in; venture, speculate, risk; informal lay out. 3 *their words were invested with sarcasm*: imbue, infuse, charge, steep, suffuse, pervade, endow. 4 *the powers invested in the bishop*: vest in, confer on, bestow on, grant to, entrust to, put in someone's hands. 5 *bishops whom the king had invested*: admit to office, instate, install, induct, swear in; ordain, crown. 6 (old use) *invested in the full canonicals of his calling*: clothe, attire, dress, garb, robe, deck out, accoutre; old use apparel. 7 (old use) *he invested the fort of Arcot*: besiege, lay siege to, beleague, surround.

**investigate** verb enquire into, look into, go into, probe, explore, scrutinize, conduct an investigation into, make inquiries about; inspect, analyse, study, examine, consider, research; informal check out, suss out; N. Amer. informal scope out.

**investigation** noun examination, inquiry, study, inspection, exploration, consideration, analysis, appraisal; research, scrutiny, scrutinization, perusal; probe, review, survey.

**investigator** noun inspector, examiner, inquirer, explorer, analyser; researcher, factfinder, scrutineer, scrutinizer, prober, searcher; detective.

**investiture** noun inauguration, appointment, installation, instatement, initiation, swearing in; ordination, consecration, crowning, enthronement.

**investment** noun 1 *you can lose money by bad investment*: investing, speculation; funding, backing, financing, underwriting; buying shares. 2 *it's a good investment*: venture, speculation, risk, gamble; asset, acquisition, holding, possession. 3 *an investment of £305,000*: stake, share, money/capital invested. 4 *a substantial investment of time*: sacrifice, surrender, loss, forfeiture.

**inveterate** adjective 1 *an inveterate gambler*: confirmed, hardened, incorrigible, addicted, compulsive, obsessive; informal pathological. 2 *an inveterate Democrat*: staunch, steadfast, committed, devoted, dedicated, dyed-in-the-wool, out-and-out, diehard. 3 *mankind's inveterate stupidity*: ingrained, deep-seated, deep-rooted, entrenched, ineradicable, incurable.

**invidious** adjective 1 *that put her in an invidious position*: unpleasant, awkward, difficult; undesirable, unenviable. 2 *an invidious comparison*: unfair, unjust, iniquitous, unwarranted; deleterious, detrimental.

– OPPOSITES pleasant, fair.

**invigorate** verb revitalize, energize, refresh, revive, vivify, brace, rejuvenate, enliven, liven up, perk up, wake up, animate, galvanize, fortify, stimulate, rouse, exhilarate; informal buck up, pep up.

– OPPOSITES tire.

**invincible** adjective invulnerable, indestructible, unconquerable, unbeatable,



indomitable, unassailable; impregnable, inviolable.

– OPPOSITES vulnerable.

**invincible** adjective **inalienable**, absolute, unalterable, unchallengeable; sacrosanct, holy, sacred.

**inviolate** adjective **untouched**, undamaged, unhurt, unharmed, unscathed; unspoiled, unflawed, unsullied, unstained, undefiled, unprofaned, perfect, pristine, pure; intact, unbroken, whole, entire, complete.

**invisible** adjective **unable to be seen**, not visible; undetectable, indiscernible, inconspicuous, imperceptible; unseen, unnoticed, unobserved, hidden, obscured, out of sight.

**invitation** noun **1** *an invitation to dinner*: request to attend, call, summons; informal invite. **2** *an open door is an invitation to a thief*: encouragement, provocation, temptation, lure, magnet, bait, enticement, attraction, allure; informal come-on.

**invite** verb **1** *they invited us to Sunday lunch*: ask, summon, have someone over/round, request (the pleasure of) someone's company at. **2** *applications are invited for the posts*: ask for, request, call for, appeal for, solicit, seek, summon. **3** *airing such views invites trouble*: cause, induce, provoke, create, generate, engender, foster, encourage, lead to; incite, elicit, bring on oneself, arouse.

• noun (informal) *an invite to a party*. See **INVITATION** sense 1.

**inviting** adjective **tempting**, enticing, alluring, beguiling; attractive, appealing, pleasant, agreeable, delightful; appetizing, mouth-watering; fascinating, enchanting, entrancing, captivating, intriguing, irresistible, seductive.

– OPPOSITES repellent.

**invocation** noun **1** *her invocation of new methodologies*: citation, mention, acknowledgement, reference to, allusion to. **2** *the invocation of rain by tribal people*: summoning, calling up, conjuring up. **3** *an invocation to the Holy Ghost*: prayer, intercession, supplication, entreaty, petition, appeal; old use orison.

**invoice** noun *an invoice for the goods*: bill, account, statement (of charges); N. Amer. check; informal tab; old use reckoning.  
• verb *we'll invoice you for the damage*: bill, charge, send an invoice/bill to.

**invoke** verb **1** *he invoked his statutory rights*: cite, refer to, adduce, instance; resort to, have recourse to, turn to. **2** *I invoked the Madonna*: pray to, call on, appeal to, supplicate, entreat, solicit, beg, implore; literary beseech. **3** *invoking the spirits*: summon, call (up), conjure (up). **4** *middle-class moralities invoke peculiar anxieties*: bring forth, bring out, elicit, induce, cause, kindle.

**involuntary** adjective **1** *an involuntary shudder*: reflex, automatic; spontaneous, instinctive, unconscious, unintentional, uncontrollable. **2** *involuntary repatriation*:

compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, forced, coerced, compelled, imposed, required, prescribed; unwilling, unconsenting, against one's will.

– OPPOSITES deliberate, optional.

**involve** verb **1** *the inspection involved a lot of work*: require, necessitate, demand, call for; entail, mean, imply, presuppose. **2** *I try to involve everyone in key decisions*: include, count in, bring in, take into account, take note of; cover, incorporate, encompass, touch on, embrace, comprehend. **3** *many drug addicts involve themselves in crime*: implicate, incriminate, inculpate; associate, connect, concern; embroil, entangle, enmesh; informal mix up.

– OPPOSITES preclude, exclude.

**involved** adjective **1** *social workers involved in the case*: associated, connected, concerned. **2** *he had been involved in burglaries*: implicated, incriminated, inculped, embroiled, entangled, caught up, mixed up. **3** *a long and involved story*: complicated, intricate, complex, elaborate; convoluted, impenetrable, unfathomable. **4** *they were totally involved in their work*: engrossed, absorbed, immersed, caught up, preoccupied, busy, engaged, intent.

– OPPOSITES unconnected, straightforward.

**involvement** noun **1** *his involvement in a plot to overthrow the government*: participation, action, hand; collaboration, collusion, complicity, implication, incrimination, inculpation; association, connection, attachment, entanglement. **2** *emotional involvement*: attachment, friendship, intimacy; relationship, relations, bond.

**invulnerable** adjective **impervious**, insusceptible, immune; indestructible, impenetrable, impregnable, unassailable, inviolable, invincible, secure; proof against.

**inward** adjective **1** *a small inward indentation*: towards the inside, going in, ingoing; concave. **2** *an inward smile*: internal, inner, interior, innermost; private, personal, hidden, secret, veiled, masked, concealed, unexpressed; old use privy.

– OPPOSITES outward.

• adverb *the door opened inward*. See **INWARDS**.

**inwardly** adverb **inside**, internally, within, deep down (inside), in one's heart (of hearts); privately, secretly, confidentially.

**inwards** adverb **inside**, into the interior, inward, within.

**iota** noun (little) bit, mite, speck, scrap, shred, ounce, scintilla, atom, jot (or tittle); informal smidgen; old use scruple.

**irascible** adjective **irritable**, quick-tempered, short-tempered, snappish, tetchy, testy, touchy, edgy, crabby, waspish, dyspeptic; crusty, grouchy, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-natured, peevish, querulous, fractious; informal prickly, ratty, snappy.

**irate** adjective **angry**, furious, infuriated, incensed, enraged, incandescent, fuming, seething, cross, mad; raging, ranting,

raving, in a frenzy, beside oneself, outraged, up in arms; indignant, annoyed, irritated, irked, piqued; informal foaming at the mouth, hot under the collar; literary wrathful; old use wroth.

**ire** *noun* (literary) **anger**, rage, fury, wrath, outrage, temper, crossness, spleen; annoyance, exasperation, irritation, displeasure, indignation; literary cholera.

**Ireland** *noun* **Eire**, the Republic of Ireland, the Irish Republic; **Hibernia**, the Emerald Isle; literary **Erin**.

#### WORD LINKS

**Hibernian** relating to Ireland

**iridescent** *adjective* **shimmering**, glittering, sparkling, dazzling, shining, gleaming, glowing, lustrous, scintillating, opalescent; literary glistening, coruscating, effulgent.

**irk** *verb* **irritate**, annoy, gall, pique, nettle, exasperate, try someone's patience; anger, infuriate, madden, incense, get on someone's nerves; antagonize, provoke, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, make someone's blood boil, peeve, miff, rile, aggravate, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, brown off, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive up the wall, make someone see red; Brit. informal wind up, cheese off, nark, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, rankle, ride, gravel.

– OPPOSITES please.

**irksome** *adjective* **irritating**, annoying, vexing, vexatious, galling, exasperating, disagreeable; tiresome, wearisome, tedious, trying, troublesome, bothersome, awkward, difficult, boring, uninteresting; infuriating, maddening; informal infernal.

**iron** *noun* **1 a ship built of iron**: metal, pig iron, cast iron, wrought iron. **2 she needed some iron in her soul**: **strength**, toughness, resilience, firmness, robustness, steel, grit; informal guts, spunk. **3 a soldering iron**: **tool**, implement, utensil, device. **4 a hot iron**: **flat iron**, electric iron, steam iron, smoothing iron. **5 they were clapped in irons**: **manacles**, shackles, fetters, chains, handcuffs; informal cuffs, bracelets.

• *adjective* **1 an iron law of politics**: **inflexible**, unbreakable, absolute, unconditional, categorical, incontrovertible, infallible. **2 an iron will**: **uncompromising**, unrelenting, unyielding, unbending, resolute, resolved, determined, firm, unwavering, rigid, steadfast.

– OPPOSITES flexible.

• *verb* **she irons his shirts**: **press**.

■ **iron something out** **1 John had ironed out all the minor snags**: resolve, straighten out, sort out, clear up, settle, put right, solve, remedy, rectify; informal fix, mend. **2 ironing out differences in national systems**: eliminate, eradicate, erase, get rid of; harmonize, reconcile.

#### WORD LINKS

**ferric**, **ferrous** relating to or containing iron

**ironic** *adjective* **1 Edward's tone was ironic**: **sarcastic**, **sardonic**, dry, caustic, sharp, stinging, scathing, acerbic, acid, bitter, trenchant, mordant, cynical; mocking, satirical, scoffing, derisory, derisive, scornful; Brit. informal sarky. **2 it's ironic that I've ended up writing**: **paradoxical**, incongruous, odd, strange, peculiar, unexpected.

– OPPOSITES sincere.

**irony** *noun* **1 that note of irony in her voice**: **sarcasm**, **sardonicism**, dryness, causticity, sharpness, acerbity, bitterness, trenchancy, mordancy, cynicism; mockery, satire, ridicule, derision, scorn; Brit. informal sarkiness. **2 the irony of the situation**: **paradox**, incongruity, incongruousness, peculiarity.

– OPPOSITES sincerity.

**irradiate** *verb* **illuminate**, light (up), cast light on, brighten, shine on; literary illumine.

**irrational** *adjective* **unreasonable**, illogical, groundless, baseless, unfounded, unjustifiable; absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, silly, foolish, senseless.

– OPPOSITES logical.

**irreconcilable** *adjective* **1 irreconcilable views**: **incompatible**, at odds, at variance, conflicting, clashing, antagonistic, mutually exclusive, diametrically opposed; disparate, variant, dissimilar, poles apart; rare oppugnant. **2 irreconcilable enemies**: **implacable**, unappeasable, uncompromising, inflexible; mortal, bitter, deadly, sworn, out-and-out.

– OPPOSITES compatible.

**irrecoverable** *adjective* **unrecoverable**, unreclaimable, irretrievable, irredeemable, unsalvageable, gone for ever; written off.

**irrefutable** *adjective* **indisputable**, undeniable, unquestionable, beyond question, beyond doubt, incontrovertible, incontestable; conclusive, definite, definitive, decisive, certain, positive.

**irregular** *adjective* **1 irregular features** | *an irregular coastline*: **asymmetrical**, non-uniform, uneven, crooked, misshapen, lopsided, twisted; jagged, ragged, serrated, indented. **2 irregular surfaces**: **rough**, bumpy, uneven, pitted, rutted; lumpy, knobbly, gnarled. **3 an irregular heartbeat**: **inconsistent**, unsteady, uneven, fitful, patchy, variable, varying, changeable, changing, inconstant, erratic, unstable, unsettled, spasmodic, intermittent, fluctuating. **4 irregular financial dealings**: **against the rules**, out of order, improper, illegitimate, unscrupulous, unethical, unprofessional, unacceptable, beyond the pale; informal shady; Brit. informal not cricket; Austral./NZ informal over the fence. **5 an irregular army**: **guerrilla**, underground; paramilitary; partisan, mercenary.

– OPPOSITES straight, smooth.

• *noun* **gun-toting irregulars**: **guerrilla**,

underground fighter; paramilitary; resistance fighter, partisan, mercenary.

**irregularity** noun **1** *the irregularity of the coastline:* asymmetry, non-uniformity, unevenness, crookedness, lopsidedness; jaggedness, raggedness, indentation. **2** *the irregularity of the surface:* roughness, bumpiness, unevenness; lumpiness, knobbliness. **3** *irregularities in the concrete:* bump, lump, bulge, hump, protuberance, kink; hole, hollow, pit, crater, depression, dip, indentation, dent; crack, chink, fissure, cranny. **4** *the irregularity of the bus service:* inconsistency, unsteadiness, unevenness, fitfulness, patchiness, inconstancy, instability, variability, changeableness, fluctuation, unpredictability, unreliability. **5** *financial irregularities:* impropriety, wrongdoing, misconduct, dishonesty, corruption, immorality; informal shadiness, crookedness. **6** *staff noted any irregularity in operation:* abnormality, unusualness, strangeness, oddness, singularity, atypicality, anomaly, deviation, aberration, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy.

**irregularly** adverb **1** *irregularly hexagonal:* asymmetrically, unevenly. **2** *his heart was beating irregularly:* erratically, intermittently, in/by fits and starts, fitfully, patchily, haphazardly, unsystematically, unmethodically, inconsistently, unsteadily, unevenly, variably, spasmodically, discontinuously, inconstantly.

**irrelevance** noun inapplicability, unrelatedness, inappropriateness, inappositeness; unimportance, inconsequentiality, insignificance; formal impertinence.

**irrelevant** adjective beside the point, immaterial, not pertinent, not germane, off the subject, unconnected, unrelated, peripheral, extraneous, inapposite; unimportant, inconsequential, insignificant, trivial; formal impertinent.

**irreligious** adjective atheistic, unbelieving, non-believing, agnostic, heretical, faithless, godless, ungodly, impious, profane, infidel, barbarian, heathen, pagan; rare nullifidian.

– OPPOSITES pious.

**irreparable** adjective irreversible, unrectifiable, irrevocable, unrestorable, irrecoverable, unrepairable, beyond repair.

– OPPOSITES repairable.

**irreplaceable** adjective unique, unrepeatable, incomparable, unparalleled; treasured, prized, cherished.

**irrepressible** adjective **1** *the desire for freedom is irrepressible:* inextinguishable, unquenchable, uncontainable, uncontrollable, indestructible, undying, everlasting. **2** *his irrepressible personality:* ebullient, exuberant, buoyant, sunny, breezy, jaunty, light-hearted, high-spirited, vivacious, animated, full of life, lively; Brit. Tiggerish; informal bubbly, bouncy, peppy, chipper, chirpy, full of beans.

**irreproachable** adjective impeccable, exemplary, model, immaculate, outstanding,

exceptional, admirable, perfect; above/beyond reproach, blameless, faultless, flawless, unblemished, untarnished, spotless; informal squeaky clean, whiter than white.

– OPPOSITES reprehensible.

**irresistible** adjective **1** *her irresistible smile:* tempting, enticing, alluring, inviting, seductive; attractive, desirable, fetching, appealing, captivating, beguiling, enchanting. **2** *an irresistible impulse:* uncontrollable, overwhelming, overpowering, compelling, compulsive, irrepressible, ungovernable, driving, forceful.

**irresolute** adjective indecisive, hesitant, vacillating, equivocating, dithering, wavering, shilly-shallying; ambivalent, blowing hot and cold, in two minds, in a dilemma, in a quandary, torn; doubtful, in doubt, unsure, uncertain, undecided; informal sitting on the fence.

– OPPOSITES decisive.

**irresolution** noun indecisiveness, indecision, irresoluteness, hesitancy, hesitation; doubt, doubtfulness, unsureness, uncertainty; vacillation, equivocation, wavering, shilly-shallying, blowing hot and cold, dithering, temporizing, temporization; Brit. hovering, humming and hawing; informal dilly-dallying, sitting on the fence.

**irrespective** adjective regardless of, without regard to/for, notwithstanding, whatever, no matter what, without consideration of; informal irregardless of.

**irresponsible** adjective **1** *irresponsible behaviour:* reckless, rash, careless, thoughtless, incautious, unwise, imprudent, ill-advised, injudicious, misguided, unheeding, hasty, overhasty, precipitate, precipitous, foolhardy, impetuous, impulsive, devil-may-care, hot-headed, delinquent; N. Amer. derelict. **2** *an irresponsible teenager:* immature, naive, foolish, hare-brained; unreliable, undependable, untrustworthy, flighty, giddy, scatterbrained, harum-scarum.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**irretrievable** adjective irreversible, unrectifiable, irremediable, irrecoverable, irreparable, unrepairable, beyond repair.

– OPPOSITES reversible.

**irreverent** adjective disrespectful, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, derisive, disparaging; impertinent, cheeky, flippant, rude, discourteous.

– OPPOSITES respectful.

**irreversible** adjective irreparable, unrepairable, beyond repair, unrectifiable, irremediable, irrevocable, permanent; unalterable, unchangeable, immutable; Law peremptory.

**irrevocable** adjective irreversible, unalterable, unchangeable, immutable, final, binding, permanent; Law peremptory.

**irrigate** verb water, bring water to, soak, flood, inundate.



**irritability** noun **irascibility**, tetchiness, testiness, touchiness, grumpiness, moodiness, grouchiness, a (bad) mood, cantankerousness, curmudgeonliness, bad temper, short temper, ill humour, peevishness, crossness, fractiousness, pettishness, crabbiness, waspishness, prickliness; Brit. informal shirtness, stropiness, rattiness; N. Amer. informal crankiness, orneriness; Austral./NZ informal snakiness; literary cholera.

**irritable** adjective **bad-tempered**, short-tempered, irascible, tetchy, testy, touchy, grumpy, grouchy, moody, crotchety, in a (bad) mood, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabby, waspish, prickly, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric; informal on a short fuse; Brit. informal shirty, stropky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery, peckish; Austral./NZ informal snaky.

– OPPOSITES good-humoured.

**irritant** noun **annoyance**, (source of) irritation, thorn in someone's side/flesh, pest, bother, trial, torment, plague, inconvenience, nuisance; informal aggravation, peeve, pain (in the neck), headache; N. Amer. informal nudnik, burr under someone's saddle; Austral./NZ informal nark.

**irritate** verb **1** *the smallest things may irritate you*: annoy, vex, make angry, make cross, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, nettle, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise; infuriate, madden, provoke; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, miff, rile, needle, get to, bug, hack off, get under someone's skin, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall; Brit. informal wind up, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, rangle, ride, gravel. **2** *some sand irritated my eyes*: inflame, aggravate, hurt, chafe, abrade, scratch, scrape, graze.

– OPPOSITES pacify, soothe.

**irritated** adjective **annoyed**, cross, angry, vexed, exasperated, irked, piqued, nettled, put out, disgruntled, in a bad mood, in a temper, testy, huffy, in a huff, aggrieved; irate, infuriated, incensed; informal aggravated, peeved, miffed, mad, riled, hacked off, browned off, fed up, hot under the collar; Brit. informal cheesed off, brassed off, ratty, shirty; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off, sore; Austral./NZ informal snaky, crook; old use snuffy, wroth.

– OPPOSITES good-humoured.

**irritating** adjective **annoying**, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, trying, tiresome, vexing, vexatious, irksome, galling; informal aggravating.

**irritation** noun **1** *she tried not to show her irritation*: annoyance, exasperation, vexation, indignation, impatience, crossness, displeasure, chagrin, pique; anger, rage,

fury, wrath; informal aggravation; literary ire.

**2** *I realize my presence is an irritation for you*: irritant, annoyance, thorn in someone's side/flesh, bother, trial, torment, plague, inconvenience, nuisance; informal aggravation, pain (in the neck), headache; N. Amer. informal nudnik, burr under someone's saddle; Austral./NZ informal nark.

– OPPOSITES delight.

**island** noun **isle**, islet; atoll; Brit. holm; (islands) archipelago.

#### WORD LINKS

insular relating to an island

**isolate** verb **1** *she isolated herself from her family* | *the contaminated area was isolated*: separate, set/keep apart, segregate, detach, cut off, shut away, divorce, alienate, distance; cloister, seclude; cordon off, seal off, close off, fence off. **2** *the laser beam can isolate the offending vehicles*: identify, single out, pick out, point out, spot, recognize, distinguish, pinpoint, locate.

– OPPOSITES integrate.

**isolated** adjective **1** *isolated communities*: remote, out of the way, outlying, off the beaten track, secluded, lonely, in the back of beyond, godforsaken, inaccessible, cut-off; N. Amer. in the backwoods, lonesome; Austral./NZ in the backblocks, in the booby; informal in the middle of nowhere, in the sticks; N. Amer. informal jerkwater, in the tall timbers; Austral./NZ informal Barcoo, beyond the black stump; old use unapproachable.

**2** *he lived a very isolated existence*: solitary, lonely, companionless, friendless; secluded, cloistered, segregated, unsociable, reclusive, hermitic; N. Amer. lonesome. **3** *an isolated incident*: unique, lone, solitary; unusual, uncommon, exceptional, anomalous, abnormal, untypical, freak; informal one-off.

– OPPOSITES accessible, sociable, common.

**isolation** noun **1** *patients who need isolation*: separation, segregation, seclusion, keeping apart. **2** *their feeling of isolation*: solitariness, loneliness, friendlessness.

**3** *the isolation of some mental hospitals*: remoteness, seclusion, inaccessibility.

– OPPOSITES contact.

**issue** noun **1** *the committee discussed the issue*: matter (in question), question, point (at issue), affair, case, subject, topic; problem, bone of contention. **2** *the issue of a special stamp*: issuing, publication, publishing; circulation, distribution, supplying, appearance. **3** *the latest issue of our magazine*: edition, number, instalment, copy. **4** (Law) *she died without issue*: offspring, descendants, heirs, successors, children, progeny, family; informal kids; old use seed, fruit (of one's loins). **5** *an issue of blood*: discharge, emission, release, outflow, outflowing, outflux; secretion, emanation, exudation, effluence; technical efflux. **6** (dated) *a favourable issue*: (end) result, outcome, consequence, upshot, conclusion, end. • verb **1** *the minister issued a statement*: send out, put out, release, deliver, publish, announce, broadcast, communicate,

circulate, distribute, disseminate. **2** *the captain issued the crew with guns*: supply, provide, furnish, arm, equip, fit out, rig out, kit out; informal fix up. **3** *savoury smells issued from the kitchen*: emanate, emerge, exude, flow (out/forth), pour (out/forth); be emitted. **4** *large profits might issue from the deal*: result, follow, ensue, stem, spring, arise, proceed; be the result of, be produced by.

— OPPOSITES withdraw.

■ **at issue** in question, in dispute, under discussion, under consideration, for debate.

■ **take issue** disagree, be in dispute, be in contention, be at variance, be at odds, argue, quarrel; challenge, dispute, (call into) question; old use disaccord.

**itch** noun **1** *I have an itch on my back*:

irritation, itchiness, tingling. **2** (informal) *the itch to travel*: longing, yearning, craving, ache, hunger, thirst, urge, hankering; wish, fancy, desire; informal yen.

• **verb** **1** *my chilblains really itch*: be itchy, tingle. **2** (informal) *he itched to do something to help*: long, yearn, ache, burn, crave, hanker for/after, hunger, thirst, be eager, be desperate; want, wish, desire, fancy, set one's sights on; informal have a yen, be dying, be gagging.

**item** noun **1** *an item of farm equipment* | *the*

*main item in a badger's diet*: thing, article, object, artefact, piece, product; element, constituent, component, ingredient. **2** *the meeting discussed the item*: issue, matter, affair, case, situation, subject, topic, question, point. **3** *a news item*: report, story, account, article, piece, write-up, bulletin, feature. **4** *items in the profit and loss account*: entry, record, statement, listing.

**itemize** verb **1** *Steinburg itemized thirty-two design faults*: list, catalogue, inventory, record, document, register, detail, specify, identify; enumerate, number. **2** *an itemized bill*: analyse, break down, split up.

**iterate** verb **repeat**, recapitulate, go over/through again; say again, restate, reiterate; informal recap; old use ingeminate.

**itinerant** adjective *itinerant traders*:

travelling, peripatetic, wandering, roving, roaming, touring, nomadic, Gypsy, migrant, vagrant, vagabond, of no fixed address/abode.

• **noun** *an itinerants' lodging house*: traveller, wanderer, roamer, rover, nomad, Gypsy, migrant, transient, drifter, vagabond, vagrant, tramp; dated bird of passage.

**itinerary** noun (planned) route, journey, way, road; travel plan, schedule, timetable, programme, tour.

## Jj

**jab** verb *he jabbed the Englishman with his finger*: poke, prod, dig, nudge, butt, ram; thrust, stab, push.

• noun *a jab in the ribs*: poke, prod, dig, nudge, butt; thrust, stab, push.

**jabber** verb *they jabbered away non-stop*: prattle, babble, chatter, twitter, prate, gabble, rattle on/away, blather; informal yak, yap, yabber, yatter, blab, blabber; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, natter; old use twaddle, clack.

• noun *stop your jabber!* prattle, babble, chatter, chattering, twitter, twittering, gabble, blather; informal yabbering, yatter, blabber; Brit. informal wittering, rabbiting, nattering; old use clack.

**jack** verb

■ **jack something up** **1** *they jacked up the car*: raise, hoist, lift (up), winch up, lever up, hitch up, elevate. **2** (informal) *he may need to jack up interest rates*: increase, raise, put up, up, mark up; informal hike (up), bump up.

**jacket** noun *a jacket for your hot-water tank will save about £15 a year*: wrapping, wrapper, wrap, sleeve, sheath, sheathing, cover, covering.

**jackpot** noun *this week's lottery jackpot*: top prize, first prize; pool, bonanza.

■ **hit the jackpot** (informal) win a lot of money, strike it lucky/rich; informal clean up, hit the big time.

**jaded** adjective **1** *a jaded palate*: satiated, sated, surfeited, glutted; dulled, blunted, deadened. **2** *she felt really jaded*: tired (out), weary, wearied, worn out, exhausted, fatigued, overtired, sapped, drained; informal all in, done (in), dead (beat), dead on one's feet, bushed; Brit. informal knackered, whacked; N. Amer. informal tuckered out.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**jag** noun sharp projection, point, barb, thorn.

**jagged** adjective spiky, barbed, ragged, rough, uneven, irregular, broken; serrated, sawtooth, indented.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**jail** noun *he was thrown into jail*: prison, penal institution, lock-up, detention centre; N. Amer. penitentiary, jailhouse, stockade, correctional facility; informal clink, slammer, inside, jug, brig, cooler; Brit. informal nick; N. Amer. informal can, pen, slam, pokey; Brit. historical approved school, borstal, bridewell; N. Amer. historical reformatory.

• verb *she was jailed for killing her husband*: imprison, put in prison, send to prison, incarcerate, lock up, put away, intern, detain, hold (prisoner/captive); informal send down, put behind bars, put inside; Brit. informal bang up.

– OPPOSITES acquit, release.

**jailer** noun prison officer, warder, wardress, warden, guard, captor; informal screw; old use turnkey.

**jam**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *he jammed a finger in each ear*: stuff, shove, force, ram, thrust, press, push, stick, squeeze, cram. **2** *hundreds of people jammed into the hall*: crowd, pack, pile, press, squeeze, cram; throng, mob, occupy, fill, overcrowd, obstruct, block, clog, congest. **3** *the rudder had jammed*: stick, become stuck, catch, seize (up), become trapped. **4** *dust can jam the mechanism*: immobilize, paralyse, disable, cripple, put out of action, bring to a standstill.

• noun **1** *a traffic jam*: tailback, hold-up, congestion, bottleneck; N. Amer. gridlock; informal snarl-up. **2** (informal) *we are in a real jam*: predicament, plight, tricky situation, difficulty, problem, quandary, dilemma, muddle, mess, imbroglio, mare's nest, dire straits; informal pickle, stew, fix, hole, scrape, bind, (tight) spot, (tight) corner, hot/deep water; Brit. informal spot of bother.

**jam**<sup>2</sup> noun *raspberry jam*: preserve, conserve, jelly, marmalade.

**jamb** noun post, doorpost, upright, frame.

**jamboree** noun rally, gathering, convention, conference; festival, fete, fiesta, gala, carnival, celebration; informal bash, shindig, shindy, junket.

**jammy** adjective (Brit. informal). See **LUCKY** sense 1.

**jangle** verb **1** *keys jangled at his waist*: clank, clink, jingle, tinkle. **2** *the noise jangled her nerves*: grate on, jar on, irritate, disturb, fray, put/set on edge; informal get on.

• noun *the jangle of his chains*: clank, clanking, clink, clinking, jangling, jingle, jingling, tintinnabulation.

**janitor** noun caretaker, custodian, porter, concierge, doorkeeper, doorman, warden, cleaner, maintenance man; N. Amer. superintendent.

**jar**<sup>1</sup> noun *a jar of honey*: (glass) container, pot, crock, receptacle.



**jar**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *each step jarred my whole body:* jolt, jerk, shake, vibrate. **2** *her shrill voice jarred on him:* grate, set someone's teeth on edge, irritate, annoy, irk, exasperate, nettle, disturb, discompose; informal rile, aggravate, get on someone's nerves. **3** *the play's symbolism jarred with the realism of its setting:* clash, conflict, contrast, be incompatible, be at variance, be at odds, be inconsistent, be discordant; informal scream at.

**jargon** **noun** specialized language, slang, cant, idiom, argot, patter, gobbledegook; informal -speak, -ese.

**jarring** **adjective** clashing, conflicting, contrasting, incompatible, incongruous; discordant, dissonant, inharmonious, harsh, grating, strident, shrill, cacophonous.  
– OPPOSITES harmonious.

**jaundiced** **adjective** bitter, resentful, cynical, soured, disenchanted, disillusioned, disappointed, pessimistic, sceptical, distrustful, suspicious, misanthropic.

**jaunt** **noun** (pleasure) trip, outing, excursion, day trip, day out, mini holiday, short break; tour, drive, ride, run; informal spin, tootle.

**jaunty** **adjective** cheerful, cheery, happy, merry, jolly, joyful; lively, perky, bright, buoyant, bubbly, bouncy, breezy, full of the joys of spring, in good spirits, exuberant, ebullient; carefree, airy, light-hearted, nonchalant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky; informal bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans, chirpy; literary blithe, blithesome.

– OPPOSITES depressed, serious.

**javelin** **noun** spear, harpoon, dart, gig, shaft, assegai.

**jaw** **noun** **1** *a broken jaw:* jawbone, lower/upper jaw; Anatomy mandible, maxilla. **2** *the whale seized a seal pup in its jaws:* mouth, maw, muzzle; informal chops. **3** (informal) *we ought to have a jaw.* See **CHAT** noun.

**WORD LINKS**

**mandibular, maxillary** relating to the jaw  
**prognathous** having a projecting lower jaw  
**lockjaw, trismus** spasm of the jaw muscles, causing the mouth to remain tightly closed

**jazz** **verb**

■ **jazz something up** (informal) enliven, liven up, brighten up, add (some) colour to, ginger up, perk up, spice up; informal pep up, sex up.

**jazzy** **adjective** bright, colourful, brightly coloured, striking, eye-catching, vivid, lively, vibrant, bold, flamboyant, showy, gaudy; informal flashy.

– OPPOSITES dull.

**jealous** **adjective** **1** *he was jealous of his brother's popularity:* envious, covetous, desirous; resentful, grudging, begrudging, green (with envy). **2** *a jealous lover:* suspicious, distrustful, mistrustful, doubting, insecure, anxious; possessive, proprietorial, overprotective. **3** *they are very jealous of their rights:* protective,

vigilant, watchful, heedful, mindful, careful, solicitous.

– OPPOSITES proud, trusting.

**jealousy** **noun** **1** *he was consumed with jealousy:* envy, covetousness; resentment, resentfulness, bitterness, spite; informal the green-eyed monster. **2** *the jealousy of his long-suffering wife:* suspicion, suspiciousness, distrust, mistrust, insecurity, anxiety; possessiveness, overprotectiveness. **3** *an intense jealousy of status:* protectiveness, vigilance, watchfulness, heedfulness, mindfulness, care, solicitousness.

**jeer** **verb** *the demonstrators jeered the police:* taunt, mock, scoff at, ridicule, sneer at, deride, insult, abuse, jibe (at), scorn, shout disapproval (at); heckle, catcall (at), boo (at), hoot at, whistle at, hiss (at); old use flout at.

– OPPOSITES cheer.

• **noun** *the jeers of the crowd:* taunt, sneer, insult, shout, jibe, boo, hiss, catcall; derision, teasing, scoffing, abuse, scorn, heckling, catcalling; Brit. & Austral./NZ barracking.

– OPPOSITES applause.

**jeune** **adjective** **1** *their jeune opinions:* naive, innocent, artless, guileless, unworldly, childlike, ingenuous, unsophisticated; credulous, gullible; childish, immature, juvenile, puerile, infantile. **2** *the following poem is rather jeune:* boring, dull, tedious, dreary; uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, unimaginative; humdrum, run-of-the-mill, mundane, commonplace; lacklustre, dry, sterile, lifeless, vapid, flat, bland, banal, trite, prosaic; Brit. informal samey.

– OPPOSITES sophisticated, fascinating.

**jell** **verb.** See **GEL**.

**jeopardize** **verb** threaten, endanger, imperil, risk, put at risk, put in danger/jeopardy; leave vulnerable; compromise, prejudice, be prejudicial to; be a danger to, pose a threat to; old use peril.

– OPPOSITES safeguard.

**jeopardy** **noun** danger, peril; at risk.

**jerk** **noun** **1** *she gave the reins a jerk:* yank, tug, pull, wrench, tweak, twitch. **2** *he let the clutch in with a jerk:* jolt, lurch, bump, start, jar, jog, bang, bounce, shake, shock. **3** (informal) *I felt a complete jerk.* See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

• **verb** **1** *she jerked her arm free:* yank, tug, pull, wrench, wrest, drag, pluck, snatch, seize, rip, tear. **2** *the car jerked along:* jolt, lurch, bump, rattle, bounce, shake, jounce.

**jerky** **adjective** **1** *jerky movements:* convulsive, spasmodic, fitful, twitchy, shaky. **2** *the coach drew to a jerky halt:* jolting, lurching, bumpy, bouncy, jarring.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**jerry-built** **adjective** shoddy, badly built, gimcrack, flimsy, insubstantial, rickety, ramshackle, crude, makeshift; inferior, poor-quality, second-rate, third-rate, low-grade.

– OPPOSITES sturdy.

**jersey** **noun** pullover, sweater; Brit. jumper; informal woolly.

**jest** noun  *jests were bandied about freely*: joke, witticism, funny remark, gag, quip, sally, pun; informal crack, wisecrack, one-liner.

• **verb 1** *surely you are jesting*: joke, quip, gag, pun; tell jokes, crack jokes; informal wisecrack.

**2** *she feared that they had not been jesting*: fool (about/around), play a practical joke, tease; informal kid, have someone on, pull someone's leg; N. Amer. informal pull someone's chain, fun; Brit. informal wind someone up.

■ **in jest** in fun, as a joke, tongue in cheek, playfully, jokingly, light-heartedly, facetiously, flippantly, frivolously, for a laugh.

**jester** noun **1** (historical) *a court jester*: (court) fool, court jester, clown; old use merry andrew. **2** *the class jester*: joker, comedian, comic, humorist, wag, wit, prankster, jokester, clown, buffoon; informal card, case, caution, hoot, scream, laugh, wisecracker, barrel of laughs; Austral./NZ informal hard case.

**jet**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a jet of water*: stream, spurt, squirt, spray, spout; gush, rush, surge, burst. **2** *carburettor jets*: nozzle, head, spout. **3** *an executive jet*: jet plane, jetliner; aircraft, plane; Brit. aeroplane.

• **verb 1** *they jetted out of Heathrow*: fly.

**2** *puffs of gas jetted out*: squirt, spurt, shoot, spray; gush, pour, stream, rush, pump, surge, spew, burst.

**jet**<sup>2</sup> adjective *her glossy jet hair*: black, jet-black, pitch-black, ink-black, ebony, raven, sable, sooty.

**jettison** verb **1** *six aircraft jettisoned their loads*: dump, drop, ditch, discharge, throw out, tip out, unload, throw overboard. **2** *he jettisoned his unwanted papers* | *the scheme was jettisoned*: discard, dispose of, throw away/out, get rid of; reject, scrap, axe, abandon, drop; informal chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash.

– OPPOSITES retain.

**jetty** noun pier, landing (stage), quay, wharf, dock; breakwater, mole, groyne, dyke; N. Amer. dockominium, levee.

**jewel** noun **1** *priceless jewels*: gem, gemstone, (precious) stone, brilliant; baguette; informal sparkler, rock; old use bijou. **2** *the jewel of his collection*: finest example/specimen, showpiece, pride (and joy), cream, crème de la crème, jewel in the crown, nonpareil, glory, prize, boast, pick, ne plus ultra. **3** *the girl is a jewel*: treasure, angel, paragon, marvel, find, godsend; informal one in a million, a star, the tops; old use nonsuch.

**jewellery** noun jewels, gems, gemstones, precious stones, bijouterie, costume jewellery, diamanté; old use bijoux.

**Jezebel** noun *immoral woman*; seductress, temptress, femme fatale; informal tart, vamp, maneater; N. Amer. informal tramp; Brit. informal scrubber, slapper, slag; dated loose woman, trollop, hussy; old use harlot, strumpet.

**jib** verb **1** *the horse jibbed at the final fence*: stop (short) at, balk at, shy at; refuse.

**2** *some farmers jib at paying large veterinary bills*: balk at, fight shy of, recoil from,

shrink from; be unwilling, be reluctant, be loath, demur at; informal boggle at.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**jibe** noun *cruel jibes*: snide remark, cutting remark, taunt, sneer, jeer, insult, barb; informal dig, put-down.

• **verb** *Simon jibed in a sarcastic way*: jeer, taunt, mock, scoff, sneer.

**jiffy** noun

■ **in a jiffy** (informal) (very) soon, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute (now), in no time (at all); N. Amer. momentarily; informal in a sec, in a jiff, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap, in jig time; dated directly.

**jig** verb bob, jump, spring, skip, hop, prance, bounce, jounce.

**jiggle** verb **1** *Barrett jiggled his foot*: shake, joggle, waggle, wiggle. **2** *Thomas jiggled excitedly*: fidget, wriggle, squirm.

**jilt** verb leave, walk out on, throw over, finish with, break up with; informal chuck, ditch, dump, drop, run out on, give someone the push/elbow, give someone the old heave-ho, give someone the big E; literary forsake.

**jingle** noun **1** *the jingle of money in the till*: clink, chink, tinkle, jangle. **2** *the jingle of the bell*: tinkle, ring, ding, ping, ting-a-ling, chime, tintinnabulation. **3** *advertising jingles*: slogan, catchphrase; ditty, song, rhyme, tune; N. Amer. informal tag line.

• **verb 1** *her bracelets jingled noisily*: clink, chink, tinkle, jangle. **2** *the bell jingled*: tinkle, ring, ding, ping, chime.

**jingoism** noun extreme patriotism, chauvinism, extreme nationalism, xenophobia; hawkishness, militarism, belligerence, bellicosity.

**jinx** noun *the jinx struck six days later*: curse, spell, hoodoo, malediction; the evil eye, black magic, voodoo, bad luck; N. Amer. hex; old use malison.

• **verb** *the family is jinxed*: curse, cast a spell on, put the evil eye on, hoodoo; Austral. point the bone at; N. Amer. hex; Austral. informal mozz, put the mozz on.

**jitters** plural noun (informal) nervousness, nerves, edginess, uneasiness, anxiety, anxiousness, tension, agitation, restlessness; stage fright; informal butterflies (in one's stomach), the willies, collywobbles, the heebie-jeebies, jitteriness, the jim-jams.

**jittery** adjective (informal) nervous, on edge, edgy, tense, anxious, nervy, ill at ease, uneasy, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks, worried, apprehensive; informal with butterflies in one's stomach, like a cat on a hot tin roof, twitchy, jumpy, uptight, het up, in a tizz/tizzy; Brit. informal strung up, like a cat on hot bricks; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrely, antsy; Austral./NZ informal toey; dated overstrung.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**job** noun **1** *my job involves a lot of travelling*:

**position**, post, situation, appointment; occupation, profession, employment, trade, career, (line of) work, métier, craft; vocation, calling; vacancy, opening; Austral. informal grip; old use employ. **2** *this job will take three months*: **task**, piece of work, assignment, project; chore, errand; undertaking, venture, operation, enterprise, business. **3** *it's your job to protect her*: **responsibility**, duty, charge, task; role, function, mission; informal department, pigeon. **4** (informal) *it was a job to get here on time*: **difficult task**, problem, trouble, struggle, strain, trial, bother; informal headache, hassle, pain. **5** (informal) *a bank job*: **crime**, felony; raid, robbery, hold-up, burglary, break-in; informal stick-up; N. Amer. informal heist.

**WORD LINKS**

**vocational** relating to a job or employment  
**nepotism** the practice of giving jobs to relatives or friends  
**moonlight** do a second job without declaring it for tax purposes  
**sinecure** a paid job involving little or no work  
**tenure** the right to stay permanently in a job

**jobless** adjective unemployed, out of work, out of a job, unwaged, between jobs, redundant, laid off; Brit. informal signing on, on the dole, 'resting'; Austral./NZ informal on the wallaby track.

– OPPOSITES employed.

**jockey** noun rider, horseman, horsewoman, equestrian; Austral. informal hoop.

• **verb** *ministers began jockeying for position*: compete, contend, vie; struggle, fight, scramble, jostle.

**jocular** adjective humorous, funny, witty, comic, comical, amusing, chucklesome, droll, jokey, hilarious, facetious, tongue-in-cheek, teasing, playful; light-hearted, jovial, cheerful, cheery, merry; formal jocose, ludic.

– OPPOSITES solemn.

**jocund** adjective (formal). See **CHEERFUL** sense 1.

**jog** verb **1** *he jogged along the road*: **run** slowly, jogtrot, dogtrot, trot, lope. **2** *things are jogging along quite nicely*: **continue**, proceed, go on, carry on. **3** *a hand jogged his elbow*: **nudge**, prod, poke, push, bump, jar. **4** *something jogged her memory*: **stimulate**, prompt, stir, activate, refresh. **5** *she jogged her foot up and down*: **joggle**, jiggle, bob, bounce, jolt, jerk.  
 • **noun** *he set off along at a jog*: **run**, jogtrot, dogtrot, trot, lope.

**joie de vivre** noun gaiety, cheerfulness, cheeriness, light-heartedness, happiness, joy, joyfulness, high spirits, jollity, joviality, exuberance, ebullience, liveliness, vivacity, verve, effervescence, buoyancy, zest, zestfulness; informal pep, zing; literary blitheness.

– OPPOSITES sobriety.

**join** verb **1** *the two parts of the mould are joined with clay*: **connect**, unite, couple, fix, affix, attach, fasten, stick, glue, fuse, weld,

amalgamate, bond, append, link, merge, secure, make fast, tie, bind, chain; formal conjoin. **2** *here the path joins a major road*: **meet**, touch, reach, extend to, abut, adjoin, border (on). **3** *I'm off to join the search party*: **become a member of**, help in, participate in, join in, get involved in, contribute to, have a hand in; enlist, join up, sign up, affiliate to; play a part, band together, get together, ally, team up, join forces.

– OPPOSITES separate, leave.

• **noun**. See **JOINT**.

**joint** noun **1** *a leaky joint in the guttering*: **join**, junction, juncture, intersection, link, linkage, connection; weld, seam; Anatomy commissure. **2** *the hip joint*: **articulation**. **3** (informal) *a classy joint*: **establishment**, restaurant, bar, club, nightclub. **4** (informal) *he rolled a joint*: **cannabis cigarette**, marijuana cigarette; informal spliff, reefer, bomb, bomber, stick.

• **adjective** *matters of joint interest* | *a joint effort*: **common**, shared, communal, collective; mutual, cooperative, collaborative, concerted, combined, united.

– OPPOSITES separate.

• **verb** *she jointed the carcass*: **cut up**, chop up, butcher, carve.

**WORD LINKS**

**arthritis**, **rheumatism** painful inflammation and stiffness of the joints  
**gout** a disease that causes the joints to swell  
**dislocate** displace a bone from its proper position in a joint  
**sprain** wrench the ligaments of a joint, causing pain and swelling  
**chiropractic** a system of complementary medicine based on manipulation of the joints

**jointly** adverb together, in partnership, in cooperation, cooperatively, in conjunction, in combination, mutually.

**joke** noun **1** *they were telling jokes*: **funny story**, jest, witticism, quip; pun, play on words; informal gag, wisecrack, crack, funny, one-liner, killer, rib-tickler, knee-slapper, thigh-slapper; N. Amer. informal boffola; rare blague. **2** *playing stupid jokes*: **trick**, practical joke, prank, stunt, hoax, jape; informal leg-pull, spoof. **3** (informal) *he soon became a joke to us*: **laughing stock**, figure of fun, object of ridicule, Aunt Sally. **4** (informal) *the present system is a joke*: **farce**, travesty, waste of time; N. Amer. informal shuck.

• **verb** **1** *she joked with the guests*: **tell jokes**, jest, banter, quip; informal wisecrack, josh. **2** *I'm only joking*: **fool (about/around)**, play a trick, play a (practical) joke, tease, hoax, pull someone's leg, mess about/around; informal kid; Brit. informal have someone on, wind someone up; N. Amer. informal fun, shuck, pull someone's chain.

**joker** noun humorist, comedian, comedienne, comic, wit, jester; prankster, practical joker, hoaxer, trickster, clown; informal card, wisecracker, wag.

**jolly** adjective cheerful, happy, cheery, good-humoured, jovial, merry, sunny, joyful,



joyous, light-hearted, in high spirits, bubbly, exuberant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, gleeful, mirthful, genial, fun-loving; informal chipper, chirpy, perky, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed; formal jocund, jocose; dated gay; literary gladsome, blithe, blithesome.

– **OPPOSITES** miserable.

• **verb** (informal) *he tried to jolly her along:*

**encourage**, urge, coax, cajole, persuade.

• **adverb** (Brit. informal) *a jolly good idea.* See **VERY** adverb.

**jolt** **verb** **1** *the train jolted the passengers to one side:* **push**, thrust, jar, bump, knock, bang; shake, joggle, jog. **2** *the car jolted along:* **bump**, bounce, jerk, rattle, lurch, shudder, judder, jounce. **3** *she was jolted out of her reverie:* **startle**, surprise, shock, stun, shake, take aback; astonish, astound, amaze, stagger, stop someone in their tracks; informal rock, floor, knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

• **noun** **1** *a series of sickening jolts:* **bump**, bounce, shake, jerk, lurch. **2** *he woke up with a jolt:* **start**, jerk, jump. **3** *the sight of the dagger gave him a jolt:* **fright**, the fright of one's life, shock, scare, surprise; informal turn.

**jostle** **verb** **1** *she was jostled by noisy students:* **bump into/against**, knock into/against, bang into, cannon into, plough into, jolt; push, shove, elbow; mob. **2** *I jostled my way to the exit:* **push**, thrust, barge, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, bulldoze. **3** *people jostled for the best position:* **struggle**, vie, jockey, scramble.

**jot** **verb** *I've jotted down a few details:* **write**, note, make a note of, take down, put on paper; scribble, scrawl.

• **noun** *not a jot of evidence:* **iota**, scrap, shred, whit, grain, crumb, ounce, (little) bit, jot or tittle, speck, atom, particle, scintilla, trace, hint; informal smidgen, tad; Austral./NZ informal skerrick; old use scruple.

**journal** **noun** **1** *a medical journal:* **periodical**, magazine, gazette, digest, review, newsletter, news-sheet, bulletin; newspaper, paper; daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly. **2** *he keeps a journal:* **diary**, daily record, log, logbook, chronicle; weblog, blog; N. Amer. daybook.

**journalism** **noun** **1** *a career in journalism:* **the newspaper business**, the press, the fourth estate; Brit. Fleet Street. **2** *his incisive style of journalism:* **reporting**, writing, reportage, feature writing, news coverage; articles, reports, features, pieces, stories.

**journalist** **noun** **reporter**, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newsmen, newswoman, columnist, writer, commentator, reviewer; investigative journalist; Brit. pressman; N. Amer. legman, wireman; Austral. roundsman; informal news hound, hack, hackette, stringer, journo; N. Amer. informal newsy.

**journey** **noun** *his journey round the world:* **trip**, expedition, tour, trek, voyage, cruise, ride, drive; crossing, passage, flight; travels, wandering, globetrotting; odyssey, pilgrimage; old use peregrination.

• **verb** *they journeyed south:* **travel**, go,

voyage, sail, cruise, fly, hike, trek, ride, drive, make one's way; tour; old use peregrinate.

**joust** (historical) **verb** *knights jousted with lances:* **tourney**; fight, spar, clash; historical tilt.

• **noun** *a medieval joust:* **tournament**, tourney; combat, contest, fight; historical tilt.

**jovial** **adjective** **cheerful**, jolly, happy, cheery, good-humoured, convivial, genial, good-natured, friendly, amiable, affable, sociable, outgoing; smiling, merry, sunny, joyful, joyous, high-spirited, exuberant; informal chipper, chirpy, perky, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed; formal jocund, jocose; dated gay; literary gladsome, blithe, blithesome.

– **OPPOSITES** miserable.

**joy** **noun** **1** *whoops of joy:* **delight**, great pleasure, joyfulness, jubilation, triumph, exultation, rejoicing, happiness, gladness, glee, exhilaration, exuberance, elation, euphoria, bliss, ecstasy, rapture; enjoyment, felicity, joie de vivre; formal jocundity, jouissance. **2** *it was a joy to be with her:* (source of) **pleasure**, delight, treat, thrill; informal buzz, kick. **3** (Brit. informal) *we still had no joy:* **success**, satisfaction, luck, successful result.

– **OPPOSITES** misery, trial.

**joyful** **adjective** **1** *his joyful mood:* **cheerful**, happy, jolly, merry, sunny, joyous, light-hearted, in good spirits, bubbly, exuberant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, cheery, smiling, mirthful, radiant; jubilant, overjoyed, thrilled, ecstatic, euphoric, blissful, on cloud nine, elated, delighted, gleeful; jovial, genial, good-humoured, full of the joys of spring; informal chipper, chirpy, peppy, over the moon, on top of the world; Austral./NZ informal wrapped; dated gay; formal jocund; literary gladsome, blithe, blithesome. **2** *joyful news:* **pleasing**, happy, good, cheering, gladdening, welcome, heart-warming; literary gladsome. **3** *a joyful occasion:* **happy**, cheerful, merry, jolly, festive, joyous.

– **OPPOSITES** sad, distressing.

**joyless** **adjective** **1** *a joyless man:* **gloomy**, melancholy, morose, lugubrious, glum, sombre, saturnine, sullen, dour, humourless. **2** *a joyless room:* **depressing**, cheerless, gloomy, dreary, bleak, dispiriting, drab, dismal, desolate, austere, sombre; unwelcoming, uninviting, inhospitable; literary drear.

– **OPPOSITES** cheerful, welcoming.

**joyous** **adjective.** See **JOYFUL** senses 1, 3.

**jubilant** **adjective** **overjoyed**, exultant, triumphant, joyful, rejoicing, cock-a-hoop, exuberant, elated, thrilled, gleeful, euphoric, ecstatic, enraptured, in raptures, walking on air, in seventh heaven, on cloud nine; informal over the moon, on top of the world, on a high; N. Amer. informal wigged out; Austral. informal wrapped.

– **OPPOSITES** despondent.

**jubilation** **noun** **exultation**, joy, joyousness, elation, euphoria, ecstasy, rapture, glee, gleefulness, exuberance.

**jubilee** **noun** **anniversary**, commemoration;

celebration, festival, jamboree; festivities, revelry.

**Judas** noun traitor, betrayer, back-stabber, double-crosser; turncoat, quisling, renegade.

**judge** noun **1** *the judge sentenced him to five years*: justice, magistrate, recorder, sheriff; N. Amer. jurist; Brit. informal beak. **2** *a panel of judges will select the winner*: adjudicator, arbiter, assessor, evaluator, appraiser, examiner, moderator, mediator.  
**•verb 1** *I judged that she was simply exhausted*: form the opinion, conclude, decide; consider, believe, think, deem, view; deduce, gather, infer, gauge, estimate, guess, surmise, conjecture; regard as, look on as, take to be, rate as, class as; informal reckon, figure. **2** *the case was judged by a tribunal*: try, hear; adjudicate, decide, give a ruling/verdict on. **3** *she was judged innocent of murder*: adjudge, pronounce, decree, rule, find. **4** *the competition will be judged by Alan Amey*: adjudicate, arbitrate, mediate, moderate. **5** *entries were judged by a panel of experts*: assess, appraise, evaluate; examine, review.

**WORD LINKS**

judicial relating to a judge  
the judicature, the judiciary judges as a group

**judgement** noun **1** *his temper could affect his judgement*: discernment, acumen, shrewdness, astuteness, (Common) sense, perception, perspicacity, percipience, acuity, discrimination, wisdom, wit, judiciousness, prudence, caninness, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, powers of reasoning, reason, logic; informal nous, savvy, horse sense, gumption; Brit. informal common; N. Amer. informal smarts. **2** *a court judgement*: verdict, decision, adjudication, ruling, pronouncement, decree, finding; sentence. **3** *critical judgement*: assessment, evaluation, appraisal; review, analysis, criticism, critique. **4** *a judgement on them for their wickedness*: punishment, retribution, penalty.

■ **against one's better judgement** reluctantly, unwillingly, grudgingly.

■ **in my judgement** in my opinion, to my mind, to my way of thinking, I believe, I think, as I see it, in my estimation.

**judgemental** adjective critical, censorious, condemnatory, disapproving, disparaging, deprecating, negative, overcritical, hypercritical.

**judicial** adjective legal, juridical, judicatory; official.

**judicious** adjective wise, sensible, prudent, politic, shrewd, astute, canny, sagacious, commonsensical, sound, well advised, well judged, discerning, percipient, intelligent, smart; N. Amer. informal heads-up.

– OPPOSITES ill-advised.

**jug** noun pitcher, ewer, crock, jar, urn; carafe, flask, flagon, decanter; N. Amer. creamer; historical amphora, jorum.

**juggle** verb misrepresent, tamper with,

falsify, distort, alter, manipulate, rig, massage, fudge; informal fix, doctor; Brit. informal fiddle.

**juice** noun **1** *the juice from two lemons*: liquid, fluid, sap; extract. **2** *cooking juices*: liquid, liquor. **3** (informal) *he ran out of juice*. See PETROL.

**juicy** adjective **1** *a juicy peach*: succulent, tender, moist; ripe; old use mellow. **2** (informal) *juicy gossip*: very interesting, fascinating, sensational, lurid; scandalous, racy, risqué, spicy; informal hot. **3** (informal) *juicy profits*: large, substantial, sizeable, generous; lucrative, profitable; informal fat, tidy.

– OPPOSITES dry, dull.

**jumble** noun **1** *the books were in a jumble*: untidy heap, clutter, muddle, mess, confusion, disarray, disarrangement, tangle; hotchpotch, mishmash, miscellany, motley collection, mixed bag, medley, farrago; N. Amer. hodgepodge. **2** (Brit.) *bags of jumble*: junk, bric-a-brac; Brit. lumber.

• **verb** *the photographs are all jumbled up*: mix up, muddle up, disarrange, disorganize, disorder.

**jumbo** adjective (informal). See HUGE.

**jump** verb **1** *the cat jumped off his lap* | *Flora began to jump about*: leap, spring, bound, hop; skip, caper, dance, prance, frolic, cavort. **2** *he jumped the fence*: vault (over), leap over, clear, sail over, hop over, hurdle. **3** *pre-tax profits jumped*: rise, go up, shoot up, soar, surge, climb, increase; informal skyrocket. **4** *the noise made her jump*: start, jerk, jolt, flinch, recoil; informal jump out of one's skin. **5** *Polly jumped at the chance*: accept eagerly, leap at, welcome with open arms, seize on, snap up, grab, pounce on. **6** (informal) *he jumped the red light*: ignore, disregard, drive through, overshoot; informal run.

• **noun 1** *the short jump across the gully*: leap, spring, vault, bound, hop. **2** *the horse cleared the last jump*: obstacle, barrier; fence, hurdle. **3** *a jump in profits*: rise, leap, increase, upsurge, upswing; informal hike. **4** *I woke up with a jump*: start, jerk, involuntary movement, spasm.

■ **jump the gun** (informal) act prematurely, act too soon, be overhasty, be precipitate; informal be ahead of oneself.

■ **jump to it** (informal) hurry up, get a move on, be quick; informal get cracking, shake a leg, look lively, look sharp, pull one's finger out, get a wiggle on; Brit. informal get one's skates on, stir one's stumps; dated make haste.

**jumper** (Brit.) noun sweater, pullover, jersey; informal woolly.

**jumpy** adjective (informal) **1** *he was tired and jumpy*: nervous, on edge, edgy, tense, nervy, anxious, ill at ease, uneasy, restless, fidgety, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks; informal a bundle of nerves, jittery, like a cat on a hot tin roof, uptight, het up, in a tizz/tizzy; Brit. informal strung up, like a cat on hot bricks; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrely, antsy; Austral./NZ informal toey. **2** *jumpy black-and-white footage*: jerky, jolting, lurching, bumpy, jarring; fitful, convulsive.

**junction** noun **1** *the junction between the roof and the wall:* join, joint, intersection, bond, seam, connection, juncture; Anatomy commissure. **2** *the junction of the two rivers:* confluence, convergence, meeting point, conflux, juncture. **3** *turn right at the next junction:* crossroads, intersection, interchange, T-junction; turn, turn-off, exit; Brit. roundabout; N. Amer. turnout, cloverleaf.

**juncture** noun **1** *at this juncture, I am unable to tell you:* point (in time), time, moment (in time); period, phase. **2** *the juncture of the pipes.* See **JUNCTION** sense 1. **3** *the juncture of the rivers.* See **JUNCTION** sense 2.

**jungle** noun **1** *the Amazon jungle:* tropical forest, (tropical) rainforest. **2** *a jungle of bureaucracy:* complexity, confusion, complication, chaos; labyrinth, maze, tangle, web.

**junior** adjective **1** *the junior members of the family:* younger, youngest. **2** *a junior minister:* low-ranking, lower-ranking, subordinate, lesser, lower, minor, secondary. **3** *John White Junior:* the Younger; Brit. minor; N. Amer. II, the Second.

– **OPPOSITES** senior, older.

**junk** (informal) noun *an attic full of junk:* rubbish, clutter, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bric-a-brac; refuse, litter, scrap, waste, debris, detritus, dross; Brit. lumber; N. Amer. garbage, trash; Austral./NZ mullock; Brit. informal odds and sods.

• **verb** *junk all the rubbish:* throw away/out, discard, get rid of, dispose of, scrap, toss out, jettison; informal chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of.

**junket** noun (informal) *celebration, party, jamboree, feast, festivity; spree, excursion, outing, trip, jaunt; informal bash, shindy, shindig;* Brit. informal beanfeast, jolly, bunfight, beano; Austral. informal jollo.

**junta** noun *faction, cabal, clique, party, set, ring, gang, league, confederacy; historical junto.*

**jurisdiction** noun **1** *an area under French jurisdiction:* authority, control, power, dominion, rule, administration, command, sway, leadership, sovereignty, hegemony. **2** *foreign jurisdictions:* territory, region, province, district, area, domain, realm.

**just** adjective **1** *a just and democratic society:* fair, fair-minded, equitable, even-handed, impartial, unbiased, objective, neutral, disinterested, unprejudiced, open-minded, non-partisan; honourable, upright, decent, honest, righteous, moral, virtuous, principled. **2** *a just reward:* (well) deserved, (well) earned, merited; rightful, due, fitting, appropriate, suitable; formal condign; old use meet. **3** *just criticism:* valid, sound, well founded, justified, justifiable, warranted, legitimate.

– **OPPOSITES** unfair, undeserved.

• **adverb** **1** *I just saw him:* a moment/second ago, a short time ago, very recently, not long ago. **2** *she's just right for him:*

exactly, precisely, absolutely, completely, totally, entirely, perfectly, utterly, wholly, thoroughly, in all respects; informal down to the ground, to a T, dead. **3** *we just made it:* narrowly, only just, by a hair's breadth, by the skin of one's teeth; barely, scarcely, hardly; informal by a whisker. **4** *she's just a child:* only, merely, simply, (nothing) but, no more than. **5** *the colour's just fantastic:* really, absolutely, completely, entirely, totally, quite; indeed, truly.

■ **just about** (informal) nearly, almost, practically, all but, well-nigh, nigh on, virtually, as good as, more or less, to all intents and purposes; informal pretty much.

**justice** noun **1** *I appealed to his sense of justice:* fairness, justness, fair play, fair-mindedness, equity, equitableness, even-handedness, impartiality, objectivity, neutrality, disinterestedness, honesty, righteousness, morals, morality. **2** *the justice of his case:* validity, justification, soundness, well-foundedness, legitimacy. **3** *an order made by the justices:* judge, magistrate, recorder, sheriff; N. Amer. jurist; Brit. informal beak.

**justifiable** adjective *valid, legitimate, warranted, well founded, justified, just, reasonable; defensible, tenable, supportable, acceptable.*

– **OPPOSITES** indefensible.

**justification** noun *grounds, reason, basis, rationale, premise, rationalization, vindication, explanation; defence, argument, apologia, apology, case.*

**justify** verb **1** *directors must justify the expenditure:* give grounds for, give reasons for, give a justification for, explain, give an explanation for, account for; defend, answer for, vindicate. **2** *the situation justified further investigation:* warrant, be good reason for, be a justification for.

**justly** adverb **1** *he is justly proud of his achievement:* justifiably, with (good) reason, legitimately, rightly, rightfully, deservedly. **2** *they were treated justly:* fairly, with fairness, equitably, even-handedly, impartially, without bias, objectively, without prejudice; informal fairly and squarely.

– **OPPOSITES** unjustifiably.

**jut** verb *stick out, project, protrude, bulge out, overhang, obtrude; old use be imminent.*

**juvenile** adjective **1** *juvenile offenders:* young, teenage, adolescent, junior, pubescent, prepubescent. **2** *juvenile behaviour:* childish, immature, puerile, infantile, babyish; jejune, inexperienced, callow, green, unsophisticated, naive, foolish, silly.

– **OPPOSITES** adult, mature.

• **noun** *many victims are juveniles:* young person, youngster, child, teenager, adolescent, minor, junior; informal kid.

– **OPPOSITES** adult.

**juxtapose** verb *place side by side, set side by side, mix; compare, contrast.*



# Kk

**kaleidoscopic** adjective **1** *kaleidoscopic shapes*: multicoloured, many-coloured, multicolour, many-hued, variegated, particoloured, varicoloured, psychedelic, rainbow, polychromatic. **2** *the kaleidoscopic political landscape*: ever-changing, changeable, shifting, fluid, protean, variable, inconstant, fluctuating, unpredictable, impermanent. **3** *the kaleidoscopic world we are living in*: multifaceted, varied; complex, intricate, complicated.

– OPPOSITES monochrome, constant.

**k** **kaput** (informal) adjective *the TV's kaput*: broken, malfunctioning, broken-down, inoperative; informal conked out.  
 ■ **go kaput** break down, go wrong, stop working; informal conk out.

**keel** noun *the upturned keel of the boat*: base, bottom (side), underside.

■ **keel over 1** *the boat keeled over*: capsize, turn turtle, turn upside down, founder; overturn, turn over, tip over. **2** *the slightest activity made him keel over*: collapse, faint, pass out, black out, lose consciousness, swoon.

**keen**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *his publishers were keen to capitalize on his success*: eager, anxious, intent, impatient, determined, ambitious; informal raring, itching, dying. **2** *a keen birdwatcher*: enthusiastic, avid, eager, ardent, passionate, fervent, fervid, impassioned; conscientious, committed, dedicated, zealous. **3** *they are keen on horses* | *a girl he was keen on*: enthusiastic, interested, passionate; attracted to, fond of, taken with, smitten with, enamoured of, infatuated with; informal struck on, gone on, mad about, crazy about, nuts about. **4** *a keen cutting edge*: sharp, sharpened, honed, razor-sharp. **5** *keen eyesight*: acute, sharp, discerning, sensitive, perceptive, clear. **6** *a keen mind*: acute, penetrating, astute, incisive, sharp, perceptive, piercing, razor-sharp, perspicacious, shrewd, discerning, clever, intelligent, brilliant, bright, smart, wise, canny, percipient, insightful. **7** *a keen wind*: cold, icy, freezing, harsh, raw, bitter; penetrating, piercing, biting. **8** *a keen sense of duty*: intense, acute, fierce, passionate, burning, fervent, ardent, strong, powerful.

– OPPOSITES reluctant, unenthusiastic.

**keen**<sup>2</sup> verb *the bereaved gathered to keen*: lament, mourn, weep, cry, sorrow, grieve;

wail, ululate; old use plain.

**keenness** noun **1** *the company's keenness to sign a deal*: eagerness, willingness, readiness, impatience; enthusiasm, fervour, wholeheartedness, zest, zeal, ardour, passion, avidity. **2** *the keenness of the blade*: sharpness, razor-sharpness. **3** *keenness of hearing*: acuteness, sharpness, sensitivity, perceptiveness, clarity. **4** *the keenness of his mind*: acuity, sharpness, incisiveness, astuteness, perspicacity, perceptiveness, shrewdness, insight, cleverness, discernment, intelligence, brightness, brilliance, caniness. **5** *the keenness of his sense of loss*: intensity, acuteness, strength, power, ferocity.

**keep**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *you should keep all the old forms*: retain, hold on to, keep hold of, not part with; save, store, put by/aside, set aside; N. Amer. set by; informal hang on to, stash away. **2** *I tried to keep calm*: remain, continue to be, stay, carry on being, persist in being. **3** *he keeps going on about the murder*: persist in, keep on, carry on, continue. **4** *I shan't keep you long*: detain, keep waiting, delay, hold up, retard, slow down. **5** *most people kept the rules* | *he had to keep his promise*: comply with, obey, observe, conform to, abide by, adhere to, stick to, heed, follow; fulfil, carry out, act on, make good, honour, keep to, stand by. **6** *keeping the old traditions*: preserve, keep alive/up, keep going, carry on, perpetuate, maintain, uphold, sustain. **7** *the stand where her umbrella was kept*: store, house, stow, put (away), place, deposit. **8** *the shop keeps a good stock of parchment*: (have in) stock, carry, have (for sale), hold. **9** *he stole to keep his family*: provide for, support, feed, keep alive, maintain, sustain; take care of, look after. **10** *she keeps rabbits*: breed, rear, raise, farm. **11** *his parents kept a shop*: manage, run, own, be the proprietor of. **12** *God keep you*: look after, care for, take care of, mind, watch over; protect, keep safe, preserve, defend, guard. **13** *today people do not keep the Sabbath*: observe, respect, honour, hold sacred; celebrate, mark, commemorate.

– OPPOSITES throw away, break, abandon.

• noun *money to pay for his keep*:

maintenance, upkeep, sustenance, board (and lodging), food, livelihood.

■ **for keeps** (informal) forever, for ever and

ever, for evermore, for always, for good (and all), permanently, in perpetuity; informal until kingdom come, until doomsday; old use for aye.

■ **keep at** persevere with, persist with, keep going with, carry on with, press on with, work away at, continue with; informal stick at, peg away at, plug away at, hammer away at.

■ **keep something back** 1 *she kept back some of the money*: (keep in) reserve, put by/aside, set aside; retain, hold back, keep, hold on to, not part with; N. Amer. set by; informal stash away. 2 *she kept back the details*: conceal, keep secret, keep hidden, withhold, suppress, keep quiet about. 3 *she could hardly keep back her tears*: suppress, stifle, choke back, fight back, hold back/in, repress, keep in check, contain, smother, swallow, bite back.

■ **keep from** refrain from, stop oneself, restrain oneself from, prevent oneself from, forbear from, avoid.

■ **keep someone from something** 1 *he could hardly keep himself from laughing*: prevent, stop, restrain, hold back. 2 *keep them from harm*: preserve, protect, keep safe, guard, shield, shelter, safeguard, defend.

■ **keep something from someone** keep secret, keep hidden, hide, conceal, withhold; informal keep dark.

■ **keep off** 1 *keep off private land*: stay off, not enter, keep/stay away from. 2 *Maud tried to keep off political subjects*: avoid, steer clear of, stay away from, evade, sidestep; informal duck. 3 *you should keep off alcohol*: abstain from, do without, refrain from, give up, forgo, not touch; informal swear off; formal forswear. 4 *I hope the rain keeps off*: stay away, hold off, not start, not begin.

■ **keep on** 1 *they kept on working*: continue, go on, carry on, persist in, persevere in; soldier on, struggle on, keep going. 2 *the commander kept on about vigilance*: talk constantly, talk endlessly, keep talking, go on (and on), rant on; informal harp on, witter on, rabbit on.

■ **keep on at** nag, go on at, harp on at, badger, chivvy, harass, hound, pester; informal hassle.

■ **keep to** 1 *I've got to keep to the rules*: obey, abide by, observe, follow, comply with, adhere to, respect, keep, stick to, be bound by. 2 *keep to the path*: follow, stick to, stay on. 3 *please keep to the point*: stick to, restrict oneself to, confine oneself to.

■ **keep something up** continue (with), keep on with, keep going, carry on with, persist with, persevere with.

■ **keep up with** 1 *she walked fast to keep up with him*: keep pace with, keep abreast of; match, equal. 2 *he kept up with events at home*: keep informed about, keep up to date with, keep abreast of; informal keep tabs on.

**keep**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *the enemy stormed the keep*: fortress, fort, stronghold, tower, donjon, castle, citadel, bastion.

**keeper** **noun** 1 *keeper of the archives*: curator, custodian, guardian, administrator, overseer, steward, caretaker. 2 *the keeper*

*of an inn*: proprietor, owner, master/mistress, landlord/landlady. 3 *you're not her keeper*: guardian, protector, guard, minder, chaperon/chaperone; carer, nursemaid, nurse.

**keeping** **noun** *the document is in the keeping of the county archivist*: safe keeping, care, custody, charge, possession, trust, protection.

■ **in keeping with** consistent with, in harmony with, in accord with, in agreement with, in line with, in character with, compatible with; appropriate to, befitting, suitable for.

**keepsake** **noun** memento, souvenir, reminder, remembrance, token.

**keg** **noun** barrel, cask, vat, butt, tun, hogshead; historical firkin.

**ken** **noun** knowledge, awareness, perception, understanding, grasp, comprehension, realization, appreciation, consciousness.

**kernel** **noun** 1 *the kernel of a nut*: seed, grain, core; nut. 2 *the kernel of the argument*: essence, core, heart, essentials, quintessence, fundamentals, basics, nub, gist, substance; informal nitty-gritty. 3 *a kernel of truth*: nucleus, germ, grain, nugget.

**key** **noun** 1 *the key to the mystery*: answer, clue, solution, explanation. 2 *the key to success*: route, basis, foundation, requisite, precondition, means, way, path, passport, secret, formula, recipe. 3 (Music) *a minor key*: tone, pitch, timbre, tone colour. 4 *an austere intellectual key*: style, character, mood, vein, spirit, feel, feeling, flavour, quality, atmosphere.

• **adjective a key figure**: crucial, central, essential, indispensable, pivotal, critical, dominant, vital, principal, prime, chief, major, leading, main, important, significant.

– OPPOSITES peripheral.

**keynote** **noun** theme, salient point, gist, substance, burden, tenor, pith, marrow, essence, heart, core, basis, essential feature/element.

**keystone** **noun** 1 *the keystone of the door*: cornerstone, central stone, quoin. 2 *the keystone of the government's policy*: foundation, basis, linchpin, cornerstone, base, (guiding) principle, core, heart, centre, crux, fundament.

**kick** **verb** 1 *her attacker kicked her*: boot; Soccer punt; Brit. informal put the boot into. 2 (informal) *he was struggling to kick his drug habit*: give up, break, abandon, end, stop, cease, desist from, renounce; informal shake, pack in, leave off, quit. 3 *the gun kicked hard*: recoil, spring back, jump.

• **noun** 1 *a kick on the knee*: blow; Soccer punt; informal boot. 2 (informal) *I get a kick out of driving a racing car*: thrill, excitement, stimulation, tingle; fun, enjoyment, amusement, pleasure, gratification; informal buzz, high; N. Amer. informal charge. 3 (informal) *a drink with a powerful kick*: effect, power, potency, strength; tang, zest, bite, piquancy, edge, pungency; informal punch. 4 (informal) *a health kick*: craze, enthusiasm, obsession,

mania, passion; fashion, vogue, trend; informal *fad*.

■ **kick against** resist, rebel against, oppose, struggle/fight against; defy, disobey, reject, spurn.

■ **kick someone/something around** (informal)

**1** *we are undervalued and get kicked around*: abuse, mistreat, maltreat, push around/about, trample on; informal boss about/around, walk all over. **2** *they began to kick ideas around*: discuss, talk over, debate, thrash out, consider, toy with, play with.

■ **kick back** (N. Amer. informal) relax, unwind, take it easy, rest, slow down, let up, ease up/off, sit back; informal chill out, cool out; N. Amer. informal hang loose.

■ **kick off** (informal) start, commence, begin, get going, get off the ground, get under way; open, start off, set in motion, launch, initiate, introduce, inaugurate, usher in.

■ **kick someone out** (informal) expel, eject, throw out, oust, evict, get rid of, axe; dismiss, discharge; informal chuck out, send packing, boot out, give someone their marching orders, sack, fire; Brit. informal turf out; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush.

**kickback** noun **1** *the kickback from the gun*: recoil, kick, rebound. **2** (informal) *they paid kickbacks to politicians*: bribe, payment, inducement; N. Amer. *payola*; informal pay-off, sweetener, backhand.

**kick-off** noun (informal) beginning, start, commencement, outset, opening.

**kid<sup>1</sup>** noun (informal) *she has three kids*: child, youngster, little one, baby, toddler, tot, infant, boy/girl, young person, minor, juvenile, adolescent, teenager, youth, strapping, offspring, son/daughter; Scottish bairn; informal kiddie, nipper, kiddiewink, shaver, young 'un; Brit. informal sprog; N. Amer. informal rug rat; Austral./NZ ankle-biter; derogatory brat; literary babe.

**kid<sup>2</sup>** verb (informal) **1** *I'm not kidding*: joke, tease, jest, chaff, be facetious, fool about/around; informal pull someone's leg, have on, rib; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal pull someone's chain, fun, shuck. **2** *why did I kid myself that I'd succeed?* delude, deceive, fool, trick, hoodwink, hoax, beguile, dupe, gull; informal con, pull the wool over someone's eyes; literary cozen.

**kidnap** verb abduct, carry off, capture, seize, snatch, take as hostage; Brit. informal noble.

**kidney** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**renal** relating to the kidneys

**nephrology** the branch of medicine concerning the kidneys

**nephritis** inflammation of the kidneys

**dialysis** a method of purifying the blood, as a substitute for the normal function of the kidneys

**kill** verb **1** *gangs killed twenty-seven people*: murder, take the life of, make away with, assassinate, eliminate, terminate, dispatch,

finish off, put to death, execute; slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, annihilate, exterminate, liquidate, mow down, shoot down, cut down, cut to pieces; informal bump off, polish off, do away with, do in, knock off, top, take out, croak, stiff, blow away, dispose of; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, waste, whack, scrag, smoke; literary slay. **2** *100,000 seals will be killed over the coming days*: destroy, put down, put to sleep; cull. **3** *this would kill all hopes of progress*: destroy, put an end to, end, extinguish, dash, quash, ruin, wreck, shatter, smash, crush, scotch, thwart; informal put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie; Brit. informal scupper. **4** *we had to kill several hours at the airport*: while away, fill (up), occupy, beguile, pass, spend, waste. **5** (informal) *you must rest or you'll kill yourself*: exhaust, wear out, tire out, overtax, overtire, fatigue, weary, sap, drain, enervate, prostrate; informal knock out, shatter; Brit. informal knacker. **6** (informal) *my feet were killing me*: hurt, torture, torment, cause discomfort to; be painful, be sore, be uncomfortable. **7** *the engines were at a low rev to kill the noise*: muffle, deaden, stifle, dampen, damp down, smother, reduce, diminish, decrease, suppress, tone down, moderate. **8** *a shot of morphine to kill the pain*: alleviate, assuage, soothe, allay, dull, blunt, deaden, stifle, suppress, subdue.

• noun **1** *the hunter's kill*: prey, quarry, victim, bag. **2** *the wolf was moving in for the kill*: death blow, killing, dispatch, finish, end, coup de grâce.

**killer** noun *police are searching for the killer*: murderer, assassin, slaughterer, butcher, serial killer, gunman; exterminator, terminator, executioner; informal hit man; literary slayer; dated homicide.

**killing** noun *a brutal killing*: murder, assassination, homicide, manslaughter, elimination, putting/doing to death, execution; slaughter, massacre, butchery, carnage, bloodshed, extermination, annihilation; literary slaying.

• adjective **1** *a killing blow*: deadly, lethal, fatal, mortal, death-dealing; murderous, homicidal; literary deathly. **2** (informal) *a killing schedule*: exhausting, gruelling, punishing, taxing, draining, wearing, prostrating, crushing, tiring, fatiguing, debilitating, enervating, arduous, tough, demanding, onerous, strenuous, rigorous; informal murderous; Brit. informal knacker.

■ **make a killing** (informal) make a large profit, make a one's fortune, make money; informal clean up, make a packet, make a pretty penny; Brit. informal make a bomb; N. Amer. informal make big bucks.

**killjoy** noun spoilsport, prophet of doom; informal wet blanket, party-pooper, misery; Austral./NZ informal wowsler.

**kilter** noun

■ **out of kilter** awry, off balance, unbalanced, out of order, disordered, confused, muddled, out of tune, out of step.

**kin** noun *their own kin*: relatives, relations, family (members), kindred, kith and kin;



kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, people; informal folks.

• **adjective** *my uncle was kin to the brothers:* related, akin, allied, connected with, consanguineous; formal cognate.

**kind<sup>1</sup> noun 1** *all kinds of gifts | the kinds of bird that could be seen:* sort, type, variety, style, form, class, category, genre, ilk; genus, species, family, breed, strain. **2** *they were different in kind:* character, nature, essence, quality, disposition, make-up; stamp, manner, description, mould, cast, temperament; N. Amer. stripe.

■ **kind of** (informal) rather, quite, fairly, somewhat, a little, slightly, a shade; informal sort of, a bit, kinda, pretty, a touch, a tad.

**kind<sup>2</sup> adjective** *she is such a kind and caring person:* kindly, good-natured, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, caring, affectionate, loving, warm; considerate, helpful, thoughtful, obliging, unselfish, selfless, altruistic, good, attentive; compassionate, sympathetic, understanding, big-hearted, benevolent, benign, friendly, neighbourly, hospitable, well meaning, public-spirited; generous, liberal, open-handed, bountiful, beneficent, munificent, benignant; Brit. informal decent.

– **OPPOSITES** inconsiderate, mean.

**kind-hearted adjective** **kind**, caring, warm-hearted, kindly, benevolent, good-natured, tender, warm, compassionate, sympathetic, understanding; indulgent, altruistic, benign, beneficent, benignant.

**kindle verb 1** *he kindled a fire:* light, ignite, set alight, set light to, set fire to, put a match to. **2** *Elvis kindled my interest in music:* rouse, arouse, wake, awaken; stimulate, inspire, stir (up), excite, evoke, provoke, fire, inflame, trigger, activate, spark off; literary waken, enkindle.

– **OPPOSITES** extinguish.

**kindliness noun** kindness, benevolence, warmth, gentleness, tenderness, care, humanity, sympathy, compassion, understanding; generosity, charity, kind-heartedness, warm-heartedness, thoughtfulness, solicitousness.

**kindly adjective** *a kindly old lady:* kind, benevolent, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, generous, good-natured; gentle, warm, compassionate, caring, loving, benign, well meaning; helpful, thoughtful, considerate, good-hearted, nice, friendly, neighbourly; Brit. informal decent.

– **OPPOSITES** unkind, cruel.

• **adverb 1** *she spoke kindly:* benevolently, good-naturedly, warmly, affectionately, tenderly, lovingly, compassionately; considerately, thoughtfully, helpfully, obligingly, generously, selflessly, unselfishly, sympathetically. **2** *kindly explain what you mean:* please, if you please, if you wouldn't mind, have the goodness to; old use prithe, pray.

– **OPPOSITES** unkindly, harshly.

■ **not take kindly to** resent, object to,

take umbrage at, take exception to, take offence at, be annoyed by, be irritated by, be upset by.

**kindness noun 1** *he thanked her for her kindness:* kindliness, kind-heartedness, warm-heartedness, affection, warmth, gentleness, concern, care; consideration, considerateness, helpfulness, thoughtfulness, unselfishness, selflessness, altruism, compassion, sympathy, understanding, big-heartedness, benevolence, benignity, friendliness, neighbourliness, hospitality, public-spiritedness; generosity, magnanimity, charitableness; Brit. informal decency. **2** *she has done us many a kindness:* kind act, good deed, good turn, favour, service.

**kindred noun 1** *his mother's kindred:* family, relatives, relations, kin, kith and kin, one's own flesh and blood; kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, people; informal folks. **2** *ties of kindred:* kinship, family ties, being related, (blood) relationship, consanguinity, common ancestry.

• **adjective 1** *industrial relations and kindred subjects:* related, allied, connected, comparable, similar, like, parallel, associated, analogous; formal cognate. **2** *a kindred spirit:* like-minded, in sympathy, in harmony, in tune, of one mind, on the same wavelength, akin, similar, like, compatible.

– **OPPOSITES** unrelated, alien.

**king noun 1** *the king of France:* ruler, sovereign, monarch, crowned head, Crown, emperor, prince, potentate, lord. **2** (informal) *the king of world football:* star, leading light, luminary, superstar, giant, master; informal supremo, megastar.

■ **a king's ransom** a huge amount, a vast sum; informal a (small) fortune, a mint, a packet, a pretty penny, big money; Brit. informal a bomb; N. Amer. informal big bucks; Austral. informal big bickies.

#### WORD LINKS

**regal, royal** relating to a king  
**regicide** the killing of a king, or a person who kills a king

**kingdom noun 1** *his kingdom stretched to the sea:* realm, domain, dominion, country, empire, land, nation, (sovereign) state, province, territory. **2** *Henry's little kingdom:* domain, province, realm, sphere, dominion, territory, arena, zone. **3** *the plant kingdom:* division, category, classification, grouping, group.

**kingly adjective 1** *kingly power:* royal, regal, monarchical, sovereign, imperial, princely. **2** *kingly robes:* regal, majestic, stately, noble, lordly, dignified, distinguished, courtly; splendid, magnificent, grand, glorious, rich, gorgeous, resplendent, princely, superb, sumptuous; informal splendiferous.

**kink noun 1** *your fishing line should have no kinks in it:* curl, twist, twirl, loop, crinkle; knot, tangle, entanglement. **2** *a kink in the road:* bend, corner, dog-leg, twist, turn, curve; Brit. hairpin bend. **3** *there are*

*still some kinks to iron out:* **flaw**, defect, imperfection, problem, complication, hitch, snag, shortcoming, weakness; informal hiccup, glitch. **4** *their sartorial kinks:* **peculiarity**, quirk, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, oddity, foible, whim, caprice.

**kinky** **adjective** **1** (informal) *a kinky relationship:* **perverted**, abnormal, deviant, unnatural, depraved, degenerate, perverse; odd, bizarre, weird; informal pervy. **2** (informal) *kinky underwear:* **provocative**, sexy, sexually arousing, erotic, titillating, naughty, indecent, immodest; Brit. informal saucy. **3** *Catriona's long kinky hair:* **curly**, crimped, curled, curling, frizzy, frizzed, wavy.

**kinsfolk** **noun** **relatives**, relations, kin, kindred, family, kith and kin, kinsmen, kinswomen, people; informal folks.

**kinship** **noun** **1** *ties of kinship:* **relationship**, being related, family ties, blood ties, common ancestry, kindred, consanguinity. **2** *she felt kinship with the others:* **affinity**, sympathy, rapport, harmony, understanding, empathy, closeness, fellow feeling, bond, compatibility; similarity, likeness, correspondence, concordance.

**k** **kinsman, kinswoman** **noun** **relative**, relation, family member; cousin, uncle, nephew, aunt, niece.

**kiosk** **noun** **booth**, stand, stall, counter, news-stand.

**kismet** **noun** **fate**, destiny, fortune, providence, God's will, one's lot (in life), karma, predestination, preordination, predetermination; luck, chance; literary one's dole.

**kiss** **verb** **1** *he kissed her on the lips:* give a kiss to, brush one's lips against, blow a kiss to, air-kiss; informal peck, smooch, canoodle, neck, **pet**; Brit. informal snog; N. Amer. informal buss; informal, dated spoon; formal osculate. **2** *allow your foot just to kiss the floor:* **brush** (against), caress, touch (gently), stroke, skim over. **•noun** **1** *a kiss on the cheek:* air kiss, French kiss; X; informal peck, smack, smacker, smooch; Brit. informal snog; N. Amer. informal buss; formal osculation. **2** *the kiss of the flowers against her cheeks:* **gentle touch**, caress, brush, stroke.

**kit** **noun** **1** *his tool kit:* **equipment**, tools, implements, instruments, gadgets, utensils, appliances, tools of the trade, gear, tackle, hardware, paraphernalia; informal things, stuff, the necessary; Military accoutrements. **2** (Brit. informal) *their football kit:* **clothes**, clothing, rig, outfit, dress, costume, garments, attire, garb, gear, get-up, rig-out; formal apparel. **3** *a model aircraft kit:* **set** (of parts), DIY kit, do-it-yourself kit, self-assembly set, flat-pack. **4** (informal) *we packed up all our kit:* **belongings**, luggage, baggage, paraphernalia, effects, impedimenta; informal things, stuff, gear; Brit. informal clobber. **■** *kit someone/something out* equip, fit (out/up), furnish, supply, provide, issue; dress, clothe, array, attire, rig out, deck out; informal fix up.

**kitchen** **noun** **kitchenette**, kitchen-diner, cooking area, galley, cookhouse; N. Amer. cookery.

**kittenish** **adjective** **playful**, light-hearted, skittish, lively; coquettish, flirtatious, frivolous, flippant, superficial, trivial, shallow, silly; informal flirty, dizzy; literary frolicsome.

– **OPPOSITES** serious.

**knack** **noun** **1** *a knack for making money | it takes practice to acquire the knack:* **gift**, talent, flair, genius, instinct, faculty, ability, capability, capacity, aptitude, aptness, bent, forte, facility; **technique**, method, trick, skill, art, expertise; informal the hang of something. **2** *he has a knack of getting injured at the wrong time:* **tendency**, propensity, habit, proneness, liability, predisposition.

**knackered** **adjective** (Brit. informal) **1** *you look absolutely knackered.* See **EXHAUSTED** sense 1. **2** *the computer was knackered.* See **BROKEN** sense 3.

**knapsack** **noun** **rucksack**, backpack, haversack, pack, kitbag.

**knave** **noun** (old use). See **SCOUNDREL**.

**knavery** **noun** (old use). See **VILLAINY**.

**knavish** **adjective** (old use). See **ROGUISH** sense 1.

**knead** **verb** **1** *kneading the dough:* **pummel**, work, pound, squeeze, shape, mould. **2** *she kneaded the base of his neck:* **massage**, press, manipulate, rub.

**kneel** **verb** **fall to one's knees**, get down on one's knees, genuflect; historical kowtow.

**knell** **noun** (literary) **1** *the knell of the ship's bell:* **toll**, tolling, dong, resounding, reverberation; death knell; old use tocsin. **2** *this sounded the knell for the project:* (beginning of the) end, death knell, death warrant.

**knickers** (Brit.) **plural noun** **underpants**, briefs, French knickers, camiknickers; underwear, lingerie, underclothes, undergarments; Brit. pants; informal panties, undies; Brit. informal knicks, smalls; dated drawers; historical bloomers, pantalettes.

**knick-knack** **noun** **ornament**, novelty, gewgaw, bibelot, trinket, trifle, bauble, gimcrack, curio; memento, souvenir; N. Amer. kickshaw; N. Amer. informal tchotchke; old use gaud, whim-wham, bijou.

**knife** **noun** **a sharp knife: cutting tool, blade, cutter, carver.**

• **verb** *the victims had been knifed:* **stab**, hack, gash, run through, slash, lacerate, cut, pierce, spike, impale, transfix, bayonet, spear.

**knight** **noun** **knights in armour: cavalier, cavalryman, horseman; lord, noble, nobleman; historical chevalier, paladin, banneret.**

■ **knight in shining armour** knight on a white charger, rescuer, saviour, champion, hero, defender, protector, guardian (angel).

## WORD LINKS

**joust**, tilt a medieval contest in which knights on horseback fought with lances  
**tournament**, **tourney** a medieval jousting event

**chivalry** the code of behaviour that a medieval knight was expected to follow  
**charger**, **destrier** a horse ridden by a medieval knight

**Round Table** the table at which King Arthur and his knights sat so that no one should have precedence

**knightly** adjective **1** *tales of knightly deeds*: gallant, noble, valiant, heroic, courageous, brave, bold, valorous; chivalrous, courteous, honourable. **2** *the knightly classes*: upper-class, well born, noble, aristocratic; old use gentle.

— **OPPOSITES** ignoble, low-born.

**knit** verb **1** *disparate regions began to knit together*: unite, unify, come together, draw together, become closer, bond, fuse, coalesce, merge, meld, blend. **2** *we expect broken bones to knit*: heal, mend, join, fuse. **3** *Marcus knitted his brows*: furrow, tighten, contract, gather, wrinkle.

• **noun** *silky knits in pretty shades*: **knitted garment**, woollen; sweater, pullover, jersey, cardigan; Brit. jumper; informal woolly; Brit. informal cardy.

**knob** noun **1** *a black bill with a knob at the base*: lump, bump, protuberance, protrusion, bulge, swelling, knot, node, nodule, ball, boss. **2** *the knobs on the radio*: dial, button, control, switch. **3** *she turned the knob on the door*: **doorknob**, (door) handle. **4** *a few knobs of butter*: nugget, lump, pat, ball, dollop, piece; N. Amer. informal gob.

**knock** verb **1** *he knocked on the door*: bang, tap, rap, thump, pound, hammer; strike, hit, beat. **2** *she knocked her knee on the table*: bump, bang, hit, strike, crack; injure, hurt, bruise; informal bash, thwack. **3** *he knocked into an elderly man*: collide with, bump into, bang into, be in collision with, run into, crash into, smash into, plough into; N. Amer. impact; informal bash into. **4** (informal) *I'm not knocking the company*. See **CRITICIZE**.

• **noun** **1** *a sharp knock at the door*: tap, rap, rat-tat, knocking, bang, banging, pounding, hammering, drumming, thump, thud. **2** *the casing is tough enough to withstand knocks*: bump, blow, bang, jolt, jar, shock; collision, crash, smash, impact. **3** *a knock on the ear*: blow, bang, hit, slap, smack, crack, punch, cuff, thump, box; informal clip, clout, wallop, thwack, belt, bash. **4** *life's hard knocks*: setback, reversal, defeat, failure, difficulty, misfortune, bad luck, mishap, (body) blow, disaster, calamity, disappointment, sorrow, trouble, hardship; informal kick in the teeth.

■ **knock about/around** (informal) **1** *knocking around the Mediterranean*: wander around, roam around, rove around, range over, travel around, journey around, voyage around, drift around, potter around; informal gad about, gallivant around. **2** *she knocks around with artists*: associate, consort,

keep company, go around, mix, socialize, be friends, be friendly; informal hobnob, hang out, run around, pal around.

■ **knock someone/something about/around** beat (up), batter, hit, punch, thump, thrash, slap; maltreat, mistreat, abuse, ill-treat, assault, attack; N. Amer. beat up on; informal rough up, do over, give someone a hiding, clobber, clout, bash, belt, whack, wallop.

■ **knock something back** (informal) swallow, gulp down, drink up, quaff, guzzle, slug; informal down, swig, swill (down), toss off; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).

■ **knock someone down** fell, floor, flatten, bring down; knock over, run over/down.

■ **knock something down** **1** *the building was knocked down*: demolish, pull down, tear down, destroy; raze (to the ground), level, flatten, bulldoze. **2** (informal) *the firm has knocked down its prices*: reduce, lower, cut, decrease, drop, put down, mark down; informal slash.

■ **knock off** (informal) stop work, finish (working), clock off, leave work.

■ **knock someone out** **1** *I hit him and knocked him out*: knock unconscious, knock senseless; floor, prostrate; informal lay out, put out cold, KO, kayo. **2** *England was knocked out*: eliminate, beat, defeat, vanquish, overwhelm, trounce. **3** (informal) *walking that far knocked her out*: exhaust, wear out, tire (out), overtire, fatigue, weary, drain; informal do in, take it out of, fag out; Brit. informal knacker; N. Amer. informal poop. **4** (informal) *the view knocked me out*: overwhelm, stun, stupefy, amaze, astound, astonish, stagger, take someone's breath away; impress, dazzle, enchant, entrance; informal bowl over, flabbergast, knock sideways, blow away; Brit. informal knock for six.

■ **knock something up** (Brit. informal) make, prepare, build, whip up, rig up, throw together, cobble together, improvise, contrive; informal rustle up.

**knockout** noun **1** *the match was won by a knockout*: stunning blow, finishing blow, coup de grâce; informal KO, kayo. **2** (informal) *she's a knockout!* beauty, vision, picture, sensation, dream; informal stunner, dish, looker, good-looker, peach, cracker; Brit. informal smasher. **3** (informal) *a technical knockout*: masterpiece, sensation, marvel, wonder, triumph, success, feat, coup, master stroke, tour de force.

**knoll** noun *she walked up the grassy knoll*: hillock, mound, rise, hummock, hill, hump, tor, bank, ridge, elevation; Scottish brae; formal eminence.

**knot** noun **1** *tie a small knot*: tie, twist, loop, join, fastening, bond; tangle, entanglement. **2** *a knot in the wood*: nodule, gnarl, node; lump, knob, swelling, gall, protuberance, bump; old use knar. **3** *a small knot of people*: cluster, group, band, huddle, bunch, circle, ring, gathering, company, crowd, throng.

• **verb** *their scarves were knotted round their throats*: tie (up), fasten, secure, bind, do up.

**knotted** adjective tangled, tangly, knotty,



entangled, matted, snarled, unkempt, uncombed, tousled; informal mussed up.

**knotty** adjective **1** *a knotty legal problem:* complex, complicated, involved, intricate, convoluted, involuted; difficult, hard, thorny, taxing, awkward, tricky, problematic, troublesome. **2 knotty roots:** gnarled, knotted, knurled, nodular, knobbly, lumpy, bumpy. **3 a knotty piece of thread:** knotted, tangled, tangly, twisted, entangled, snarled, matted.

– OPPOSITES straightforward.

**know** verb **1** *she doesn't know I'm here:* be aware, realize, be conscious, be informed; notice, perceive, see, sense, recognize; informal savvy, latch on. **2** *I don't know his address:* have knowledge of, be informed of, be apprised of; formal be cognizant of. **3** *do you know the rules:* be familiar with, be conversant with, be acquainted with, have knowledge of, be versed in, have mastered, have a grasp of, understand, comprehend; have learned, have memorized; informal be clued-up. **4** *I don't know many people here:* be acquainted with, have met, be familiar with; be friends with, be friendly with, be on good terms with, be close to, be intimate with; Scottish ken; informal be thick with. **5** *he had known better times:* experience, go through, live through, undergo, taste. **6** *my brothers don't know a saucepan from a frying pan:* distinguish, tell (apart), differentiate, discriminate; recognize, pick out, identify.

**know-all** noun (informal) **wiseacre;** informal smart alec, wise guy, smarty, smarty-pants; Brit. informal clever clogs, clever Dick; N. Amer. informal know-it-all.

**know-how** noun (informal) **knowledge,** expertise, skill, skilfulness, expertness, proficiency, understanding, mastery, technique; ability, capability, competence, capacity, adeptness, dexterity, deftness, aptitude, adroitness, ingenuity, faculty; informal savvy.

**knowing** adjective **1** *a knowing smile:* significant, meaningful, eloquent, expressive, suggestive; arch, sly, mischievous, impish, teasing, playful. **2** *she's a very knowing child:* sophisticated, worldly, worldly-wise, urbane, experienced; knowledgeable, well informed, enlightened; shrewd, astute, canny, sharp, wily, perceptive. **3** *a knowing infringement of the rules:* deliberate, intentional, conscious, calculated, wilful, done on purpose, premeditated, preconceived, planned.

**knowingly** adverb **deliberately,** intentionally, consciously, wittingly, on purpose, by design, premeditatedly, wilfully.

**knowledge** noun **1** *his knowledge of history* | *technical knowledge:* understanding, comprehension, grasp, command, mastery;

expertise, skill, proficiency, expertness, accomplishment, adeptness, capacity, capability; informal know-how. **2** *people anxious to display their knowledge:* learning, erudition, education, scholarship, schooling, wisdom. **3** *he slipped away without my knowledge:* awareness, consciousness, realization, cognition, apprehension, perception, appreciation; formal cognizance. **4** *an intimate knowledge of the countryside:* familiarity, acquaintance, conversance, intimacy. **5** *inform the police of your knowledge:* information, facts, intelligence, news, reports; informal info, gen.

– OPPOSITES ignorance.

#### WORD LINKS

**gnostic, epistemic** relating to knowledge  
**epistemology** the branch of philosophy that deals with knowledge  
**omniscience** knowledge of everything  
**polymath** a person with a wide knowledge of many subjects

**knowledgeable** adjective **1** *a knowledgeable old man:* well informed, learned, well read, (well) educated, erudite, scholarly, cultured, cultivated, enlightened. **2** *he is knowledgeable about modern art:* acquainted, familiar, conversant, au courant, au fait; having a knowledge of, up on, up to date with, abreast of; informal clued-up, genned-up; Brit. informal switched-on.

– OPPOSITES ill-informed.

**known** adjective **1** *a known criminal:* recognized, well known, widely known, noted, celebrated, notable, notorious; acknowledged, self-confessed, declared, overt. **2** *the known world:* familiar, known about, well known; studied, investigated.

**knuckle** verb

■ **knuckle under** surrender, submit, capitulate, give in/up, yield, give way, succumb, climb down, back down, admit defeat, lay down one's arms, throw in the towel/sponge; informal quit, raise the white flag.

**kowtow** verb **1** *they kowtowed to the Emperor:* prostrate oneself, bow (down before), genuflect, do/make obeisance, fall on one's knees before, kneel before. **2** *she didn't have to kowtow to a boss:* grovel, be obsequious, be servile, be sycophantic, fawn on, bow and scrape, toady, truckle, abase oneself, humble oneself; curry favour with, dance attendance on, make up to, ingratiate oneself with; informal crawl, creep, suck up, lick someone's boots; Austral./NZ informal smooch to.

**kudos** noun **prestige, cachet, glory,** honour, status, standing, distinction, prestigiousness, fame, celebrity; admiration, respect, esteem, acclaim, praise, credit.

k

**label** noun **1** *the price is clearly stated on the label:* tag, ticket, tab, sticker, marker, docket, chit, chitty. **2** *a designer label:* brand (name), trade name, trademark, make, logo. **3** *the label the media came up with for me:* designation, description, tag; name, epithet, nickname, title, sobriquet, pet name, cognomen; formal denomination, appellation. •verb **1** *label each jar with the date:* tag, ticket, mark, docket. **2** *tests labelled him an underachiever:* categorize, classify, class, describe, designate, identify; mark, stamp, brand, condemn, pigeonhole, stereotype, typecast; call, name, term, dub, nickname.

**laborious** adjective **1** *a laborious job:* arduous, hard, heavy, difficult, strenuous, gruelling, punishing, exacting, tough, onerous, burdensome, back-breaking, trying, challenging; tiring, fatiguing, exhausting, wearying, wearing, taxing, demanding, wearisome; tedious, boring; old use toilsome. **2** *Doug's laborious style:* laboured, strained, forced, contrived, affected, stiff, stilted, unnatural, artificial, overwrought, heavy, ponderous, convoluted.

– OPPOSITES easy, effortless.

**labour** noun **1** *manual labour: (hard) work,* toil, exertion, industry, drudgery, effort, donkey work, menial work; informal slog, grind, sweat, elbow grease; Brit. informal graft; literary travail, toil. **2** *the conflict between capital and labour:* workers, employees, workmen, workforce, staff, working people, blue-collar workers, labourers, labour force, proletariat. **3** *the labours of Hercules:* task, job, chore, mission, assignment. **4** *a difficult labour:* childbirth, birth, delivery, nativity; contractions, labour pains; formal parturition; literary travail; dated confinement; old use lying-in, accouchement, childbed.

– OPPOSITES rest, management.

•verb **1** *a project on which he had laboured for many years:* work (hard), toil, slave (away), grind away, struggle, strive, exert oneself, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/slave; informal slog away, plug away, peg away; Brit. informal graft; literary travail; old use toil. **2** *Newcastle laboured to break down their defence:* strive, struggle, endeavour, work, try hard, make every effort, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, go all out, fight, put oneself out, apply oneself, exert oneself;

informal bend over backwards, pull out all the stops. **3** *there is no need to labour the point:* overemphasize, belabour, overstress, overdo, strain, overplay, make too much of, exaggerate, dwell on, harp on (about). **4** *Rex was labouring under a misapprehension:* suffer from, be a victim of, be deceived by, be misled by.

**laboured** adjective **1** *laboured breathing:* strained, difficult, forced, laborious. **2** *a rather laboured joke:* contrived, strained, stilted, forced, unnatural, artificial, overdone, ponderous, over-elaborate, laborious, unconvincing, overwrought.

**labourer** noun *workman, worker, working man, labouring man, manual worker, unskilled worker, blue-collar worker, (hired) hand, roustabout, drudge, menial, coolie; Austral./NZ rouseabout; Brit. dated navvy.*

**labyrinth** noun **1** *a labyrinth of little streets:* maze, warren, network, complex, web, entanglement. **2** *the labyrinth of conflicting regulations:* tangle, web, morass, jungle, confusion, entanglement, convolution; jumble, mishmash; old use perplexity.

**labyrinthine** adjective **1** *labyrinthine corridors:* maze-like, winding, twisting, serpentine, meandering, wandering, rambling. **2** *a labyrinthine system:* complicated, intricate, complex, involved, tortuous, convoluted, involuted, tangled, elaborate, Byzantine; confusing, puzzling, mystifying, bewildering, baffling.

**lace** noun **1** *a dress trimmed with white lace:* openwork, lacework, tatting; passementerie, bobbinet, needlepoint (lace), filet, bobbin lace, pillow lace, duchesse lace, guipure, rosaline. **2** *brown shoes with laces:* shoelace, bootlace, shoestring, lacing, thong, tie; old use latchet.

•verb **1** *he laced up his running shoes:* fasten, do up, tie up, secure, knot. **2** *he laced his fingers into mine:* entwine, intertwine, twine, entangle, interweave, link; braid, plait. **3** *tea laced with rum:* flavour, mix (in), blend, fortify, strengthen, stiffen, season, spice (up), enrich, liven up; doctor, adulterate; informal spike. **4** *her brown hair was laced with grey:* streak, stripe, striate, line.

– OPPOSITES untie.

**lacerate** verb *cut (open), gash, slash, tear,*

rip, rend, shred, score, scratch, scrape, graze; wound, injure, hurt.

**laceration** noun **1** *the laceration of her hand: cutting (open)*, gashing, slashing, tearing, ripping, scratching, scraping, grazing, wounding, injury. **2** *a bleeding laceration: gash*, cut, wound, injury, tear, slash, scratch, scrape, abrasion, graze.

**lachrymose** adjective (formal) **1** *she gets quite lachrymose at the mention of his name: tearful*, weeping, crying, with tears in one's eyes, close to tears, on the verge of tears, sobbing, snivelling, whimpering; emotional, sad, doleful, maudlin, miserable, forlorn; informal weepy; literary dolorous. **2** *a lachrymose novel: tragic*, sad, poignant, moving, heart-rending, tear-jerking; mawkish, sentimental; Brit. informal soppy.

– OPPOSITES cheerful, comic.

**lack** noun *a lack of cash: absence*, want, need, deficiency, dearth, insufficiency, shortage, shortfall, scarcity, paucity, unavailability, scarceness, deficit; formal exiguity.

– OPPOSITES abundance.

• verb *she's immature and lacks judgement: be without*, be in need of, need, be lacking, require, want, be short of, be deficient in, be bereft of, be low on, be pressed for, have insufficient; informal be strapped for.

– OPPOSITES have, possess.

**lackadaisical** adjective *careless, lazy, lax, unenthusiastic, half-hearted, lukewarm, indifferent, unconcerned, casual, offhand, blasé, insouciant, relaxed; apathetic, lethargic, listless, sluggish, spiritless, passionless; informal laid-back, couldn't-care-less, easy going*.

– OPPOSITES enthusiastic.

**lackey** noun **1** *lackeys helped them from their carriage: servant*, flunkey, footman, manservant, valet, steward, butler, equerry, retainer, attendant, houseboy, domestic; Brit. informal skivvy; old use scullion. **2** *a rich man's lackey: toady*, flunkey, sycophant, flatterer, minion, doormat, stooge, hanger-on, lickspittle; tool, puppet, instrument, pawn, subordinate, underling; informal yes-man, bootlicker.

**lacking** adjective **1** *proof was lacking: absent*, missing, non-existent, unavailable. **2** *the advocate general found the government lacking: deficient*, defective, inadequate, wanting, flawed, faulty, insufficient, unacceptable, imperfect, inferior. **3** *the game was lacking in atmosphere: without*, devoid of, bereft of; deficient in, low on, short on, in need of.

– OPPOSITES present, plentiful.

**lacklustre** adjective *uninspired, uninspiring, unimaginative, dull, humdrum, colourless, characterless, bland, insipid, vapid, flat, dry, lifeless, tame, prosaic, spiritless, lustreless; boring, monotonous, dreary, tedious*.

– OPPOSITES inspired.

**laconic** adjective **1** *his laconic comment: brief*, concise, terse, succinct, short, pithy; epigrammatic, aphoristic, gnomic. **2** *their laconic press officer: taciturn*,

uncommunicative, reticent, quiet, reserved, silent, unforthcoming, brusque.

– OPPOSITES verbose, loquacious.

**lad** noun (informal) **1** *a young lad of eight: boy*, schoolboy, youth, youngster, juvenile, stripling; informal kid, nipper, whippersnapper; Scottish informal laddie; derogatory brat. **2** *a hard-working lad: (young) man*; informal guy, fellow, geezer; Brit. informal chap, bloke; N. Amer. informal dude, hombre; Austral./NZ informal digger.

**ladder** noun **1** *she climbed down the ladder: steps*, stepladder. **2** *the academic ladder: hierarchy*, scale, grading, ranking, pecking order.

**laden** adjective *loaded, burdened, weighed down, overloaded, piled high, fully charged; full, filled, packed, stuffed, crammed; informal chock-full, chock-a-block*.

**la-di-da** adjective (informal) *snobbish, pretentious, affected, mannered, pompous, conceited, haughty; informal snooty, stuck-up, high and mighty, hoity-toity, uppity, snotty; Brit. informal posh, toffee-nosed*.

– OPPOSITES common.

**ladle** verb *he was ladling out the contents of the pot: spoon out*, scoop out, dish up/ out, serve.

• noun *a soup ladle: spoon*, scoop, dipper, bailer.

**lady** noun **1** *several ladies were present: woman*, female; Scottish & N. English lass, lassie; Brit. informal bird, bint; N. Amer. informal dame, broad, jane; Austral./NZ informal sheila; literary maid, damsel; old use wench. **2** *lords and ladies: noblewoman*, duchess, countess, peeress, viscountess, baroness; old use gentlewoman.

**ladylike** adjective *genteel, polite, refined, well bred, cultivated, polished, decorous, proper, respectable, seemly, well mannered, cultured, sophisticated, elegant; Brit. informal posh*.

– OPPOSITES coarse.

**lag** verb *fall behind, straggle, fall back, trail (behind)*, hang back, not keep pace, bring up the rear.

– OPPOSITES keep up.

**laggard** noun *straggler, loiterer, lingerer, dawdler, sluggard, snail, idler, loafer; informal lazybones, slacker, slowcoach; N. Amer. informal slowpoke*.

**lagoon** noun *inland sea, bay, lake, bight, pool; Scottish loch; Anglo-Irish lough; N. Amer. bayou*.

**laid-back** adjective (informal) *relaxed, easy-going, equable, free and easy, casual, nonchalant, insouciant, unexcitable, imperturbable, unruffled, blasé, cool, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, unperturbed, unflustered, unworried, unconcerned; leisurely, unhurried; stoical, phlegmatic, tolerant; informal unflappable*.

– OPPOSITES uptight.

**laid up** adjective (informal) *bedridden, confined to bed, on the sick list, housebound, incapacitated, injured, disabled; ill, sick,*



unwell, poorly, ailing, indisposed.

– OPPOSITES healthy, active.

**lair** noun **1** *the lair of a large python: den, burrow, hole, tunnel, cave.* **2** *a villain's lair: hideaway, hiding place, hideout, refuge, sanctuary, haven, shelter, retreat; informal hidey-hole.*

**laissez-faire** noun *laissez-faire is based on self-interest: free enterprise, free trade, non-intervention, free-market capitalism, market forces.*

**lake** noun pond, pool, tarn, reservoir, lagoon, waterhole, inland sea; Scottish loch, lochan; Anglo-Irish lough; N. Amer. bayou, pothole (lake); literary mere.

#### WORD LINKS

lacustrine relating to lakes

limnology the scientific study of lakes

**lam** verb (informal). See HIT verb sense 1.

**lambaste** verb criticize, chastise, censure, take to task, harangue, rail at, rant at, fulminate against; upbraid, scold, reprimand, rebuke, chide, reprove, admonish, berate; informal lay into, pitch into, tear into, give someone a dressing-down, carpet, tell off, bawl out; Brit. informal tick off, have a go at; N. Amer. informal chew out; formal castigate, excoriate.

**lame** adjective **1** *the mare was lame: limping, hobbling; crippled, disabled, incapacitated; informal gammy; dated game; old use halt.* **2** *a lame excuse: feeble, weak, thin, flimsy, poor; unconvincing, implausible, unlikely.*

– OPPOSITES convincing.

**lament** noun **1** *the widow's laments: wail, wailing, lamentation, moan, moaning, weeping, crying, sob, sobbing, keening.* **2** *a lament for the dead: dirge, requiem, elegy, threnody, monody; Irish keen; Scottish & Irish coronach; formal epicidium.*

• verb **1** *the mourners lamented: mourn, grieve, sorrow, wail, weep, cry, sob, keen, beat one's breast; old use plain.* **2** *he lamented the modernization of the buildings: bemoan, bewail, complain about, deplore; protest against, object to, oppose, fulminate against, inveigh against, denounce.*

– OPPOSITES celebrate.

**lamentable** adjective deplorable, regrettable, terrible, awful, wretched, woeful, dire, disastrous, desperate, grave, appalling, dreadful, egregious; intolerable, pitiful, shameful, sorrowful, unfortunate.

– OPPOSITES wonderful.

**lamentation** noun weeping, wailing, crying, sobbing, moaning, lament, keening, grieving, mourning.

**lamp** noun light, lantern, torch, flashlight, beacon.

**lampoon** verb *he was mercilessly lampooned: satirize, mock, ridicule, make fun of, caricature, burlesque, parody, take off, guy, rag, tease; informal send up.*

• noun *a lampoon of student life: satire, burlesque, parody, skit, caricature, impersonation, travesty, mockery, squib,*

*pasquinade; informal send-up, take-off, spoof.*

**lance** noun *a knight with a lance: spear, pike, javelin; harpoon.*

• verb *the boil was lanced: cut (open), slit, incise, puncture, prick, pierce.*

**land** noun **1** *Lyme Park has 1323 acres of land | publicly owned land: grounds, fields, open space; property, acres, acreage, estate, lands, real estate; countryside, rural area, green belt; historical demesne.* **2** *fertile land: soil, earth, loam, topsoil, humus.* **3** *many people are leaving the land: the countryside, the country, rural areas.* **4** *Tunisia is a land of variety: country, nation, (nation) state, realm, kingdom, province; region, area, domain.* **5** *the lookout sighted land to the east: terra firma, dry land; coast, coastline, shore.*

• verb **1** *Allied troops landed in France: disembark, go ashore, debark, alight, get off.* **2** *the ship landed at Le Havre: berth, dock, moor, (drop) anchor, tie up, put in.* **3** *their plane landed at Chicago: touch down, come in to land, come down.* **4** *a bird landed on the branch: perch, settle, come to rest, alight.* **5** (informal) *Nick landed the job of editor: obtain, get, acquire, secure, be appointed to, gain, net, win, achieve, attain, bag, carry off; informal swing; Brit. informal blag.* **6** (informal) *they landed her with the bill: burden, saddle, encumber; informal dump something on someone; Brit. informal lumber.* **7** (informal) *John landed a punch on Brian's chin: inflict, deal, deliver, administer, dispense, mete out; informal fetch.*

– OPPOSITES sail, take off.

■ **land up** finish up, find oneself, end up; informal wind up, fetch up, show up, roll up, blow in.

#### WORD LINKS

terrestrial relating to land

territorial relating to the ownership of land

**landing** noun **1** *a forced landing: touchdown; informal greaser.* **2** *the ferry landing: harbour, berth, dock, jetty, landing stage, pier, quay, wharf, slipway.*

– OPPOSITES take-off.

**landlady, landlord** noun **1** *the landlord of the pub: publican, licensee, innkeeper, pub-owner, barkeeper; hotel-keeper, hotelier, restaurateur; manager, manageress.* **2** *the landlady had objected to the noise: property owner, proprietor, proprietress, lessor, householder, landowner.*

– OPPOSITES tenant.

**landmark** noun **1** *the spire is a landmark for ships: marker, mark, indicator, beacon.* **2** *one of London's most famous landmarks: monument, distinctive feature, prominent feature.* **3** (historical) *the landmarks which separated the two states: boundary marker, boundary line, boundary fence.* **4** *the ruling was hailed as a landmark: turning point, milestone, watershed, critical point.*

**landscape** noun scenery, countryside, topography, country, terrain; outlook, view, prospect, aspect, vista, panorama, perspective, sweep.

**landslide** noun **1** *floods and landslides:* landslip, mudslide; avalanche. **2** *the Labour landslide:* decisive victory, overwhelming majority, triumph.

**lane** noun **1** *country lanes:* byroad, byway, track, road, street; alley, alleyway. **2** *cycle lanes* | *a three-lane highway:* track, way, course, path.

**language** noun **1** *the structure of language:* speech, writing, communication, conversation, speaking, talking, talk, discourse; words, vocabulary. **2** *the English language:* tongue, mother tongue, native tongue; informal lingo. **3** *the booklet is written in simple, everyday language:* wording, phrasing, phraseology, style, vocabulary, terminology, expressions, turns of phrase, parlance, form/mode of expression, usages, locutions, idiolect, choice of words; speech, dialect, patois, slang, idioms, jargon, argot, cant; informal lingo.

**WORD LINKS**

linguistic relating to language  
linguistics the study of language  
philology the study of the structure and historical development of languages  
grammar the whole structure and rules of a language  
bilingual able to speak two languages  
monolingual, monoglot speaking only one language  
polyglot able to speak several languages

**languid** adjective **1** *a languid wave of the hand:* relaxed, unhurried, languorous, slow; listless, lethargic, sluggish, lazy, idle, indolent, apathetic; informal laid-back; old use otiose. **2** *languid days in the sun:* leisurely, languorous, relaxed, restful, lazy. **3** *she was pale and languid:* sickly, weak, faint, feeble, frail, delicate; tired, weary, fatigued.

– OPPOSITES energetic.

**languish** verb **1** *the plants languished and died:* weaken, deteriorate, decline, go downhill; wither, droop, wilt, fade, waste away. **2** *the general is now languishing in prison:* waste away, rot, be abandoned, be neglected, be forgotten, suffer, experience hardship. **3** (old use) *she still languished after Richard:* pine for, yearn for, ache for, long for, sigh for; grieve for, mourn.

– OPPOSITES thrive.

**languor** noun **1** *the sultry languor that was stealing over her:* lassitude, lethargy, listlessness, torpor, fatigue, weariness, sleepiness, drowsiness; laziness, idleness, indolence, inertia, sluggishness, apathy. **2** *the languor of a hot day:* stillness, tranquillity, calm, calmness; oppressiveness, heaviness.

– OPPOSITES vigour.

**lank** adjective **1** *lank, greasy hair:* limp, lifeless, lustreless, dull; straggling, straight, long. **2** *his lank figure.* See **LANKY**.

**lanky** adjective **1** *thin, slender, slim, lean.* lank, skinny, spindly, spare, gangling, gangly, gawky, rangy.

– OPPOSITES stocky.

**lap**<sup>1</sup> noun *Henry sat on his gran's lap:* knee, knees, thighs.

■ **in the lap of the gods** out of one's hands, beyond one's control, in the hands of fate.

■ **live in the lap of luxury** be very rich, want for nothing; informal live the life of Riley; N. Amer. informal live high on the hog.

**lap**<sup>2</sup> noun *a race of eight laps:* circuit, leg, circle, revolution, round.

• verb **1** *she lapped the other runners:*

overtake, outstrip, leave behind, pass, go past; catch up with. **2** (literary) *he was lapped in blankets:* wrap, swathe, envelop, enfold, swaddle.

**lap**<sup>3</sup> verb **1** *waves lapped against the sea wall:*

splash, wash, swish, slosh, break, beat, strike, dash, roll; literary plash. **2** *the dog lapped water out of a puddle:* drink, lick up, sup, swallow, slurp, gulp.

■ **lap something up** relish, revel in, savour, delight in, wallow in, glory in, enjoy.

**lapse** noun **1** *a lapse of concentration:*

failure, failing, slip, error, mistake, blunder, fault, omission; informal slip-up. **2** *his lapse into petty crime:* decline, fall, falling, slipping, drop, deterioration, degeneration, backsliding, regression, retrogression, descent, sinking, slide. **3** *a lapse of time:* interval, gap, pause, interlude, lull, hiatus, break; passage, course, passing.

• verb **1** *the planning permission has lapsed:*

expire, become void, become invalid, run out. **2** *do not let friendships lapse:* (come to an) end, cease, stop, terminate, pass, fade, wither, die. **3** *morality has lapsed:* deteriorate, decline, fall (off), drop, worsen, degenerate, go downhill, backslide, regress, retrogress, get worse, sink, wane, slump; informal go to pot, go to the dogs. **4** *she lapsed into silence:* revert, relapse; drift, slide, slip, sink.

**lapsed** adjective **1** *a lapsed Catholic:*

non-practising, backsliding, apostate; formal quondam. **2** *a lapsed season ticket:* expired, void, invalid, out of date.

– OPPOSITES practising, valid.

**larceny** noun theft, stealing, robbery, pilfering, thieving; burglary, housebreaking, breaking and entering; informal filching, swiping; Brit. informal nicking, pinching; formal peculation.

**larder** noun pantry, (food) store, (food) cupboard; cooler, scullery; Brit. buttery; old use spence.

**large** adjective **1** *a large house* | *large numbers of people:* big, great, huge, sizeable, substantial, immense, enormous, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, prodigious, tremendous, gigantic, giant, monumental, stupendous, gargantuan, elephantine, titanic, mountainous, monstrous; towering, tall, high; mighty, voluminous, king-size, giant-size; informal jumbo, whopping (great), thumping (great), mega, humongous, monster, astronomical; Brit. informal whacking (great), ginormous. **2** *a large red-faced man:* big, burly, heavy, tall, bulky, thickset, chunky, strapping, hulking, hefty, muscular,

brawny, solid, powerful, sturdy, strong, rugged; fat, plump, overweight, chubby, stout, meaty, fleshy, portly, rotund, flabby, paunchy, obese, corpulent; informal hunky, beefy, tubby, pudgy; Brit. informal podgy, fubby; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed. **3** *a large supply of wool*: **abundant**, copious, plentiful, ample, liberal, generous, lavish, bountiful, bumper, boundless, good, considerable, superabundant; literary plenteous. **4** *the measure has large economic implications*: **wide-reaching**, far-reaching, wide, sweeping, large-scale, broad, extensive, comprehensive, exhaustive.

– **OPPOSITES** small, meagre.

■ **at large** **1** *fourteen criminals are still at large*: at liberty, free, (on the) loose, on the run, fugitive; N. Amer. informal on the lam. **2** *society at large*: as a whole, generally, in general. **3** (dated) *he spoke at large*: in detail, exhaustively, at length, extensively.

■ **by and large** on the whole, generally, in general, all things considered, all in all, for the most part, in the main, as a rule, overall, almost always, mainly, mostly; on average, on balance.

**largely** **adverb** mostly, mainly, to a large/great extent, chiefly, predominantly, primarily, principally, for the most part, in the main; usually, typically, commonly.

**large-scale** **adjective** **1** *a large-scale programme*: **extensive**, wide-ranging, far-reaching, comprehensive, exhaustive; mass, nationwide, global. **2** *a large-scale map*: **enlarged**, blown-up, magnified.

**largesse** **noun** **1** *Tupper took advantage of his friend's largesse*: **generosity**, liberality, munificence, bounty, bountifulness, beneficence, altruism, charity, open-handedness, philanthropy, magnanimity, benevolence, charitableness, kindness, big-heartedness; formal benefaction.

**2** *distributing largesse to the locals*: **gifts**, presents, handouts, grants, aid; patronage, sponsorship, backing, help; historical alms.

– **OPPOSITES** meanness.

**lark** (informal) **noun** **1** *we were just having a bit of a lark*: **fun**, amusement, laugh, giggle, joke; escapade, prank, trick, jape, practical joke; informal leg-pull; (**larks**) antics, high jinks, horseplay, mischief, tomfoolery; informal shenanigans, monkey business; Brit. informal monkey tricks; dated sport. **2** *I've got this snowboarding lark sussed*: **activity**, affair, matter; nonsense; informal business, caper, malarkey.

• **verb** *he's always larking about*: **fool about/around**, play tricks, make mischief, monkey about/around, clown about/around, have fun, skylark; informal mess about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around.

**lascivious** **adjective** **lecherous**, lewd, lustful, licentious, libidinous, salacious, lubricious, prurient, dirty, smutty, naughty, suggestive, indecent, ribald; informal horny; Brit. informal randy; formal concupiscent.

**lash** **verb** **1** *he lashed her repeatedly*: **whip**, flog, beat, thrash, horsewhip, scourge, birch,

switch, belt, strap, cane; strike, hit; informal wallop, whack, lam, larrup, give someone a (good) hiding; N. Amer. informal whale. **2** *rain lashed the window panes*: **beat against**, dash against, pound, batter, strike, hit, knock.

**3** *the tiger began to lash his tail*: **swish**, flick, twitch, whip. **4** *fear lashed them into a frenzy*: **provoke**, incite, arouse, excite, agitate, stir up, whip up, work up. **5** *two boats were lashed together*: **fasten**, bind, tie (up), tether, hitch, knot, rope, make fast.

• **noun** **1** *he brought the lash down upon the prisoner's back*: **whip**, horsewhip, switch, scourge, thong, flail, strap, birch, cane; historical knout, cat-o'-nine-tails, cat. **2** *twenty lashes*: **stroke**, blow, hit, strike, welt, thwack, thump; informal wallop, whack; old use stripe.

■ **lash out** **1** *the president lashed out at the opposition*: criticize, chastise, censure, attack, condemn, denounce, lambaste, harangue, pillory, berate, upbraid, rebuke, reproach; informal lay into; formal castigate.

**2** *Norman lashed out at Terry with a knife*: hit out, strike, let fly, take a swing; set upon/about, turn on, round on, attack; informal lay into, tear into, pitch into. **3** (informal) *they lashed out on a taxi*: spend lavishly, be extravagant; informal splash out, splurge, shell out, squander money, waste money, fritter money away.

**lass** **noun** (Scottish & N. English) **girl**, young woman, young lady; Scottish lassie; Irish colleen; informal chick, girlie; Brit. informal bird, bint; N. Amer. informal dame, babe, doll, gal, broad; Austral./NZ informal sheila; literary maid, maiden, damsel; old use wench.

**lassitude** **noun** **lethargy**, listlessness, weariness, languor, sluggishness, tiredness, fatigue, torpor, lifelessness, apathy.

– **OPPOSITES** vigour.

**last**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** *the last woman in the queue*: **rearmost**, hindmost, endmost, at the end, at the back, furthest (back), final, ultimate. **2** *Rembrandt spent his last years in Amsterdam*: **closing**, concluding, final, ending, end, terminal; later, latter. **3** *I'd be the last person to say anything against him*: **least likely**, most unlikely, most improbable; least suitable, most unsuitable, most inappropriate, least appropriate. **4** *we met last year*: **previous**, preceding; prior, former. **5** *this was his last chance*: **final**, only remaining.

– **OPPOSITES** first, early, next.

• **adverb** *the candidate coming last is eliminated*: **at the end**, at/in the rear.

• **noun** *the most important business was left to the last*: **end**, ending, finish, close, conclusion, finale, termination.

– **OPPOSITES** beginning.

■ **at last** finally, in the end, eventually, ultimately, at long last, in (the fullness of) time.

■ **the last word** *the last word in luxury and efficiency*: the best, the peak, the acme, the epitome, the latest; the pinnacle, the apex, the apogee, the ultimate, the height, the zenith, the nonpareil, the crème de la crème; old use the nonsuch.



**last**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *the hearing lasted for six days:* continue, go on, carry on, keep on/going, proceed, take; stay, remain, persist. **2** *how long will he last as manager?* survive, endure, hold on/out, keep going, persevere; informal stick it out, hang on, hack it. **3** *the car is built to last:* endure, wear well, stand up, bear up; informal go the distance.

**last-ditch** adjective last-minute, last-chance, eleventh-hour, last-resort, desperate, final; informal last-gasp.

**lasting** adjective enduring, long-lasting, long-lived, abiding, continuing, long-term, surviving, persisting, permanent; durable, constant, stable, established, secure, long-standing; unchanging, irreversible, immutable, eternal, undying, everlasting, unending, never-ending, unfading, changeless, indestructible, unceasing, unwavering, unfaltering.

– OPPOSITES ephemeral.

**lastly** adverb finally, in conclusion, to conclude, to sum up, to end, last, ultimately.

– OPPOSITES firstly.

**latch** noun *he lifted the latch:* fastening, catch, fastener, clasp.

• verb *Jess latched the back door:* fasten, secure, make fast.

**late** adjective **1** *the train was late:* behind time, behind schedule, behindhand; tardy, running late, overdue, delayed. **2** *her late husband:* dead, departed, lamented, passed on/away; formal deceased. **3** *the late government:* previous, preceding, former, past, prior, earlier, sometime, one-time, ex-, erstwhile; formal quondam.

– OPPOSITES punctual, early.

• adverb **1** *she had arrived late:* behind schedule, behind time, behindhand, belatedly, tardily, at the last minute. **2** *I was working late:* after (office) hours, overtime. **3** *I won't have you staying out late:* late at night; informal till all hours.

■ of late recently, lately, latterly.

**lately** adverb recently, of late, latterly, in recent times.

**lateness** noun unpunctuality, tardiness, delay.

**latent** adjective dormant, untapped, unused, undiscovered, hidden, concealed, invisible, unseen, undeveloped, unrealized, unfulfilled, potential.

**later** adjective *a later chapter:* subsequent, following, succeeding, future, upcoming, to come, ensuing, next; formal posterior; old use after.

– OPPOSITES earlier.

• adverb **1** *later, the film rights were sold:* subsequently, eventually, then, next, later on, after this/that, afterwards, at a later date, in the future, in due course, by and by, in a while, in time. **2** *two days later a letter arrived:* afterwards, later on, after (that), subsequently, following; formal thereafter.

**lateral** adjective **1** *lateral movements:* sideways, sidewise, sideward, edgewise, edgeways, oblique. **2** *lateral thinking:*

unorthodox, inventive, creative, original, imaginative, innovative.

**latest** adjective most recent, newest, just out, just released, fresh, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, state-of-the-art, current, modern, contemporary, fashionable, in fashion, in vogue; informal in, with it, trendy, hip, hot, happening, cool.

– OPPOSITES old.

**lather** noun **1** *a rich, soapy lather:* foam, froth, suds, soapsuds, bubbles; literary spume. **2** *the mare was covered with lather:* sweat, perspiration. **3** (informal) *Dad was in a right lather:* panic, fluster, fret, fuss, fever; informal flap, sweat, tizzy, dither, twitter, state, stew; N. Amer. informal twit; literary pother.

**latitude** noun **1** *Toronto shares the same latitude as Nice:* parallel. **2** *he gave them a lot of latitude:* freedom, scope, leeway, (breathing) space, flexibility, liberty, independence, free rein, licence, room to manoeuvre, freedom of action; informal wiggle room.

– OPPOSITES longitude, restriction.

**latter** adjective **1** *the latter half of the season:* later, closing, end, concluding, final; latest, most recent. **2** *Russia chose the latter option:* last-mentioned, second, last, later.

– OPPOSITES former.

**latter-day** adjective modern, present-day, current, contemporary.

**latterly** adverb **1** *latterly, she had been in more pain:* recently, lately, of late. **2** *latterly he worked as a political editor:* ultimately, finally, towards the end.

**lattice** noun grid, latticework, fretwork, open framework, openwork, trellis, trelliswork, network, mesh.

**laud** verb (formal) praise, extol, hail, applaud, acclaim, commend, sing the praises of, speak highly of, lionize, eulogize, rhapsodize over/about; informal rave about; old use magnify, panegyrize.

– OPPOSITES criticize.

**laudable** adjective praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, meritorious, worthy, deserving, creditable, estimable, exemplary.

– OPPOSITES shameful.

**laudation** noun (formal) praise, honour, applause, acclaim, acclamation, commendation, admiration, homage, distinction, approval, credit, kudos, glory, esteem, approbation, tribute, congratulations, plaudits; formal encomium.

**laudatory** adjective complimentary, congratulatory, praising, extolling, adulatory, commendatory, approbatory, flattering, celebratory, eulogizing, panegyric; informal glowing; formal encomiastic.

– OPPOSITES disparaging.

**laugh** verb **1** *he started to laugh excitedly:* chuckle, chortle, guffaw, giggle, titter, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, burst out laughing, roar/hoot with laughter, split one's sides, be doubled up; informal be in stitches, be rolling

in the aisles, crease up, fall about, crack up.

**2** *people laughed at his theories*: **ridicule**, mock, deride, scoff at, jeer at, sneer at, jibe at, make fun of, poke fun at, scorn; lampoon, satirize, parody; informal send up, take the mickey out of, pooh-pooh; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at.

• **noun 1** *he gave a short laugh*: **chuckle**, chortle, guffaw, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snigger, snicker, roar/hoot of laughter, shriek of laughter, belly laugh. **2** (informal) *he was a right laugh*: **joker**, wag, wit, clown, jester, prankster, character; informal card, case, caution, hoot, scream, riot, barrel of laughs; Austral./NZ informal hard case.

**3** (informal) *I entered the contest for a laugh*: **joke**, prank, jest, escapade, caper, practical joke; informal lark.

■ **laugh something off** dismiss, make a joke of, make light of, shrug off, brush aside, scoff at; informal pooh-pooh.

**laughable adjective 1** *the idea that nuclear power is safe is laughable*: **ridiculous**, ludicrous, absurd, risible, preposterous; foolish, silly, idiotic, stupid, nonsensical, crazy, insane, outrageous; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal daft. **2** *if it wasn't so tragic, it'd be laughable*: **funny**, amusing, humorous, hilarious, uproarious, comical, comic, farcical.

**laughing stock** **noun** figure of fun, dupe, butt, stooge, Aunt Sally; informal fall guy.

**laughter** **noun 1** *the sound of laughter*: **laughing**, chuckling, chortling, guffawing, giggling, tittering, sniggering; informal hysterics. **2** *a source of laughter*: **amusement**, entertainment, humour, mirth, merriment, gaiety, hilarity, jollity, jocularly, fun.

**launch** **verb 1** *he launched the boat*: set afloat, put to sea. **2** *they've launched the shuttle*: send into orbit, blast off, take off, lift off. **3** *a chair was launched at him*: throw, hurl, fling, pitch, lob, let fly; fire, shoot; informal chuck, heave, sling. **4** *the government launched a new campaign*: set in motion, get going, get under way, start, commence, begin, embark on, initiate, inaugurate, set up, organize, introduce, bring into being; informal kick off. **5** *he launched into a tirade*: start, commence, burst into.

**launder** **verb** wash, clean; dry-clean.

**laundry** **noun 1** *a big pile of laundry*: (dirty) washing, dirty clothes. **2** *the facilities include a laundry*: washroom, laundry room, launderette; N. Amer. trademark laundromat.

**laurels** **plural noun** honours, tributes, praise, plaudits, accolades, kudos, acclaim, acclamation, credit, glory, honour, distinction, fame, renown, prestige, recognition; informal brownie points; formal laudation.

**lavatory** **noun** toilet, WC, water closet, (public) convenience, cloakroom, powder room, urinal, privy, latrine, jakes; N. Amer. washroom, bathroom, rest room, men's/ladies' room, commode, comfort station; Nautical head; informal little girls'/boys' room,

smallest room; Brit. informal loo, bog, the Ladies, the Gents, khazi, lav; N. Amer. informal can, john; Austral./NZ informal dunny; old use closet, garderobe.

**lavish adjective 1** *lavish parties*: **sumptuous**, luxurious, gorgeous, costly, expensive, opulent, grand, splendid, rich, fancy; informal posh, bling-bling. **2** *he was lavish with his hospitality*: **generous**, liberal, bountiful, open-handed, unstinting, unsparing, free, munificent, extravagant, prodigal. **3** *lavish amounts of champagne*: **abundant**, copious, plentiful, liberal, prolific, generous; literary plenteous.

— **OPPOSITES** meagre, frugal.

• **verb** *she lavished money on her children*: **give freely**, spend generously, heap, shower.

**law** **noun 1** *the law of the land*: **rules and regulations**, constitution, legislation, legal code. **2** *a new law was passed*: **regulation**, statute, enactment, act, bill, decree, edict, rule, ruling, resolution, dictum, command, order, directive, pronouncement, proclamation, dictate, diktat, fiat, by-law; N. Amer. formal ordinance. **3** *a career in the law*: **the legal profession**, the bar. **4** *I'll take you to law!* **litigation**, legal action, lawsuit, justice. **5** (informal) *on the run from the law*. See **POLICE** **noun**. **6** *the laws of the game*: **rule**, regulation, principle, convention, instruction, guideline. **7** *a moral law*: **principle**, rule, precept, directive, injunction, commandment, belief, creed, credo, maxim, tenet, doctrine, canon.

#### WORD LINKS

**legal** relating to the law or permitted by law  
**judicial**, **juridical** relating to a court of law  
**litigious** tending to take legal action to settle disputes

**sue**, **prosecute** start legal proceedings against someone  
**jurisprudence** the theory or philosophy of law

**jurist** an expert in law.  
See also **COURT**.

**law-abiding** **adjective** honest, lawful, righteous, honourable, upright, upstanding, good, decent, virtuous, moral, dutiful, obedient, compliant, disciplined.  
— **OPPOSITES** criminal.

**lawbreaker** **noun** criminal, felon, wrongdoer, malefactor, evildoer, offender, transgressor, miscreant; villain, rogue, ruffian; Law malfessant, infractor; informal crook, con, jailbird.

**lawful** **adjective 1** *a verdict of lawful killing*: **legitimate**, legal, licit, just, permissible, permitted, allowable, allowed, rightful, sanctioned, authorized, warranted, within the law; informal legit. **2** *a lawful political organization*: **law-abiding**, righteous, good, decent, virtuous, moral, orderly, well behaved, peaceful, dutiful, obedient, compliant, disciplined.  
— **OPPOSITES** illegal, criminal.

**lawless** **adjective 1** *a lawless rabble*: **anarchic**, disorderly, ungovernable, unruly, disruptive,

rebellious, insubordinate, riotous, mutinous.

**2 lawless activities:** illegal, unlawful, lawbreaking, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, villainous, miscreant; informal crooked, shady, bent.

– OPPOSITES orderly, legal.

**lawlessness** noun anarchy, disorder, chaos, unruliness, criminality, crime.

**lawsuit** noun (legal) action, suit (at law), case, (legal/judicial) proceedings, litigation, trial.

**lawyer** noun solicitor, legal practitioner, legal adviser, member of the bar, barrister, advocate, counsel, Queen's Counsel, QC; N. Amer. attorney, counselor(-at-law); informal brief.

**lax** adjective slack, slipshod, negligent, remiss, careless, heedless, unmindful, sloppy, slapdash, offhand, casual; easy-going, lenient, permissive, liberal, indulgent, overindulgent.

– OPPOSITES strict.

**laxative** noun purgative, evacuant; Medicine aperient, cathartic.

**lay<sup>1</sup>** verb **1** *Curtis laid the newspaper on the table:* put (down), place, set (down), deposit, rest, situate, locate, position, stow, shove; informal stick, dump, park, plonk; Brit. informal bung. **2** *the act laid the foundation for the new system:* set in place, set out/up, establish. **3** *I'll lay money that Michelle will be there:* bet, wager, gamble, stake, risk, venture; give odds, speculate; informal punt. **4** *they are going to lay charges:* bring (forward), press, prefer, lodge, register, place, file. **5** *he laid the blame at the Prime Minister's door:* assign, attribute, ascribe, allot, attach; hold someone responsible/accountable, find guilty, pin the blame on. **6** *we laid plans for the next voyage:* devise, arrange, make (ready), prepare, work out, hatch, design, plan, scheme, plot, conceive, put together, draw up, produce, develop, formulate; informal cook up. **7** *this will lay a new responsibility on the court:* impose, apply, entrust, vest, place, put; inflict, encumber, saddle, charge, burden. **8** *the eagles laid two eggs:* produce; Zoology oviposit.

■ **lay something aside** **1** *farmers laying aside areas for conservation:* put aside, put to one side, keep, save. **2** *producers must lay aside their conservatism:* abandon, cast aside, reject, renounce, repudiate, disregard, forget, discard; literary forsake. **3** *protesters led the government to lay the plans aside:* defer, shelve, suspend, put on ice, mothball, set aside, put off/aside; informal put on the back burner.

■ **lay something bare** reveal, disclose, divulge, show, expose, exhibit, uncover, unveil, unmask, make a clean breast of, make known, make public.

■ **lay something down** **1** *he laid down his glass:* put down, set down, place down, deposit, rest; informal dump, plonk down; Brit. informal bung down. **2** *they were forced to lay down their weapons:* relinquish, surrender, give up, yield, cede; disarm, give in, submit,

capitulate. **3** *the ground rules have been laid down:* formulate, stipulate, set down, draw up, frame; prescribe, ordain, dictate, decree; enact, pass, decide, determine, impose, codify.

■ **lay down the law** order someone about/around, ride roughshod over someone; informal boss someone about/around, throw one's weight about/around, push someone about/around.

■ **lay eyes on** (informal) see, spot, observe, regard, view, catch sight of; informal clap/set eyes on; literary behold, espy, descry.

■ **lay hands on** **1** *wait till I lay my hands on you!* catch, lay/get hold of, get one's hands on, seize, grab, grasp, capture. **2** *it's not easy to lay your hands on decent champagne:* obtain, acquire, get, come by, find, locate, discover, unearth, uncover, pick up, procure, get one's hands on, get possession of, buy, purchase. **3** *the pastor laid hands on the children:* bless, consecrate; confirm; ordain.

■ **lay something in** stock up with/on, stockpile, store (up), amass, hoard, stow (away), put aside/away/by, garner, collect, squirrel away; informal salt away, stash (away).

■ **lay into** (informal) **1** *a policeman laying into a protester.* See ASSAULT verb sense 1. **2** *he laid into her with a string of insults.* See CRITICIZE.

■ **lay it on thick** (informal) exaggerate, overdo it, embellish the truth; flatter, praise; informal pile it on, sweet-talk, soft-soap.

■ **lay off** (informal) give up, stop, refrain from, abstain from, desist from, cut out; informal pack in, leave off, quit.

■ **lay someone off** make redundant, dismiss, let go, discharge, give notice to; informal sack, fire, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, give someone the boot/push, give someone the (old) heave-ho.

■ **lay something on** provide, supply, furnish, line up, organize, prepare, produce, make available; informal fix up.

■ **lay someone out** (informal) knock out/down, knock unconscious, fell, floor, flatten; informal KO, kayo; Brit. informal knock for six.

■ **lay something out** **1** *Robyn laid the plans out on the desk:* spread out, set out, display, exhibit. **2** *a paper laying out our priorities:* outline, sketch out, rough out, detail, draw up, formulate, work out, frame, draft.

■ **lay waste** devastate, wipe out, destroy, demolish, annihilate, raze, ruin, wreck, level, flatten, ravage, pillage, sack, despoil.

**lay<sup>2</sup>** adjective **1** *a lay preacher:* non-clerical, non-ordained, secular, temporal; formal laic. **2** *a lay audience:* non-professional, amateur, non-specialist, non-technical, untrained, unqualified.

**layabout** noun idler, good-for-nothing, loafer, lounge, shirker, sluggard, laggard, slugged, malingering; informal skiver, waster, slacker, lazybones; Austral./NZ informal bludger; literary wastrel.

**layer** noun coating, sheet, coat, film, covering, blanket, skin, thickness.

**layman** noun. See LAYPERSON senses 1, 2.

**lay-off** noun redundancy, dismissal, discharge; informal sacking, firing, the sack,



the boot, the axe, the elbow.

– OPPOSITES recruitment.

**layout** noun **1** *the layout of the house:* arrangement, geography, design, organization; plan, map. **2** *the magazine's layout:* design, arrangement, presentation, style, format; structure, organization, composition, configuration.

**layperson** noun **1** *a prayer book for laypeople:* unordained person, member of the congregation, layman, laywoman. **2** *engineering sounds highly specialized to the layperson:* non-expert, layman, non-professional, amateur, non-specialist.

**laze** verb relax, unwind, idle, do nothing, loaf (around/about), lounge (around/about), loll (around/about), lie (around/about), take it easy; informal hang around/round, veg (out); N. Amer. informal bum (around).

**lazy** adjective (bone) idle, indolent, slothful, work-shy, shiftless, inactive, sluggish, lethargic; remiss, negligent, slack, lax, lackadaisical; old use otiose.

– OPPOSITES industrious.

**lazybones** noun (informal) idler, loafer, layabout, loungers, good-for-nothing, do-nothing, shirker, sluggish, laggard, slugabed; informal skiver, waster, slacker; Austral./NZ informal bludger; literary wastrel.

**leach** verb drain, filter, percolate, filtrate, strain.

**lead<sup>1</sup>** verb **1** *Michelle led them into the house:* guide, conduct, show (the way), lead the way, usher, escort, steer, pilot, shepherd; accompany, see, take. **2** *he led us to believe they were lying:* cause, induce, prompt, move, persuade, influence, drive, condition, make; incline, dispose, predispose. **3** *this might lead to job losses:* result in, cause, bring on/about, give rise to, be the cause of, make happen, create, produce, occasion, effect, generate, contribute to, promote; provoke, stir up, spark off, arouse, foment, instigate; involve, necessitate, entail; formal effectuate. **4** *he led a march to the city centre:* be at the head/front of, head, spearhead.

**5** *she led a coalition of radicals:* be the leader of, be the head of, preside over, head, command, govern, rule, be in charge of, be in command of, be in control of, run, control, be at the helm of, helm; administer, organize, manage; reign over; informal head up. **6** *Rangers were leading at half-time:* be ahead, be winning, be (out) in front, be in the lead, be first. **7** *the champion was leading the field:* be at the front of, be first in, be ahead of, head; outrun, outstrip, outpace, leave behind, draw away from; outdo, outclass, beat; informal leave standing. **8** *I just want to lead a normal life:* experience, have, live, spend.

– OPPOSITES follow.

• noun **1** *I was in the lead early on:* leading position, first place, van, vanguard; ahead, in front, winning. **2** *they took the lead in the personal computer market:* first position, forefront, primacy, dominance, superiority, ascendancy; pre-eminence, supremacy,

advantage, upper hand, whip hand. **3** *sixth-formers should give a lead to younger pupils:* example, (role) model, exemplar, paradigm. **4** *playing the lead:* leading role, star/starring role, title role, principal part; principal character, male lead, female lead, leading man, leading lady. **5** *a labrador on a lead:* leash, tether, cord, rope, chain. **6** *detectives were following up a new lead:* clue, pointer, hint, tip, tip-off, suggestion, indication, sign; (leads) evidence, information.

• adjective *the lead position:* leading, first, top, foremost, front, head; chief, principal, premier.

■ **lead something off** begin, start (off), commence, open; informal kick off.

■ **lead someone on** deceive, mislead, delude, hoodwink, dupe, trick, fool, pull the wool over someone's eyes; tease, flirt with; informal string along, lead up the garden path, take for a ride.

■ **lead the way 1** *he led the way to the kitchen:* guide, conduct, show the way.

**2** *Britain is leading the way in aerospace technology:* take the initiative, break (new) ground, blaze a trail.

■ **lead up to** precede, happen before; prepare the way for, pave the way for, lay the groundwork for, set the scene for, work round/up to.

**lead<sup>2</sup>** noun *a lead-lined box.*

#### WORD LINKS

plumbic, plumbous relating to lead

**leaden** adjective **1** *his eyes were leaden with sleep:* dull, heavy, weighty; listless, lifeless. **2** *he moved on leaden feet:* sluggish, heavy, lumbering, slow. **3** *leaden prose:* boring, dull, unimaginative, uninspired, monotonous, heavy, laboured, wooden. **4** *a leaden sky:* grey, greyish, black, dark; cloudy, gloomy, overcast, dull, murky, sunless, louring, oppressive, threatening; literary tenebrous.

**leader** noun **1** *the leader of the Democratic Party:* chief, head, principal; commander, captain; controller, superior, headman; chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, chair; (managing) director, MD, manager, superintendent, supervisor, overseer, administrator, employer, master, mistress; ruler, president, premier, governor; monarch, sovereign, king, queen, emperor; informal boss, skipper, gaffer, guv'nor, number one, numero uno, honcho; N. Amer. informal sachem, padrone. **2** *a world leader in the use of video conferencing:* pioneer, front runner, innovator, trailblazer, groundbreaker, trendsetter, torch-bearer; originator, initiator, founder, architect.

– OPPOSITES follower, supporter.

**leadership** noun **1** *the leadership of the Conservative Party:* headship, directorship, premiership, governorship, governance, administration, captaincy, control, ascendancy, rule, command, power, dominion. **2** *firm leadership:* guidance, direction, control, management, superintendence, supervision; organization, government.

**leading** adjective **1** *he played the leading role in his team's victory*: main, chief, major, prime, most significant, principal, foremost, key, central, focal, paramount, dominant, essential. **2** *the leading industrialized countries*: most powerful, most important, greatest, chief, pre-eminent, principal, dominant. **3** *last season's leading scorer*: top, highest, best, first; front, lead; unparalleled, matchless, star.

– OPPOSITES subordinate, minor.

**leaf** noun **1** *sycamore leaves*: frond, leaflet, flag; Botany cotyledon, blade, bract. **2** *a sheaf of loose leaves*: page, sheet, folio.  
**• verb** *he leafed through the documents*: flick, flip, thumb, skim, browse, glance, riffle; scan, run one's eye over, peruse.  
**■ turn over a new leaf** reform, improve, mend one's ways, make a fresh start, change for the better; informal go straight.

**WORD LINKS**

**foliar**, **foliaceous** relating to leaves  
**deciduous** referring to a tree that sheds its leaves each year  
**evergreen** referring to a tree that retains its leaves throughout the year  
**defoliant** a chemical used to remove leaves from trees and plants

**leaflet** noun pamphlet, booklet, brochure, handbill, circular, flyer, handout, bulletin; N. Amer. folder, dodger.

**league** noun **1** *a league of nations*: alliance, confederation, confederacy, federation, union, association, coalition, consortium, affiliation, guild, cooperative, partnership, fellowship, syndicate, consociation. **2** *we won the league last year*: championship, competition, contest. **3** *the store is not in the same league*: class, group, category, level.  
**• verb** *they leagued together with other companies*: ally, join forces, join together, unite, band together, affiliate, combine, amalgamate, confederate, team up, join up.  
**■ in league with** collaborating with, cooperating with, in alliance with, allied with, conspiring with, hand in glove with; informal in cahoots with.

**leak** verb **1** *oil leaking from the tanker*: seep (out), escape, ooze (out), emanate, issue, drip, dribble, drain, bleed. **2** *the tanks are leaking gasoline*: discharge, exude, emit, release, drip, dribble, ooze, secrete. **3** *civil servants leaking information*: disclose, divulge, reveal, make public, tell, impart, pass on, relate, communicate, expose, broadcast, publish, release, let slip, bring into the open; informal blab, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, blow the gaff.  
**• noun** **1** *check that there are no leaks in the bag*: hole, opening, puncture, perforation, gash, slit, nick, rent, break, crack, fissure, rupture. **2** *a gas leak*: discharge, leakage, leaking, oozing, seeping, seepage, drip, escape. **3** *leaks to the media*: disclosure, revelation, exposé.

**leaky** adjective leaking, dripping; cracked, split, punctured, perforated.

– OPPOSITES watertight.

**lean**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *Polly leaned against the door*: rest, recline, be supported. **2** *trees leaning in the wind*: slant, incline, bend, tilt, be at an angle, slope, tip, list. **3** *he leans towards existentialist philosophy*: tend, incline, gravitate; have a preference for, have a penchant for, be partial to, have a liking for, have an affinity with. **4** *a strong shoulder to lean on*: depend, be dependent, rely, count, bank, have faith in, trust. **5** (informal) *I got leaned on by villains*: intimidate, coerce, browbeat, bully, pressurize, threaten, put pressure on; informal twist someone's arm, put the frighteners on, put the screws on.

**lean**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *a tall, lean man*: slim, thin, slender, spare, wiry, lanky. **2** *a lean harvest*: meagre, sparse, poor, mean, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, deficient, insubstantial. **3** *lean times*: unproductive, unfruitful, arid, barren; hard, bad, difficult, tough, impoverished, poverty-stricken.

– OPPOSITES fat, abundant, prosperous.

**leaning** noun inclination, tendency, bent, proclivity, propensity, penchant, predisposition, predilection, partiality, preference, bias, attraction, liking, fondness, taste.

**leap** verb **1** *he leapt over the gate*: jump (over), vault (over), spring over, bound over, hop (over), hurdle, clear. **2** *Claudia leapt to her feet*: spring, jump (up), bound, dart. **3** *we leapt to the rescue*: rush, hurry, hasten. **4** *she leapt at the chance*: accept eagerly, grasp (with both hands), grab, take advantage of, seize (on), jump at. **5** *don't leap to conclusions*: form hastily, reach hurriedly; hurry, hasten, jump, rush. **6** *profits leapt by 55%*: increase rapidly, soar, rocket, skyrocket, shoot up, escalate.

**• noun** **1** *an easy leap*: jump, vault, spring, bound, hop, skip. **2** *a leap of 33%*: rise, surge, upsurge, upswing, upturn.

**■ in/by leaps and bounds** rapidly, swiftly, quickly, speedily, dramatically.

**learn** verb **1** *it's good for kids to learn the piano*: master, become competent in, become proficient in, grasp, take in, absorb, assimilate, digest, familiarize oneself with; study, read up on, be taught, have lessons in; informal get the hang of. **2** *she learnt the poem by heart*: memorize, learn by heart, commit to memory, learn parrot-fashion, get off/down pat; old use con. **3** *he learned that the school would shortly be closing*: discover, find out, become aware, be informed, hear (tell); gather, understand, ascertain, establish; informal get wind of the fact; Brit. informal suss out.

**learned** adjective scholarly, erudite, well educated, knowledgeable, widely read, well informed, lettered, cultured, intellectual, academic, literary, bookish, highbrow, studious; informal brainy; formal sapient.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**learner** noun beginner, trainee, apprentice, pupil, student, novice, newcomer, starter, probationer, tyro, fledgling, neophyte;

N. Amer. tenderfoot; N. Amer. informal greenhorn.

– OPPOSITES veteran.

**learning** noun **1** *a centre of learning:* study, studying, education, schooling, tuition, teaching, academic work; research, investigation. **2** *the astonishing range of his learning:* scholarship, knowledge, education, erudition, intellect, enlightenment, illumination, book learning, information, understanding, wisdom; formal edification.

– OPPOSITES ignorance.

**lease** noun *a 15-year lease:* leasehold, rental/hire agreement, charter; rental, tenancy, tenure, period of occupancy.

– OPPOSITES freehold.

• **verb 1** *the film crew leased a large hangar:* rent, hire, charter. **2** *they leased the mill to a reputable family:* rent (out), let (out), hire (out), sublet, sublease.

**leash** noun **1** *keep your dog on a leash:* lead, tether, rope, chain, strap, restraint. **2** *he found himself off the parental leash:* control, restraint, check, curb, rein, discipline.

**least** determiner *I have not the least idea what this means:* slightest, smallest, minutest, tiniest, littlest.

■ **at least** at the minimum, no/not less than, more than.

**leather** noun *a leather jacket:* skin, hide.

**leathery** adjective **1** *leathery skin:* rough, rugged, wrinkled, wrinkly, furrowed, lined, wizened, weather-beaten, callous, gnarled. **2** *leathery sides of beef:* tough, hard, gristly, chewy, stringy.

**leave**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I left the hotel:* depart from, go (away) from, withdraw from, retire from, take oneself off from, exit from, take one's leave of, pull out of, quit, be gone from, decamp from, disappear from, vacate, absent oneself from; say one's farewells/goodbyes, make oneself scarce; informal push off, shove off, clear out/off, cut and run, split, vamoose, scoot, make tracks, up sticks; Brit. informal sling one's hook.

**2** *the next morning we left for Leicester:* set off, head, make; set sail. **3** *he's left his wife:* abandon, desert, cast aside/off, jilt, leave in the lurch, leave high and dry, throw over; informal dump, ditch, chuck, drop, walk/run out on; literary forsake. **4** *he left his job in November:* resign from, retire from, step down from, withdraw from, pull out of, give up; informal quit. **5** *she left her handbag on a bus:* leave behind, forget, lose, mislay. **6** *I thought I'd leave it to the experts:* entrust, hand over, pass on, refer, delegate. **7** *he left her £100,000:* bequeath, will, endow, hand down, make over; Law demise, devise. **8** *the speech left some feelings of disappointment:* cause, produce, generate, give rise to.

– OPPOSITES arrive.

■ **leave someone in the lurch** leave in trouble, let down, leave stranded, leave high and dry, abandon, desert.

■ **leave off** (informal) stop, cease, finish, desist from, keep from, break off, lay off, give up, discontinue, refrain from, eschew; informal

quit, knock off, jack in, swear off; formal forswear.

■ **leave someone/something out 1** *Adam left out the address:* miss out, omit, overlook, forget; skip, miss, jump. **2** *he was left out of the England squad:* exclude, omit, drop, pass over.

**leave**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *the judge granted leave to appeal:* permission, consent, authorization, sanction, warrant, dispensation, approval, clearance, blessing, agreement, backing, assent, acceptance, licence, acquiescence; informal the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the rubber stamp. **2** *he was on leave:* holiday, vacation, break, time off, furlough, sabbatical, leave of absence; informal hols, vac. **3** *I will now take my leave of you:* departure, leaving, leave-taking, parting, withdrawal, exit, farewell, goodbye.

**leaven** noun *leaven is added to the dough:* leavening, fermentation agent, raising agent.

• **verb 1** *yeast leavens the bread:* raise, make rise, puff up, expand. **2** *formal proceedings leavened by humour:* permeate, infuse, pervade, imbue, suffuse; enliven, liven up, invigorate, energize, electrify, ginger up, perk up, brighten up, season, spice; informal buck up, pep up.

**leavings** plural noun *residue, remainder, remains, remnants, leftovers, scrapings, scraps, oddments, odds and ends, rejects, dregs, refuse, rubbish.*

**lecher** noun *lecherous man, libertine, womanizer, debauchee, rake, roué, profligate, wanton, loose-liver, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, Romeo;* informal lech, dirty old man, goat, wolf; formal fornicator.

**lecherous** adjective *lustful, licentious, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lewd, salacious, lubricious, debauched, dissolute, wanton, dissipated, degenerate, depraved, dirty, filthy;* informal randy, horny, goatish; formal concupiscent.

– OPPOSITES chaste.

**lecture** noun **1** *a lecture on children's literature:* speech, talk, address, discourse, disquisition, presentation, oration, lesson. **2** *Dave got a severe lecture:* scolding, chiding, reprimand, rebuke, reproof, reproach, upbraiding, berating, admonishment; informal dressing-down, telling-off, talking-to, tongue-lashing; formal castigation.

• **verb 1** *lecturing on the dangers of drugs:* give a lecture/talk, talk, make a speech, speak, give an address, discourse, hold forth, declaim, expatiate; informal spout, sound off. **2** *she lectures at Dublin University:* teach, tutor, give instruction, give lessons. **3** *he was lectured by the headmaster:* scold, chide, reprimand, rebuke, reprove, reproach, upbraid, berate, chastise, admonish, lambaste, haul over the coals, take to task; informal give someone a dressing-down, give someone a talking-to, tell off, bawl out; Brit. informal tick off, carpet; formal castigate.

**lecturer** noun **1** *the lecturer is a journalist:* speaker, speech-maker, orator. **2** *a lecturer*



*in economics:* university/college teacher, tutor, reader, scholar, don, professor, fellow; academic, academican, preceptor; formal pedagogue.

**ledge** noun shelf, sill, mantel, mantelpiece, shelving; projection, protrusion, overhang, ridge, prominence.

**ledger** noun (account) book, record book, register, log; records, books; balance sheet, financial statement.

**lee** noun shelter, protection, cover, refuge, safety, security.

**leech** noun parasite, bloodsucker, passenger; informal scrounger, sponger, freeloader.

**leer** verb Henry leered at her: ogle, look lasciviously, look suggestively, eye; informal give someone a/the once-over, lech after/over.

• noun a sly leer: lecherous look, lascivious look, ogle; informal the once-over.

**leery** adjective wary, cautious, careful, guarded, chary, suspicious, distrustful; worried, anxious, apprehensive.

**lees** plural noun sediment, dregs, deposit, grounds, residue, remains, silt, sludge; technical residuum; literary draff; old use grouts.

**leeway** noun freedom, scope, latitude, space, room, liberty, flexibility, licence, free hand, free rein; informal wiggle room.

**left** adjective left-hand, sinister; Heraldry sinister.

– OPPOSITES right.

**WORD LINKS**

**port** (old use **larboard**) the left-hand side of a ship

**verso** the left-hand page in a book

**left-handed** adjective 1 a left-handed golfer: sinister; informal southpaw. 2 a left-handed compliment: backhanded, ambiguous, equivocal, double-edged; dubious, indirect, cryptic, ironic, sardonic, insincere, hypocritical.

– OPPOSITES right-handed.

**leftover** noun 1 a leftover from the 60s: residue, survivor, vestige, legacy. 2 put the leftovers in the fridge: leavings, uneaten food, remainder, scraps, remnants, remains; excess, surplus.

• adjective leftover food: remaining, left, uneaten, unconsumed; excess, surplus, superfluous, unused, unwanted, spare.

**left-wing** adjective socialist, communist, leftist, Labour, Marxist–Leninist, Bolshevik, Trotskyite, Maoist; informal Commie, lefty, red, pink.

– OPPOSITES right-wing, conservative.

**leg** noun 1 Lee broke his leg: (lower) limb, shank; informal peg, pin; old use member. 2 a table leg: upright, support, prop. 3 the first leg of a European tour: part, stage, portion, segment, section, phase, stretch, lap.

■ leg it (informal) 1 if the dog starts growling, leg it! run (away), flee, make off, make a break for it, escape, hurry; informal hightail it, hotfoot it, make a run for it, cut and run, skedaddle, vamoose, show a clean

pair of heels, split, scoot, scam; Brit. informal scarper. 2 legging it around London: walk, march, tramp, trek, trudge, plod, wander, go on foot, go on Shanks's pony; N. Amer. informal schlep.

■ pull someone's leg tease, rag, make fun of, chaff, jest, joke with, play a (practical) joke on, play a trick on, make a monkey out of; hoax, fool, deceive, lead on, hoodwink, dupe, beguile, gull; informal kid, have on, rib, take for a ride, take the mickey out of; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal put on.

**WORD LINKS**

**crural** relating to the legs

**bandy-legged, bow-legged** having legs that curve outwards

**knock-kneed** having legs that curve inwards

**caliper** a metal support for a person's leg

**crutch** an implement used as a support by a person who is lame

**legacy** noun 1 a legacy from a great aunt: bequest, inheritance, heritage, bequeathal, bestowal, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; Law, dated hereditament; formal benefaction. 2 the rancorous legacy of the war: consequence, effect, upshot, spin-off, repercussion, aftermath, by-product, result.

**legal** adjective 1 all their actions were legal: lawful, legitimate, licit, within the law, legalized, valid; permissible, permitted, allowable, allowed, above board, admissible, acceptable; authorized, sanctioned, licensed, constitutional; informal legit. 2 the legal profession: judicial, juridical, judicatory.

– OPPOSITES criminal.

**legality** noun lawfulness, legitimacy, validity, admissibility, permissibility, constitutionality; justice.

**legalize** verb make legal, decriminalize, legitimize, legitimize, legitimate, permit, allow, authorize, sanction, license; regularize, normalize; informal OK, give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, give the green light to.

– OPPOSITES prohibit.

**legate** noun envoy, emissary, agent, ambassador, representative, nuncio, commissioner, delegate, proxy, deputy, plenipotentiary, messenger.

**legatee** noun beneficiary, inheritor, heir, heirress, recipient; Law devisee; Scottish Law heritor.

**legation** noun 1 the British legation: (diplomatic) mission, delegation, deputation, contingent; envoys, delegates, diplomats, aides. 2 the legations were besieged: embassy, consulate.

**legend** noun 1 the Arthurian legends: myth, saga, epic, (folk) tale, (folk) story, fairy tale, fable, mythos, mythus, folklore, lore, mythology, fantasy, oral history, folk tradition. 2 pop legends: celebrity, star, superstar, icon, phenomenon, luminary, giant; informal celeb, megastar. 3 the wording of the legend: caption, inscription, dedication, slogan, heading, title, subtitle,

subheading, rubric. **4** *the legend to Figure 5: explanation, key, guide.*

**legendary adjective 1** *legendary kings:*

fabled, heroic, traditional, fairy-tale, storybook, mythical, mythological.

**2** *a legendary figure in the trade-union movement:* famous, celebrated, famed, renowned, acclaimed, illustrious, esteemed, honoured, exalted, venerable, well known, popular, prominent, distinguished, great, eminent, pre-eminent; formal lauded.

– OPPOSITES historical.

**legerdemain noun 1** *stage magicians*

*practising legerdemain:* sleight of hand, conjuring, magic, wizardry; formal prestidigitation; rare thaumaturgy. **2** *a piece of management legerdemain:* trickery, cunning, artfulness, craftiness, chicanery, skulduggery, deceit, deception, artifice; Brit. informal jiggery-pokery.

**legibility noun** readability, clarity, clearness, neatness.

**legible adjective** readable, easy to read, easily deciphered, clear, plain, neat, intelligible.

**legion noun 1** *a Roman legion:* brigade, regiment, battalion, company, troop, division, squadron, squad, platoon, unit.

**2** *the legions of TV cameras:* horde, throng, multitude, crowd, mass, mob, gang, swarm, flock, herd, score, army.

• *adjective her fans are legion:* numerous, countless, innumerable, incalculable, many, abundant, plentiful; literary myriad.

**legislate verb** make laws, pass laws, enact laws, formulate laws.

**legislation noun** law, body of laws, rules, rulings, regulations, acts, bills, statutes, enactments; N. Amer. formal ordinances.

**legislative adjective** law-making, judicial, juridical, parliamentary, governmental, policy-making.

**legislator noun** lawmaker, lawgiver, parliamentarian, Member of Parliament, MP, congressman, congresswoman, senator.

**legitimate adjective 1** *the only form of legitimate gambling:* legal, lawful, licit, legalized, authorized, permitted, permissible, allowable, allowed, admissible, sanctioned, approved, licensed, statutory, constitutional; informal legit. **2** *the legitimate heir:* rightful, lawful, genuine, authentic, real, true, proper, authorized, sanctioned, acknowledged, recognized. **3** *legitimate grounds for unease:* valid, sound, admissible, acceptable, well founded, justifiable, reasonable, sensible, just, fair, bona fide.

– OPPOSITES illegal, invalid.

**legitimize verb** validate, legitimate, permit, authorize, sanction, license, condone, justify, endorse, support; legalize.

– OPPOSITES outlaw.

**leisure noun** the balance between leisure and work: free time, spare time, time off; recreation, relaxation, inactivity, pleasure; informal R & R.

– OPPOSITES work.

■ **at your leisure** at your convenience, when it suits you, in your own (good) time, without haste, unhurriedly.

**leisurely adjective** unhurried, relaxed, easy, gentle, sedate, comfortable, restful, undemanding, slow, lazy.

– OPPOSITES hurried.

**lend verb 1** *I'll lend you my towel:* loan, let someone use; advance; Brit. informal sub.

**2** *these examples lend weight to his assertions:*

add, impart, give, bestow, confer, provide, supply, furnish, contribute.

– OPPOSITES borrow.

■ **lend an ear** listen, pay attention, take notice, be attentive, concentrate, (pay) heed; informal be all ears; old use hearken.

■ **lend a hand** help (out), give a helping hand, assist, make a contribution, do one's bit; informal pitch in, muck in, get stuck in.

■ **lend itself** to be suitable for, be suited to, be appropriate for, be applicable for.

**length noun 1** *a length of three or four metres | the whole length of the valley:*

extent, distance, linear measure, span, reach; area, expanse, stretch, range, scope.

**2** *a considerable length of time:* period, duration, stretch, span. **3** *a length of blue silk:* piece, swatch, measure. **4** *MPs criticized the length of the speech:* protractedness, lengthiness, extent, extensiveness; prolixity, wordiness, verbosity, verboseness, long-windedness.

■ **at length 1** *he spoke at length:* for a long time, for ages, for hours, interminably, endlessly, ceaselessly, unendingly. **2** *he was questioned at length:* thoroughly, fully, in detail, in depth, comprehensively, exhaustively, extensively. **3** *his search led him, at length, to Seattle:* eventually, in time, finally, at (long) last, in the end, ultimately.

**lengthen verb 1** *he lengthened his stride:*

elongate, make longer, extend; expand, widen, broaden, enlarge. **2** *the days are lengthening:* grow/get longer, draw out.

**3** *you'll need to lengthen the cooking time:*

prolong, make longer, increase, extend, expand, protract, stretch out.

– OPPOSITES shorten.

**lengthy adjective 1** *a lengthy civil war:* (very) long, long-lasting, prolonged, extended.

**2** *lengthy discussions:* protracted, overlong, long-drawn-out; verbose, wordy, prolix, long-winded; tedious, boring, interminable.

– OPPOSITES short.

**leniency noun** mercifulness, mercy, clemency, forgiveness; tolerance, forbearance, humanity, charity, indulgence, mildness; pity, sympathy, compassion, understanding.

**lenient adjective** merciful, clement, forgiving, forbearing, tolerant, charitable, humane, indulgent, easy-going, magnanimous, sympathetic, compassionate.

– OPPOSITES severe.

**leper noun (social)** outcast, pariah, undesirable, persona non grata.

**leprechaun noun** pixie, goblin, elf, sprite, fairy, gnome, imp, brownie.

**lesion** noun wound, injury, bruise, abrasion, contusion; ulcer, ulceration, (running) sore, abscess; Medicine trauma.

**less** pronoun *the fare is less than £1*: a smaller amount, not so/as much as, under, below.

– OPPOSITES more.

• **determiner** *there was less noise now*: not so much, smaller, slighter, shorter, reduced; fewer.

• **adverb** *we must use the car less*: to a lesser degree, to a smaller extent, not so/as much.

• **preposition** *list price less 10 per cent*: minus, subtracting, excepting, without.

– OPPOSITES plus.

**lessen** verb **1** *exercise lessens the risk of heart disease*: reduce, make less/smaller, minimize, decrease; allay, assuage, alleviate, attenuate, palliate, ease, dull, deaden, blunt, moderate, mitigate, dampen, soften, tone down, dilute, weaken. **2** *the pain began to lessen*: grow less, grow smaller, decrease, diminish, decline, subside, abate; fade, die down/off, let up, ease off, tail off, drop (off/away), fall, dwindle, ebb, wane, recede. **3** *his behaviour lessened him in their eyes*: diminish, degrade, discredit, devalue, belittle.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**lesser** adjective **1** *a lesser offence*:

less important, minor, secondary, subsidiary, marginal, ancillary, auxiliary, supplementary, peripheral; inferior, insignificant, unimportant, petty. **2** *you look down at us lesser mortals*: subordinate, minor, inferior, second-class, subservient, lowly, humble.

– OPPOSITES greater, superior.

**lesson** noun **1** *a maths lesson*: class, session, seminar, tutorial, lecture, period. **2** *they should be industrious at their lessons*: exercises, assignments, schoolwork, homework. **3** *reading the lesson in assembly*: Bible reading, scripture, text, reading. **4** *Stuart's accident should be a lesson to all parents*: warning, deterrent, caution; example, exemplar, message, moral.

**lest** conjunction (just) in case, for fear that, in order to avoid.

**let** verb **1** *let him sleep for now*: allow, permit, give permission to, give leave to, authorize, sanction, grant the right to, license, empower, enable, entitle; assent to, consent to, agree to, acquiesce in, tolerate, countenance, give one's blessing to, give assent to, give someone/something the nod; informal give the green light to, give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, OK; formal accede to; old use suffer. **2** *they've let their flat*: rent (out), let out, lease, hire (out), sublet, sublease.

– OPPOSITES prevent, prohibit.

■ **let someone down** fail, disappoint, disillusion; abandon, desert, leave stranded, leave in the lurch.

■ **let fly 1** *he let fly with a brick*: hurl, fling, throw, propel, pitch, lob, toss, launch; shoot, fire, blast; informal chuck, sling, heave. **2** *she let fly at Geoffrey*: lose one's temper with,

lash out at, scold, chastise, chide, rant at, inveigh against, rail against; explode, burst out, let someone have it; informal carpet, give someone a rocket, tear someone off a strip; formal excoriate.

■ **let go of** release, loosen one's hold on, relinquish; old use unhand.

■ **let someone go** make redundant, dismiss, discharge, lay off, give notice to, axe; informal sack, fire, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, send packing, give someone the boot/push, give someone the (old) heave-ho.

■ **let someone in** allow to enter, allow in, admit, open the door to; receive, welcome, greet.

■ **let something off** detonate, discharge, explode, set off, fire off.

■ **let someone off 1** (informal) *I'll let you off this time*: pardon, forgive, grant an amnesty to; be merciful to, have mercy on; acquit, absolve, exonerate, clear, vindicate; informal let someone off the hook; formal exculpate. **2** *he let me off work*: excuse from, exempt from, spare from.

■ **let on** (informal) **1** *I never let on that I felt anxious*: reveal, make known, tell, disclose, mention, divulge, let slip, give away, make public; blab; informal let the cat out of the bag, give the game away. **2** *they all let on they didn't hear me*: pretend, feign, affect, make out, make believe, simulate.

■ **let something out 1** *I let out a cry of triumph*: utter, emit, give (vent to), produce, issue, express, voice, release. **2** *she let out that he'd given her a lift home*: reveal, make known, tell, disclose, mention, divulge, let slip, give away, let it be known, blurt out.

■ **let someone out** release, liberate, (set) free, let go, discharge; set/turn loose, allow to leave.

■ **let up** (informal) **1** *the rain has let up*: abate, lessen, decrease, diminish, subside, relent, slacken, die down/off, ease (off), tail off; ebb, wane, dwindle, fade; stop, cease, finish. **2** *you never let up, do you?* relax, ease up/off, slow down; pause, break (off), take a break, rest, stop; informal take a breather.

**let-down** noun disappointment, anticlimax, comedown, non-event, fiasco, setback, blow; informal washout, damp squib.

**lethal** adjective fatal, deadly, mortal, death-dealing, life-threatening, murderous, killing; poisonous, toxic, noxious, venomous; dangerous, destructive, harmful, pernicious; literary deathly, noxious; old use baneful.

– OPPOSITES harmless, safe.

**lethargic** adjective sluggish, inert, inactive, slow, torpid, lifeless; languid, listless, lazy, idle, indolent, shiftless, slothful, apathetic, weary, tired, fatigued.

**lethargy** noun sluggishness, inertia, inactivity, inaction, slowness, torpor, torpidity, lifelessness, listlessness, languor, languidness, laziness, idleness, indolence, shiftlessness, sloth, apathy, passivity, weariness, tiredness, lassitude, fatigue; literary hebetude.

– OPPOSITES vigour, energy.



**letter** **noun** 1 *capital letters: (alphabetical) character, sign, symbol, mark, figure, rune; Linguistics grapheme.* 2 *she's received a letter from him: message, (written) communication, note, line, missive, dispatch; correspondence, news, information, intelligence, word; post, mail; formal epistle.* 3 *a man of letters: (book) learning, scholarship, erudition, education, knowledge; intellect, intelligence, enlightenment, wisdom, sagacity, culture.* ■ *to the letter* strictly, precisely, exactly, accurately, closely, faithfully, religiously, punctiliously, literally, verbatim, in every detail.

#### WORD LINKS

**epistolary** relating to the writing of letters  
**poste restante** a post office department keeping letters until they are collected  
**postscript** a remark added at the end of a letter, following the signature

**lettered** **adjective** learned, erudite, academic, (well) educated, well read, widely read, knowledgeable, intellectual, well schooled, enlightened, cultured, cultivated, scholarly, bookish, highbrow, studious.  
 – OPPOSITES ill-educated.

**let-up** **noun** (informal) **abatement**, lessening, decrease, diminishing, diminution, decline, relenting, remission, slackening, weakening, relaxation, dying down, easing off, tailing off, dropping away/off; respite, break, interval, hiatus, suspension, cessation, stop, pause.

**level** **adjective** 1 *a smooth and level surface: flat, smooth, even, uniform, plane, flush, plumb.* 2 *he kept his voice level: unchanging, steady, unvarying, even, uniform, regular, constant, invariable, unaltering; calm, unemotional, composed, equable, unruffled, serene, tranquil.* 3 *the scores were level: equal, even, drawn, tied, all square, neck and neck, level pegging, on a par, evenly matched; informal even-even(s).* 4 *his eyes were level with hers: aligned, on the same level as, on a level, at the same height as, in line.*

– OPPOSITES uneven, unsteady, unequal.

• **noun** 1 *the post is at research-officer level: rank, standing, status, position; echelon, degree, grade, gradation, stage, standard, rung; class, stratum, group, grouping, set, classification.* 2 *a high level of employment: quantity, amount, extent, measure, degree, volume, size, magnitude, intensity, proportion.* 3 *the level of water is rising: height, highness, altitude, elevation.* 4 *the sixth level: floor, storey, deck.* • **verb** 1 *tilt the tin to level the mixture: make level, level out/off, make even, even off/out, make flat, flatten, smooth (out), make uniform.* 2 *bulldozers levelled the building: raze (to the ground), demolish, flatten, topple, destroy; tear down, knock down, pull down, bulldoze.* 3 *he levelled his opponent with a single blow: knock down/out, knock to the ground, lay out, prostrate, flatten, floor, fell; informal KO, kayo.* 4 *Carl levelled*

*the score: equalize, make equal, equal, even (up), make level.* 5 *he levelled his pistol at me: aim, point, direct, train, focus, turn.* 6 (informal) *I knew you'd level with me: be frank, be open, be honest, be above board, tell the truth, tell all, hide nothing, be straightforward; informal be upfront.*

■ **on the level** (informal) genuine, straight, honest, above board, fair, true, sincere, straightforward; informal upfront; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

**level-headed** **adjective** sensible, practical, realistic, prudent, pragmatic, wise, reasonable, rational, mature, judicious, sound, sober, businesslike, no-nonsense, composed, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, confident, well balanced, equable, cool-headed, self-possessed, having one's feet on the ground; informal unflappable, together.

– OPPOSITES excitable.

**lever** **noun** 1 *you can insert a lever and prise the rail off: crowbar, bar, jemmy.* 2 *he pulled the lever: handle, grip, pull, switch.*

• **verb** *he levered the door open: prise, force, wrench, pull, wrest, heave; N. Amer. pry; informal jemmy.*

**leverage** **noun** 1 *the long handles provide increased leverage: grip, purchase, hold; support, anchorage, force, strength.* 2 *they have significant leverage in negotiations: influence, power, authority, weight, sway, pull, control, say, dominance, advantage, pressure; informal clout, muscle, teeth.*

**levitate** **verb** float, rise (into the air), hover, be suspended, glide, hang, fly, soar up.

**levity** **noun** light-heartedness, high spirits, vivacity, liveliness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, humour, gaiety, fun, jocularly, hilarity, frivolity, frivolousness, amusement, mirth, laughter, merriment, glee, comedy, wit, wittiness, jollity, joviality.

– OPPOSITES seriousness.

**levy** **verb** 1 *a proposal to levy VAT on fuel: impose, charge, exact, raise, collect; tax.* 2 (old use) *levying troops: conscript, call up, enlist, mobilize, rally, muster, marshal, recruit, raise; US draft.*

• **noun** 1 *the levy of taxation: imposition, raising, collection; formal exaction.* 2 *the levy on spirits: tax, tariff, toll, excise, duty, imposition, impost; formal mulct.* 3 (old use) *not shire levies, but professional soldiers: conscripts, troops, (armed) forces, army, militia.*

**lewd** **adjective** 1 *a lewd old man: lecherous, lustful, licentious, lascivious, dirty, prurient, salacious, lubricious, libidinous, lickerish; debauched, depraved, degenerate, decadent, dissipated, dissolute, perverted; informal horny; Brit. informal randy; formal concupiscent.* 2 *a lewd song: vulgar, crude, smutty, dirty, filthy, obscene, pornographic, coarse, off colour, unseemly, indecent, salacious; rude, racy, risqué, naughty, earthy, spicy, bawdy, ribald; informal blue, raunchy, X-rated, nudge-nudge, porno; N. Amer. informal raw; euphemistic adult.*

– OPPOSITES chaste, clean.

**lexicon** noun dictionary, wordbook, vocabulary list, glossary, word-finder, thesaurus.

**liability** noun **1** *journalists' liability for defamation*: **accountability**, (legal) responsibility, answerability; blame, blameworthiness, culpability, guilt, fault. **2** *they have big liabilities*: **financial obligations**, debts, arrears, dues. **3** *an electoral liability*: **hindrance**, encumbrance, burden, handicap, nuisance, inconvenience, embarrassment; obstacle, impediment, disadvantage, weakness, shortcoming; millstone round one's neck, albatross, Achilles heel; old use cumber. **4** *their liability to the disease*: **susceptibility**, vulnerability, proneness, tendency, predisposition, propensity.

– OPPOSITES immunity, asset.

**liable** adjective **1** *they are liable for negligence*: (legally) **responsible**, accountable, answerable, chargeable, blameworthy, at fault, culpable, guilty. **2** *my income is liable to fluctuate wildly*: **likely**, inclined, tending, disposed, apt, predisposed, prone, given. **3** *areas liable to flooding*: **exposed**, prone, subject, susceptible, vulnerable, in danger of, at risk of.

**liaise** verb **cooperate**, work together, collaborate; communicate, network, interface, link up.

**liaison** noun **1** *the branches work in close liaison*: **cooperation**, contact, association, connection, collaboration, communication, alliance, partnership. **2** *Dave was my White House liaison*: **intermediary**, mediator, middleman, contact, link, linkman, linkwoman, linkperson, go-between, representative, agent. **3** *a secret liaison*: (love) **affair**, relationship, romance, attachment, fling, amour, affair of the heart, (romantic) entanglement; informal hanky-panky.

**liar** noun **fibber**, deceiver, perjurer, false witness, fabricator; romancer, fabulist; informal storyteller.

**libation** noun **1** *they pour libations into the holy well*: (liquid) **offering**, tribute, oblation. **2** (humorous) *would you like a small libation?* (alcoholic) **drink**, beverage, liquid refreshment; dram, draught, nip, tot; informal tippie; old use potation.

**libel** noun *she sued two newspapers for libel*: **defamation (of character)**, character assassination, calumny, misrepresentation, scandalmongering; aspersions, denigration, vilification, disparagement, derogation, insult, slander, malicious gossip, traducement; lie, slur, smear, untruth, false report; informal mud-slinging, bad-mouthing. • **verb** *she alleged the magazine had libelled her*: **defame**, malign, slander, blacken someone's name, sully someone's reputation, speak ill/evil of, traduce, smear, cast aspersions on, drag someone's name through the mud/mire, besmirch, tarnish, taint, tell lies about, stain, vilify, denigrate, disparage, run down, stigmatize, discredit;

N. Amer. slur; formal derogate, calumniate.

**libellous** adjective **defamatory**, denigratory, vilifying, disparaging, derogatory, slanderous, false, untrue, traducing, maligning, insulting, scurrilous; formal calumnious.

**liberal** adjective **1** *the values of a liberal society*: **tolerant**, unprejudiced, unbogoted, broad-minded, open-minded, enlightened; permissive, free (and easy), easy-going, libertarian, indulgent, lenient. **2** *a liberal social agenda*: **progressive**, advanced, modern, forward-looking, forward-thinking, progressivist, enlightened, reformist, radical; informal go-ahead. **3** *a liberal education*: **wide-ranging**, broad-based, general. **4** *a liberal interpretation of divorce laws*: **flexible**, broad, loose, rough, free, general, non-literal, non-specific, imprecise, vague, indefinite. **5** *liberal coatings of paint*: **abundant**, copious, ample, plentiful, generous, lavish, luxuriant, profuse, considerable, prolific, rich; literary plenteous. **6** *they were liberal with their cash*: **generous**, open-handed, unsparing, unstinting, ungrudging, lavish, free, munificent, bountiful, beneficent, benevolent, big-hearted, philanthropic, charitable, altruistic, unselfish; literary bounteous.

– OPPOSITES reactionary, strict, miserly.

**liberate** verb (set) **free**, release, let out/go, set/let loose, save, rescue; emancipate, enfranchise; historical manumit.

– OPPOSITES imprison, enslave.

**liberation** noun **1** *the liberation of prisoners*: **freeing**, release, rescue, setting free; freedom, liberty; emancipation; historical manumission. **2** *women's liberation*: **freedom**, equality, equal rights, emancipation, enfranchisement.

– OPPOSITES confinement, oppression.

**liberator** noun **rescuer**, saviour, deliverer, emancipator; historical manumitter.

**libertine** noun *an unrepentant libertine*: **philanderer**, playboy, rake, roué, Don Juan, Lothario, Casanova, Romeo; lecher, seducer, womanizer, adulterer, debauchee, profligate, wanton; informal skirt-chaser, ladykiller, lech, wolf; formal fornicator.

• **adjective** *libertine sexual intercourse*:

**licentious**, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, lascivious, lubricious, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, wanton, degenerate, depraved, promiscuous, lewd, prurient, salacious, intemperate, lickerish; informal loose, fast, goatish; formal concupiscent.

**liberty** noun **1** *personal liberty*: **freedom**, independence, free rein, license, self-determination, free will, latitude. **2** *the essence of British liberty*: **independence**, freedom, autonomy, sovereignty, self government, self rule, self determination; civil liberties, human rights. **3** *the liberty to go where one pleases*: **right**, birthright, prerogative, entitlement, privilege, permission, sanction, authorization, authority, licence.

– OPPOSITES constraint, slavery.

■ **at liberty** **1** *he was at liberty for three months*: free, (on the) loose, at large, unconfined; escaped, out. **2** *your great aunt was at liberty to divide her estate how she chose*: free, permitted, allowed, authorized, able, entitled, eligible.

**libidinous** adjective lustful, lecherous, lascivious, lewd, carnal, salacious, prurient, licentious, libertine, lubricious, dissolute, debauched, depraved, degenerate, decadent, dissipated, wanton, promiscuous, lickerish; informal horny, goatish, wolfish; Brit. informal randy; formal concupiscent.

**libido** noun sex drive, sexual appetite; (sexual) desire, passion, sexiness, sensuality, sexuality, lust, lustfulness; informal horniness; Brit. informal randiness; formal concupiscence.

**licence** noun **1** *a driving licence*: permit, certificate, document, documentation, authorization, warrant; certification, credentials; pass, papers. **2** *teachers had licence to administer beatings*: permission, authority, right, a free hand, leave, authorization, entitlement, privilege, prerogative; liberty, freedom, power.

**3** *they manufacture footwear under licence*: franchise, permission, consent, sanction, warrant, warranty, charter. **4** *the army have too much licence*: freedom, liberty, free rein, latitude, independence, scope, impunity, carte blanche. **5** *poetic licence*: disregard for the facts, inventiveness, invention, creativity, imagination, fancy, freedom, looseness. **6** *the licence of the age*: licentiousness, dissoluteness, dissipation, debauchery, immorality, impropriety, decadence, intemperateness, excess, excessiveness, lack of restraint.

**licence** verb permit, allow, authorize, grant/ give authority to, grant/ give permission to; certify, empower, entitle, enable, give approval to, let, qualify, sanction.

– OPPOSITES ban.

**licentious** adjective dissolute, dissipated, debauched, degenerate, immoral, naughty, wanton, decadent, depraved, sinful, corrupt; lustful, lecherous, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lubricious, lewd, promiscuous, lickerish; formal concupiscent.

– OPPOSITES moral.

**licit** adjective legitimate, permissible, admissible, allowable; permitted, allowed, sanctioned, authorized, warranted; lawful, legal, statutory, legalized, licensed; informal legit.

– OPPOSITES forbidden.

**lick** verb **1** *the spaniel licked his face*: tongue; lap, slurp. **2** *flames licking round the coal*: flicker, play, flit, dance. **3** (informal) *they licked the home side 3-0*. See **DEFEAT** verb sense 1. **4** (informal) *the government have inflation licked*: overcome, get the better of, find an answer/solution to, conquer, beat, control, master, curb, check.

• noun (informal) **1** *a lick of paint*: dab, bit, drop, dash, spot, touch, splash; informal smidgen.

**2** *they ran up at a fair lick*: speed, rate, pace, tempo; informal clip.

**licking** noun (informal) **1** *Arsenal took a licking*: defeat, beating, trouncing, thrashing; informal hiding, pasting, hammering, drubbing; N. Amer. informal shellacking. **2** *Ray got the worst licking of his life*: thrashing, beating, flogging, whipping; informal walloping, hiding, pasting, lathering; N. Amer. informal whaling.

**lid** noun *the lid of a saucepan*: cover, top, cap, covering.

■ **put a/the lid on** (informal) stop, control, end, put an end/stop to, put paid to.

■ **lift the lid off/on** (informal) expose, reveal, make known, make public, bring into the open, disclose, divulge; informal spill the beans, blow the gaff, blab.

**lie**<sup>1</sup> noun *loyalty to his friends had made him tell lies*: untruth, falsehood, fib, fabrication, deception, invention, (piece of) fiction, falsification; (little) white lie, half-truth, exaggeration; informal tall story, whopper; Brit. informal porky (pie).

– OPPOSITES truth.

• verb *he had lied to the police*: tell a lie, fib, dissemble, dissimulate, tell a white lie, perjure oneself, commit perjury; informal lie through one's teeth; formal forswear oneself.

■ **give the lie to** disprove, contradict, negate, deny, refute, rebut, controvert, belie, invalidate, discredit, debunk; challenge, call into question; informal shoot full of holes, shoot down (in flames); formal confute, gainsay.

#### WORD LINKS

mendacious telling lies

slander the crime of making a false and damaging statement about someone

libel the crime of publishing a false and damaging statement about someone

perjury deliberately lying in a court of law after having sworn to tell the truth

polygraph a machine used as a lie detector

**lie**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *he was lying on a bed*: recline, lie down/back, be recumbent, be prostrate, be supine, be prone, be stretched out, sprawl, rest, repose, lounge, loll. **2** *her handbag lay on a chair*: be placed, be situated, be positioned, rest. **3** *lying on the border of Switzerland and Austria*: be situated, be located, be placed, be found, be sited. **4** *his body lies in a crypt*: be buried, be interred, be laid to rest, rest, be entombed. **5** *the difficulty lies in building real quality into the products*: consist, be inherent, be present, be contained, exist, reside.

– OPPOSITES stand.

■ **lie heavy** on trouble, worry, bother, torment, oppress, nag, prey on one's mind, plague, niggle at, gnaw at, haunt; informal bug.

■ **lie low** hide (out), go into hiding, conceal oneself, keep out of sight, go to earth/ground; informal hole up; Brit. informal, dated lie doggo.

**liege** noun (liege) lord, feudal lord, overlord, master, chief, superior, baron, monarch, sovereign; historical suzerain, seigneur.

**lieutenant** noun deputy, second in



command, right-hand man/woman, number two, assistant, aide; informal sidekick.

**life** noun **1** *the joy of giving life to a child:* existence, being, living, animation; sentience, creation, viability. **2** *threats to life on the planet:* living beings/creatures, the living; fauna, flora, ecosystems, biodiversity; human beings, humanity, humankind, mankind, man. **3** *an easy life:* way of life/living, lifestyle, situation, fate, lot. **4** *the last nine months of his life:* lifetime, life span, days, time on earth, existence. **5** *the life of a Parliament:* duration, lifetime, existence. **6** *he is full of life:* vivacity, animation, liveliness, vitality, verve, high spirits, exuberance, zest, buoyancy, enthusiasm, energy, vigour, dynamism, elan, gusto, brio, bounce, spirit, fire; (hustle and) bustle, movement; informal oomph, pizzazz, pep, zing, zip, vim. **7** *the life of the party:* moving spirit, (vital) spirit, life force, lifeblood, heart, soul. **8** *more than 1,500 lives were lost in the accident:* person, human being, individual, soul. **9** *a life of Chopin:* biography, autobiography, life story/history, profile, chronicle, account, portrait; informal biog, bio, biopic. **10** *I'll miss you, but that's life:* the way of the world, the human condition; fate, destiny, providence, kismet, karma, fortune, luck, chance; informal the way the cookie crumbles.

— OPPOSITES death.

■ **come to life** **1** *the sounds of a barracks coming to life:* become active, come alive, wake up, awaken, arouse, rouse, stir; literary waken. **2** *the carved angel suddenly came to life:* become animate, come alive.

■ **for dear life** desperately, with all one's might, with might and main, for all one is worth, as fast/hard as possible, like the devil.

■ **give one's life** **1** *he would give his life for her:* die, lay down one's life, sacrifice oneself. **2** *he gave his life to the company:* dedicate oneself, devote oneself, give oneself, surrender oneself.

**WORD LINKS**

**animate** having life

**biology** the scientific study of living organisms

**biosphere** the parts of the earth which are inhabited by living things

**longevity** long life

**resurrect** restore a dead person to life

**life-and-death** adjective **vital**, of vital importance, crucial, critical, urgent, pivotal, momentous, important, key, serious, grave, significant; informal earth-shattering; formal of great moment.

— OPPOSITES trivial.

**lifeblood** noun **life** (force), essential constituent, driving force, vital spark, inspiration, stimulus, essence, crux, heart, soul, core.

**life-giving** adjective **vitalizing**, animating, energizing, invigorating, stimulating; life-preserving, life-sustaining.

**lifeless** adjective **1** *a lifeless body:* dead,

departed, perished, gone, no more, passed on/away, stiff, cold, (as) dead as a doornail; formal deceased. **2** *a lifeless rag doll:* inanimate, without life, inert, insentient. **3** *a lifeless landscape:* barren, sterile, bare, desolate, stark, arid, infertile, uncultivated, uninhabited; bleak, colourless, characterless, soulless. **4** *a lifeless performance:* lacklustre, spiritless, apathetic, torpid, lethargic; dull, monotonous, boring, tedious, dreary, unexciting, expressionless, emotionless, colourless, characterless. **5** *lifeless hair:* lank, lustreless.

— OPPOSITES alive, animate, lively.

**lifelike** adjective **realistic**, true to life, representational, faithful, exact, precise, detailed, vivid, graphic, natural, naturalistic.

— OPPOSITES unrealistic.

**lifelong** adjective **lasting**, long-lasting, long-term, constant, stable, established, steady, enduring, permanent.

— OPPOSITES ephemeral.

**lifestyle** noun **way of life/living**, life, situation, fate, lot; conduct, behaviour, customs, habits, ways, mores.

**lifetime** noun **1** *he made an exceptional contribution during his lifetime:* **lifespan**, life, days, one's time (on earth), existence, one's career; literary one's threescore years and ten. **2** *the lifetime of the present Parliament:* **duration**. **3** *it would take a lifetime:* **all one's life**, a very long time, an eternity, years (on end), aeons; informal ages (and ages), an age.

**lift** verb **1** *lift the pack on to your back:* **raise**, hoist, heave, haul up, uplift, heft, raise up/aloft, upraise, elevate, hold high; pick up, grab, take up, scoop up, snatch up; winch up, jack up, lever up; informal hump; literary upheave. **2** *the news lifted his spirits:* **boost**, raise, buoy up, elevate, cheer up, perk up, uplift, brighten up, ginger up, gladden, encourage, stimulate, revive; informal buck up. **3** *they lift their game on big occasions:* **improve**, boost, enhance, revitalize, upgrade, ameliorate. **4** *the fog had lifted:* **clear**, rise, disperse, dissipate, disappear, vanish, dissolve. **5** *the ban has been lifted:* **cancel**, remove, withdraw, revoke, rescind, annul, void, discontinue, end, stop, terminate. **6** *lifting carrots:* **dig up**, pick, pull up, root out, unearth. **7** *the RAF lifted them to safety:* **airlift**, fly, helicopter. **8** *he lifted his voice:* **amplify**, raise, make louder, increase. **9** (informal) *he lifted sections from a 1986 article:* **plagiarize**, pirate, copy, reproduce, poach; informal crib, rip off. **10** (informal) *she lifted a wallet.* See **STEAL** verb sense 1.

— OPPOSITES drop, put down.

• noun **1** *Alice went up in the lift:* **elevator**, paternoster (lift); dumb waiter. **2** *give me a lift up:* **push**, hoist, heave, thrust, shove. **3** *he gave me a lift to the airport:* (car) **ride**, run, drive. **4** *that goal will give his confidence a real lift:* **boost**, fillip, stimulus, impetus, encouragement, spur, push; improvement, enhancement; informal shot in the arm.

■ **lift off** take off, become airborne, take to

the air, take wing; be launched, blast off.

**light<sup>1</sup> noun 1** *the light of candles:*

**illumination**, brightness, luminescence, luminosity, shining, gleaming, gleam, brilliance, radiance, lustre, glowing, glow, blaze, glare, dazzle; sunlight, moonlight, starlight, lamplight, firelight; ray of light, beam of light; literary effulgence, refulgence, lambency. **2** *put the lights on:* **lamp**; headlight, headlamp, sidelight; floodlight; lantern; torch, flashlight. **3** *have you got a light?* **match**, lighter. **4** *we'll be driving in the light:* **daylight (hours)**, daytime, day; natural light, sunlight. **5** *he saw the problem in a different light:* **aspect**, angle, slant, approach, interpretation, viewpoint, standpoint, context, hue, complexion. **6** *light dawned on Loretta:* **understanding**, enlightenment, illumination, comprehension, insight, awareness, knowledge. **7** *an eminent legal light:* **expert**, authority, master, leader, guru, leading light, luminary. **8** *he served his party loyally according to his lights:* **talent**, skill, ability; intelligence, intellect, knowledge, understanding.

– OPPOSITES darkness.

• **verb** *Alan lit a fire:* **set alight**, set light to, set on fire, set fire to, put/set a match to, ignite, kindle, spark (off); old use enkindle.

– OPPOSITES extinguish.

• **adjective 1** *a light breakfast room:* **bright**, full of light, well lit, well illuminated, sunny. **2** *light pastel shades:* **light-coloured**, light-toned, pale, pale-coloured, pastel. **3** *light hair:* **fair**, light-coloured, blond(e), golden, flaxen.

– OPPOSITES dark, gloomy.

■ **bring something to light** reveal, disclose, expose, uncover, show up, unearth, dig up/out, bring to notice, identify, hunt out, nose out.

■ **come to light** be discovered, be uncovered, be unearthed, come out, become known, become apparent, appear, materialize, emerge.

■ **in the light of** taking into consideration/account, considering, bearing in mind, taking note of, in view of.

■ **light up the dashboard lit up:** become bright, brighten, lighten, shine, gleam, flare, blaze, glint, sparkle, shimmer, glisten, scintillate.

■ **light something up 1** *a flare lit up the night sky:* make bright, brighten, illuminate, lighten, throw/cast light on, shine on, irradiate; literary illumine. **2** *her enthusiasm lit up her face:* animate, irradiate, brighten, cheer up, enliven.

■ **throw/cast/shed light on** explain, elucidate, clarify, clear up, interpret.

#### WORD LINKS

**chiaroscuro** the treatment of light and shade in art

**optics** the study of light

**photometry** the measurement of light

**photophobia** fear of light

**photosynthesis** the process by which plants use sunlight to form nutrients  
**phototropism** the turning of a plant towards or away from light

**light<sup>2</sup> adjective 1** *it's light and portable:*

**easy to lift**, not heavy, lightweight; easy to carry, portable. **2** *a light cotton robe:* **flimsy**, lightweight, summer-weight, insubstantial, thin; delicate, floaty, gauzy, gossamer, diaphanous. **3** *she is light on her feet:* **nimble**, agile, lithe, limber, lissom, graceful; light-footed, fleet-footed, quick, quick-moving, spry, sprightly; informal twinkle-toed; literary fleet, lightsome. **4** *a light soil:* **friable**, sandy, easily dug, workable, crumbly, loose. **5** *a light dinner:* **small**, modest, simple, easily digested. **6** *light duties:* **easy**, simple, undemanding, untaxing; informal cushy. **7** *his eyes gleamed with light mockery:* **gentle**, mild, moderate, slight; playful, light-hearted. **8** *light reading:* **entertaining**, lightweight, diverting, undemanding, middle-of-the-road; frivolous, superficial, trivial. **9** *a light heart:* **carefree**, light-hearted, cheerful, cheery, happy, merry, jolly, blithe, bright, sunny; buoyant, bubbly, jaunty, bouncy, breezy, optimistic, positive, upbeat, ebullient; dated gay. **10** *this is no light matter:* **unimportant**, insignificant, trivial, trifling, petty, inconsequential, superficial. **11** *light footsteps:* **gentle**, delicate, soft, dainty; faint, indistinct. **12** *her head felt light:* **dizzy**, giddy, light-headed, faint, vertiginous; informal woozy. **13** (old use) *light women:* **promiscuous**, loose, wanton.

– OPPOSITES heavy.

**light<sup>3</sup> verb**

■ **light on** come across, chance on, hit on, happen on, stumble on/across, blunder on, find, discover, uncover, come up with.

**lighten<sup>1</sup> verb 1** *the sky was beginning to lighten:* **become/grow lighter**, brighten.

**2** *the first touch of dawn lightened the sky:* **light up**, brighten, make brighter, illuminate, throw/cast light on, shine on, irradiate; literary illumine. **3** *he used lemon juice to lighten his hair:* **whiten**, make whiter, bleach, blanch, make paler; fade, wash out, decolorize.

– OPPOSITES darken.

**lighten<sup>2</sup> verb 1** *lightening the burden of taxation:* **make lighter**, lessen, reduce, decrease, diminish, ease; alleviate, mitigate, allay, relieve, palliate, assuage. **2** *an attempt to lighten her spirits:* **raise**, lift; cheer (up), brighten, gladden, hearten, perk up, ginger up, enliven, boost, buoy (up), uplift, revive, restore, revitalize.

– OPPOSITES increase, depress.

**light-fingered** adjective thieving, stealing, pilfering, shoplifting, dishonest; informal sticky-fingered, crooked.

– OPPOSITES honest.

**light-footed** adjective **nimble**, light on one's feet, agile, graceful, lithe, spry, sprightly, limber, lissom; swift, fast, quick, quick-moving, fleet-footed; informal twinkle-toed; literary fleet.

– OPPOSITES clumsy.

**light-headed** adjective *dizzy, giddy, faint, muzzy, vertiginous; informal woozy.*

**light-hearted** adjective *carefree, cheerful, cheery, happy, merry, glad, playful, jolly, jovial, joyful, gleeful, ebullient, high-spirited, lively, blithe, bright, sunny, buoyant, vivacious, bubbly, jaunty, bouncy, breezy; entertaining, amusing, diverting; informal chirpy, upbeat; dated gay.*

– OPPOSITES miserable.

**lightly** adverb **1** *Maisie kissed him lightly on the cheek: softly, gently, faintly, delicately.* **2** *season very lightly: sparingly, slightly, sparsely, moderately, delicately.* **3** *her views are not to be dismissed lightly: carelessly, airily, heedlessly, without consideration, uncaringly, indifferently, unthinkingly, thoughtlessly, flippantly, breezily, frivolously.*

– OPPOSITES hard, heavily.

**lightweight** adjective **1** *a lightweight jacket: thin, light, flimsy, insubstantial; summery.* **2** *lightweight entertainment: trivial, insubstantial, superficial, shallow, unintellectual, undemanding, frivolous; of little merit/value.*

– OPPOSITES heavy.

**like**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I rather like Colonel Maitland: be fond of, be attached to, have a soft spot for, have a liking for, have regard for, think well of, admire, respect, esteem; be attracted to, fancy, find attractive, be keen on, be taken with; informal take a shine to, rate.* **2** *Maisie likes veal | she likes gardening: enjoy, have a taste for, have a preference for, have a liking for, be partial to, find/take pleasure in, be keen on, find agreeable, have a penchant/passion for, find enjoyable; appreciate, love, adore, relish; informal have a thing about, be into, be mad about/for, be hooked on, go a bundle on.* **3** *feel free to say what you like: choose, please, wish, want, see/think fit, care to, will.* **4** *how would she like it if someone did that to her? feel about, regard, think about, consider.*

– OPPOSITES hate.

**like**<sup>2</sup> preposition **1** *you're just like a teacher: similar to, the same as, identical to.* **2** *the figure landed like a cat: in the same way as, in the manner of, in a similar way to.* **3** *cities like Birmingham: such as, for example, for instance; in particular, namely, viz.* **4** *Richard sounded mean, which isn't like him: characteristic of, typical of, in character with.*

• noun *we shan't see his like again: equal, match, equivalent, counterpart, twin, parallel; formal compeer.*

• adjective *a like situation: similar, much the same, comparable, corresponding, resembling, alike, analogous, parallel, equivalent, cognate, related, kindred; identical, same, matching.*

– OPPOSITES dissimilar.

**likeable** adjective *pleasant, nice, friendly, agreeable, affable, amiable, genial, personable, charming, popular, good-*

*natured, engaging, appealing, endearing, convivial, congenial, winning, delightful, enchanting, lovable, adorable, sweet; informal darling, lovely.*

– OPPOSITES unpleasant.

**likelihood** noun *probability, chance, prospect, possibility, likeliness, odds, feasibility; risk, threat, danger; hope, promise.*

**likely** adjective **1** *it seemed likely that a scandal would break: probable, (distinctly) possible, to be expected, odds-on, plausible, imaginable; expected, anticipated, predictable, predicted, foreseeable; informal on the cards.* **2** *a likely explanation: plausible, reasonable, feasible, acceptable, believable, credible, tenable, conceivable.* **3** *a likely story! unlikely, implausible, unbelievable, incredible, untenable, unacceptable, inconceivable.* **4** *a likely-looking place: suitable, appropriate, apposite, fit, fitting, acceptable, right; promising, hopeful.* **5** *a likely lad: promising, talented, gifted; informal up-and-coming.*

– OPPOSITES improbable, unbelievable.

• adverb *he was most likely dead: probably, in all probability, presumably, no doubt, doubtlessly; informal (as) like as not.*

**liken** verb *compare, equate, draw an analogy between, draw a parallel between; link, associate, bracket together.*

– OPPOSITES contrast.

**likeness** noun **1** *her likeness to Anne is quite uncanny: resemblance, similarity, correspondence, analogy, uniformity, conformity.* **2** *the likeness of a naked woman: semblance, guise, appearance, (outward) form, shape, image.* **3** *a likeness of the last president: representation, image, depiction, portrayal; picture, drawing, sketch, painting, portrait, photograph, study; statue, sculpture.*

– OPPOSITES dissimilarity.

**likewise** adverb **1** *an ambush was out of the question, likewise poison: also, in addition, too, as well, to boot; besides, moreover, furthermore.* **2** *encourage your family and friends to do likewise: the same, similarly, correspondingly, in the same way, in similar fashion.*

**liking** noun *fondness, love, affection, penchant, attachment; enjoyment, appreciation, taste, passion; preference, partiality, predilection; desire, fancy, inclination.*

**lift** noun *cadence, rise and fall, inflection, intonation, rhythm, swing, beat, pulse, tempo.*

**limb** noun **1** *his sore limbs: arm, leg, appendage; old use member.* **2** *the limbs of the tree: branch, bough.* **3** *local job centres act as limbs of the Ministry: section, branch, offshoot, arm, wing, subdivision, department, division.*

■ *out on a limb 1 the portrayal of Scotland as being out on a limb: isolated, segregated, set apart, separate, cut off, solitary.* **2** *the*



*government is out on a limb*: in a precarious position, vulnerable; informal sticking one's neck out.

**limber** adjective *I have to practise to keep myself limber*: lithe, supple, nimble, lissom, flexible, fit, agile, acrobatic, loose-jointed, loose-limbed.

– OPPOSITES stiff.

■ **limber up** warm up, loosen up, get into condition, get into shape, practise, train, stretch.

**limbo** noun *unbaptized infants are thought to live in limbo*: non-existence, void, oblivion.

■ **in limbo** in abeyance, unattended to, unfinished; suspended, deferred, postponed, put off, pending, on ice, in cold storage; unresolved, undetermined, up in the air; informal on the back burner, on hold.

**limelight** noun *the focus of attention*, public attention/interest, media attention, the public eye, the glare of publicity, prominence, the spotlight.

– OPPOSITES obscurity.

**limit** noun **1** *the city limits*: **boundary** (line), border, bound, partition line, frontier, edge, demarcation line; perimeter, outside, outline, confine, periphery, margin, rim. **2** *a limit of 4,500 supporters*: **maximum**, ceiling, limitation, upper limit; restriction, check, control, restraint. **3** *resources are stretched to the limit*: **utmost**, breaking point, greatest extent. **4** (informal) *that really is the limit!* **the last straw**, (more than) enough; informal the end, it.

● **verb** *the pressure to limit costs*: **restrict**, curb, cap, (hold in) check, restrain, put a brake on, freeze, peg; regulate, control, govern, delimit.

**limitation** noun **1** *a limitation on the number of newcomers*: **restriction**, curb, restraint, control, check; impediment, obstacle, obstruction, bar, barrier, ceiling, block, deterrent. **2** *he is aware of his own limitations*: **imperfection**, flaw, defect, failing, shortcoming, weak point, deficiency, failure, frailty, weakness, foible.

– OPPOSITES increase, strength.

**limited** adjective **1** *limited resources*: **restricted**, finite, little, tight, slight, in short supply, short; meagre, scanty, sparse, insubstantial, deficient, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, poor, minimal. **2** *the limited powers of the council*: **restricted**, curbed, checked, controlled, restrained, delimited, qualified.

– OPPOSITES ample, boundless.

**limitless** adjective **boundless**, unbounded, unlimited, illimitable; infinite, endless, never-ending, unending, everlasting, untold, immeasurable, bottomless, fathomless; unceasing, interminable, inexhaustible, constant, perpetual.

**limp**<sup>1</sup> verb *she limped out of the house*: **hobble**, walk haltingly, falter.

● **noun** *his limp was very pronounced*: **lameness**, hobble, uneven gait; Medicine claudication.

**limp**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *a limp handshake*: **soft**,

flaccid, loose, slack, lax; floppy, drooping, droopy, sagging. **2** *we were all limp with exhaustion*: **tired**, fatigued, weary, exhausted, worn out; weak, lethargic, listless, spiritless. **3** *a limp and lacklustre speech*: **uninspired**, uninspiring, insipid, flat, lifeless, vapid.

– OPPOSITES firm, energetic.

**limpid** adjective **1** *a limpid pool*: **clear**, transparent, glassy, crystal clear, crystalline, translucent, pellucid, unclouded. **2** *his limpid writing*: **lucid**, clear, plain, understandable, intelligible, comprehensible, coherent, explicit, unambiguous, simple, vivid, sharp, crystal clear; formal perspicuous.

– OPPOSITES opaque.

**line**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *he drew a line through the name*: dash, rule, bar, score; underline, underscore, stroke, slash, solidus; stripe, strip, band, belt; crosshatching, hachures; technical stria, striation; Brit. oblique. **2** *there were lines round her eyes*: **wrinkle**, furrow, crease, crinkle, crow's foot. **3** *the classic lines of the exterior*: **contour**, outline, configuration, shape, figure, delineation, profile, silhouette. **4** *he headed the ball over the line* | *the county line*: **boundary** (line), limit, border, borderline, bounding line, frontier, demarcation line, dividing line, edge, margin, perimeter. **5** *behind enemy lines*: **position**, formation, front (line); trenches. **6** *he put the washing on the line*: **cord**, rope, string, cable, wire, thread, twine, strand. **7** *a line of soldiers*: **file**, rank, column, string, train, procession; row, queue; Brit. informal crocodile. **8** *a line of figures*: **column**, row. **9** *a long line of crass decisions*: **series**, sequence, succession, chain, string, set, cycle. **10** *the line of flight of some bees*: **course**, route, track, path, trajectory, way, run. **11** *they took a very tough line with the industry* | *the party line*: **course** (of action), procedure, technique, tactic, tack; policy, practice, approach, plan, programme, position, stance, philosophy. **12** *her own line of thought*: **course**, direction, drift, tack, tendency, trend. **13** *he couldn't remember his lines*: **words**, part, script, speech. **14** *their line of work*: (line of) **business**, (line of) work, field, trade, occupation, employment, profession, job, career, walk of life; specialty, forte, province, department, sphere, area (of expertise). **15** *a new line of cologne*: **brand**, kind, sort, type, variety, make. **16** *a noble line*: **ancestry**, family, parentage, birth, descent, lineage, extraction, genealogy, roots, origin, background; stock, bloodline, pedigree. **17** *the opening line of the poem*: **sentence**, phrase, clause, utterance; passage, extract, quotation, quote, citation. **18** *I should drop Ralph a line*: **note**, letter, card, postcard, message, communication, missive, memorandum; correspondence, word; informal memo; formal epistle.

● **verb** **1** *her face was lined with age*: **furrow**, wrinkle, crease. **2** *the driveway was lined by poplars*: **border**, edge, fringe, bound, rim.

■ **draw the line** at stop short of, refuse to

accept, balk at; object to, take issue with, take exception to.

■ **in line 1** *the poor stood in line for food*: in a queue, in a row. **2** *the adverts are in line with the editorial style*: in agreement, in accord, in accordance, in harmony, in step, in compliance. **3** *in line with the bullseye*: in alignment, aligned, level; abreast, side by side. **4** *the referee kept him in line*: under control, in order, in check.

■ **in line for** a candidate for, in the running for, on the shortlist for, being considered for.

■ **lay it on the line** speak frankly/honestly, pull no punches, be blunt, not mince one's words, call a spade a spade; informal give it to someone straight.

■ **line up** form a queue/line, queue up, fall in; Military dress; Brit. informal form a crocodile.

■ **line someone/something up 1** *they lined them up and shot them*: arrange in lines, put in rows, arrange in columns, align, range; Military dress. **2** *we've lined up an all-star cast*: assemble, get together, organize, prepare, arrange, prearrange, fix up, lay on; book, schedule, timetable.

■ **on the line** at risk, in danger, endangered, imperilled.

■ **toe the line** conform, obey/observe the rules, comply with the rules, abide by the rules.

#### WORD LINKS

**linear** arranged in a straight line, or consisting of lines

**curvilinear** consisting of a curved line or lines

**rectilinear** consisting of a straight line or lines

**geometry** the branch of mathematics concerned with lines, points, surfaces, etc.

**line<sup>2</sup> verb** *a cardboard box lined with a blanket*: cover, interline, face, back, pad.

■ **line one's pockets** (informal) make money, accept bribes, embezzle money; informal feather one's nest, graft, be on the make.

**lineage noun** ancestry, family, parentage, birth, descent, line, extraction, derivation, genealogy, roots, origin, background; stock, bloodline, breeding, pedigree.

**lineaments plural noun** (literary) (distinctive) features, distinguishing characteristics, hallmarks, properties, traits; form, outline, configuration, physiognomy.

**lined<sup>1</sup> adjective 1** *lined paper*: ruled, feint, striped, banded. **2** *his lined face*: wrinkled, wrinkly, furrowed, wizened.

– OPPOSITES plain, smooth.

**lined<sup>2</sup> adjective** *lined curtains*: covered, backed, interlined; faced, padded.

**liner noun 1** *a luxury liner*: ship, ocean liner, passenger vessel, boat. **2** *her eyes were ringed with liner*: eyeliner, eye pencil, kohl (pencil); lipliner.

**line-up noun 1** *a star-studded line-up*: list of performers, cast, bill, programme.

**2** *United's line-up*: list of players, team, squad, side. **3** *a long line-up of customers*:

queue, line, row, column.

**linger verb 1** *the crowd lingered for a long time*: wait (around), stay (put), remain; loiter, dawdle, dally, take one's time; informal stick around, hang around/round, hang on; old use tarry. **2** *the infection can linger for many years*: persist, continue, remain, stay, endure, carry on, last, keep on/up.

– OPPOSITES vanish.

**lingerie noun** women's underwear, underclothes, underclothing, undergarments; nightwear, nightclothes; informal undies, frillies, underthings, unmentionables; Brit. informal smalls.

**lingering adjective 1** *lingering doubts*: remaining, surviving, persisting, abiding, nagging, niggling. **2** *a slow, lingering death*: protracted, prolonged, long-drawn-out, long-lasting.

**lingo noun** (informal) **1** *I can't speak the lingo*: language, tongue, dialect. **2** *computer lingo*: jargon, terminology, slang, argot, cant, patter, mumbo-jumbo; informal -ese, -speak, gobbledegook.

**linguistic adjective** semantic, lingual, rhetorical, verbal.

**lining noun** backing, interlining, facing, padding, liner.

**link noun 1** *a chain of steel links*: loop, ring, connection, connector, coupling, joint.

**2** *the links between transport and the environment*: connection, relationship, association, linkage, tie-up. **3** *their links with the labour movement*: bond, tie, attachment, connection, relationship, association, affiliation. **4** *one of the links in the organization*: component, constituent, element, part, piece.

• **verb 1** *four boxes were linked together*: join, connect, fasten, attach, bind, unite, combine, amalgamate; clamp, secure, fix, tie, couple, yoke. **2** *the evidence linking him with the body*: associate, connect, relate, join, bracket.

**lion noun 1** *a lion ready to attack*: big cat, king of the beasts; lioness. **2** *a lion amongst men*: hero, lionheart; conqueror, champion, conquering hero. **3** *the lions of the symphony hall*: celebrity, dignitary, VIP, luminary, star, superstar, big name, leading light; informal big shot/noise, celeb, megastar.

■ **the lion's share** most, the majority, the larger part/number, the greater part/number, more than half, the bulk.

#### WORD LINKS

**leonine** relating to lions

**pride** a group of lions

**lionhearted adjective** brave, courageous, valiant, gallant, intrepid, valorous, fearless, bold, daring; stout-hearted, stalwart, heroic, doughty, plucky; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES cowardly.

**lionize verb** celebrate, fete, glorify, honour, exalt, acclaim, admire, praise, extol, applaud, hail, venerate, eulogize; formal laud; old use panegyrize.

**lip** **noun** 1 *the lip of the crater*: edge, rim, brim, border, verge, brink. 2 (informal) *I'll have no more of your lip!* **insolence**, impertinence, impudence, cheek, rudeness, audacity, effrontery, disrespect, presumptuousness; informal mouth; Brit. informal sauce, backchat.

## WORD LINKS

labial relating to the lips

**liquefy** **verb** *make/become liquid*, condense, liquidize, melt; deliquesce.

**liquid** **adjective** 1 *liquid fuels*: fluid, liquefied; melted, molten, thawed, dissolved; Chemistry hydrous. 2 *her liquid eyes*: clear, limpid, crystal clear, crystalline, pellucid, unclouded. 3 *a liquid voice*: pure, clear, mellifluous, dulcet, mellow, sweet, sweet-sounding, soft, melodious, harmonious; rare mellifluent. 4 *liquid assets*: convertible, disposable, usable, spendable.

– OPPOSITES solid.

• **noun** *a vat of liquid*: fluid, moisture, wet, wetness; liquor, solution, juice.

**liquidate** **verb** 1 *the company was liquidated*: close down, wind up, put into liquidation, dissolve, disband. 2 *he liquidated his share portfolio*: convert (to cash), cash in, sell off/up. 3 *liquidating the public debt*: pay (off), pay in full, settle, clear, discharge, square, honour. 4 (informal) *they were liquidated in bloody purges*. See **KILL** verb sense 1.

**liquidize** **verb** *purée*, cream, liquefy, blend.

**liquor** **noun** 1 *alcoholic liquor*: alcohol, spirits, (alcoholic) drink, intoxicating liquor, intoxicant; informal booze, hard stuff, grog, hooch. 2 *strain the liquor into the sauce*: stock, broth, bouillon, juice, liquid.

**lissom** **adjective** *supple*, lithe, limber, graceful, flexible, loose-limbed, agile, nimble; slim, slender, thin, willowy, sleek, trim.

**list**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *a list of the world's wealthiest people*: catalogue, inventory, record, register, roll, file, index, directory, listing, checklist, enumeration.

• **verb** *the accounts are listed alphabetically*: record, register, make a list of, enter; itemize, enumerate, catalogue, file, log, minute, categorize, inventory; classify, group, sort, rank, alphabetize, index.

**list**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *the boat listed to one side*: lean (over), tilt, tip, heel (over), careen, cant, pitch, incline, slant, slope, bank.

**listen** **verb** 1 *are you listening carefully?* hear, pay attention, be attentive, attend, concentrate; keep one's ears open, prick up one's ears; informal be all ears, pin back one's ears; literary hark; old use hearken. 2 *policy-makers should listen to popular opinion*: pay attention, take heed, heed, take notice, take note, mind, mark, bear in mind, take into consideration/account.

■ **listen** in eavesdrop, spy, overhear, tap, wiretap, bug, monitor.

**listless** **adjective** *lethargic*, enervated, spiritless, lifeless; languid, languorous,

inactive, inert, sluggish, torpid.  
– OPPOSITES energetic.

**litany** **noun** 1 *repeating the litany*: prayer, invocation, supplication, devotion; old use orison. 2 *a litany of complaints*: recital, recitation, repetition, enumeration; list, listing, catalogue, inventory.

**literacy** **noun** *ability to read and write*, reading/writing skills; (book) learning, education, scholarship, schooling.

**literal** **adjective** 1 *the literal sense of the word 'dreadful'*: strict, factual, plain, simple, exact, straightforward; unembellished, undistorted; objective, correct, true, truthful, accurate, genuine, authentic. 2 *a literal translation*: word-for-word, verbatim, letter-for-letter; exact, precise, faithful, close, strict, accurate; formal literatim. 3 *his literal, unrheterical manner*: literal-minded, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, no-nonsense, unsentimental; prosaic, unimaginative, pedestrian, uninspired, uninspiring.

– OPPOSITES figurative, loose.

• **noun** (Brit.) *William corrected two literals*: misprint, error, mistake, (slip) of the pen, typographical/typing error/mistake, corrigendum, erratum; informal typo, howler.

**literally** **adverb** *verbatim*, word for word, letter for letter; exactly, precisely, faithfully, closely, strictly, accurately; formal literatim.

**literary** **adjective** 1 *literary works*: written, poetic, artistic, dramatic. 2 *her literary friends*: scholarly, learned, intellectual, cultured, erudite, bookish, highbrow, lettered, academic, cultivated; well read, widely read, (well) educated. 3 *literary language*: formal, written, poetic, dramatic; elaborate, ornate, flowery.

**literate** **adjective** (well) educated, well read, widely read, scholarly, learned, knowledgeable, lettered, cultured, cultivated, sophisticated, well informed.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**literature** **noun** 1 *English literature*: written works, writings, (creative) writing, literary texts, compositions. 2 *the literature on prototype theory*: publications, published writings, texts, reports, studies. 3 *election literature*: printed matter, brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, circulars, flyers, handouts, handbills, mailshots, bulletins, documentation, publicity, blurb, notices; informal bumf.

**lithe** **adjective** *agile*, graceful, supple, limber, lithesome, loose-limbed, nimble, deft, flexible, lissom.

– OPPOSITES clumsy.

**litigant** **noun** *claimant*, litigator, opponent (in law), contender, disputant, plaintiff, complainant, petitioner, appellant, respondent.

**litigation** **noun** (legal/judicial) proceedings, (legal) action, lawsuit, legal dispute, (legal) case, suit (at law), prosecution, indictment.

**litter** **noun** 1 *never drop litter*: rubbish, refuse, junk, waste, debris, scraps, leavings, fragments, detritus; N. Amer. trash, garbage.



**2** *the litter of glasses around her:* clutter, jumble, muddle, mess, heap, disorder, untidiness, confusion, disarray; informal shambles. **3** *a litter of kittens:* brood, family; young, offspring, progeny; Law issue. **4** *straw for use as litter:* (animal) bedding, straw. **5** *a horse-drawn litter:* sedan chair, palanquin; stretcher.

• **verb** *clothes littered the floor:* make untidy, mess up, make a mess of, clutter up, be strewn about, be scattered about, cover; informal make a shambles of; literary bestrew.

**little** **adjective** **1** *a little writing desk:* small, small-scale, compact; mini, miniature, tiny, minute, minuscule; toy, baby, pocket, undersized, dwarf, midget; Scottish wee; informal teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, tiddly, half-pint; Brit. informal titchy, dinky; N. Amer. informal vest-pocket. **2** *a little man:* short, small, slight, petite, diminutive, tiny; elfin, dwarfish, midget, pygmy, Lilliputian; Scottish wee; informal teeny-weeny, pint-sized. **3** *my little sister:* young, younger, junior, small, baby, infant. **4** *I was a bodyguard for a little while:* brief, short, short-lived; fleeting, momentary, transitory, transient; fast, quick, hasty, cursory. **5** *a few little problems:* minor, unimportant, insignificant, trivial, trifling, petty, paltry, inconsequential, nugatory.

– **OPPOSITES** big, large, elder, important.

• **determiner** *they have little political influence:* hardly any, not much, slight, scant, limited, restricted, modest, little or no, minimal, negligible.

– **OPPOSITES** considerable.

• **adverb** **1** *he is little known as a teacher:* hardly, barely, scarcely, not much, (only) slightly. **2** *this disease is little seen nowadays:* rarely, seldom, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely (ever), not much.

– **OPPOSITES** well, often.

■ **a little** **1** *add a little water:* some, a small amount of, a bit of, a touch of, a soupçon of, a dash of, a taste of, a spot of, a shade of, a suggestion of, a trace of, a hint of, a suspicion of, a dribble of, a splash of, a pinch of, a sprinkling of, a speck of; informal a smidgen of, a tad of. **2** *after a little, Oliver came in:* a short time, a little while, a bit, an interval, a short period; a minute, a moment, a second, an instant; informal a sec, a mo, a jiffy. **3** *this reminds me a little of the Adriatic:* slightly, faintly, remotely, vaguely; somewhat, a little bit, quite, to some degree.

■ **little by little** gradually, slowly, by degrees, by stages, step by step, bit by bit, progressively; subtly, imperceptibly.

**liturgical** **adjective** ceremonial, ritual, solemn; church.

**liturgy** **noun** ritual, worship, service, ceremony, rite, observance, celebration, sacrament; tradition, custom, practice, rubric; formal ordinance.

**live**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *the greatest mathematician who ever lived:* exist, be alive, be, have life; breathe, draw breath, walk the earth. **2** *I live in London:* reside, have one's home, be settled; be housed, lodge; inhabit, occupy,

populate; Scottish stay; formal dwell, be domiciled. **3** *they lived quietly:* pass/spend one's life; behave, conduct oneself; formal comport oneself. **4** *she had lived a difficult life:* experience, spend, pass, lead, have, go through, undergo. **5** *Freddy lived by his wits:* survive, make a living, earn one's living, eke out a living; subsist, support oneself, sustain oneself, make ends meet, keep body and soul together. **6** *you should live a little:* enjoy oneself, enjoy life, have fun, live life to the full.

– **OPPOSITES** die, be dead.

■ **live it up** (informal) live extravagantly, live in the lap of luxury, live in clover; carouse, revel, enjoy oneself, have a good time, roister; informal party, push the boat out, paint the town red, have a ball, make whoopee; N. Amer. informal live high on/off the hog; old use wassail.

■ **live off/on** subsist on, feed on/off, eat, consume.

**live**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** **1** *live bait:* living, alive, having life, breathing, animate, sentient. **2** *a live performance:* in the flesh, personal, in person, not recorded. **3** *a live rail:* electrified, charged, powered, active; informal hot. **4** *live coals:* (red) hot, glowing, aglow; burning, alight, flaming, aflame, blazing, ignited, on fire; literary afire. **5** *a live grenade:* unexploded, explosive, active; unstable, volatile. **6** *live issue:* topical, current, of current interest, controversial; burning, pressing, important.

– **OPPOSITES** dead, inanimate, recorded.

■ **live wire** (informal) energetic person; informal fireball, human dynamo, powerhouse, life and soul of the party.

**livelihood** **noun** (source of) income, means of support, living, subsistence, keep, maintenance, sustenance, nourishment, daily bread, bread and butter; job, work, employment, occupation.

**livelong** **adjective** (literary) entire, whole, total, complete, full, continuous.

**lively** **adjective** **1** *a lively young woman:* energetic, active, animated, dynamic, full of life, outgoing, spirited, high-spirited, vivacious, enthusiastic, vibrant, buoyant, exuberant, effervescent, cheerful; bouncy, bubbly, perky, sparkling, zestful; Brit. Tiggerish; informal full of beans, chirpy, chipper, peppy. **2** *a lively bar:* busy, crowded, bustling, buzzing; vibrant, boisterous, jolly, festive; informal hopping, buzzy. **3** *a lively debate:* heated, vigorous, animated, spirited, enthusiastic, forceful; exciting, interesting, memorable. **4** *a lively portrait of the local community:* vivid, colourful, striking, graphic, bold, strong. **5** *he bowled at a lively pace:* brisk, quick, fast, rapid, swift, speedy, smart; informal nippy, snappy. **6** *the press is making things lively for the Government:* awkward, tricky, difficult, challenging, eventful, exciting, busy; informal hairy.

– **OPPOSITES** quiet, dull.

**liven** **verb**

■ **liven up** brighten up, cheer up, perk up,

revive, rally, pick up, bounce back; informal buck up.

■ **liven someone/something up** brighten up, cheer up, enliven, animate, raise someone's spirits, perk up, spice up, ginger up, make lively, wake up, invigorate, revive, refresh, vivify, galvanize, stimulate, stir up, get going; informal buck up, pep up.

## liver noun

### WORD LINKS

**hepatic** relating to the liver

**hepatitis** inflammation of the liver

**cirrhosis** liver disease caused by alcoholism or hepatitis

## livery noun 1 *servants in blue and gold*

**livery:** uniform, regalia, costume, dress, attire, garb, clothes, clothing, outfit, suit, garments, ensemble; informal get-up, gear, kit; formal apparel; old use raiment, vestments. **2** the locomotive has reverted to its original two-tone green livery: **colours**, colouring; paintwork, design, format, specification, look; informal spec, paint job.

## livid adjective 1 (informal) Mum was absolutely livid. See FURIOUS sense 1. 2 a livid bruise: purplish, bluish, dark, discoloured, purple, greyish-blue; bruised; angry.

**living noun 1** she cleaned floors for a living: **livelihood**, (source of) income, means of support, subsistence, keep, maintenance, sustenance, nourishment, daily bread, bread and butter; job, work, employment, occupation. **2** healthy living: **way of life**, lifestyle, way of living, life; conduct, behaviour, activities, habits. • **adjective 1** living organisms: **alive**, live, having life, animate, sentient; breathing, existing, existent; informal alive and kicking. **2** a living language: **current**, contemporary, present; in use, active, surviving, extant, persisting, remaining, existing, in existence. **3** a living image of the man: **exact**, faithful, true to life, authentic.

– OPPOSITES dead, extinct.

**living room** noun sitting room, lounge, front room, reception room, family room.

## lizard noun

### WORD LINKS

**saurian** relating to lizards

**load noun 1** MacDowell's got a load to deliver: **cargo**, freight, consignment, delivery, shipment, goods, merchandise; pack, bundle, parcel; lorryload, truckload, shipload, boatload, vanload; old use lading. **2** (informal) I bought a load of clothes: **a lot**, a great deal, a large amount/quantity, an abundance, a wealth, a mountain; many, plenty; informal a heap, a mass, a pile, a stack, a ton, lots, heaps, masses, piles, stacks, tons, bucketloads. **3** a heavy teaching load: **commitment**, responsibility, duty, obligation, charge, burden; trouble, worry, strain, pressure. • **verb 1** we quickly loaded the van: **fill** (up), pack, lade, charge, stock, stack. **2** Larry loaded boxes into the jeep: **pack**, stow, store,

stack, bundle, cram, stuff; place, deposit, put away. **3** loading the committee with responsibilities: **burden**, weigh down, saddle, charge; overburden, overwhelm, encumber, tax, strain, trouble, worry. **4** Richard loaded Marshal with honours: **reward**, ply, regale, shower. **5** he loaded a gun: **prime**, charge, prepare to fire/use. **6** load the cassette into the camcorder: **insert**, put, place, slot, slide, slip. **7** the dice are loaded against him: **bias**, rig, fix; weight.

**loaded adjective 1** a loaded freight train: **full**, filled, laden, packed, stuffed, crammed, brimming, stacked; informal chock-full, chock-a-block. **2** a loaded gun: **primed**, charged, ready to fire. **3** (informal) they are all loaded. See RICH sense 1. **4** loaded dice: **biased**, rigged, fixed; weighted. **5** a politically loaded word: **charged**, emotive, sensitive, delicate.

**loaf verb** he was just loafing around: **laze**, lounge, loll, idle, waste time; informal hang around/round; Brit. informal hang about, mooch about/around; N. Amer. informal bum around.

**loafer noun** idler, layabout, good-for-nothing, loungier, shirker, sluggard, laggard, slugged; informal skiver, slacker, slob, lazybones.

**loan noun** a loan of £7,000: **credit**, advance; mortgage, overdraft; lending, moneylending; Brit. informal sub. • **verb** he loaned me his flat: **lend**, advance, give credit; give on loan, lease, charter, hire; Brit. informal sub.

– OPPOSITES borrow.

### WORD LINKS

**collateral** something promised to someone if one is unable to repay a loan

**default** failure to repay a loan

**principal** a sum of money lent, on which interest is paid

**pawnbroker** a person licensed to lend money in exchange for articles left with them

**usury** the practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates of interest

**loath adjective** reluctant, unwilling, disinclined, ill-disposed; against, averse, opposed, resistant.

– OPPOSITES willing.

**loathe verb** hate, detest, despise, abhor, execrate, have a strong aversion to, not be able to bear/stand, be repelled by; formal abominate.

– OPPOSITES love.

**loathing noun** hatred, hate, detestation, abhorrence, abomination, execration, odium; antipathy, dislike, hostility, animosity, ill feeling, bad feeling, malice, animus, enmity, aversion; repugnance.

**loathsome adjective** hateful, detestable, abhorrent, repulsive, odious, repugnant, repellent, disgusting, revolting, sickening, abominable, despicable, contemptible, reprehensible, execrable, damnable; vile, horrible, nasty, obnoxious, gross, foul; informal horrid, yucky; literary noisome.

**lob verb** throw, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, pelt,

sling, launch, propel; informal chuck, bung, heave.

**lobby** **noun** **1** *the hotel lobby*: entrance (hall), hallway, hall, vestibule, foyer, reception area. **2** *the anti-hunt lobby*: pressure group, interest group, ginger group, movement, campaign, crusade, lobbyists, supporters; faction, camp.

• **verb** **1** *readers are urged to lobby their MPs*: try to influence, try to persuade, bring pressure to bear on; petition, appeal to, pressurize, importune. **2** *a group lobbying for better rail services*: campaign, crusade, press, push, ask, call, demand; promote, advocate, champion.

**local** **adjective** **1** *the local council*: community, district, neighbourhood, regional, city, town, municipal, provincial, village, parish. **2** *a local restaurant*: neighbourhood, nearby, near, at hand, close by; accessible, handy, convenient. **3** *a local infection*: confined, restricted, contained, localized.

— OPPOSITES national.

• **noun** **1** *complaints from the locals*: local person, native, inhabitant, resident, parishioner. **2** (Brit. informal) *a pint in the local*. See **PUB**.

— OPPOSITES outsider.

**locale** **noun** place, site, spot, area; position, location, setting, scene, venue, background, backdrop, environment; neighbourhood, district, region, locality.

**locality** **noun** **1** *the locality of the property*: position, location, whereabouts, place, situation, spot, point, site, scene, setting. **2** *other schools in the locality*: vicinity, neighbourhood, area, district, region; informal neck of the woods.

**localize** **verb** limit, restrict, confine, contain, circumscribe, concentrate, delimit.

— OPPOSITES generalize, globalize.

**locate** **verb** **1** *spotter planes locate the shoals*: find, discover, pinpoint, detect, track down, run to earth, unearth, sniff out, smoke out, search out, ferret out, uncover. **2** *a company located near Pittsburgh*: situate, site, position, place, base; put, build, establish, found, station, install, settle.

**location** **noun** position, place, situation, site, locality, locale, spot, whereabouts, point; scene, setting, area, environment; bearings, orientation; venue, address; technical locus.

**lock**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *the lock on the door*: bolt, catch, fastener, clasp, bar, hasp, latch.

• **verb** **1** *he locked the door*: bolt, fasten, bar, secure, seal; padlock, latch, chain. **2** *she locked her wrists together*: join, interlock, link, mesh, engage, unite, connect, yoke, mate; couple. **3** *the wheels locked*: jam, stick, seize up, become stuck, become/make immovable, become/make rigid. **4** *he locked her in an embrace*: clasp, clench, grasp, embrace, hug, squeeze.

— OPPOSITES unlock, open, separate, divide.

■ **lock someone out** keep out, shut out, refuse entrance to, deny admittance to; exclude, bar, debar, ban.

■ **lock someone up** imprison, jail,

incarcerate, intern, send to prison, put behind bars, put under lock and key, put in chains, clap in irons, cage, pen, coop up; informal send down, put away, put inside.

**lock**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *a lock of hair*: tress, tuft, curl, ringlet, hank, strand, wisp, snippet.

**locker** **noun** cupboard, cabinet, chest, safe, box, case, coffer; compartment, storeroom.

**lock-up** **noun** **1** *drunks were put in the lock-up overnight*: jail, prison, cell, detention centre; N. Amer. jailhouse; informal slammer, jug, stir, clink; Brit. informal nick; N. Amer. informal cooler, can; Brit. informal, dated quod, chokey. **2** *they stored spare furniture in a lock-up*: storeroom, store, warehouse, depository; garage.

**locomotion** **noun** movement, motion, moving; travel, travelling; mobility, motility; walking, ambulation, running; progress, progression, passage; formal perambulation.

**lodge** **noun** **1** *the porter's lodge*: gatehouse, cottage. **2** *a hunting lodge*: house, cottage, cabin, chalet; Brit. shooting box. **3** *a beaver's lodge*: den, lair, hole, sett; retreat, haunt, shelter. **4** *a Masonic lodge*: section, branch, wing; hall, clubhouse, meeting room; N. Amer. chapter.

• **verb** **1** *William lodged at our house*: reside, board, stay, live, have lodgings, have rooms, put up, be quartered, stop; N. Amer. room; informal have digs; formal dwell, be domiciled, sojourn; old use abide. **2** *they were lodged at an inn*: accommodate, put up, take in, house, board, billet, quarter, shelter.

**3** *the government lodged a protest*: submit, register, enter, put forward, advance, lay, present, tender, proffer, put on record, record, table, file. **4** *the money was lodged in a bank*: deposit, put, bank; stash, store, stow, put away, squirrel away. **5** *the bullet lodged in his back*: become fixed, embed itself, become embedded, become implanted, get/become stuck, stick, catch, become caught, wedge.

**lodger** **noun** boarder, paying guest, PG, tenant; N. Amer. roomer.

**lodging** **noun** accommodation, rooms, chambers, living quarters, place to stay, a roof over one's head, housing, shelter; informal digs, pad; formal abode, residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation.

**lofty** **adjective** **1** *a lofty tower*: tall, high, giant, towering, soaring, sky-scraping. **2** *lofty ideals*: noble, exalted, high, high-minded, worthy, grand, fine, elevated. **3** *a lofty post in the department*: eminent, prominent, leading, distinguished, illustrious, celebrated, elevated, esteemed, respected. **4** *lofty disdain*: haughty, arrogant, disdainful, supercilious, condescending, patronizing, scornful, contemptuous, self-important, conceited, snobbish; informal stuck-up, snooty, snotty; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

— OPPOSITES low, short, base, lowly, modest.

**log** **noun** **1** *a fallen log*: branch, trunk; piece of wood; (logs) timber, firewood. **2** *a log of phone calls*: record, register, logbook, journal, diary, minutes, chronicle, daybook,



record book, ledger, account, tally.

• **verb 1** *all complaints are logged*: register, record, make a note of, note down, write down, jot down, put in writing; enter, file, minute. **2** *the pilot had logged 95 hours*: attain, achieve, chalk up, make, do, go, cover.

**loggerheads** plural noun

■ **at loggerheads** in disagreement, at odds, at variance, wrangling, quarrelling, locking horns, at daggers drawn, in conflict, fighting, at war; informal at each other's throats.

**logic** noun **1** *this case appears to defy all logic*: reason, judgement, logical thought,

rationality, wisdom, sense, good sense, common sense, sanity; informal horse sense.

**2** *the logic of their argument*: reasoning, line of reasoning, rationale, argument, argumentation. **3** *the study of logic*: science of reasoning, dialectics, argumentation; formal ratiocination.

**logical** adjective **1** *information displayed in a logical fashion*: reasoned, well reasoned,

rational, sound, cogent, well thought out, valid; coherent, clear, well organized, systematic, orderly, methodical, analytical, consistent, objective; informal joined-up.

**2** *the logical outcome*: natural, reasonable, sensible, understandable; predictable, unsurprising, only to be expected, most likely, likeliest, obvious.

– OPPOSITES illogical, irrational, unlikely, surprising.

**logistics** plural noun organization, planning, plans, management, arrangement, administration, orchestration, coordination, execution, handling, running.

**logo** noun emblem, trademark, device, symbol, design, sign, mark; insignia, crest, seal, coat of arms, shield, badge, motif, monogram, colophon.

**loiter** verb **1** *he loitered at bus stops*: stand about/around, wait, skulk; loaf, lounge, idle, laze, waste time, linger; informal hang around/round; Brit. informal hang about, mooch about/around; old use tarry. **2** *they loitered along the river bank*: dawdle, dally, stroll, amble, saunter, meander, drift, potter, take one's time; informal dilly-dally, mosey, tootle; Brit. informal mooch.

**loll** verb **1** *he lolled in an armchair*: lounge, sprawl, drape oneself, stretch oneself; slouch, slump; laze, luxuriate, put one's feet up, lean back, recline, relax, take it easy. **2** *her head lolled to one side*: hang (loosely), droop, dangle, sag, drop, flop.

**lone** adjective **1** *a lone police officer*: solitary, single, solo, unaccompanied, unescorted, alone, by oneself/itself, sole, companionless; detached, isolated, unique; lonely. **2** *a lone parent*: single, unmarried, unattached, partnerless, husbandless, wifeless; separated, divorced, widowed.

**loneliness** noun **1** *his loneliness was unbearable*: isolation, friendlessness, abandonment, rejection, unpopularity; N. Amer. lonesomeness. **2** *the enforced loneliness of a prison cell*: solitariness,

solitude, lack of company, aloneness, separation. **3** *the loneliness of the village*: isolation, remoteness, seclusion.

**lonely** adjective **1** *I felt very lonely*: isolated, alone, friendless, with no one to turn to, forsaken, abandoned, rejected, unloved, unwanted; N. Amer. lonesome. **2** *the lonely life of a writer*: solitary, unaccompanied, lone, by oneself/itself, companionless. **3** *a lonely road*: deserted, uninhabited, unfrequented, unpopulated, desolate, isolated, remote, out of the way, secluded, off the beaten track, in the back of beyond, godforsaken; informal in the middle of nowhere.

– OPPOSITES popular, sociable, crowded.

**loner** noun recluse, introvert, lone wolf, hermit, solitary, misanthrope, outsider; historical anchorite.

**long**<sup>1</sup> adjective *a long silence*: lengthy, extended, prolonged, extensive, protracted, long-lasting, long-drawn(-out), spun out, dragged out, seemingly endless, lingering, interminable.

– OPPOSITES short, brief.

■ **before long** soon, shortly, presently, in the near future, in a little while, by and by, in a minute, in a moment, in a second; informal anon, in a jiffy; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; dated directly; literary ere long.

**long**<sup>2</sup> verb *I longed for the holidays*: yearn, pine, ache, hanker for/after, hunger, thirst, itch, be eager, be desperate; crave, dream of, set one's heart on; informal have a yen, be dying.

**longing** noun *a longing for the countryside*: yearning, pining, craving, ache, burning, hunger, thirst, hankering; informal yen, itch.

• adjective *a longing look*: yearning, pining, craving, hungry, thirsty, hankering, wistful, covetous.

**long-lasting** adjective enduring, lasting, abiding, long-lived, long-running, long-established, long-standing, lifelong, deep-rooted, time-honoured, traditional, permanent.

– OPPOSITES short-lived, ephemeral.

**long-lived** adjective. See LONG-LASTING.

**long-standing** adjective well established, long-established; time-honoured, traditional, age-old; abiding, enduring, long-lived, surviving, persistent, prevailing, perennial, deep-rooted, long-term, confirmed.

– OPPOSITES new, recent.

**long-suffering** adjective patient, stoical, forbearing, tolerant, uncomplaining, resigned; easy-going, indulgent, charitable, accommodating, forgiving.

– OPPOSITES impatient, complaining.

**long-winded** adjective verbose, wordy, lengthy, long, overlong, prolix, prolonged, protracted, long-drawn-out, interminable; discursive, diffuse, rambling, tortuous, meandering, repetitious; informal windy; Brit. informal waffly.

– OPPOSITES concise, succinct, laconic.

**look** verb **1** *Mrs Wright looked at him*: glance,

gaze, stare, gape, peer; peep, peek, take a look; watch, observe, view, regard, examine, inspect, eye, scan, scrutinize, survey, study, contemplate, consider, take in, ogle; informal take a gander, rubberneck, give someone/something a/the once-over, get a load of; Brit. informal take a dekho, take a butcher's, take a shufti, clock, gawp; N. Amer. informal eyeball; literary behold. **2** *her room looked out on Broadway: command a view of*, face, overlook, front. **3** *they looked shocked: seem (to be)*, appear (to be), have the appearance/air of being, give the impression of being, strike someone as being.

— OPPOSITES ignore.

• **noun 1** *have a look at this report: glance*, view, examination, study, inspection, observation, scan, survey, peep, peek, glimpse, gaze, stare; informal eyeful, gander, look-see, once-over, squint, recce; Brit. informal shufti, dekho, gawp, butcher's. **2** *the look on her face: expression*, mien. **3** *that rustic look: appearance*, air, aspect, bearing, cast, manner, mien, demeanour, facade, impression, effect, feel; informal vibe. **4** *this season's look: fashion*, style, vogue, mode.

■ **look after** take care of, care for, attend to, minister to, tend, mind, keep an eye on, keep safe, be responsible for, protect; nurse, babysit, childmind.

■ **look back on** reflect on, think back to, remember, recall, reminisce about.

■ **look down on** disdain, scorn, regard with contempt, look down one's nose at, sneer at, despise.

■ **look for** search for, hunt for, try to find, seek, cast about/around/round for, try to track down, forage for, scout out, quest for/after.

■ **look forward to** await with pleasure, eagerly anticipate, lick one's lips over, be unable to wait for, count the days until.

■ **look into** investigate, enquire into, ask questions about, go into, probe, explore, follow up, research, study, examine; informal check out, give something a/the once-over; N. Amer. informal scope out.

■ **look like** resemble, bear a resemblance to, look similar to, take after, have the look of, have the appearance of, remind one of, make one think of; informal be the spitting image of, be a dead ringer for.

■ **look on** regard, consider, think of, deem, judge, see, view, count, reckon.

■ **look out** beware, watch out, mind out, be on (one's) guard, be alert, be wary, be vigilant, be careful, take care, be cautious, pay attention, take heed, keep one's eyes open/peeled, keep an eye out; watch your step.

■ **look something over** inspect, examine, scan, cast an eye over, take stock of, vet, view, look through, peruse, run through, read through; informal give something a/the once-over; N. Amer. check out; N. Amer. informal eyeball.

■ **look to 1** *we must look to the future:* consider, think about, turn one's thoughts to, focus on, take heed of, pay attention to, attend to, address, mind, heed. **2** *they look*

*to the government for help:* turn to, resort to, have recourse to, fall back on, rely on.

■ **look up** improve, get better, pick up, come along/on, progress, make progress, make headway, perk up, rally, take a turn for the better.

■ **look someone up** (informal) visit, pay a visit to, call on, go to see, look in on; N. Amer. visit with, go see; informal drop in on.

■ **look up to** admire, have a high opinion of, think highly of, hold in high regard, regard highly, rate highly, respect, esteem, value.

**lookalike** **noun** double, twin, clone, duplicate, exact likeness, replica, copy, facsimile, Doppelgänger; informal spitting image, dead ringer, dead spit.

**lookout** **noun 1** *he saw the smoke from the lookout: observation post*, lookout point, lookout station, lookout tower, watchtower.

**2** *the lookout sighted sails: watchman*, watch, guard, sentry, sentinel, picket; historical vedette. **3** (informal) *it would be a poor lookout for her: outlook*, prospect, chance of success, future. **4** (Brit. informal) *that's your lookout: problem*, concern, business, affair, responsibility, worry; informal pigeon.

■ **be on the lookout/keep a lookout** keep watch, keep an eye out, keep one's eyes peeled, keep a vigil, be alert, be on the qui vive.

**loom** **verb 1** *ghostly shapes loomed out of the fog: emerge*, appear, come into view, take shape, materialize, reveal itself. **2** *the church loomed above him: soar*, tower, rise, rear up; overhang, overshadow, dominate. **3** *without reforms, disaster looms: be imminent*, be on the horizon, impend, threaten, brew, be just around the corner.

**loop** **noun** a loop of rope: coil, hoop, ring, circle, noose, oval, spiral, curl, bend, curve, arc, twirl, whorl, twist, hook, zigzag, helix, convolution, incurvation.

• **verb 1** *Dave looped rope around their hands: coil*, wind, twist, snake, wreath, spiral, curve, bend, turn. **2** *he looped the cables together: fasten*, tie, join, connect, knot, bind.

**loophole** **noun** let-out, ambiguity, omission, flaw, inconsistency, discrepancy.

**loose** **adjective 1** *a loose floorboard: not fixed in place*, not secure, unsecured, unattached; detached, unfastened; wobbly, unsteady, movable. **2** *she wore her hair loose: untied*, unpinned, unbound, hanging free, down, flowing. **3** *there's a wolf loose: free*, at large, at liberty, on the loose, escaped; unconfined, untied, unchained, untethered. **4** *a loose interpretation: vague*, indefinite, inexact, imprecise, approximate; broad, general, rough; liberal. **5** *a loose jacket: baggy*, generously cut, slack, roomy; oversized, shapeless, bagging, sagging, sloppy. **6** (dated) *a loose woman: promiscuous*, of easy virtue, fast, wanton, unchaste, immoral; licentious, dissolute; N. Amer. informal roundheeled; dated fallen; derogatory whorish, sluttish.

— OPPOSITES secure, literal, narrow, tight, chaste.

• **verb 1** *the hounds have been loosed*: free, set free, unloose, turn loose, set loose, let loose, let go, release; untie, unchain, unfasten, unleash. **2** *the fingers loosed their hold*: relax, slacken, loosen; weaken, lessen, reduce, diminish, moderate. **3** *Brian loosed off a shot*: fire, discharge, shoot, let go, let fly with.

– **OPPOSITES** confine, tighten.

■ **at a loose end** with nothing to do, unoccupied, unemployed, at leisure, idle, adrift, with time to kill; bored, twiddling one's thumbs, kicking one's heels.

■ **break loose** escape, make one's escape, get away, get free, break free, free oneself.

■ **let loose**. See **LOOSE** verb sense 1.

■ **on the loose** free, at liberty, at large, escaped; on the run, fugitive; N. Amer. informal on the lam.

**loose-limbed** adjective *supple*, limber, lithe, lissom, willowy; agile, nimble.

**loosen** verb **1** *you simply loosen two screws*: slacken, unfasten, detach, release, disconnect, undo, unclasp, unlatch, unbolt. **2** *her fingers loosened*: slackened, become loose, let go, ease; work loose, work free. **3** *Philip loosened his grip*: weaken, relax, slacken, loose, lessen, reduce, moderate, diminish. **4** *you need to loosen up*: relax, unwind, ease up/off; informal let up, hang loose, lighten up, go easy.

– **OPPOSITES** tighten.

**loot** noun *a bag full of loot*: booty, spoils, plunder, stolen goods, contraband, pillage; informal swag, hot goods, ill-gotten gains, boodle.

• **verb** *troops looted the cathedral*: plunder, pillage, despoil, ransack, sack, raid, rifle, rob, burgle; strip, clear out.

**lop** verb *cut, chop, hack, saw, hew, slash, axe; prune, sever, clip, trim, snip, dock, crop*.

**lope** verb *stride, run, bound; lollop*.

**lopsided** adjective *crooked, askew, awry, off-centre, uneven, out of true, out of line, asymmetrical, tilted, at an angle, aslant, slanting, squint; Scottish agley; informal cockeyed; Brit. informal skew-whiff, wonky*.

– **OPPOSITES** even, level, balanced.

**loquacious** adjective *talkative, voluble, communicative, expansive, garrulous, unreserved, chatty, gossipy, gossiping; informal having the gift of the gab, gabby, gassy; Brit. informal able to talk the hind legs off a donkey*.

– **OPPOSITES** reticent, taciturn.

**loquacity** noun *talkativeness, volubility, expansiveness, garrulousness, garrulity, chattiness; informal the gift of the gab*.

– **OPPOSITES** reticence, taciturnity.

**lord** noun **1** *lords and ladies*: noble, nobleman, peer, aristocrat, patrician, grandee, seigneur.

**2** *it is my duty to obey my lord's wishes*:

master, ruler, leader, chief, superior, monarch, sovereign, king, emperor, prince, governor, commander, suzerain, liege, liege lord. **3** *let us pray to our Lord*: God, the Father, the Almighty, Jehovah, the Creator; Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Saviour, the Son of God, the Redeemer, the Lamb of God,

the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings. **4** *a press lord*: magnate, tycoon, mogul, captain, baron, king; industrialist, proprietor; informal big shot, honcho; derogatory fat cat.

– **OPPOSITES** commoner, servant, inferior.

■ **lord it over someone** order about/around, dictate to, ride roughshod over, pull rank on, tyrannize, have under one's thumb; be overbearing, put on airs, swagger; informal boss about/around, walk all over, push around, throw one's weight about/around.

**lordly** adjective **1** *lordly titles*: noble, aristocratic, princely, kingly, regal, royal, imperial, courtly, stately; magnificent, majestic, grand, august. **2** *in lordly tones*: imperious, arrogant, haughty, self-important, swaggering; supercilious, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, condescending, patronizing, superior; dictatorial, authoritarian, peremptory, autocratic; informal bossy, high and mighty, snooty, uppity, hoity-toity; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

– **OPPOSITES** lowly, humble.

**lore** noun **1** *Arthurian legend and lore*: mythology, myths, legends, stories, traditions, folklore, oral tradition, mythos, mythus. **2** *cricket lore*: knowledge, learning, wisdom; informal know-how, how-tos.

**lorry** noun *truck, wagon, van, juggernaut, trailer; articulated lorry, heavy-goods vehicle, HGV; dated pantechinon*.

**lose** verb **1** *I've lost my watch*: mislay, misplace, be unable to find, lose track of, leave (behind). **2** *he's lost a lot of blood*: be deprived of, suffer the loss of. **3** *he lost his pursuers*: escape from, evade, elude, dodge, avoid, give someone the slip, shake off, throw off, throw off the scent; leave behind, outdistance, outstrip, outrun. **4** *they lost their way*: stray from, wander from, depart from; go astray. **5** *you've lost your opportunity*: neglect, waste, squander, fail to grasp, fail to take advantage of, let pass, miss, forfeit; informal pass up, lose out on.

**6** *they always lose at football*: be defeated, be beaten, be the loser, be conquered, be vanquished, be trounced, be worsted; informal come a cropper, go down, be bested.

– **OPPOSITES** find, regain, seize, win.

**loser** noun **1** *the loser still gets the silver medal*: defeated person, also-ran, runner-up. **2** (informal) *he's a complete loser*: failure, non-achiever, underachiever, ne'er-do-well, dead loss; write-off, has-been; informal flop, non-starter, no-hoper, washout, lemon.

– **OPPOSITES** winner, success.

**loss** noun **1** *the loss of the documents*: mislaying, misplacement, forgetting. **2** *loss of earnings*: deprivation, disappearance, privation, forfeiture, diminution, erosion, reduction, depletion. **3** *the loss of her husband*: death, dying, demise, passing (away/on), end, quietus; bereavement; formal decease; old use expiry. **4** *British losses in the war*: casualty, fatality, victim; dead; missing; death toll, number killed/dead/wounded.

**5** *a loss of £15,000*: deficit, debit, debt,



indebtedness, deficiency.

– OPPOSITES recovery, profit.

■ **at a loss** baffled, nonplussed, mystified, puzzled, perplexed, bewildered, bemused, at sixes and sevens, confused, dumbfounded, stumped, stuck, blank; informal clueless, flummoxed, bamboozled, fazed, floored, beaten; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

**lost adjective** **1** *her lost keys*: missing, mislaid, misplaced, vanished, disappeared, gone missing/astray, forgotten, nowhere to be found; absent, not present, strayed.

**2** *I think we're lost*: off course, off track, disorientated, having lost one's bearings, going round in circles, adrift, at sea, stray, astray. **3** *a lost opportunity*: missed, forfeited, neglected, wasted, squandered, gone by the board; informal down the drain.

**4** *lost traditional values*: bygone, past, former, one-time, previous, old, olden, departed, vanished, forgotten, consigned to oblivion, extinct, dead, gone. **5** *lost species and habitats*: extinct, died out, defunct, vanished, gone; **destroyed**, wiped out, ruined, wrecked, exterminated, eradicated.

**6** *a lost cause*: hopeless, beyond hope, futile, forlorn, failed, beyond remedy, beyond recovery. **7** *lost souls*: damned, fallen, irredeemable, irreclaimable, irretrievable, past hope, past praying for, condemned, cursed, doomed, excommunicated; literary accursed. **8** *lost in thought*: engrossed, absorbed, rapt, immersed, deep, intent, engaged, wrapped up.

– OPPOSITES current, saved.

**lost pronoun** *a lot of money* | *lots of friends*:

**a large amount**, a fair amount, a good/great deal, a great quantity, quantities, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion, plenty; many, a great many, a large number, a considerable number, numerous, scores; informal hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, loads, bucketloads, masses, heaps, a pile, piles, oodles, stacks, scads, reams, wads, pots, oceans, a mountain, mountains, miles, tons, zillions, more — than one can shake a stick at; Brit. informal a shedload, lashings; N. Amer. informal gobs, a bunch, gazillions.

– OPPOSITES a little, not much, a few, not many.

• **adverb** *I work in pastels a lot*: a great deal, a good deal, to a great extent, much; often, frequently, regularly.

– OPPOSITES a little, not much.

• **noun** **1** (informal) *what do your lot think?*

**group**, set, crowd, circle, band, crew; informal bunch, gang, mob; Brit. informal shower. **2** *the books were auctioned as a number of lots*:

**item**, article; batch, set, collection, group, bundle, quantity, assortment, parcel. **3** *this lot in life*: fate, destiny, fortune, doom; situation, circumstances, state, condition, position, plight, predicament. **4** (N. Amer.) *some youngsters playing ball in a vacant lot*: **patch of ground**, piece of ground, plot, area, tract, parcel; N. Amer. plat.

■ **draw/cast lots** decide randomly, spin/toss a coin, throw dice, draw straws.

■ **throw in one's lot with** join forces with,

join up with, form an alliance with, ally with, align oneself with, link up with, make common cause with.

**lotion** **noun** ointment, cream, salve, balm, rub, emollient, moisturizer, lubricant, unguent, liniment, embrocation.

**lottery** **noun** **1** *a national lottery*: raffle, (prize) draw, sweepstake, sweep, tombola, pools; N. Amer. lotto. **2** *the procedure is something of a lottery*: gamble, pot luck, lucky dip.

**loud adjective** **1** *loud music*: noisy, blaring, booming, deafening, roaring, thunderous, thundering, ear-splitting, ear-piercing, piercing; carrying, clearly audible; lusty, powerful, forceful, stentorian; Music forte, fortissimo. **2** *loud complaints*: vociferous, clamorous, insistent, vehement, emphatic, urgent. **3** *a loud T-shirt*: garish, gaudy, flamboyant, lurid, glaring, showy, ostentatious; vulgar, tasteless; informal flash, flashy, naff, kitsch, tacky.

– OPPOSITES quiet, soft, gentle, sober, tasteful.

**loudly** **adverb** **at high volume**, at the top of one's voice; noisily, deafeningly, thunderously, piercingly; stridently, lustily, powerfully, forcefully; Music forte, fortissimo; informal as if to wake the dead.

– OPPOSITES quietly, softly.

**loudmouth** **noun** (informal) **braggart**, boaster, blusterer, swaggerer; informal blabbermouth, big mouth, motormouth; N. Amer. informal blowhard.

**loudspeaker** **noun** speaker, monitor, woofer, tweeter; loudhailer, megaphone; public address system, PA (system); informal squawk box.

**lounge** **verb** *he just lounges in his room*: laze, lie, loll, lie back, lean back, recline, stretch oneself, drape oneself, relax, rest, repose, take it easy, put one's feet up, unwind, luxuriate; sprawl, slump, slouch, flop; loaf, idle, do nothing.

• **noun** *she sat in the lounge*: **living room**, sitting room, front room, drawing room, morning room, reception room, salon, family room; dated parlour.

**lour, lower** **verb** scowl, frown, look sullen, glower, glare, give someone black looks, look daggers, look angry; informal give someone dirty looks.

– OPPOSITES smile.

**louring, lowering** **adjective** overcast, dark, leaden, grey, cloudy, clouded, gloomy, threatening, menacing, promising rain.

– OPPOSITES sunny, bright.

**lousy** (informal) **adjective** **1** *a lousy film*. See AWFUL sense 2. **2** *the lousy, double-crossing snake!* See DESPICABLE. **3** *I felt lousy*. See ILL adjective sense 1.

■ **be lousy with**. See CRAWL sense 3.

**lout** **noun** ruffian, hooligan, thug, boor, oaf, hoodlum, rowdy; informal tough, roughneck, bruiser, yahoo, lug; Brit. informal yob, yobbo.

– OPPOSITES smoothie, gentleman.

**loutish** **adjective** uncouth, rude, impolite,

unmannerly, ill-mannered, ill-bred, coarse; thuggish, boorish, oafish, uncivilized, wild, rough; informal slobbish; Brit. informal yobbish.

– **OPPOSITES** polite, well behaved.

**lovable** adjective **adorable**, dear, sweet, cute, charming, darling, lovely, likeable, delightful, captivating, enchanting, engaging, bewitching, pleasing, appealing, winsome, winning, fetching, endearing.

– **OPPOSITES** hateful, loathsome.

**love** noun **1** *his friendship with Helen grew into love*: **deep affection**, fondness, tenderness, warmth, intimacy, attachment, endearment; devotion, adoration, doting, idolization, worship; passion, ardour, desire, lust, yearning, infatuation, besottedness.

**2** *her love of fashion*: **liking**, enjoyment, appreciation, taste, delight, relish, passion, zeal, appetite, zest, enthusiasm, keenness, fondness, soft spot, weakness, bent, leaning, proclivity, inclination, disposition, partiality, predilection, penchant. **3** *their love for their fellow human beings*: **compassion**, care, caring, regard, solicitude, concern, friendliness, friendship, kindness, charity, goodwill, sympathy, kindness, altruism, unselfishness, philanthropy, benevolence, fellow feeling, humanity. **4** *he was her one true love*: **beloved**, loved one, love of one's life, dear, dearest, dear one, darling, sweetheart, sweet, angel, honey; lover, innamorato, innamorata, amour; old use paramour. **5** *their love will survive*: **relationship**, love affair, romance, liaison, affair of the heart, amour. **6** *my mother sends her love*: **best wishes**, regards, good wishes, greetings, kind/kindest regards.

– **OPPOSITES** hatred.

• **verb 1** *she loves him dearly*: **adore**, be devoted to, hold very dear, think the world of, dote on, idolize, worship; be in love with, be infatuated with, be smitten with, be besotted with; informal be mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about, have a pash on, carry a torch for. **2** *Laura loved painting*: **like very much**, delight in, enjoy greatly, have a passion for, take great pleasure in, relish, savour; have a weakness for, be partial to, have a soft spot for, have a taste for, be taken with; informal get a kick out of, have a thing about, be mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about, be hooked on, go a bundle on, get off on, get a buzz out of.

– **OPPOSITES** hate.

■ **fall in love with** become infatuated with, lose one's heart to; informal fall for, be bowled over by, be swept off one's feet by, develop a crush on.

■ **in love with** infatuated with, besotted with, enamoured of, smitten with; captivated by, bewitched by, enthralled by, entranced by; devoted to, doting on; informal mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about.

#### WORD LINKS

**amatory** relating to sexual love  
**assignation**, **tryst** a lovers' meeting  
**billet-doux** a love letter  
**philtre** a love potion

**platonic** describing intimate but non-sexual love

**Cupid**, **Venus** the Roman god and goddess of love

**Aphrodite** the Greek name for Venus

**love affair** noun **1** *he had a love affair with a teacher*: **relationship**, affair, romance, liaison, affair of the heart, affaire de cœur, intrigue, fling, amour, involvement, romantic entanglement; flirtation, dalliance; Brit. informal carry-on. **2** *a love affair with the motor car*: **enthusiasm**, mania, devotion, passion.

**loveless** adjective **passionless**, unloving, unfeeling, heartless, cold, icy, frigid.

– **OPPOSITES** loving, passionate.

**lovelorn** adjective **lovesick**, unrequited in love, crossed in love; spurned, jilted, rejected; pining, moping.

**lovely** adjective **1** *a lovely young woman*: **beautiful**, pretty, attractive, good-looking, appealing, handsome, adorable, exquisite, sweet, personable, charming; enchanting, engaging, winsome, seductive, gorgeous, alluring, ravishing, glamorous; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal tasty, knockout, stunning, drop-dead gorgeous; Brit. informal smashing, fit; N. Amer. informal cute, foxy; literary **beauteous**; old use comely, fair. **2** *a lovely view*: **scenic**, picturesque, pleasing, easy on the eye; magnificent, stunning, splendid. **3** (informal) *we had a lovely day*: **delightful**, very pleasant, very nice, very agreeable, marvellous, wonderful, sublime, superb, fine, magical; informal terrific, fabulous, heavenly, divine, amazing, glorious.

– **OPPOSITES** ugly, horrible.

**lover** noun **1** *she had a secret lover*: **boyfriend**, girlfriend, lady-love, beloved, love, darling, sweetheart, innamorata, innamorato; mistress; partner, significant other; informal bit on the side, bit of fluff, toy boy, fancy man, fancy woman; dated beau; old use swain, concubine, paramour. **2** *a dog lover*: **devotee**, admirer, fan, enthusiast, aficionado; informal buff, freak, nut.

**lovesick** adjective **lovelorn**, pining, languishing, longing, yearning, infatuated; frustrated.

**loving** adjective **affectionate**, fond, devoted, adoring, doting, solicitous, demonstrative; caring, tender, warm, warm-hearted, close; amorous, ardent, passionate, amatory.

– **OPPOSITES** cold, cruel.

**low**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *a low fence*: **short**, small, little; squat, stubby, stunted, dwarf; shallow. **2** *she was wearing a low dress*: **low-cut**, skimpy, revealing, plunging. **3** *low prices*: **cheap**, economical, moderate, reasonable, modest, bargain, bargain-basement, rock-bottom. **4** *supplies were low*: **scarce**, scanty, scant, skimpy, meagre, sparse, few, little, paltry; reduced, depleted, diminished. **5** *low quality*: **inferior**, substandard, poor, bad, low-grade, below par, second-rate, unsatisfactory, deficient, defective. **6** *of low birth*: **humble**, lowly, low-ranking, plebeian, proletarian, peasant, poor;

common, ordinary. **7** *low expectations*: **unambitious**, unaspiring, modest. **8** *a low opinion*: **unfavourable**, poor, bad, adverse, negative. **9** *a rather low thing to have done*: **despicable**, contemptible, reprehensible, lamentable, disgusting, shameful, mean, abject, unworthy, shabby, uncharitable, base, dishonourable, unprincipled, ignoble, sordid; nasty, cruel, foul, bad; informal rotten, low-down; Brit. informal beastly; dated dastardly; old use scurvy. **10** *low comedy*: **uncouth**, uncultured, unsophisticated, rough, rough-hewn, unrefined, tasteless, crass, common, vulgar, coarse, crude. **11** *a low voice*: **quiet**, soft, faint, gentle, muted, subdued, muffled, hushed, quietened, whispered, stifled, murmured. **12** *a low note*: **bass**, low-pitched, deep, rumbling, booming, sonorous. **13** *she was feeling low*: **depressed**, dejected, despondent, downhearted, downcast, low-spirited, down, morose, miserable, dismal, heavy-hearted, mournful, forlorn, woebegone, crestfallen, dispirited; without energy, enervated, flat, sapped, weary; informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, blue.

- OPPOSITES high, expensive, plentiful, superior, noble, favourable, admirable, decent, exalted, loud, cheerful, lively.
- **noun** *the dollar fell to an all-time low*: **nadir**, low point, lowest point, lowest level, depth, rock bottom.

– OPPOSITES high.

**low<sup>2</sup> verb** *cattle were lowing*: **moo**, bellow.

**lowbrow** **adjective** **mass-market**, tabloid, popular, intellectually undemanding, lightweight, accessible, unpretentious; uncultured, unsophisticated, trashy, philistine, simplistic; Brit. downmarket; informal dumbed-down, rubbishy.

– OPPOSITES highbrow, intellectual.

**low-down** (informal) **adjective** *a low-down trick*: **unfair**, mean, despicable, reprehensible, contemptible, lamentable, disgusting, shameful, low, unworthy, shabby, base, dishonourable, unprincipled, sordid, underhand; informal rotten, dirty; Brit. informal beastly; dated dastardly; old use scurvy.

– OPPOSITES kind, honourable.

• **noun** *he gave us the low-down*: **facts**, information, story, data, facts and figures, intelligence, news; informal info, rundown, the score, the gen, the latest, the word, the dope.

**lower<sup>1</sup> adjective** **1** *the lower house of parliament*: **subordinate**, inferior, lesser, junior, minor, secondary, lower-level, subsidiary, subservient. **2** *her lower lip*: **bottom**, bottommost, nether, under; underneath, further down, beneath. **3** *a lower price*: **cheaper**, reduced, cut, slashed.

– OPPOSITES upper, higher, increased.

**lower<sup>2</sup> verb** **1** *she lowered the mask*: **move** down, let down, take down, haul down, drop, let fall. **2** *lower your voice*: **soften**, modulate, quieten, hush, tone down, muffle, turn down, mute. **3** *they are lowering their prices*: **reduce**, decrease, lessen, bring

down, mark down, cut, slash, axe, diminish, curtail, prune, pare (down). **4** *the water level lowered*: **subside**, fall (off), recede, ebb, wane; abate, die down, let up, moderate, diminish, lessen. **5** *don't lower yourself to their level*: **degrade**, debase, demean, abase, humiliate, downgrade, discredit, shame, dishonour, disgrace; belittle, cheapen, devalue; (**lower oneself**) stoop, sink, descend.

– OPPOSITES raise, increase.

**lower<sup>3</sup> verb** *he lowered at her*. See **LOUR**.

**low-grade** **adjective** **poor-quality**, inferior, substandard, second-rate; shoddy, cheap, reject, trashy, gimcrack; Brit. informal duff, ropy, twopenny-halfpenny, rubbishy; N. Amer. informal two-bit, bum, cheapjack.

– OPPOSITES top-quality, first-class.

**low-key** **adjective** **restrained**, modest, understated, muted, subtle, quiet, low-profile, inconspicuous, unostentatious, unobtrusive, discreet, toned-down.

– OPPOSITES ostentatious, obtrusive.

**lowly** **adjective** **humble**, low, low-born, low-bred, low-ranking, plebeian, proletarian; common, ordinary, plain, average, modest, simple; inferior, ignoble, subordinate, obscure.

– OPPOSITES aristocratic, exalted.

**loyal** **adjective** **faithful**, true, devoted; constant, steadfast, staunch, dependable, reliable, trusted, trustworthy, trusty, dutiful, dedicated, unchanging, unwavering, unswerving; patriotic.

– OPPOSITES treacherous.

**loyalty** **noun** **allegiance**, faithfulness, obedience, adherence, homage, devotion; steadfastness, staunchness, true-heartedness, dependability, reliability, trustiness, trustworthiness, duty, dedication, commitment; patriotism; historical fealty.

– OPPOSITES treachery.

**lozenge** **noun** **1** *the pattern consists of overlapping lozenges*: **diamond**, rhombus.

**2** *a throat lozenge*: **pastille**, drop; cough sweet, jujube; dated cachou.

**lubricant** **noun** **grease**, oil, lubrication, lubricator, emollient, lotion, unguent; informal lube.

**lubricate** **verb** **1** *lubricate the washer with silicone grease*: **oil**, grease, wax, polish. **2** *oil money lubricates an elaborate system of patronage*: **facilitate**, ease, smooth the way for, oil the wheels of.

– OPPOSITES impede.

**lucid** **adjective** **1** *a lucid description*: **intelligible**, comprehensible, understandable, cogent, coherent, articulate; clear, transparent; plain, simple, vivid, sharp, straightforward, unambiguous, graphic; formal perspicuous. **2** *he was not lucid enough to explain*: **rational**, sane, in one's right mind, in possession of one's faculties, compos mentis, able to think clearly, balanced, clear-headed, sober, sensible; informal all there.

– OPPOSITES confusing, confused.



**luck** noun **1** *with luck you'll make it*: good fortune, good luck; fluke, stroke of luck; informal lucky break. **2** *I wish you luck*: success, prosperity, good fortune, good luck. **3** *it is a matter of luck whether it hits or misses*: fortune, fate, destiny, lot, stars, karma, kismet; fortuity, serendipity; chance, accident, a twist of fate; Austral./NZ informal mozzle.

– OPPOSITES misfortune.

■ **in luck** fortunate, lucky, born under a lucky star; successful, having a charmed life; Brit. informal jammy.

■ **out of luck** unfortunate, unlucky, luckless, hapless, unsuccessful, cursed, jinxed, ill-fated; informal down on one's luck; literary star-crossed.

#### WORD LINKS

**mascot, talisman** a person or thing believed to bring good luck

**jinx** a person or thing believed to bring bad luck

**luckily** adverb *fortunately*, happily, providentially, opportunely, by good fortune, as luck would have it, propitiously; mercifully, thankfully.

– OPPOSITES unfortunately.

**luckless** adjective *unlucky*, unfortunate, unsuccessful, hapless, out of luck, cursed, jinxed, doomed, ill-fated; informal down on one's luck; literary star-crossed.

– OPPOSITES lucky.

**lucky** adjective **1** *the lucky winner*: fortunate, in luck, blessed, favoured, born under a lucky star, charmed; successful, prosperous; born with a silver spoon in one's mouth; Brit. informal jammy. **2** *a lucky escape*: providential, fortunate, advantageous, timely, opportune, serendipitous, expedient, heaven-sent, auspicious; chance, fortuitous, fluky, accidental.

– OPPOSITES unfortunate.

**lucrative** adjective *profitable*, profit-making, gainful, remunerative, moneymaking, paying, high-income, well paid, bankable; rewarding, worthwhile; thriving, flourishing, successful, booming.

– OPPOSITES unprofitable.

**lucre** noun money, cash, funds, capital, finances, riches, wealth, spoils, ill-gotten gains, Mammon; informal dough, bread, loot, moolah; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, wonga, ackers, the ready, readies; old use pelf.

**ludicrous** adjective *absurd*, ridiculous, farcical, laughable, risible, preposterous, foolish, mad, insane, idiotic, stupid, inane, silly, asinine, nonsensical; informal crazy; rare derisible.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**lug** verb *carry*, lift, bear, heave, hoist, shoulder, manhandle; haul, drag, tug, tow, transport, move, convey, shift; informal hump, tote, schlep; Scottish informal humph.

**luggage** noun *baggage*; bags, suitcases, cases, trunks. See also **BAG** noun sense 2.

**lugubrious** adjective *mournful*, gloomy, sad,

unhappy, doleful, glum, melancholy, woeful, miserable, weebegone, forlorn, long-faced, Eeyorish, sombre, solemn, serious, sorrowful, morose, dour, cheerless, joyless, dismal; funereal, sepulchral; informal down in the mouth; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**lukewarm** adjective **1** *lukewarm coffee*:

tepid, slightly warm, warmish; at room

temperature, chambré. **2** *a lukewarm*

*response*: indifferent, cool, half-hearted, apathetic, unenthusiastic, tepid, offhand, lackadaisical, perfunctory, non-committal; informal laid-back, unenthused, couldn't-care-less; rare Laodicean.

– OPPOSITES hot, cold, enthusiastic.

**lull** verb **1** *the sound of the bells lulled us to sleep*: soothe, calm, hush; rock to sleep.

**2** *his suspicions were soon lulled*: assuage, allay, ease, alleviate, soothe, quiet, quieten; reduce, diminish; quell, banish, dispel. **3** *the noise had lulled*: abate, die down, subside, let up, moderate, slacken, lessen, dwindle, decrease, diminish.

– OPPOSITES waken, agitate, arouse, intensify.

• **noun 1** *a lull in the fighting*: pause, respite, interval, break, hiatus, suspension, interlude, intermission, breathing space; informal let-up, breather. **2** *the lull before the storm*: calm, stillness, quiet, tranquillity, peace, silence, hush.

– OPPOSITES agitation, activity.

**lullaby** noun *cradle song*, berceuse.

**lumber<sup>1</sup>** verb *elephants lumbered past*: lurch, stumble, trundle, shamble, shuffle, waddle; trudge, clump, stump, plod, tramp; informal galumph.

**lumber<sup>2</sup>** noun **1** *a spare room packed with lumber*: jumble, clutter, odds and ends, bits and pieces, flotsam and jetsam, cast-offs; refuse, rubbish, litter; N. Amer. trash; informal junk, odds and sods, gubbins, clobber. **2** *the lumber trade*: timber, wood.

• **verb** (Brit. informal) *she was lumbered with a husband and child*: burden, saddle, encumber, hamper; load, oppress, trouble, tax; informal land, dump something on someone.

– OPPOSITES free.

**lumbering** adjective *clumsy*, awkward, heavy-footed, slow, blundering, bumbling, inept, maladroit, uncoordinated, ungainly, ungraceful, gauche, lumpish, hulking, ponderous; informal clodhopping.

– OPPOSITES nimble, agile.

**luminary** noun *leading light*, guiding light, inspiration, role model, hero, heroine, leader, expert, master, panjandrum; lion, legend, great, giant.

– OPPOSITES nobody.

**luminous** adjective *shining*, bright, brilliant, radiant, dazzling, glowing, gleaming, scintillating, lustrous; luminescent, phosphorescent, fluorescent, incandescent.

– OPPOSITES dark.

**lump<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *a lump of coal*: chunk, hunk, piece, mass, block, wedge, slab, cake, nugget, ball, brick, cube, pat, knob, clod, gobbet,

dollop, wad; informal glob; N. Amer. informal gob. **2** a lump on his head: swelling, bump, bulge, protuberance, protrusion, growth, outgrowth, nodule, hump.

•verb it is convenient to lump them together: combine, put, group, bunch, aggregate, unite, pool, merge, collect, throw, consider together.

**lump**<sup>2</sup> verb (informal) I'm afraid you'll have to lump it: put up with, bear, endure, take, tolerate, accept.

**lumpish** adjective **1** lumpish furniture: cumbersome, unwieldy, heavy, hulking, chunky, bulky, ponderous. **2** a lumpish young girl: stupid, obtuse, dense, dim-witted, dull-witted, slow-witted, slow; lethargic, bovine, sluggish, listless; informal thick, dumb, dopey, slow on the uptake, moronic; Brit. informal dozy.

—OPPOSITES elegant, quick-witted, sharp.

**lumpy** adjective **1** a lumpy mattress: bumpy, knobbly, bulging, uneven, rough, gnarled. **2** lumpy custard: clotted, curdled, congealed, coagulated.

**lunacy** noun **1** originality demands a degree of lunacy: insanity, madness, mental illness, dementia, mania, psychosis; informal craziness. **2** the lunacy of gambling: folly, foolishness, foolhardiness, stupidity, silliness, idiocy, madness, rashness, recklessness, imprudence, irresponsibility, injudiciousness; informal craziness; Brit. informal daftness.

—OPPOSITES sanity, sense, prudence.

**lunatic** noun he drives like a lunatic: maniac, madman, madwoman, imbecile, psychopath, psychotic; fool, idiot; eccentric; informal loony, nut, nutcase, head case, psycho, moron; Brit. informal nutter, mentalist; N. Amer. informal screwball.

•adjective **1** a lunatic prisoner. See MAD sense 1. **2** a lunatic idea. See MAD sense 3.

**lunch** noun midday meal, luncheon; Brit. dinner.

**lung** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**pulmonary** relating to the lungs  
**pleurisy** inflammation of the membranes around the lungs  
**pneumonia** an infection causing inflammation of the lungs

**lunge** noun Darren made a lunge at his attacker: thrust, dive, rush, charge, grab.

•verb he lunged at Finn with a knife: thrust, dive, spring, launch oneself, rush, make a grab.

**lurch** verb **1** he lurched into the kitchen: stagger, stumble, wobble, sway, reel, roll, weave, pitch, totter, blunder. **2** the ship lurched: sway, reel, list, heel, rock, roll, pitch, toss, jerk, shake, judder, flounder, swerve.

**lure** verb consumers are frequently lured into debt: tempt, entice, attract, induce, coax, persuade, inveigle, allure, seduce, win over, cajole, beguile, bewitch, ensnare.

—OPPOSITES deter, put off.

•noun the lure of the stage: temptation, enticement, attraction, pull, draw, appeal; inducement, allurements, fascination, interest, magnet; informal come-on.

**lurid** adjective **1** lurid food colourings: bright, brilliant, vivid, glaring, shocking, fluorescent, flaming, dazzling, intense, gaudy, loud. **2** the lurid details: sensational, sensationalist, exaggerated, overdramatized, extravagant, colourful; salacious, graphic, explicit, unrestrained, prurient, shocking; gruesome, gory, grisly; informal tacky, shock-horror, juicy, full-frontal, full-on.

—OPPOSITES muted, restrained.

**lurk** verb skulk, loiter, lie in wait, lie low, hide, conceal oneself, take cover, keep out of sight.

**luscious** adjective **1** luscious fruit: delicious, succulent, lush, juicy, mouth-watering, sweet, tasty, appetizing; informal scrumptious, moreish, scrummy, yummy; N. Amer. informal nummy; literary ambrosial. **2** a luscious Swedish beauty: sexy, sexually attractive, nubile, ravishing, gorgeous, seductive, alluring, sultry, beautiful, stunning; informal fanciable, tasty, drop-dead gorgeous, curvy; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer. informal foxy, cute; Austral./NZ informal spunky.

—OPPOSITES unappetizing, plain, scrawny.

**lush** adjective **1** lush vegetation: luxuriant, rich, abundant, profuse, exuberant, riotous, prolific, vigorous; dense, thick, rank, rampant; informal jungly. **2** a lush, ripe peach: succulent, luscious, juicy, soft, tender, ripe. **3** a lush apartment: luxurious, de luxe, sumptuous, palatial, opulent, lavish, elaborate, extravagant, fancy; informal plush, ritzy, posh, swanky; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank.

—OPPOSITES barren, sparse, austere.

**lust** noun **1** his lust for her: sexual desire, ardour, desire, passion; libido, sex drive, sexuality, biological urge; lechery, lecherousness, lasciviousness; informal horniness, the hots; Brit. informal randiness. **2** a lust for power: greed, desire, craving, covetousness, eagerness, avidity, cupidity, longing, yearning, hunger, thirst, appetite, hankering.

—OPPOSITES dread, aversion.

•verb **1** he lusted after his employer's wife: desire, be consumed with desire for, ache for, burn for, pant for; informal have the hots for, lech after/over, fancy, have a thing about/for, drool over, have the horn for. **2** she lusted after adventure: crave, desire, covet, want, wish for, long for, yearn for, dream of, hanker for, hanker after, hunger for, thirst for, ache for.

—OPPOSITES dread, avoid.

**lustful** adjective lecherous, lascivious, libidinous, licentious, salacious, goatish; wanton, unchaste, impure, naughty, immodest, indecent, dirty, prurient; passionate, sensual, sexy, erotic; informal horny, randy, raunchy; formal concupiscent.

—OPPOSITES chaste, pure.

**lustily** *adverb* heartily, vigorously, loudly, at the top of one's voice, powerfully, forcefully, strongly; informal like mad, like crazy.

– OPPOSITES feebly, quietly.

**lustre** *noun* **1** *her hair lost its lustre*: sheen, gloss, shine, glow, gleam, shimmer, burnish, polish, patina. **2** *the lustre of the Milky Way*: brilliance, brightness, radiance, sparkle, dazzle, flash, glitter, glint, gleam, luminosity, luminescence.

– OPPOSITES dullness, dark.

**lustreless** *adjective* dull, lacklustre, matt, unpolished, tarnished, dingy, dim, dark.

– OPPOSITES lustrous, bright.

**lustrous** *adjective* shiny, shining, satiny, glossy, gleaming, shimmering, burnished, polished; radiant, bright, brilliant, luminous; dazzling, sparkling, glistening, twinkling.

– OPPOSITES dull, dark.

**lusty** *adjective* **1** *lusty young men*: healthy, strong, fit, vigorous, robust, hale and hearty, energetic; rugged, sturdy, muscular, muscly, strapping, hefty, husky, burly, powerful; informal beefy; dated stalwart. **2** *lusty singing*: loud, vigorous, hearty, strong, powerful, forceful.

– OPPOSITES feeble, quiet.

**luxuriant** *adjective* lush, rich, abundant, profuse, exuberant, riotous, prolific, vigorous; dense, thick, rank, rampant; informal jungly.

– OPPOSITES barren, sparse.

**luxuriate** *verb* revel, bask, delight, take pleasure, wallow; (*luxuriate in*) enjoy, relish, savour, appreciate; informal get a kick out of, get a thrill out of.

– OPPOSITES dislike.

**luxurious** *adjective* **1** *a luxurious hotel*: opulent, sumptuous, de luxe, grand, palatial, splendid, magnificent, well appointed, extravagant, fancy; Brit. upmarket; informal

plush, posh, classy, ritzy, swanky; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank. **2** *a luxurious lifestyle*: self-indulgent, sensual, pleasure-loving, pleasure-seeking, epicurean, hedonistic, sybaritic, lotus-eating.

– OPPOSITES plain, basic, abstemious.

**luxury** *noun* **1** *we'll live in luxury*: opulence, luxuriousness, sumptuousness, grandeur, magnificence, splendour, lavishness, the lap of luxury, a bed of roses, milk and honey; informal the life of Riley. **2** *a TV is his only luxury*: indulgence, extravagance, self-indulgence, treat, extra, non-essential, frill.

– OPPOSITES simplicity, necessity.

**lying** *noun* *she was no good at lying*: untruthfulness, fabrication, fibbing, perjury, white lies; falseness, falsity, dishonesty, mendacity, telling stories, invention, misrepresentation, deceit, duplicity; literary perfidy.

– OPPOSITES honesty.

• *adjective* *he was a lying womanizer*:

untruthful, false, dishonest, mendacious, deceitful, deceiving, duplicitous, double-dealing, two-faced; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES truthful.

**lynch** *verb* execute illegally, hang; informal string up.

**lyric** *adjective* **1** *a lyric poem*: expressive, emotional, deeply felt, personal, subjective, passionate. **2** *a lyric soprano*: light, silvery, clear, sweet.

– OPPOSITES harsh.

**lyrical** *adjective* **1** *lyrical love poetry*: expressive, emotional, deeply felt, personal, subjective, passionate. **2** *she was lyrical about her success*: enthusiastic, rhapsodic, effusive, rapturous, ecstatic, euphoric, carried away.

– OPPOSITES unenthusiastic.

**lyrics** *plural noun* words, libretto, book, text, lines.





# Wordfinder

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**Language and Literature**

Layers of the Earth's atmosphere  
 Layers of the Earth's crust  
 Literary schools, movements, and groups  
 Male and female animals  
 Mammals  
 Marsupials  
 Martial arts and combat sports  
 Measurement, units of  
 Meat cuts and joints  
 Meat types and products  
 Medication, types and forms of

**Medicine**

Branches of medicine  
 Metals ► Chemical elements  
 Military ranks  
 Minerals ► Rocks and minerals

**Miscellaneous**

Molluscs ► Shellfish and other molluscs  
 Moths ► Butterflies and moths  
 Motor sports  
 Motor vehicles  
 Muscles  
 Mushrooms, toadstools, and other fungi

**Music and Dance**

Musical forms  
 Musical genres  
 Musical instruments  
 Nobles  
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 Nuts  
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 Particles, subatomic  
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**Plants**

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 Pottery and porcelain, types of  
 Priests, religious officials, and members of  
   religious orders  
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 Punctuation marks  
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**Religion**

Religious clothing  
 Religious festivals and holy days  
 Reptiles  
 Rigging

Roads  
 Rocks and minerals  
 Ropes  
 Rulers' titles  
 Sacred texts and holy books  
 Sails  
 Sausages

**Science**

Branches of science  
 Sellers of goods  
 Seven deadly sins  
 Shapes  
 Shellfish and other molluscs  
 Ships  
   Ships and boats  
   Parts of a ship  
 Shrubs

Flowering plants and shrubs  
 Trees and shrubs  
 Singer, types of  
 Sins, seven deadly

**Society**

Soldier, types of  
 Soups  
 Spices ► Herbs and spices  
 Spiders and other arachnids

**Sports and Games**

Star types  
 Subatomic particles  
 Sweets and confectionery  
 Teas

**Technology**

Teeth, human  
 Toadstools ► Mushrooms, toadstools, and  
   other fungi

Tools  
 Toys  
 Trains and rolling stock

**Transport**

Trees and shrubs  
 Typefaces  
 Units of measurement  
 Vegetables  
 Vehicles ► Transport  
 Virtues

**War and Weapons**

Weather phenomena  
 Winds  
 Wine

Wine and grape varieties  
 Sherries and dessert wines  
 Wine bottles  
 Worms  
 Worship, places of  
 Young animals



# Animals

## Amphibians

axolotl	fire	frog	midwife toad	newt	toad	xenopus
bullfrog	salamander	horned toad	mud puppy	salamander	tree frog	
cane toad	flying frog	marsh frog	natterjack	spadefoot	waterdog	

## Birds

adjutant bird	chough	goldcrest	hummingbird	nightingale	rhinoceros	swan
albatross	coal tit	golden eagle	ibis	nightjar	bird	swift
antbird	cockatiel	goldfinch	jackdaw	noddy	ringdove	tawny owl
Arctic tern	cockatoo	goose	jay	nuthatch	ring ouzel	teal
auk	condor	goshawk	kestrel	ortolan	roadrunner	tern
avocet	coot	great auk	kingfisher	osprey	robin	thrush
bald eagle	cormorant	great crested	king penguin	ostrich	rook	tit
barnacle	corncrake	grebe	kite	ouzel	ruddy duck	titmouse
goose	crane	great tit	kittiwake	owl	ruff	toucan
barn owl	crossbill	grebe	kiwi	oystercatcher	sand martin	treecreeper
bateleur	crow	green wood-	kookaburra	parakeet	sandpiper	turkey
eagle	cuckoo	pecker	lammergeier	parrot	scops owl	turkey
Bewick's	curlew	greenfinch	lanner	partridge	screech owl	vulture
swan	dabchick	greenshank	lapwing	peacock	sea eagle	turtle dove
bird of	darter	greylag	lark	peafowl	seagull	vulture
paradise	dipper	goose	laughing	peewit	secretary bird	wagtail
bittern	diver	griffon	jackass	pelican	shag	wallcreeper
blackbird	dodo	vulture	linnet	penguin	shearwater	warbler
blackcap	dotterel	grouse	little grebe	peregrine	shelduck	waxbill
black swan	dove	guillemot	little owl	falcon	shoebill	waxwing
bluebird	duck	guineafowl	long-tailed tit	petrel	shoveler	weaver bird
blue tit	dunlin	gull	lorikeet	phalarope	shrike	wheatear
booby	dunnock	gyrfalcon	lovebird	pheasant	siskin	whinchat
bowerbird	eagle	harrier	lyrebird	pigeon	skua	whippoorwill
brambling	eagle owl	hawfinch	macaw	pilot bird	skylark	whitethroat
broadbill	egret	hawk	maggie	pintail	snipe	whooping
brown owl	eider duck	hawk owl	mallard	pipit	snow	crane
budgerigar	emperor	hedge	mandarin	plover	bunting	whydah
bullfinch	penguin	sparrow	duck	ptarmigan	snow goose	wigeon
bunting	emu	hen	marabou	puffin	snowy owl	willow
bustard	falcon	hen harrier	stork	quail	song thrush	warbler
butcher-bird	fantail	heron	marsh harrier	rail	sparrow	woodchat
buzzard	fieldfare	herring gull	martin	raven	sparrowhawk	woodcock
Canada	finch	hobby	meadowlark	razorbill	spoonbill	woodlark
goose	flamingo	honeyguide	merlin	red kite	starling	woodpecker
canary	flycatcher	hooded crow	mistle thrush	redpoll	stonechat	wood pigeon
capercaillie	francolin	hoopoe	moa	redshank	stone curlew	wren
caracara	frigate bird	hornbill	mockingbird	redstart	stork	wryneck
cassowary	fulmar	horned owl	moorhen	redwing	storm petrel	yellow-
chaffinch	galah	house martin	mute swan	reed bunting	sunbird	hammer
chicken	gannet	house	mynah bird	reed warbler	swallow	
chiffchaff	godwit	sparrow	nighthawk	rhea		

## Butterflies and moths

Adonis blue	chalkhill blue	drinker	lappet	Mother	plume moth	sulphur
argus	cinnabar	eggar	leopard moth	Shipton	pug	swallowtail
atlas moth	clearwing	emerald	lobster moth	mourning	purple	swift
birdwing	clouded	emperor	luna moth	cloak	emperor	tiger moth
blue	yellow	ermine	maggie moth	noctuid	puss moth	tortoiseshell
brimstone	codlin/	fritillary	marbled	nymphalid	pyralid	tortrix
brown	codling	gatekeeper	white	oak eggar	red admiral	tussock moth
buff-tip	moth	goat moth	meadow	old lady	ringlet	underwing
burnet	comma	grayling	brown	painted lady	satyrid	vapourer
cabbage	common	gypsy moth	merveille du	papilionid	silk moth	wall brown
moth	heath	hairstreak	jour	peacock	silver Y	wax moth
cabbage	copper	hawkmoth	milkweed	butterfly	skipper	white admiral
white	dagger	heath	monarch	peppered	speckled	white spot
Camberwell	death's head	io moth	morpho	moth	wood	yellow-tail
beauty	hawkmoth	lackey				

## Animals

4

### Cat breeds

Abyssinian	Burmese	Cornish Rex	Maine Coon	Ragdoll	Somali	Turkish Van
angora	Burmilla	Devon Rex	Maltese	Rex	Sphinx	
Balinese	chinchilla	Japanese	Manx	Russian Blue	Tiffanie	
Birman	Colourpoint	Bobtail	Persian	Siamese	Tonkinese	

### Crustaceans

acorn	crayfish	goose	king crab	langoustine	prawn	tiger prawn
barnacle	fairy shrimp	barnacle	king prawn	lobster	sandhopper	woodlouse
barnacle	fiddler crab	hermit crab	krill	mitten crab	shrimp	
crab	fish louse	horseshoe	land crab	Norway	spider crab	
crawfish	ghost crab	crab	langouste	lobster	spiny lobster	

### Dinosaurs

allosaurus	brontosaurus	dromaeosaur	megalo-	pteranodon	seismosaurus	tyranno-
ankylosaur	carnosaur	duck-billed	saurus	pterodactyl	stegosaur	saurus
apatosaurus	coelurosaur	dinosaur	pliosaur	raptor	theropod	velociraptor
brachio-	deinonychus	hadrosaur	protocera-	saurischian	triceratops	
saurus	diplodocus	iguanodon	tops	sauropod		

### Dog breeds

Aberdeen	borzoi	Dobermann	Kerry blue	Old English	Rottweiler	terrier
terrier	Boston terrier	pinscher	King Charles	sheepdog	rough collie	Tibetan
affenpinscher	bouvier	elk hound	spaniel	papillon	St Bernard	mastiff
Afghan	boxer	English setter	Komondor	peke	saluki	Tibetan
hound	bulldog	English	Labradoodle	Pekinese/	Samoyed	spaniel
Airedale	bull mastiff	springer	Labrador	Pekingese	schipperke	Tibetan
terrier	bull terrier	foxhound	retriever	Pharaoh	schnauzer	terrier
Akita	cairn terrier	fox terrier	laika	hound	Scottie dog	tosa
Alsatian	Cape hunting	German	Lakeland	pit bull terrier	Scottish	vizsla
basenji	dog	Shepherd	terrier	pointer	terrier	Weimaraner
basset hound	Cavalier King	golden	Leonberg	Pomeranian	Sealyham	Welsh corgi
beagle	Charles	retriever	Lhasa apso	poodle	terrier	Welsh hound
bearded	chihuahua	Gordon	malamute/	pug dog	setter	Welsh
collie	chow	setter	malemute	puli	Shar Pei	springer
Bedlington	Clumber	Great Dane	Maltese dog/	Pyrenean	sheepdog	Welsh terrier
terrier	spaniel	greyhound	terrier	mountain	sheltie	West
Belgian	Clydesdale	griffon	Manchester	dog	Shetland	Highland
sheepdog	cocker	harrier	terrier	Pyrenean	sheepdog	terrier
Bernese	spaniel	husky	mastiff	sheepdog	shih-tzu	wheaten
mountain	collie	Ibizan hound	Mexican	Pyrenean	Skye terrier	terrier
dog	coonhound	Irish setter	hairless	wolfhound	spaniel	whippet
bichon frise	corgi	Irish terrier	Newfound-	Queensland	Spinone	wolfhound
black and tan	dachshund	Irish	land	blue heeler	spitz	Yorkshire
Blenheim	Dalmatian	wolfhound	Norfolk	redbone	springer	terrier
spaniel	Dandie	Jack Russell	terrier	red setter	spaniel	
bloodhound	Dinmont	terrier	Norwich	retriever	Staffordshire	
Border collie	deerhound	keeshond	terrier	Rhodesian	bull terrier	
Border terrier		kelpie		ridgeback	staghound	

### Fish

albacore	blenny	catfish	dory	goby	hammerhead	manta
alewife	blowfish	charr	Dover sole	goldfish	herring	marlin
amberjack	bluefin	chimera	dragonfish	goosefish	hoki	megamouth
anchovy	bluefish	chub	eagle ray	gourami	humpback	minnow
anemone fish	blue shark	climbing	eel	grayling	salmon	molly
angelfish	boarfish	perch	eelpout	great white	huss	monkfish
angel shark	bonefish	clingfish	electric eel	shark	icefish	moonfish
anglerfish	bonito	clownfish	electric ray	grenadier	John Dory	moray eel
archerfish	bonnethead	coalfish	fighting fish	grey mullet	kingfish	mudfish
balloonfish	bowfin	cod	filefish	grouper	koi carp	mudminnow
bandfish	boxfish	coelacanth	flatfish	grunion	labyrinth fish	mudskipper
barbel	bream	coley	flathead	gudgeon	lamprey	mullet
barracouta	brill	conger eel	flounder	guitarfish	l lanternfish	needlefish
barracuda	brisling	crappie	fluke	gulper eel	leatherjacket	nurse hound
barramundi	brown trout	dab	flying fish	gunnel	lemon sole	nurse shark
basking shark	bullhead	dace	flying	hake	ling	oarfish
bass	burbot	damsel fish	gurnard	gurnard	loach	orfe
beluga	butterfly fish	darter	frogfish	haddock	lumpsucker	parrotfish
bitterling	butterfly ray	devil ray	garfish	hake	lungfish	perch
blackfish	carp	dogfish	garpiki	halfbeak	mackerel	pickrel
bleak	carpet shark	dorado	goatfish	halibut	mako	pike

pikeperch	ray	sardine	skate	stargazer	tilapia	witch
pilchard	redfish	sawfish	skipjack tuna	stickleback	toadfish	wobbegong
pilotfish	red mullet	scad	skipper	stingray	tope	wolf fish
pipefish	red snapper	scorpionfish	smelt	stonefish	triggerfish	wrasse
piranha	ribbonfish	sea bass	smooth	sturgeon	trout	yellowfin
plaice	roach	sea bream	hound	sucker	tuna	yellowtail
pollack	rock bass	sea horse	snake	sunfish	tunny	zander
pomfret	rockling	sea perch	mackerel	surgeonfish	turbot	
porbeagle	rudd	sea robin	snapper	swordfish	walleye	
porcupine	ruffe	sea trout	snipefish	swordtail	weakfish	
fish	sailfish	shad	sockeye	tench	weever	
porgy	salmon	shark	salmon	tetra	whaler	
puffer fish	salmon trout	shark-sucker	sole	thornback	whale shark	
rabbitfish	sand eel	sheepshead	sparling	threadfin	whitebait	
rainbow	sandfish	shovelhead	spearfish	thresher	whitefish	
trout	sand shark	silverside	sprat	tiger shark	whiting	

## Horse and pony breeds

American Saddle Horse	Clydesdale	Exmoor pony	hyracerium	Percheron	Shetland pony	thoroughbred
Andalusian	Conestoga	Falabella	or eohippus	Pinto	shire horse	Timor pony
Anglo-Arab	Connemara	Fell pony	(extinct)	pliohippus (extinct)	Standardbred	Trakehner
Appaloosa	criollo	Hackney	Lipizzaner/	polo pony	Suffolk	trotter
Arab	Dales pony	Hanoverian	Lippizaner	pony of the Americas	Punch	Waler
Barb	Dartmoor pony	Highland pony	miohippus (extinct)	Przewalski's horse	tarpan (extinct)	warmblood
brumby	Dutch draught	Holstein hunter	Morgan	Quarter Horse	Tartar pony	Welsh
Camargue	Dutch warmblood		mustang	Saddlebred	Tennessee Walking Horse	mountain pony
Cleveland Bay			New Forest pony			

## Horse colours

albino	chestnut	grey	palomino	roan	strawberry
bay	dapple grey	iron grey	piebald	skewbald	roan
blue roan	dun	liver chestnut	pinto	sorrel	

## Points of a horse

cannon bone	croup	flank	hindquarters	navicular bone	poll	tail
cheek	dock	forearm	hock	ribs	ribs	tendon
chest	elbow	forelock	hoof	pastern	shank	windpipe
chestnut	ergot	frog	knee	pedal bone	sheath	withers
coffin bone	feathers	gaskin	loin	point of hip	shoulder	
coronet	fetlock	gullet	mane	point of shoulder	splint bone	
crest	fetlock joint	heel			stifle	

## Parts of a horse's harness or tack

backband	breastband	cavesson	double bit	hackamore	noseband	surcingle
bearing rein	breast collar	cheekpiece	double bridle	halter	pelham	throatlatch
bellyband	breastplate	cinch	eggbutt	hames	reins	traces
bit	breaching	collar	snaffle	head collar	saddle	Weymouth bit
blinkers	bridle	crupper	frontlet	headstall	saddlepad	
blinkers	bridoon	curb bit	girth	martingale	snaffle (bit)	

## Insects

alderfly	boll weevil	cicada	devil's coach-horse	glow-worm	lacewing	mealy bug
amazon ant	bombardier beetle	click beetle	dragonfly	gnat	ladybird	midge
ant	booklouse	cluster fly	driver ant	goliath beetle	lantern fly	mining bee
ant lion	borer	cockchafer	drone fly	grasshopper	leafcutter ant	mosquito
aphid	botfly	cockroach	dung beetle	greenbottle	leafcutter bee	moth
army ant	bulldog ant	Colorado beetle	dung fly	greenfly	leafhopper	oil beetle
army worm	bumblebee	crab louse	earwig	ground-hopper	leaf miner	pharaoh ant
assassin bug	bush cricket	crane fly	fire ant	head louse	leatherjacket	pond skater
bark beetle	butterfly	cricket	firefly	Hercules beetle	locust	praying mantis
bedbug	caddis fly	cuckoo bee	flea	beetle	longhorn beetle	rhinoceros beetle
bee	carpenter ant	cuckoo wasp	fly	honey ant	louse	robber fly
beetle	carpenter bee	daddy-long-legs	frog hopper	honeybee	mantis	sandfly
black ant	carpet beetle	damselfly	fruit fly	hornet	mason bee	sawfly
blackfly	carriion beetle	darter	furniture beetle	horsefly	May bug	scale insect
blister beetle	chaffer	death-watch beetle	gadfly	housefly	mayfly	scarab
blowfly	chigger		gall wasp	hoverfly	meal beetle	
bluebottle				jewel beetle		
body louse						



## Animals

scorpion fly	stick insect	thunderbug	warble fly	water	whitefly
sexton beetle	stink bug	thunderfly	wasp	scorpion	witchetty
silverfish	stonefly	treehopper	water beetle	weevil	grub
springtail	termite	tsetse fly	water	whirligig	woodwasp
stag beetle	thrips	velvet ant	boatman	white ant	

## Mammals

aardvark	caracal	flying fox	hyena	monk seal	potto	springbok
alpaca	caribou	fox	hyrax	moose	prairie dog	squirrel
angora	cat	fur seal	ibex	mouflon	proboscis	squirrel
anteater	chamois	galago	impala	mountain	monkey	monkey
antelope	cheetah	gaur	jackal	goat	puma	stoat
ape	chimpanzee	gayal	jaguar	mountain	rabbit	sun bear
armadillo	chinchilla	gazelle	jaguarundi	lion	raccoon	tamarin
ass	chipmunk	gemsbok	jerboa	mouse	rat	tapir
aurochs	civet	gerbil	killer whale	mule	red deer	tarsier
baboon	coati	gibbon	kinkajou	muntjac	red panda	tiger
badger	colobus	giraffe	Kodiak bear	musk deer	reindeer	toothed
balen whale	colugo	gnu	kudu	musk ox	rhinus	whale
Barbary ape	cougar	goat	langur	narwhal	monkey	vampire bat
bat	cow	gopher	laughing	ocelot	rhinoceros	vervet
beaked	coyote	gorilla	hyena	okapi	right whale	monkey
whale	coypu	grampus	lemming	onager	roe deer	vole
bear	deer	grey seal	lemur	opossum	rorqual	walrus
beaver	dingo	grizzly bear	leopard	orang-utan	sable	wapiti
beluga	dog	groundhog	leopard seal	orca	sea cow	warthog
bison	dolphin	guinea pig	lion	oryx	sea elephant	waterbuck
black bear	donkey	hamadryas	llama	otter	seal	water buffalo
blue whale	dormouse	hamster	loris	ox	sea lion	weasel
boar	dromedary	hanuman	lynx	panda	sei whale	whale
bobcat	duck-billed	langur	macaque	pangolin	serval	white whale
bottlenose	platypus	hare	manatee	panther	sheep	wild boar
dolphin	dugong	harp seal	mandrill	peccary	shrew	wildcat
bottlenose	duiker	hartebeest	margay	pig	skunk	wildebeest
whale	echidna	hedgehog	marmoset	pika	sloth	wisent
bowhead	eland	hippo	marmot	pilot whale	sloth bear	wolf
whale	elephant	hog	marsupial	pine marten	snow leopard	wolverine
brown bear	elephant seal	honey bear	marten	pipistrelle	spectacled	woodchuck
buffalo	elk	hooded seal	meerkat	platypus	bear	yak
bushbaby	ermine	horse	mink	polar bear	sperm whale	zebra
camel	fallow deer	howler	minke whale	polecat	spider	zebu
capuchin	fennec	monkey	mole	porcupine	monkey	
monkey	ferret	humpback	mongoose	porpoise	spiny	
capybara	fin whale	whale	monkey	possum	anteater	

## Marsupials

antechinus	brushtail	flying	numbat	potoroo	Tasmanian	wallaby
bandicoot	possum	phalanger	opossum	quokka	devil	wallaroo
bettong	cuscus	glider	pademelon	quoll	Tasmanian	wombat
bilby	dasyure	kangaroo	phalanger	rat kangaroo	tiger	yapok
brushtail	dibbler	koala	planigale	ringtail	thylacine	
	dunnart	mulgara	possum			

## Reptiles

adder	boomslang	death adder	giant tortoise	king cobra	python	snake
alligator	bull snake	diamondback	Gila monster	Komodo	rat snake	taipan
anaconda	bushmaster	terrapin	glass lizard	dragon	rattlesnake	terrapin
asp	caiman	Egyptian	grass snake	leatherback	reticulated	tokay
axolotl	chameleon	cobra	green snake	lizard	python	tortoise
basilisk	coachwhip	fer de lance	green turtle	loggerhead	rinkhals	tuatara
bearded	cobra	flying lizard	hamadryad	turtle	sea snake	turtle
dragon	colubrid	frilled lizard	hawksbill	mamba	sidewinder	viper
black mamba	constrictor	Gaboon viper	hognose	moloch	skink	water
blind snake	copperhead	garter snake	snake	monitor	slider	moccasin
blindworm	coral snake	gecko	horned toad	lizard	slow-worm	water snake
boa	corn snake	gharial	iguana	pit viper	smooth	whip snake
constrictor	crocodile		indigo snake	puff adder	snake	

## Shellfish and other molluscs

abalone	auger shell	clam	cone shell	dog whelk	edible snail	geoduck
angel wings	cephalopod	cockle	cowrie	dove shell	gaper	giant clam
argonaut	chiton	conch	cuttlefish	duck mussel	gastropod	harp shell

helmet	mussel	oyster	piddock	scallop	snail	turret shell
jewel box	nautilus	paper	pteropod	sea butterfly	softshell clam	tusk shell
lamp shell	nerite	nautilus	quahog	sea hare	squid	wedge shell
limpet	nudibranch	paua	ramshorn	sea slug	teredo	wentletrap
mitre	octopus	pearl oyster	snail	shipworm	tooth shell	whelp
murex	ormer	periwinkle	razor shell	slug	triton	winkle

## Spiders and other arachnids

bird-eating spider	crab spider	itch mite	redback	sun spider	whip
black widow	funnel-web spider	jigger	red spider	tarantula	scorpion
camel spider	harvestman	mite	mite	tick	wolf spider
chigger	harvest mite	money spider	scorpion	trapdoor spider	
		raft spider	spider mite		

## Worms

annelid	filaria	heartworm	lugworm	pinworm	sea mouse	tube worm
bloodworm	flatworm	helminth	lungworm	ragworm	tapeworm	tubifex
bristle worm	flake	hookworm	nematode	ribbon worm	threadworm	whipworm
earthworm	hairworm	leech	(worm)	roundworm	toxocara	

## Male and female animals

Animal	Male	Female	Animal	Male	Female	Animal	Male	Female
antelope	buck	doe	duck	drake	duck	lion	lion	lioness
badger	boar	sow	elephant	bull	cow	lobster	cock	hen
bear	boar	sow	ferret	hob	gill	moose	bull	cow
bobcat	tom	lioness	fish	cock	hen	peafowl	peacock	peahen
buffalo	bull	cow	fox	fox	vixen	pheasant	cock	hen
camel	bull	cow	giraffe	bull	cow	pig	boar	sow
caribou	stag	doe	goat	billygoat	nannygoat	rhinoceros	bull	cow
cat	tom	queen	goose	gander	goose	seal	bull	cow
cattle	bull	cow	hare	buck	doe	sheep	ram	ewe
chicken	cock	hen	hartebeest	bull	cow	swan	cob	pen
cougar	tom	lioness	horse	stallion	mare	tiger	tiger	tigress
coyote	dog	bitch	impala	ram	ewe	weasel	boar	cow
deer	stag	doe	jackrabbit	buck	doe	whale	bull	cow
dog	dog	bitch	kangaroo	buck	doe	wolf	dog	bitch
donkey	jackass	jenny	leopard	leopard	leopardess	zebra	stallion	mare

## Young animals

Young	Animal	Young	Animal	Young	Animal
calf	antelope/buffalo/ camel/ cattle/elephant/ elk/giraffe/hartebeest/ rhinoceros/seal/whale	filly	horse	parr	salmon
chick	chicken/hawk/pheasant	foal	horse/zebra	peachick	peafowl
colt	horse	fry	fish	pickerel	pike
cub	badger/bear/fox/ leopard/lion/tiger/ walrus/wolf	gilt	pig	piglet	pig
cygnet	swan	gosling	goose	porkling	pig
duckling	duck	joey	kangaroo/wallaby/ possum	pup	dog/wolf/seal/rat
eaglet	eagle	kid	goat/roedeer	puppy	dog/coyote
elver	eel	kit	beaver/fox/weasel/ ferret/mink	smolt	salmon
eyas	hawk	kitten	bobcat/cat/cougar/ rabbit/skunk	spiderling	spider
fawn	caribou/deer	lamb	sheep	squab	pigeon
		leveret	hare	squeaker	pigeon
		owlet	owl	tadpole	frog/toad
				whelp	dog/wolf

## Collective names for animals

shrewdness of **apes**  
 herd/pace of **asses**  
 troop of **baboons**  
 cete of **badgers**  
 sloth of **bears**  
 swarm/drift/hive/erst of **bees**  
 flock/flight/pod of **birds**  
 herd/gang/obstinacy of **buffalo**  
 bellowing of **bullfinches**  
 drove of **bullocks**  
 army of **caterpillars**  
 clowder/glaring of **cats**  
 herd/drove of **cattle**  
 brood/clutch/peep of **chickens**

chattering of **choughs**  
 rag/rake of **colts**  
 covert of **coots**  
 herd of **cranes**  
 bask of **crocodiles**  
 murder of **crows**  
 litter of **cubs**  
 herd of **curlew**  
 herd/mob of **deer**  
 pack/kennel of **dogs**  
 school of **dolphins**  
 trip of **dotterel** (type of plover)  
 flight/dole/piteousness of **doves**  
 paddling of **ducks** (on water)

safe of **ducks** (on land)  
 fling of **dunlins**  
 herd/parade of **elephants**  
 herd/gang of **elk**  
 busyness of **ferrets**  
 charm of **finches**  
 shoal/run of **fish**  
 swarm/cloud of **flies**  
 skulk of **foxes**  
 gaggle of **geese** (on land)  
 skein/team/wedge of **geese** (in flight)  
 herd of **giraffes**  
 cloud of **gnats**

flock/herd/trip of **goats**  
band of **gorillas**  
pack/covey of **grouse**  
down/mute/husk of **hares**  
cast of **hawks**  
siege of **herons**  
bloat of **hippopotami**  
drove/string/stud/team of **horses**  
pack/cry/kennel of **hounds**  
flight/swarm of **insects**  
fluther/smack of **jellyfish**  
mob/troop of **kangaroos**  
kindle/litter of **kittens**  
desert of **lapwings**  
bevy/exaltation of **larks**  
leap/lepe of **leopards**  
pride/sawt of **lions**  
tiding of **magpies**  
sord/suit of **mallard**  
stud of **mares**  
richesse of **martens**  
labour of **moles**  
troop of **monkeys**  
span/barren of **mules**  
watch of **nightingales**  
parliament/stare of **owls**

yoke of **oxen**  
pandemonium of **parrots**  
covey of **partridges**  
muster of **peacocks**  
muster/parcel/rookery of **penguins**  
bevy/head of **pheasants**  
kit of **pigeons** (in flight)  
litter/herd of **pigs**  
congregation/stand/wing of **plovers**  
rush/flight of **pochards**  
pod/school/herd/turmoil of **porpoises**  
covey of **ptarmigan**  
litter of **pups**  
bevy/drift of **quail**  
bury of **rabbits**  
string of **racehorses**  
unkindness of **ravens**  
crash of **rhinoceros**  
bevy of **roe deer**  
parliament/building/rookery of **rooks**  
hill of **ruffs**  
pod/herd/rookery of **seals**  
flock/herd/trip/mob of **sheep**

dopping of **sheldrake**  
wisp/walk of **snipe**  
host of **sparrows**  
murmuration of **starlings**  
flight of **swallows**  
game/herd of **swans** (on land)  
wedge of **swans** (in flight)  
drift/herd/sounder of **swine**  
spring of **teal**  
knot of **toads**  
hover of **trout**  
rafter of **turkeys**  
bale/turn of **turtles**  
bunch/knob of **waterfowl**  
school/herd/pod/gam of **whales**  
company/trip of **wigeon**  
sounder of **wild boar**  
dout/destruction of **wild cats**  
team of **wild ducks** (in flight)  
bunch/trip/plump/knob of **wildfowl**  
pack/rout of **wolves**  
fall of **woodcock**  
descent of **woodpeckers**  
herd of **wrens**  
zeal of **zebras**

Many of these are fanciful or humorous terms which probably never had any real currency but have been popularized in books such as *Sports and Pastimes of England* (1801) by Joseph Strutt.

Animals' homes

Animal	Home	Animal	Home	Animal	Home	Animal	Home
ant	anthill	cow	byre	fox	earth/hole/ burrow	otter	holt
badger	sett/earth	dog	kennel			pig	sty
bear	den	dove	dovecote	hare	form	rabbit	burrow/warren
beaver	lodge	eagle	eyrie	hen	coop	sheep	fold/pen
bee	beehive/apiary	fish	aquarium	horse	stable	squirrel	drey
bird	nest/aviary			lion	den	wasp	nest/vespiary

Art and Architecture

Architectural styles

Art Deco	cinquecento	Elizabethan	Greek Revival	Norman	Roman	Usonian
Art Nouveau	classical	Empire	Ionic	Palladian	Romanesque	vernacular
baroque	collegiate	Federation	Jacobean	Perpendicular	Saxon	
Bauhaus	Gothic	flamboyant	Mannerist	post- modernist	Spanish- Colonial	
Beaux Arts	colonial	Georgian	Manueline	quattrocento	Spanish	
brutalist	composite	Gothic	modernist	Queen Anne	Mission	
Byzantine	Corinthian	Gothic	Moorish	rayonnant	Transitional	
Cape Dutch	Decorated	Revival	Moresque	Regency	Tudor	
Carolingian	Doric	Graeco-	Mudejar	Renaissance	Tudorbethan	
Churriguer- esque	Early English	Roman	neoclassical	rococo	Tuscan	
	Edwardian	Grecian	neo-Gothic			

Art schools, styles, and movements

abstract ex- pressionism	classicism	Impressionism	neo-realism	primitive art	tenebrism
Aesthetic	conceptual art	Jugendstil	Neue	Purism	ukiyo-e
Movement	constructivism	magic realism	Sachlichkeit	realism	
Art Deco	cubism	Mannerism	op art	Renaissance art	
Art Nouveau	Dada	minimalism	performance art	rococo	
Arts and Crafts	De Stijl	modernism	photorealism	romanticism	
avant-garde	expressionism	naive art	plain-air	socialist realism	
baroque	fauvism	naturalism	painting	social realism	
Beaux Arts	Florentine	Nazarenes	pop art	Sturm und	
Blauer Reiter	school	neoclassicism	post- Impressionism	Drang	
Bloomsbury	futurism	neo- Impressionism	postmodernism	suprematism	
Group	Grand Manner	neoplasticism	Pre-Raphaelitism	surrealism	
	Group of Seven			symbolism	



## Art techniques and media

acrylic	distemper	gesso	mezzotint	polychromy	tapestry
action	divisionism	glaze	miniature	screen	tempera
painting	drawing	gouache	montage	printing	wall painting
airbrushing	emulsion	grisaille	mosaic	sculpture	watercolour
aquarelle	enamel	impasto	mural	scumbling	wood carving
aquatint	encaustic	intaglio	oil painting	secco	woodcut
batik	engraving	kakemono	pastel	silk-screen	wood
ceramics	etching	lino cut	photography	printing	engraving
cloisonné	finger-	lithography	photogravure	sketching	
collage	painting	marbling	photo-	stained glass	
colour wash	fresco	marquetry	montage	sumi-e	
Conté	frottage	metalwork	pointillism	tachism	

# Body

## Human bones

ankle bone	cuneiform	incus	navicular	radius	spine	vertebra
anvil	bone	innominate	bone	rib	stapes	vertebral
backbone	ethmoid	bone	occipital	ribcage	sternum	column
breastbone	femur	ischium	bone	sacrum	stirrup	zygomatic
calcaneus	fibula	jawbone	palatine bone	scaphoid	talus	bone
capitate	floating rib	kneecap	parietal bone	scapula	tarsal	
carpal	frontal bone	lacrimal	patella	shin bone	tarsus	
carpus	hamate	lunate bone	pelvis	shoulder	temporal	
cheekbone	hammer	malleus	phalanx	blade	bone	
clavicle	heel bone	mandible	pisiform	skull	thigh bone	
collarbone	humerus	maxilla	bone	sphenoid	tibia	
cranium	hyoid	metacarpal	pubis	spinal	triquetral	
cuboid	ilium	metatarsal	rachis	column	ulna	

## Organs of the body

anus	colon	genitals	larynx	oesophagus	spinal cord	tonsil
appendix	duodenum	heart	liver	ovary	spleen	trachea
bladder	ear	ileum	lung	pancreas	stomach	uterus
brain	eye	intestine	mouth	rectum	testicle	vagina
breast	gall bladder	kidney	nose	skin	tongue	

## Human teeth

bicuspid	cuspid	incisor	molar	tooth	primary tooth	wisdom
canine	eye tooth	milk tooth	permanent	premolar	tricuspid	tooth

## Muscles

Muscle	Location	Muscle	Location	Muscle	Location
biceps	arm	intercostal	ribs	rhomboideus	shoulder
buccinator	cheek	latissimus	back	sartorius	leg
deltoid	shoulder	masseter	cheek/jaw	scalenus	neck/ribs
detrusor	bladder	obturator	pelvis	soleus	leg
digastric	jaw	opponent muscle	hand	splenius	neck/back
gastrocnemius	leg	pectoral	chest	temporalis	jaw
gluteus	buttock	peroneal muscle	leg	teres	shoulder/arm
gluteus maximus	buttock	psaos	spine/groin	trapezius	neck/shoulders
gracilis	leg	quadriceps	leg	triceps	arm
iliacus	pelvis/groin	rectus (abdominis)	abdomen		

## Parts of the ear

anvil	auditory	cochlea	hair cell	middle ear	outer ear	tympanic
auditory	nerve	eardrum	hammer	organ of	pinna	membrane
canal	auricle	Eustachian	incus	Corti	stapes	vestibule
		tube	inner ear		stirrup	

## Parts of the eye

aqueous	cone	eyeball	iris	limbus	retina	tear glands
humour	conjunctiva	eyelash	lacrimal	optic nerve	rod	vitreous
blind spot	cornea	eyelid	glands	orbit	sclera	humour
choroid	dilator	fovea	lens	pupil	socket	
	muscle					

## Parts of the heart

aortic valve	myocardium	pulmonary	tricuspid	vena cava
atrium	pericardium	vein	valve	ventricle
epicardium	pulmonary	semilunar	upper	
mitral valve	artery	valve	chamber	

## Clothing and Fabrics

## Clothes

aloha shirt	cagoule	dress	jodhpurs	Nehru jacket	salopettes	swing coat
anorak	camisole	dressing	jumper	nightdress	salwar	T-shirt
apron	camiknickers	gown	jumpsuit	nightshirt	Sam Browne	tabard
ascot	cape	dress shirt	kaftan	niqab	sari	tailcoat
baggies	capri pants	ducks	kagoul	nor'wester	sarong	tank top
balgown	cardigan	duffel coat	kameez	Norfolk	sash	teddy
bandanna	cargo pants	dungarees	kecks	jacket	scarf	tee
bandeau	carpenter	fichu	kilt	obi	serape/	tent dress
Barbour	trousers	flak jacket	kimono	oilskins	sarape	thong
(trademark)	catsuit	flannels	knickers	overalls	shalwar	tie
basque	chador	flares	knicker-	overcoat	shawl	tights
bathing	chaparajos	fleece	bockers	overtrousers	sheath dress	tippet
costume	chaps	flying jacket	leathers	Oxford bags	sheepskin	toga
bedjacket	chemise	foulard	lederhosen	palazzo pants	shell suit	top
bell-bottoms	cheongsam	frock coat	leggings	pantaloon	shift	topcoat
belt	chinos	fustanella	leg warmers	panties	shirt	toreador
Bermuda	churidars	gabardine/	leotard	pants	shirtwaister	pants
shorts	cigarette	gabardine	loden	pantyhose	shorts	tracksuit
bib	pants	gilet	loincloth	parka	shrug	trench coat
biker jacket	clamdiggers	glove	loons	pedal	skinny-rib	trews
bikini	coat	gown	lumberjacket	pushers	ski pants	trousers
blazer	coat dress	grandad shirt	lumberjack	peignoir	skirt	trouser suit
bloomers	coatee	greatcoat	shirt	pelisse	slacks	trunks
blouse	combat	guernsey	lungi	pencil skirt	slip	tube dress
blouson	trousers	gymslip	mac	peplum	slipover	tunic
boa	cords	hacking	macfarlane	petticoat	sloppy joe	turtleneck
board shorts	corduroys	jacket	mackintosh/	pinafore	smock	tutu
bodice	corset	haik	macintosh	pinafore	smoking	tux/tuxedo
body	cravat	halter neck	maillot	dress	jacket	tweeds
body	crew neck	harem pants	mandarin	pinny	sock	twinsset
stocking	crinoline	hat	jacket	plastron	spencer	ulster
bodysuit	crop top	hijab	mantilla	plus fours	sports jacket	underpants
body warmer	culottes	hip-huggers	mantle	polo neck	stirrups pants	undershirt
bolero	cummerbund	hipsters	mantlet	polo shirt	stock	veil
bolo tie	cut-offs	hoody/	Mao jacket	poncho	stocking	vest
bomber	cutaway	hoodie	mask	puffball skirt	stole	V-neck
jacket	dashiki	hose	matinee coat	pullover	string tie	waistcoat
bootlace tie	denims	hot pants	maxi	pyjamas	suit	windcheater
bow tie	dhoti	housecoat	mess jacket	raglan	sundress	woollens
bra	dinner jacket	hula skirt	midi	rah-rah skirt	surcoat	wrap
braces	dirndl	hunting	mini	raincoat	surtout	yashmak
breeches	divided skirt	jacket	miniskirt	redingote	sweater	yukta
Burberry	djellaba	jacket	mitt	reefer jacket	sweatpants	
(trademark)	djibba	jeans	mitten	robe	sweatshirt	
burka/	dolman	jellaba	morning coat	roll-neck	swimming	
burkha/	domino	jerkin	muff	ruff	costume	
burqa	donkey	jersey	muffler	sack dress	swimming	
burnous	jacket	jibba	muumuu	safari jacket	trunks	
bustier	doublet	jilbab	neckerchief	sailor suit	swimsuit	

## Footwear

ballet shoe	Chelsea boot	espadrille	jelly shoe	patten	sneaker	wader
balmoral	clog	flip-flop	kitten heel	peep-toe	snow boot	walking boot
boot	court shoe	galosh	lace-up	penny loafer	snowshoe	wedge
bootee	cowboy boot	ghillie/gillie	loafer	platform	step-in	wellington
bover boot	Cuban heel	gumboot	moccasin	plimsoll	stiletto	boot
brogan	dap	half-boot	moon boot	pump	tap shoe	winkle-picker
brogue	deck shoe	Hessian boot	mukluk	sabot	tennis shoe	zori
brothel	Derby	high heels	mule	sandal	top boot	
creeper	desert boot	high-low	napoleon	shoe	track shoe	
buskin	Dr Martens	high-top	overboot	slingback	trainer	
carpet slipper	(trademark)	hobnail boot	overshoe	slip-on	Turkish	
chappal	elevator shoe	jackboot	Oxford	slipper	slipper	

## Headgear

Alice band	cap	earmuffs	jester's cap	pork-pie hat	sun helmet	wideawake
balacava	chaplet	fedora	jockey cap	sailor hat	tam-o'-	wimple
balmoral	circlet	fez	Juliet cap	skullcap	shanter	wreath
bandeau	cloche	flat cap	keffiyeh	slouch hat	tarboosh	zuchetto
baseball cap	cloth cap	garland	kepi	snap-brim	ten-gallon	
beanie	cocked hat	glengarry	mantilla	hat	hat	
bearskin	coif	hairband	mitre	snood	tiaia	
beaver hat	coolie hat	hard hat	mob cap	sola topi	top hat	
beret	coronet	headband	mortar board	sombrero	topi	
biretta	cowl	headscarf	opera hat	sou'wester	topper	
boater	crash helmet	headtie	panama	Stetson	toque	
bobble hat	crown	helmet	peaked cap	(trademark)	tricorn	
bonnet	deerstalker	high hat	picture hat	stocking cap	trilby	
bowler	derby	hijab	pillbox hat	stovepipe hat	triple crown	
busby	diadem	homburg	pixie hat	sun bonnet	turban	
calash	Dolly Varden	hood	poke bonnet	sun hat	veil	

## Fabrics and fibres

acetate	ciré	elastane	jacquard	moiré	poplin	tattersall
acrylic	cloqué	faillie	jersey	moleskin	raffia	tatting
alpaca	coconut	felt	jute	moquette	ramie	terry
angora	matting	fishnet	kapok	moreen	rayon	terylene
astrakhan	coir	flannel	kemp	mousseline	rep	(trademark)
bafta	cord	flannelette	Kendal Green	mungo	ripstop	ticking
baize	corduroy	flax	kersey	muslin	sackcloth	tiffany
barathea	cotton	fleece	kerseymere	nainsook	sacking	toile
barkcloth	crêpe	flock	khadi	nankeen	sailcloth	toile de Jouy
batiste	crêpe de	foulard	khaki	needlecord	sarsenet	torchon
Bedford cord	Chine	frieze	kikoi	net	sateen	towelling
blanketing	crêpon	fustian	lace	Nottingham	satin	tricot
bobbinet	cretonne	gaberdine/	lambswool	lace	satinette	tulle
bobbin lace	crewel	gabardine	lamé	nylon	saxony	tussore
bombazine	crimplene	gauze	lawn	oakum	sea-island	tweed
Botany wool	(trademark)	georgette	leathercloth	oilcloth	cotton	twill
bouclé	crinoline	gimp	leatherette	oiskin	seersucker	Valenciennes
broadcloth	crushed	gingham	(trademark)	organdie	serge	Velcro
brocade	velvet	Gore-tex	leno	organza	shahtoosh	(trademark)
buckram	cupro	(trademark)	Lincoln green	organzine	sharkskin	velour
burlap	Dacron	gossamer	linen	Orlon	sheer	velvet
butter muslin	(trademark)	grasscloth	linsey-	(trademark)	Shetland	velveteen
calico	damask	rogram	woolsey	ottoman	wool	vicuña
cambric	denim	grosgrain	lint	paisley	shoddy	viscose
camel hair	devoré	gros point	lisle	panne velvet	silk	Viyella
candlewick	dimity	guipure	loden	pashmina	sisal	(trademark)
canvas	doeskin	haircloth	Lurex	peau-de-soie	slub	voile
cashmere	Donegal	Harris tweed	(trademark)	percale	Spandex	waxcloth
cavalry twill	tweed	(trademark)	Lycra	petersham	(trademark)	webbing
challis	drab	hemp	(trademark)	pillow lace	spun silk	whipcord
chambray	Dralon	herringbone	madras	pilot cloth	stockinet	wild silk
Chantilly lace	(trademark)	hessian	marocain	piqué	suede	wincey
cheesecloth	drill	holland	marquissette	plaid	surah	winceyette
chenille	duchesse lace	Honiton lace	matting	plush	swansdown	wool
cheviot	duchesse	hopsack	melton	plush velvet	tabaret	worsted
chiffon	satin	horsehair	merino	point lace	taffeta	
chinchilla	duffel	huckaback	microfibre	polycotton	tapestry	
chino	dungaree	ikat	micromesh	polyester	tarlatan	
chintz	dupion	jaconet	mohair	pongee	tarpaulin	



## Drinks

## Religious clothing

alb	clerical collar	dog collar	hood	shovel hat	tallith	zucchetto
amice	cope	frock	mitre	skullcap	tippet	
biretta	cotta	Geneva	pallium	soutane	tunicle	
cassock	cowl	bands	rochet	stole	wimple	
chasuble	dalmatic	habit	scapular	surplice	yarmulke	

## Drinks

## Alcoholic drinks

absinthe	bourbon	crème de cacao	grappa	noyau	reposado	sloe gin
advocaat	brandy	cacao	Hollands	ouzo	rye	tequila
aguardiente	cachaca	crème de menthe	kirsch	palm wine	rum	triple sec
alcopop	Calvados	curaçao	kümmel	pastis	sake	vermouth
amaretto	cassis	fraise	kvass	perry	sambuca	vodka
aniset	champagne	framboise	liqueur	port	schnapps	whisky
applejack	chartreuse	genever	maraschino	poteen	scrumpy	
aquavit	cherry brandy	gin	marc	pulque	sherry	
Armagnac	cider	ginger wine	mead	raki	shochu	
arrack/arak	cognac		mescal	ratafia	slivovitz	

## Beers

ale	brown ale	heavy	lager	milk stout	Pilsner/	real ale
barley wine	cask beer	ice beer	Lambic	pale ale	Pilsener	shandy
bitter	craft beer	India pale ale (IPA)	light ale	Pils	porter	stout
bock	gueuze		mild		Rauchbier	wheat beer

## Wines and grape varieties

White wines and grapes				Red wines and grapes		
Aligoté	Gavi	Müller-Thurgau	Seyval Blanc	Cinsault	Médoc	
Asti	Gewürztraminer	Rivaner	Soave	claret	Merlot	
Auslese	Grenache	Muscadelle	Spätlese	Concord	Meunier	
Barsac	Graves	Muscadet	Spumante	Corvina	Montepulciano	
Beeren- auslese	Grüner Veltliner	Muscat Blanc	Steen	Côtes du Rhône	Mourvèdre	
Blanc de blancs	Hárslevelü	Muscat d'Alexandrie	Sylvaner	Crozes-Hermitage	Nebbiolo	
Blanc Fumé	Heuriger	Niersteiner	Symphony	Dão	Negroamoro	
Bourgogne Blanc	Hock	Orvieto	Tocai-Friulano	Dolcetto	Nuits St George	
Bucelas	Johannisberg	Piedmont	Tokay	Faugères	Pauillac	
Burgundy	Kabinett	Piedmont	Traminer	Fitou	Pinot Noir	
Catawba	Kerner	Piedmont	Trebbiano	Fleurie	Pinotage	
Cava	Liebfraumilch	Piedmont	Trocken-beeren- auslese	Gaillac	Pomerol	
Chablis	Lutomer	Piedmont	Verdicchio	Gamay	Pommard	
Champagne	Mâcon	Piedmont	Verduzzo	Gattinara	Rioja	
Chardonnay	Mâcon	Piedmont	Vernaccia	Gevrey-Chambertin	Rofosco	
Chasselas	Villages	Piedmont	Vernaccia di San Gimignano	Gigondas	Saint-Émilion	
Chenin Blanc	Malvasia Bianca	Piedmont	Villard	Graves	Saint-Estèphe	
Clairette	Malvoisie	Piedmont	Vinho Verde	Grenache	Sangiovese	
Colombard	Manseng	Piedmont	Viognier	Grignolino	Shiraz/Syrah	
Condrieu	Marsanne	Piedmont	Viura	Malbrusco	Tempranillo	
Crémant	Mauzac	Piedmont	Vouvray	Malbec	Valdepeñas	
Eiswein	Meursault	Piedmont	Welschriesling	Malvasia	Valpolicella	
Entre-Deux-Mers	Minervois	Piedmont	or Olasz	Malvoisie Rouge	Vino Nobile di Montepulciano	
Frascati	Montrachet	Piedmont	Rizling or Laski	Mammolo	Zinfandel	
Furmint	Moselle	Piedmont		Cahors	Zweigelt	
		Piedmont		Carema	or Blauer Zweigelt	
		Piedmont		Carignan		
		Piedmont		Chianti		

## Sherries and dessert wines

Types of sherry		Types of dessert wine				
amontillado	manzanilla	malmsey	Monbazillac	Muscat de Beaumes de Venise	Sauternes	vin santo
fino	oloroso	Bual	moscato	muscatel	Sercial	
		Madeira	Muscat		Verdelho	
					vin de paille	

## Wine bottles

Bottle	Normal bottles	Bottle	Normal bottles	Bottle	Normal bottles	Bottle	Normal bottles
magnum	2	rehoboam	6	salmanazar	12	nebuchadnezzar	20
jeroboam	4	methuselah	8	balthazar	16		

## Cocktails and mixed drinks

Bellini	champagne cocktail	Harvey Wallbanger	margarita	prairie oyster punch	sidecar	tequila sunrise
B52	cobbler	highball	Martini (trademark)	rattlesnake	Singapore sling	toddy
black velvet	cosmopolitan	Irish coffee	mint julep	rum and black sangria	slammer	Tom Collins
Bloody Mary	Cuba libre	John Collins	mojito	sea breeze	snakebite	whisky mac
blue lagoon	daiquiri	Kir	negroni	screwdriver	snowball	whisky sour
brandy	egg flip	Kir Royale	old-fashioned	sour	spritzer	White Lady
Alexander	eggnog	Long Island	pina colada	sex on the beach	tequila slammer	White Russian
Bronx	gimlet	iced tea	pink gin			zombie
Buck's Fizz	gin sling	mai tai	planter's punch			
caipirinha	grog	manhattan				

## Non-alcoholic drinks

barley water	cordial	ginger ale	limeade	orangeade	sarsaparilla	tea
bitter lemon	cream soda	ginger beer	malted milk	orgeat	seltzer water	tonic water
cherryade	crush	horchata	maté	prairie oyster	sherbet	
citron pressé	dandelion and	hot chocolate	milkshake	pressé	smoothie	
cocoa	burdock	Lassi	mineral water	root beer	soda water	
coffee		lemonade		St Clements	squash	
cola						

## Teas

Assam	China	gunpowder	Keemun	mint tea	peppermint	souchong
black tea	Darjeeling	tea	Lapsang	oolong	tea	tisane
bohea	Earl Grey	herbal tea	Souchong	orange	pouchong	yerba maté
camomile tea	fruit tea	iced tea	lemon tea	pekoe	rooibos tea	
Ceylon	green tea	Indian	maté	pekoe	rosehip tea	

## Coffees

café au lait	caffè	decaffeinated	filter coffee	Irish coffee	mochaccino
café noir	macchiato	coffee	Gaelic coffee	latte	Turkish
café latte	cappuccino	espresso	Greek coffee	mocha	coffee

# Food

## Bread and bread rolls

bagel	bridge roll	crumpet	fruit loaf	milk loaf	pone	split tin
baguette	brioche	dampier	granary	muffin	poppadom	stollen
bannock	bun	farl	granary bread	nan/naan	pumpnickel	
bap	chapatti	farmhouse	(trademark)	panettone	puri	
bara brith	ciabatta	loaf	hoagie	paratha	roti	
barmbrack	cob	flatbread	kaiser	petit pain	rye	
barm cake	cornbread	focaccia	malt loaf	pikelet	soda bread	
bloomer	cottage loaf	French stick	matzo	pitta	sourdough	

## Cakes, biscuits, and desserts

angel cake	banoffi/	brandy snap	charlotte	cream puff	custard	Dundee cake
angel food cake	banoffee	bread	charlotte	crème brûlée	cream	Eccles cake
cake	pie	pudding	châssé	crème	custard pie	eclair
apfelstrudel	Bath bun	bread-and-butter	cheesecake	caramel	custard pasty	egg custard
apple	Battenberg	pudding	chocolate	crêpe	Danish pastry	Eve's
charlotte	beignet	Brown Betty	chip	crêpe Suzette	death by chocolate	pudding
apple pie	Berliner	brownie	clafoutis	croissant	devil's food cake	fairy cake
baba	Black Forest	bun	cobbler	croquem-bouche	digestive	fancy
baked Alaska	gâteau	butterfly cake	compo	crumble	doughnut	flapjack
Bakewell tart	blancmange	cabinet	cookie	crumpet	drop scone	floating island
baklava	bombe	pudding	cracknel	cupcake	dumpling	Florentine
banana split	bourbon	cassata	cracker			flummery
Banbury cake	brack					

fool	hot cross bun	marquise	peach Melba	sago pudding	steamed	trifle
fortune	ice cream	matzo	petit beurre	Sally Lunn	pudding	turnover
cookie	jelly	meringue	petit four	saltine	stollen	tutti-frutti
frangipane	junket	milk pudding	plum duff	sandwich	streusel	upside-down
fruit cocktail	Knicker- bocker	millefeuille	plum	savarin	strudel	cake
fruit salad	Glory	mince pie	pudding	scone	suet pudding	Victoria
funnel cake	kulfi	Mississippi	popover	seed cake	summer	sponge
garibaldi	lady's finger	mud pie	pound cake	semolina	pudding	waffle
gateau	langue de chat	mousse	pretzel	shoo-fly pie	sundae	water biscuit
gelato	lardy cake	mousseline	profiterole	shortbread	Swiss roll	water ice
Genoa cake	layer cake	muffin	queen cake	shortcake	syllabub	whip
gingerbread	macaroon	oatcake	queen of puddings	simnel cake	tart	yogurt
ginger nut	Madeira cake	pancake	ratafia	singing hinny	tarte Tatin	yule log
ginger snap	madeleine	panettone	rice pudding	sorbet	tartlet	zabaglione
granita	maid of honour	panforte	rock cake	soufflé	tartufo	
halwa	marble cake	parfait	roly-poly	sponge	sponge	
hasty		parkin	rusk	pudding	tiramisu	
pudding		pashka	Sachertorte	spotted dick	torte	
hokey-pokey		pavlova			treacle tart	

## Cheeses

asiago	Cheddar	Dolcelatte	fromage frais	Limburger	pecorino	scamorza
Bel Paese	Cheshire	(trademark)	Gloucester	Manchego	Pont l'Évêque	Stilton
(trademark)	chèvre	Double	Gorgonzola	mascarpone	Port Salut	taleggio
blue vinny	cottage	Gloucester	Gouda	Monterey	provolone	Tilsit
Boursin	cheese	Dunlop	Gruyère	Jack	quark	Wensleydale
(trademark)	cream cheese	Edam	halloumi	mozzarella	Red Leicester	
Brie	crowdie/ crowdy	Emmental	havarti	Neufchâtel	ricotta	
Caerphilly	curd cheese	feta/fetta	Jarlsberg	paneer/panir	Romano	
Camembert	Danish blue	fontina	(trademark)	Parmesan	Roquefort	
cantal	Derby	fromage blanc	Lancashire	Parmigiano	(trademark)	
Chaumes			Leicester	Reggiano	sage Derby	

## Fruit

ackee	chayote	elderberry	lemon	navel orange	prickly pear	sweetsop
alligator pear	checkerberry	feijoa	lime	nectarine	pumpkin	tamarillo
apple	cherimoya	fig	lingonberry	Ogen melon	quince	tamarind
apricot	cherry	galia melon	loganberry	olive	rambutan	tangelo
Asian pear	cherry plum	gooseberry	longan	orange	raspberry	tangerine
avocado	Chinese	gourd	loquat	ortanique	redcurrant	tayberry
bakeapple	gooseberry	granadilla	lychee	papaya	roseapple	tomatillo
banana	citron	grape	mammee	partridge- berry	salmonberry	tomato
bilberry	clementine	grapefruit	mandarin	passion fruit	sapodilla	Ugli fruit
blackberry	cloudberry	greengage	mango	satsuma	sea grape	(trademark)
blackcurrant	coconut	guava	mangosteen	seaweed	serviceberry	veitchberry
blood orange	Costard	honeydew	maypop	pear	sharon fruit	Victoria plum
blueberry	cowberry	melon	medlar	persimmon	sloe	watermelon
boysenberry	crab apple	huckleberry	melon	physalis	sorb	white currant
breadfruit	cranberry	jackfruit	minneola	pineapple	soursop	whortleberry
bullace	currant	jamun	mulberry	pippin	star anise	wineberry
cantaloupe	custard apple	jujube	muscat	plantain	star apple	youngberry
Cape	damson	juneberry	myrobalan	plum	strawberry	
gooseberry	date	kaki	naseberry	pomegranate	sugar apple	
carambola	dewberry	kiwi fruit	nashi	pomelo		
cashew apple	durian	kumquat				

## Herbs and spices

ajowan	camomile	cinnamon	fenugreek	lavender	paprika	St John's
allspice	caper	clary	feverfew	lemon balm	parsley	wort
angelica	caraway	clove	galangal	lemon grass	pepper	sumac
anise	cardamom	coriander	garam	lemon mint	peppermint	sweet balm
aniseed	cassia	cumin	masala	lovage	rosemary	sweet cicely
asafoetida	cayenne	curry powder	garlic	mace	rue	tarragon
balsam	pepper	damiana	ginger	marjoram	saffron	thyme
basil	chervil	dill	ginseng	milk thistle	sage	turmeric
bay leaf	chicory	dittany	grains of Paradise	mint	savory	vanilla
bergamot	chilli	dong quai	hyssop	mustard	sorrel	
black pepper	chives	echinacea	juniper berry	nutmeg	spearmint	
borage	cilantro	fennel		oregano		



## Meat cuts and joints

back rib	chine	flank	leg	rump	sirloin	wing
baron of beef	chop	fore rib	loin	saddle	skirt	
belly	chuck	fricandeau	neck	scrag	spare rib	
best end	collar	gigot	noisette	shank	T-bone	
breast	cutlet	hand	porterhouse	shin	tenderloin	
brisket	entrecôte	hock	steak	shoulder	topside	
chateau-briand	escalope	hough	rack	side	tournedos	
	fillet	knuckle	rib	silverside	undercut	

## Meat types and products

bacon	chitterlings	ham	luncheon	pâté	salt pork	turkey
beef	corned beef	hamburger	meat	pheasant	sidemeat	veal
beefburger	duck	haslet	mince	pig's trotters	spam	venison
brains	faggot	heart	mutton	pork	(trademark)	
brawn	game	kidney	offal	poultry	steak	
bresaola	gammon	lamb	oxtail	prosciutto	sweetbread	
burger	goose	lamb's fry	tongue	quail	tongue	
bushmeat	grouse	lights	Parma ham	rabbit	tripe	
chicken	haggis	liver	partridge	rissole	trotters	

## Nuts

acorn	Brazil nut	coconut	groundnut	horse	peanut	sweet
almond	butternut	cola nut	hazelnut	chestnut	pecan	chestnut
areca nut	cashew	conker	hickory nut	macadamia	pine nut	walnut
beechnut	chestnut	earthnut	hognut	nut	piñon	
betel nut	cobnut	filbert		monkey nut	pistachio	
bitternut	coco de mer					

## Pasta

agnolotti	cappelletti	fusilli	noodles	radiatori	spaghettini	tortelloni
angel hair	conchiglie	lasagne	orecchiette	ravioli	strozzapreti	tortiglioni
bucatini	ditalini	linguine	orzo	rigatoni	tagliatelle	trenette
cannelloni	farfalle	lumache	pappardelle	rotelle	tagliolini	vermicelli
capelli	farfalline	macaroni	penne	rotini	tortelli	ziti
capellini	fettuccine	manicotti	pipe	spaghetti	tortellini	

## Sausages

andouille	blood	bratwurst	Cumberland	mortadella	summer	wiener
baloney/	pudding	cervelat	sausage	pepperoni	sausage	wurst
boloney	blood	chipolata	frankfurter	salami	weenie	
black	sausage	chorizo	kielbasa	saucisson	Weisswurst	
pudding	boerewors	crêpinette	knackwurst	saveloy	white	
	bologna		merguez	slim jim	pudding	

## Soups

bisque	burgoo	consommé	madrilene	mulligatawny	potage	shchi
borscht	callaloo	Cullen skink	menudo	oxtail	pot-au-feu	skilly
bouillabaisse	chowder	gazpacho	minestrone	petite	rasam	stracciatella
bouillon	cock-a-leekie	goulash	mock turtle	marmite	sancoche	vichyssoise
broth	congee	gumbo	soup	pistou	Scotch broth	

## Sweets and confectionery

acid drop	chew	dolly	gulab jamun	Kendal mint	pear drop	sugared
aniseed ball	chewing gum	mixtures	gumdrop	cake	peppermint	almond
barley sugar	chocolate	dragée	halva	laddu	peppermint	toffee
bonbon	chocolate	Easter egg	humbug	liquorice	cream	toffee apple
brittle	drop	fondant	jalebi	lollipop	Pontefract	truffle
bullseye	coconut ice	fruit drop	jelly	lolly	cake	Turkish
butterscotch	comfit	fruit gum	jelly baby	marshmallow	praline	delight
candy	cracknel	fruit pastille	jelly bean	marzipan	rock	walnut whip
candyfloss	crystallized	fudge	jujube	mint	sherbet	wine gum
caramel	fruit	gobstopper		nougat		

## Vegetables

ackee	artichoke	bamboo	black bean	broad bean	butterhead	calabrese
acorn squash	arugula	shoots	black-eyed	broccoli	lettuce	cannellini
adzuki/adzuki	asparagus	bean	bean	Brussels	butternut	bean
bean	aubergine	beet	borlotti bean	sprout	squash	capsicum
alfalfa		beetroot	breadfruit	butter bean	cabbage	cardoon

carrot	courgette	globe	mache	pea	savoy	sweetcorn
cassava	cress	artichoke	mangetout	pepper	cabbage	sweet pepper
cauliflower	cucumber	gourd	manioc	petits pois	scallion	sweet potato
cavolo nero	curly kale	greens	marrow	pimento	scarlet runner	taro
celeriac	cush-cush	haricot bean	marrowfat	pimiento	scorzonera	tiger nut
celery	custard	jalapeño	pea	pinto bean	sea kale	tomato
chard	marrow	pepper	mooli	plantain	shallot	turnip
chayote	eggplant	Jerusalem	mung bean	potato	snow pea	vegetable
chervil	endive	artichoke	mushroom	pumpkin	soybean	spaghetti
chickpea	escarole	kale	mustard	puy lentil	spinach	wasabi
chicory	fava bean	kidney bean	oak leaf	radicchio	spinach beet	water
Chinese	fennel	kohlrabi	lettuce	radish	spring greens	chestnut
cabbage	flageolet	lamb's	okra	red cabbage	spring onion	watercress
Chinese	French bean	lettuce	onion	rocket	squash	waxpod
leaves	garbanzo	leek	oyster plant	romaine	string bean	yam
corn on the	garden pea	lentil	pak choi	runner bean	sugar pea	zucchini
cob	garlic	lettuce	parsnip	rutabaga	sugar snap	
corn salad	gherkin	lima bean	pattypan	salsify	pea	
cos lettuce		lollo rosso	squash	samphire	swede	

## Geography

### Geological Ages

Archaeon/ Azoic period	Cenozoic era	Holocene epoch	Oligocene epoch	Permian period	Precambrian era	Tertiary period
Cambrian period	Cretaceous period	Jurassic period	Ordovician period	Phanerozoic aeon	Proterozoic aeon	Triassic period
Carboni- ferous period	Devonian period	Mesozoic era	Palaeocene epoch	Pleistocene epoch	Quaternary period	
	Eocene epoch	Miocene epoch	Palaeozoic era	Pliocene epoch	Silurian period	

### Layers of the Earth's crust

astheno- sphere	continental crust	lithosphere lower mantle	Mohorovičić dis- continuity	oceanic crust sial	transition zone upper mantle
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### Layers of the Earth's atmosphere

D-layer	exosphere	ionosphere	ozonosphere	thermo- sphere
E-layer	F-layer	mesosphere	stratosphere	troposphere
		ozone layer		

### Weather phenomena

anticyclone	depression	frontal	jet stream	pressure	thermal	warm front
cold front	El Niño	system	low pressure	system	trough	
cyclone		high pressure	occlusion	ridge	turbulence	

### Cloud types and formations

altocumulus	cirrostratus	cumulo- stratus	lenticular	nimbostratus	rain cloud	stratus
altostratus	cirrus	cumulus	cloud	nimbus	storm cloud	thundercloud
anvil cloud	cumulo- nimbus	funnel cloud	mackerel sky	noctilucent cloud	stratocirrus	thunderhead
cirrocumulus			mare's tails		strato- cumulus	wrack

### Winds

berg wind	Cape doctor	haboob	meltemi	Perth doctor	solano
bise	chينوок	harmattan	mistral	shamal	tramontana
bora	Etesian	khamisin	monsoon	simoom/ simoon	williwaw
brickfielder	föhn/foehn	levanter	nor'wester	sirocco	willy-willy
buran	ghibli	libeccio	pampero		zonda

### Star types

astrometric	cepheid	dwarf star	giant	nova	quasar	supernova
binary	collapsar	eclipsing	lodestar	polar	red dwarf	variable star
brown dwarf	dark star	flare star	magnetar	polar star	red giant	visual binary
	double star		neutron star	pulsar	supergiant	white dwarf

# Language and Literature

## Literary schools, movements, and groups

Acmeism	Bloomsbury	Harlem	minimalism	postmodernism	Sturm und
Aesthetic	Group	Renaissance	modernism	primitivism	Drang
Movement	Cavalier poets	imagism	naturalism	realism	surrealism
Angry Young Men	classicism	Lake poets	neo-realism	romanticism	symbolism
Augustans	Dadaism	Liverpool poets	neoclassicism	social realism	Vorticism
beat generation	expressionism	magic realism	Parnassians	socialist realism	
	futurism	metaphysical poets	post-structuralism	structuralism	
	Georgian poets				

## Poetry terms

alcaic verse	decasyllabic	epode	iambic verse	ottava rima	saga	triplet
alexandrine	dimeter	epyllion	iambus	paeon	sapphics	trisyllable
verse	distich	free verse	idyll	pallinode	satire	trochaic verse
anapaest	disyllable	georgic	lay	pastoral	sestina	trochee
aubade	dithyramb	haiku	Leonines	pentameter	sonnet	verse
ballad	doggerel	heptameter	limerick	Petrarchan	Spenserian	villanelle
ballade	eclogue	heroic	lyric	sonnet	stanza	virelay
blank verse	elegiac	couplet	macaronic	poem	spondee	
choriambus	couplet	heroic verse	verse	protha-	terza rima	
clerihew	elegy	hexameter	monody	lamium	tetrameter	
couplet	epic	Horatian ode	nursery	pyrrhic verse	tribrach	
dactyl	epigram	iambic	rhyme	rondeau	trimeter	
dactylic verse	epithalamium	pentameter	ode	roundel	triolet	

## Types of drama

burlesque	commedia	farce	kabuki	mime	mystery play	teleplay
closet play	dell'arte	Grand	kitchen-sink	miracle play	nativity play	tragedy
comedy	docudrama	Guignol	drama	monodrama	Noh	tragicomedy
comedy of manners	dumbshow	Greek drama	masque	morality play	pantomime	two-hander
	duologue	improvisation	melodrama	mummers' play	passion play	

## Types of fiction

Aga saga	chick lit	fantasy	nouveau	police	science	sword and
allegory	comedy	folk story	roman	procedural	fiction	sorcery
antinovel	comte	folk tale	novel	policier	sci-fi	thriller
Bildungsroman	epic	ghost story	novelette	roman-à-clef	short story	western
black comedy	epistolary	gothic novel	novella	romance	spine-chiller	whodunnit
blockbuster	novel	graphic novel	parable	roman-fleuve	stream of	
bodice-ripper	fable	legend	picaresque	saga	consciousness	
bonkbuster	fairy story	mystery	novel			
	fairy tale	myth				

## Punctuation marks

accent	bracket	diacritical	exclamation	obelus	quotation	square
apostrophe	caret	mark	mark	parenthesis	mark	bracket
asterisk	colon	ellipsis	full stop	period	rule	stop
asterism	comma	em dash	hyphen	point	semicolon	stroke
backslash	dagger	en dash	inverted	question	solidus	swung dash
brace	dash		comma	mark		virgule

## Accents

Name	Example in use	Name	Example in use	Name	Example in use
acute	é	circumflex	î	háček	ř
breve	û	diaeresis/umlaut	ö	macron	ā
cedilla	ç	grave	è	tilde	ñ

## Greek alphabet

A α	alpha	H η	eta	N ν	nu	T τ	tau
B β	beta	Θ θ	theta	Ξ ξ	xi	Υ υ	upsilon
Γ γ	gamma	Ι ι	iota	Ο ο	omicron	Φ φ	phi
Δ δ	delta	Κ κ	kappa	Π π	pi	Χ χ	chi
E ε	epsilon	Λ λ	lambda	Ρ ρ	rho	Ψ ψ	psi
Z ζ	zeta	Μ μ	mu	Σ σ, ς	sigma	Ω ω	omega



## Hebrew alphabet

א	aleph	ז	zayin	מ	mem	ק	qoph
ב	beth	ח	heth	נ	nun	ר	resh
ג	gimel	ט	teth	ס	samekh	ש	shin
ד	daleth	י	yodh	ע	'ayin	ת	taw
ה	he	כ	kaph	פ	pe		
ו	waw	ל	lamedh	צ	sadhe		

## Phonetic alphabet

Alpha	Echo	India	Mike	Quebec	Uniform	Yankee
Bravo	Foxtrot	Juliet	November	Romeo	Victor	Zulu
Charlie	Golf	Kilo	Oscar	Sierra	Whisky	
Delta	Hotel	Lima	Papa	Tango	X-ray	

## Medicine

## Branches of medicine

<b>Conventional</b>	gynaecology	parasitology	trichopathy	Bach flower	cupping	osteopathy
allopathy	haematology	pathology	urology	remedies	eurythmics	radionics
anaesthesiology	immunology	pharmacology	venereology	balneo-therapy	faith healing	rebirthing
audiology	laryngology	physiotherapy	veterinary medicine	Bates method	Feldenkrais method	reflexology
cardiology	neurology	plastic surgery	<b>Alternative and complementary</b>	Gerson therapy	Gerson therapy	reiki
chiroprody	neuropathology	proctology	acupressure	bioenergetics	herbalism	Rolfing
dermatology	neurosurgery	prosthetics	acupuncture	bodywork	homeopathy	shiatsu
embryology	obstetrics	psychiatry	Alexander technique	chiropractic colour therapy	hydropathy	thalassotherapy
endocrinology	oncology	psychosurgery	aroma-therapy	craniosacral therapy	iridology	zone therapy
epidemiology	ophthalmology	radiology	Ayurveda	crystal healing/therapy	McTimoney chiropractic	
gastroenterology	orthopaedics	orthotics surgery			naturopathy	
geriatrics	paediatrics	therapeutics			organotherapy	

## Physical illnesses and conditions

acne	bends	chronic	dengue	endometritis	gout	infantile
ague	beriberi	fatigue	dermatitis	enteritis	Gulf War syndrome	paralysis
Aids	bilharzia	syndrome (CFS)	dermatosis	epilepsy	Guillain-Barré syndrome	influenza
(acquired immune deficiency syndrome)	bird flu	diarrhoea	diabetes	ergotism	Hansen's disease	iritis
allergy	blackwater fever	colic	diabetes mellitus	erysipelas	Hansen's disease	irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
alopecia	blood poisoning	colitis	diarrhoea	fetal alcohol syndrome	haemophilia	ischaemia
altitude	botulism	common cold	diphtheria	fever	Hansen's disease	jaundice
sickness	Broca's aphasia	consumption	diverticular disease	filariasis	hay fever	Kaposi's sarcoma
Alzheimer's disease	bronchitis	coronary heart disease	double pneumonia	flu	heat stroke	ketosis
anaemia	brucellosis	cowpox	Down's syndrome	flux	helminthiasis	kwasiorcor
(anaemia)	bubonic plague	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease	Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	food poisoning	hepatitis A/B/C	laryngitis
angina	Burkitt's lymphoma	(CJD)	Dupuytren's contracture	frozen shoulder	hepatoma	Lassa fever
ankylosing spondylitis	bursitis	Crohn's disease	dysentery	gangrene	herpes	legionella
ankylosis	cachexia	croup	Ebola fever	gastric flu	herpes simplex	legionnaires' disease
anthrax	cancer	cryptosporidiosis	eclampsia	gastritis	hives	leishmaniasis
appendicitis	carcinoma	cyanosis	economy-class syndrome	gastro-enteritis	Hodgkin's disease	leprosy
arc eye	cardio-myopathy	cystic fibrosis (CF)	eczema	German measles	hookworm	leptospirosis
arterio-sclerosis	carditis	cystitis	elephantiasis	gigantism	Huntington's disease	leukaemia
arthritis	carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)	decompression sickness	emphysema	gingivitis	hypertension	listeria
asbestosis	cataract	deep-vein thrombosis (DVT)	encephalitis	glaucoma	hypoxia	listeriosis
asthma	cerebral palsy		endocarditis	glue ear	impetigo	lupus
ataxia	chickenpox		endo-metritis	glycaemia		lupus vulgaris
athero-sclerosis	cholera			goitre		Lyme disease
athlete's foot	chorea			gonorrhoea		lymphoma
avian flu						malaria
Bell's palsy						mastitis
						measles
						meningitis

motor neuron disease	non-specific urethritis	pneumoconiosis	retinopathy	severe acute respiratory syndrome	sunstroke	undulant fever
mountain sickness	oedema	pneumocystitis	rheumatic fever	(SARS)	Sydenham's chorea	urethritis
multiple sclerosis	ophthalmia	carinii	rheumatism	sexually transmitted disease	synovitis	urticaria
(MS)	orchitis	pneumonia (PCP)	rheumatoid arthritis	(STD)	syphilis	vaginismus
mumps	osteoarthritis	pneumonia	rhinitis	shingles	tendinitis	venereal disease
muscular dystrophy	osteomyelitis	poliomyelitis	ricketts	sick building syndrome	tenosynovitis	(VD)
myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME)	osteoporosis	porphyria	ringworm	(SBS)	tetanus	viraemia
narcolepsy	pancreatitis	prickly heat	roseola	sickle-cell anaemia/disease	thrush	virus
necrotizing fasciitis	paratyphoid	pruritus	rubella	silicosis	tonsillitis	vittiligo
nephritis	Parkinson's disease	psittacosis	St Vitus's dance	sinusitis	Tourette's syndrome	Weil's disease
neuropathy	parotitis	psoriasis	salmonella	sleeping sickness	toxaemia	whooping cough
new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD)	pellagra	puerperal fever	sarcoma	smallpox	toxic shock syndrome	yaws
non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	pelvic inflammation	pulmonary emphysema	scabies	Spanish flu	toxocariasis	yellow fever
	pericarditis	pyaemia	scarlet fever	spina bifida	toxoplasmosis	
	peritonitis	pyrexia	schizophrenia	spondylosis	trench foot	
	pernicious anaemia	quinsy	sciatica	strabismus	trichinosis	
	pertussis	rabies	scleritis	sudden infant death syndrome	trypanosomiasis	
	phlebitis	radiation sickness	scleroderma		tuberculosis (TB)	
	pink-eye (nvCJD)	repetitive strain injury (RSI)	sclerosis		typhoid	
	pleurisy	retinitis	scrofula		typhus	
	pleuro-pneumonia		scurvy			
			sepsis			
			septicaemia			

Psychological illnesses and conditions

anorexia nervosa	body dysmorphic disorder	depression	hyperkinesia	Munchausen's syndrome	pica	seasonal affective disorder (SAD)
Asperger's syndrome	bulimia	dysphoria	hypomania	by proxy	post-natal depression	shell shock
attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	nervosa	dysthymia	Korsakoff's syndrome	obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)	post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	
autism	combat fatigue	eating disorder	manic depression	panic disorder	psychosis	
bipolar disorder	catatonia	false memory syndrome	megalomania	paramnesia	schizophrenia	
	de Clerambault's syndrome	gender dysphoria	multiple personality disorder	paranoia		
	dementia	hebephrenia	Munchausen's syndrome	paraphilia		
		hyperactivity				

Operations

Technical name	Procedure	Technical name	Procedure	Technical name	Procedure
abdominoplasty	removal of excess flesh from abdomen	cystoplasty	repair of bladder	hepaticostomy	opening of bile duct
adenoidectomy	removal of adenoids	cystostomy	opening of bladder	hysterectomy	removal of womb
angioplasty	repair of blood vessel	dermatoplasty	incision of bladder	hysterotomy	incision of womb
appendectomy/appendicectomy	removal of appendix	embolectomy	repair of skin	keratotomy	incision of cornea
arteriotomy	incision of artery	enterostomy	removal of blood clot	laminectomy	removal of back of vertebra/vertebrae
blepharoplasty	repair or reconstruction of eyelid	enterotomy	opening of small intestine	laparotomy	incision of abdomen
Caesarean (section)	incision of wall of mother's abdomen to deliver child	episiotomy	incision of intestine	laryngectomy	removal of larynx
cheiloplasty	repair of lips	gastrostomy	incision of vaginal opening	laryngotomy	incision of larynx
cholecystectomy	removal of gall bladder	gastroplasty	removal of stomach	lithotomy	removal of kidney stone
cholecystostomy	incision of gall bladder	gastrostomy	repair of stomach	lobectomy	removal of lobe of an organ
colectomy	removal of colon	gastrostomy	opening of stomach	lobotomy	incision of prefrontal lobe of brain
colostomy	opening of colon	gastrostomy	incision of stomach	lumpectomy	removal of breast tumour
craniotomy	incision of skull	glossectomy	removal of tongue	mammoplasty	reshaping of breast
cystectomy	removal of bladder/ removal of cyst	haemorrhoidectomy	removal of haemorrhoids	mastectomy	removal of breast
		hepatectomy	removal of liver		

# Medicine

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Technical name	Procedure	Technical name	Procedure	Technical name	Procedure
myotomy	incision of muscle	perineoplasty	repair of vaginal opening	tonsillectomy	removal of tonsils
nephrectomy	removal of kidney	phalloplasty	repair of penis	tonsillotomy	incision of tonsil
nephrostomy	opening of kidney	pharyngectomy	removal of pharynx	tracheostomy	opening of windpipe
nephrotomy	incision of kidney	phlebectomy	incision of vein	tracheotomy	incision of windpipe
neurectomy	removal of nerve	pleurotomy	incision of pleural membrane	ureterectomy	removal of ureter
neurotomy	incision of nerve	pneumonectomy	removal of lung	ureterostomy	opening of ureter
oesophagectomy	opening of oesophagus	polyectomy	removal of polyp	ureterotomy	incision of ureter
oophorectomy	removal of ovary	prostatectomy	removal of prostate gland	urethroplasty	repair of urethra
orchidectomy	removal of testis	rhinoplasty	repair of nose	urethrotomy	incision of urethra
orchidotomy	incision of testis	salpingectomy	removal of Fallopian tube	vagotomy	incision of vagus nerve
ostectomy	removal of bone	salpingostomy	opening of Fallopian tube	valvotomy	incision of heart valve
osteotomy	incision of bone	splenectomy	removal of spleen	varicotomy	removal of varicose vein
otoplasty	repair or reshaping of ear	tenotomy	incision of tendon	vasectomy	removal of vas deferens
ovariectomy	removal of ovary	thoracoplasty	repair of thorax	vitrectomy	removal of vitreous humour
ovariotomy	incision of ovary	thoracotomy	incision of chest cavity		from eyeball
palatoplasty	repair of cleft palate	thrombectomy	removal of blood clot		
pancreatectomy	removal of pancreas	thymectomy	removal of thymus gland		
pericardiectomy/ pericardectomy	removal of membrane around heart	thyroidectomy	removal of all or part of thyroid gland		
pericardiotomy	incision of membrane around heart				

## Types and forms of medication

abortifacient	anti-infective	beta blocker	diuretic	injectable	pastille	steroid
alpha blocker	anti-inflam-	booster	draught	laxative	pessary	stimulant
anaesthetic	tory	cachet	drip	linctus	pill	stupefacient
analeptic	antipruritic	calmative	drops	lotion	placebo	sudorific
analgesic	antipsychotic	caplet	ear drops	lozenge	poultice	suppository
anaphro-	antipyretic	capsule	emetic	mercurial	powder	suppressant
disiac	antiscorbutic	carminative	enema	muscle	preventive	tablet
anodyne	antiseptic	contraceptive	euphoriant	relaxant	prophylactic	tonic
anovulant	antispasmodic	convulsant	evacuant	narcotic	psychotropic	tranquillizer
antacid	antitussive	cream	expectorant	nasal spray	relaxant	vasodilator
anthelmintic	antiviral	curative	eye drops	nebulizer	restorative	vermifuge
antibacterial	antitussive	cure-all	febrifuge	nervine	rub	
antibiotic	antiviral	decongestant	fungicide	neuroleptic	salve	
anticoagulant	antixolytic	depressant	gargle	nootropic	sedative	
antidote	aperient	diaphoretic	germicide	ointment	sleeping pill	
anti-emetic	aphrodisiac	digestive	hypodermic	painkiller	soporific	
antihistamine	balsam	dilator	inhalant	palliative	spray	

## Phobias

Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia
air travel	aerophobia	bridges	gephyrophobia	correspondence	epistolophobia
American people and things	Americophobia	bullets	ballistophobia	crowds	demophobia/ ochlophobia
animals	zoophobia	cancer	carcinophobia	dampness	hygrophobia
bacteria	bacteriophobia	cats	aillurophobia	darkness	scotophobia
beards	pogonophobia	childbirth	tocophobia	dawn	eosophobia
beating	mastigophobia	children	paedophobia	death	thanatophobia
bed	clinophobia	Chinese people and things	Sinophobia	depth	bathophobia
bees	apiphobia	church		dirt	mysophobia
being buried alive	taphophobia	clouds		disease	pathophobia/ nosophobia
birds	ornithophobia	coitus	nephophobia	dogs	cynophobia
blood	haemophobia	cold	coitophobia	dreams	oneirophobia
blushing	erythrophobia	colour	cheimaphobia	drink	potophobia
body odour	bromidrosi-	comets	chromophobia	drugs	pharmacophobia
	phobia	computers	cometophobia		
		constipation	prostasophobia		
		corpses	necrophobia	dust	koniophobia



Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia
electricity	electrophobia	insect stings	cnidophobia	rivers	potamophobia
enclosed places	claustrophobia	Italian people and things	Italophobia	robbers	harpaxophobia
English people and things	Anglophobia	itching	acarophobia	ruin	atephobia
everything	panophobia/ pantophobia	jealousy	zelotypophobia	Russian people and things	Russophobia
eyes	ommetaphobia	justice	dikephobia	saints	hagiophobia
faeces	coprophobia	lakes	limnophobia	Satan	Satanophobia
failure	kakorrhaphiophobia	leprosy	leprophobia	scabies	scabiophobia
fatigue	kopophobia	lice	pediculophobia	Scottish people and things	Scotophobia
fear	phobophobia	light	photophobia	sea	thalassophobia
feathers	pterophobia	lightning	astraphobia	sex	erotophobia
fever	febriphobia	lists	pinaciphobia/ katakistichophobia	shadows	sciophobia
fire	pyrophobia	loneliness	autophobia/ ermitophobia	sharpness	acrophobia
fish	ichthyophobia	machinery	mechanophobia	shock	hormephobia
flesh	selaphobia	magic	rhabdophobia	sin	hamartophobia
floods	antlophobia	marriage	gamophobia	skin disease	dermatosophobia/ dermatopathophobia
flowers	anthophobia	men	androphobia	sleep	hypnophobia
fog	homichlophobia	metal	metallophobia	slime	blennophobia
food	cibophobia/ sitophobia	mice	musophobia	small things	microphobia
foreigners	xenophobia	microbes	bacillophobia/ microbiophobia	smell	olfactophobia
freedom	eleuthero-phobia	mirrors	eisoptrophobia	smothering	pnigerophobia
French people and things	Francophobia/ Gallophobia	mites	acarophobia	snakes	ophidiophobia
fur	doraphobia	mobs	ochlophobia	snow	chionophobia
German people and things	Germanophobia/ Teutophobia	money	chrematophobia	solitude	eremophobia
germs	bacteriophobia	motion	kinetophobia	sound	acoustico-phobia
ghosts	phasmophobia	music	musicophobia	sourness	acerophobia
giving birth to monsters	teratophobia	names	onomatophobia	speech	lalophobia/ laliophobia/ glossophobia/ phonophobia
glass	nelophobia	narrowness	anginophobia	speed	tachophobia
God	theophobia	needles	belonephobia	spiders	arachnophobia
gold	chrysophobia/ aurophobia	new things	neophobia	standing	stasophobia
hair	trichophobia	night	nyctophobia	stars	siderophobia
heart disease	cardiophobia	nudity	gymnophobia	stealing	kleptophobia
heat	thermophobia	open places	agoraphobia	string	linonophobia
heaven	uranophobia	pain	algorphobia	stuttering	lalophobia/ laliophobia
hell	hadephobia/ stygiophobia	parasites	parasitophobia	sun	heliophobia
heredity	patroiophobia	people	anthropophobia	swallowing	phagophobia
high buildings	batophobia	philosophy	philosophobia	symmetry	symmetrophobia
high places	acrophobia/ hypso-phobia	pins	enetophobia	taste	geumato-phobia
home	oikophobia	places	topophobia	technology	technophobia
homosexuals	homophobia	pleasure	hedonophobia	teeth	odontophobia
horses	hippophobia	poison	toxiphobia	telephone	telephono-phobia
ice	cryophobia	politics	politicophobia	thinking	phronemophobia
ideas	ideophobia	Pope	papaphobia	thirteen	triskaideka-phobia
idleness	thassophobia	poverty	peniaphobia	thunder	brontophobia/ tonitrophobia
illness	nosophobia	precipices	cremnophobia	time	chronophobia
imperfection	atelophobia	priests	hierophobia	touch	haptophobia
infinity	apeirophobia	punishment	poinephobia	travel	hodophobia
injury	traumatophobia	rabies	hydrophobia	tuberculosis	phthisiophobia
inoculation	trypanophobia/ accinophobia	rail travel	siderodromophobia		
insanity	lyssophobia/ maniphobia	religious works of art	iconophobia		
insects	entomophobia	reptiles	batrachophobia		
		responsibility	hygeiaphobia		
		ridicule	katagelophobia		

Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia	Object of fear or dislike	Phobia
tyrants	tyrannophobia	water	hydrophobia	words	logophobia
vehicles	ochophobia	waves	cymophobia	work	ergophobia
venereal disease	sphilophobia	weakness	asthenophobia	worms	helminthophobia
voids	kenophobia	wind	anemophobia	writing	graphophobia
vomiting	emetophobia	women	gynophobia		

## Miscellaneous

### Colours

almond	burnt umber	copper	heather	mulberry	poppy	stone
amaranth	buttermilk	coral	heliotrope	mushroom	powder blue	straw
amber	cadmium	cornflower blue	henna	mustard	primrose	strawberry
amethyst	yellow	honey	ice blue	navy blue	puce	strawberry blonde
anthracite	café au lait	cream	incarnadine	Nile blue	purple	tan
apple green	Cambridge blue	crimson	indigo	Nile green	putty	tangerine
apricot	camel	cyan	iris	nut-brown	raspberry	tawny
aqua	canary yellow	daffodil	iron grey	nutmeg	raven	teak
aquamarine	candy-apple red	damask	ivory	oatmeal	red	teal
ash blonde	caramel	dove	jade	ochre	robin's-egg blue	terracotta
aubergine	cardinal red	drab	jasmine	off-white	rose	Titian
avocado	carmine	duck-egg blue	jet	old gold	royal blue	topaz
azure	carnation	dun	khaki	old rose	royal purple	tortoiseshell
baby blue	carnelian	eau de Nil	kingfisher blue	olive	sable	Turkey red
baby pink	carrot	ebony	lapis lazuli	opal	russet	turquoise
beige	celadon	ecru	lavender	orange	rust	Tyrian purple
biscuit	cerise	eggshell	leaf green	oxblood	sable	ultramarine
bisque	cerulean	electric blue	lemon	Oxford blue	safron	umber
bistre	champagne	emerald	lilac	oyster pink	salmon	Venetian red
black	charcoal	fallow	lily white	oyster white	sand	verditer
blonde	chartreuse	fawn	lime green	palomino	sapphire	vermilion
blood-red	cherry	flame	Lincoln green	pansy	saxe blue	violet
blue	chestnut	flesh	lovat green	paprika	scarlet	viridian
blush	chocolate	fuchsia	magenta	parchment	sea green	walnut
bottle green	cinnabar	gentian	magnolia	peach	sepia	Wedgwood blue
brindle/brindled	cinnamon	ginger	mahogany	peach-bloom	shell pink	white
bronze	citron	gold	maroon	peacock blue	sienna	wine
brown	clair-de-lune	green	mauve	pea green	silver	yellow
bubblegum	claret	greige	mazarine blue	periwinkle	sky blue	
pink	cobalt blue	grenadine	midnight blue	petrol blue	slate	
buff	cocoa	grey	mocha	pewter	snow-white	
burgundy	coffee	gunmetal	mouse	pink	sorrel	
burnt ochre	Copenhagen blue	hazel		pistachio	spice	
burnt sienna				platinum	steel blue	
				plum	steel grey	

### Shapes

Straight-sided shapes	Triangles	Curves			
decagon	acute-angled	annulus	conchoid	helix	roundel
diamond	congruent	arc	crescent	horseshoe	semicircle
dodecagon	triangles	Archimedean	Cupid's bow	hyperbola	sigmoid
hendecagon	equilateral	spiral	cycloid	hypocycloid	curve
heptagon	isosceles	bell curve	demilune	involute	sine curve/sine wave
hexagon	obtuse-angled	bow	ellipse	lemniscate	sinusoid
kite	right-angled	brachistochrone	entasis	logarithmic spiral	solidus
lozenge	right-angled	cardioid	epicycloid	logistic curve	spiral
nonagon	scalene	catenary	equiangular	normal curve	spline
oblong	similar	characteristic curve	evolute	ogive	transition curve
octagon	triangles	circle	folium of Descartes	oval	trochoid
parallelogram	spherical	cisoid	Gaussian curve	ovoid	whaleback
pentagon			half-moon	parabola	witch of Agnesi
				polar curve	
				roulette	

## Knots

band	clinch knot	fisherman's knot	Matthew Walker	running bowline	square knot	water knot
Blackwall hitch	clove hitch	granny knot	mesh knot	sailor's knot	surgeon's knot	weaver's knot
blood knot	diamond knot	half hitch	overhand knot	sheepshank	swab hitch	Windsor knot
bow	Englishman's tie	hangman's knot	prusik	sheet bend	thumb knot	
bowknot	figure-of-eight knot	harness hitch	reef knot	shoulder knot	timber hitch	
bowline	fisherman's bend	hawser bend	rolling hitch	shroud knot	true-love knot	
bowline on the bight		Hercules knot	round turn and two half hitches	slip knot	Turk's head	
carrick bend		hitch		slippery hitch	wale knot	
cat's paw		loop knot			wall knot	
		love knot				

## Ropes

backstay	cable	gantline	jackstay	marline	running rope	tack
bobstay	catenary	guest rope	jib sheet	noose	seizing	tackle fall
bolt rope	cord	guide rope	lanyard	outhaul	sheet	tether
bowline	cordage	guy	lariat	painter	shroud	topping lift
brace	downhaul	halyard	lasso	ratline	slip rope	top rope
brail	foot rope	hawser	lazy jack	rawhide	span	tow rope
breeching	foresheet	hobble	leg rope	rode	stay	vang
buntline	forestay	inhaul	manrope	runner	sugan	warp

## Types of pottery and porcelain

Arita	champlevé	earthenware	jasper/jasperware	Nabeshima ware	Satsuma ware	terra sigillata
barbotine	Chelsea ware	faience	Kakiemon ware	Parian ware	Seto ware	Toft ware
basalt	Chûn	famille jaune/noire/rose/verte	Kutani ware	earlware	Sèvres	transferware
biscuit (ware)	cloisonné	graniteware	lustreware	Peterborough ware	slipware	Wedgwood (trademark)
bisque ware	Coalport	greenware	maiolica	queensware	spatterware	willowware (Royal)
black-figure ware	creamware	grooved ware	majolica	raku	Spode (trademark)	Worcester (trademark)
bone china	Crown Derby	Halaf ware	Martinware	red-figure ware	Staffordshire ware	
Capo di Monte	delft (Royal)	Imari	Meissen	Rockingham ware	stone china	
Castleford ware	Doulton (trademark)	ironstone	Ming	Samian ware	stoneware	
celadon	Dresden china	Iznik ware	Minton (trademark)		terracotta	

## Types of paper

art paper	construction paper	glassine	laid paper	oil paper	squared paper	vellum
blotting paper	crêpe paper	glasspaper	litmus paper	onion-skin paper	stamp paper	wallpaper
bond paper	drawing paper	graph paper	Manila manuscript paper	parchment paper	thermal paper	waxed paper
bromide paper	filter paper	greaseproof paper	mourning paper	rag paper	tissue paper	woodchip
brown paper	flimsy	India paper	Japanese paper	ricepaper	tracing paper	wove paper
carbon paper	flypaper	kitchen paper	notepaper	sandpaper	transfer paper	
cartridge paper	gelatin paper	kraft paper	oaktag	satin paper		

## Printing processes

autography	diazo/diazotype	inkjet printing	nature printing	planography process	sheet printing	web offset
autotype	die-stamping	intaglio	offset	process printing	silkscreen	web printing
blind	dry mounting	laser printing	offset lithography	relief printing	thermal printing	xerography
stamping/tooling	flexography	letterpress	photogravure	rotogravure	thermo-graphy	Xerox (trademark)
bubblejet printing	four-colour process	linocutting	photo-lithography	screen-printing	three-colour process	xylography
collotype	hot metal	lithography	photo-offset	serigraphy		

## Typefaces

Albertina	Ashley Script	Bodoni	Century Gothic	Cloister	Engravers	Franklin Gothic
Albertus	Avant Garde	Bookman	Century Schoolbook	Colonna	Festival	Futura
Aldine	Balmoral	Boston	Chicago	Cooper Black	Flash	Galliard
American	Baskerville	Broadway	Clarendon	Courier	Folio	Garamond
Typewriter	Bauhaus	Calisto	Clearface	Dante	Fournier	Gill Sans
Antique Olive	Bell	Caslon		Delphian	Fraktur	Gothic
Arial	Benbo	Centaur		Ehrhardt	Frutiger	



Goudy	Korinna	Optima	Photina	Showbill	Times New	Van Dijk
Grotesque	Lubalin	Othello	Pilgrim	Souvenir	Roman	Vivaldi
Helvetica	Graph	Palace Script	Plantin	Spartan	Trump	Vogue
Hobo	Lucida Bright	Palatino	Prestige	Stone	Typewriter	Walbaum
Imprint	Melior	Parable	Rockwell	Swift	Univers	Windsor
Joanna	Novarese	Peignot	Sabon	Swing	University	Zapf
Klang	Old English	Perpetua	Serifa		Roman	Chancery

# Music and Dance

## Musical genres

absolute music	calypso	emo/	industrial	new wave	ranchera	symphonic
acid house	Cantopop	emocore	jazz	norteño	rap	music
acid jazz	chamber	flamenco	jazz funk	northern soul	rave	taarab
alt. country	music	folk	jit	opera	reggae	tasso
ambient	chant	funk	jive	opera buffa	reggaeton	techno
music	choral music	fusion	juju	opera seria	rhythm and	Tejano
AOR	classical	gagaku	jump blues	orbital	blues	Tex-Mex
bachata	music	galant	jungle	parang	(R & B)	thrash
barbershop	comic opera	gangsta (rap)	klezmer	pibroch	rock	(metal)
baroque	country	garage	Krautrock	pogo	rockabilly	trad jazz
barrelhouse	country and	glam rock	kwaito	pop	rock and roll	trance
bel canto	western	go-go	kwela	popular	rocksteady	trip hop
benga	country rock	gospel	light opera	music	sakkie-sakkie	twelve-note/
bebop	cumbia	Goth	marabi	programme	salsa	twelve-tone
bhangra	dancehall	grand opera	mariachi	music	serialism	music
bluegrass	death metal	grunge	mbaqanga	progressive	sijo	vocalese
blues	disco	gumbo	mento	psychedelic	ska	western
boogie-	Dixieland	hardcore	merengue	psychobilly	skiffle	swing
woogie	doo-wop	heavy metal	Motown	punk	soca	world music
bop	drum and	highlife	musique	qawwali	soukous	zouk
breakbeat	bass	hip hop	concrète	ragamuffin/	soul	zydeco
Britpop	dub	honky-tonk	New Age	ragga	surf	
	easy listening	house	New	ragtime	swing	
	electro	indie	Romantic	rai		

## Musical forms

air	chanson	fantasy	march	polonaise	sarabande	spiritual
allemande	chant	finale	mass	postlude	scena	stomp
anthem	chorale	flourish	medley	prelude	scherzo	strathspey
arabesque	chorus	foxtrot	minuet	psalm	schottische	study
aria	concertino	frottola	monody	quadrille	seguidilla	suite
arietta	concerto	fugato	motet	quartet	septet	symphonic
arioso	concerto	fugue	moto	quintet	serenade	poem
aubade	grosso	galop	perpetuo	quodlibet	serenata	symphony
bagatelle	coronach	gavotte	movement	rag	setting	terzetto
ballad	courante	gigue	musette	raga	sextet	threnody
barcarole	dance	glee	nocturne	rap	shanty	thumri
berceuse	dead march	gradual	nonet	recitative	shuffle	tiento
bourrée	descant	hornpipe	octet	reel	siciliano/	toccata
brindisi	dirge	humoresque	opera	refrain	siciliana	tone poem
cabaletta	ditty	hymn	operetta	requiem	signature	trio
calypso	duet	improptu	oratorio	reverie	tune	variation
canon	dumka	interlude	overture	rhapsody	sinfonia	verset
canticle	duo	intermezzo	partita	ricercar/	sinfonia	villanella/
canzone	ensemble	introit	part-song	ricercare	concertante	villanelle
canzonetta	entr'acte	jig	paso doble	ritornello	sinfonietta	voluntary
capriccio	entrée	jingle	passacaglia	romance	Singspiel	waiata
carol	étude	karanga	passion	rondo	solo	
catch	fado	lament	pastoral	round	sonata	
cavatina	fancy	Lied	pavane	roundelay	sonatina	
chaconne	fanfare	lullaby	pibroch	rumba	song	
	fantasia	madrigal	polka	samba	song cycle	

## Musical instruments

accordion	alpenhorn	autoharp	barrel organ	bass guitar	bell	bouzouki
acoustic	althorn	bagpipes	bass clarinet	bassoon	bombarde	bugle
guitar	American organ	balalaika	bass drum	bass tuba	bombardon	carillon
aeolian harp		banjo	basset horn	bass viol	bongos	castanet

celesta	double bass	harmonium	oboe	rebec	string bass	ukulele/
cello	drum	harp	d'amore	recorder	synthesizer	ukelele
Celtic harp	dulcimer	harpsichord	ocarina	reed organ	tabla	upright piano
chamber organ	electric guitar	Hawaiian guitar	ondes martenot	reed pipe	tabour	vibraphone
chitarone	euphonium	heckelphone	organ	sackbut	tambour	viuela
cimbalom	fiddle	helicon	oud	samisen	tamboura	viol
citole	fife	hi-hat	pedal steel guitar	santoor	tambourine	viola
cittern	fipple flute	kazoo	piano	sarod	tamburitza	viola da gamba
clarinet	flageolet	hurdy-gurdy	piano	saxhorn	temple block	viola d'amore
clarion	flugelhorn	Jew's harp	accordion	saxophone	tenor drum	violin
clarsach	flute	kick drum	pianoforte	serpent	tenor horn	violoncello
claves	fortepiano	krummhorn	piccolo	shawm	theorbo	violone
clavichord	French horn	lute	pipe	slide guitar	thumb piano	virginals
clavier	gamba	lyre	pipe organ	slide	timpani	Wagner tuba
conga drum	glockenspiel	mandala	player piano	trombone	tin whistle	Welsh harp
contrabass	gong	mandolin	portative organ	snare drum	tom-tom	whistle
contra-bassoon	guitar	maraca	post horn	sousaphone	triangle	wobbleboard
cor anglais	Hammond organ	melodeon	psaltery	Spanish guitar	triple harp	Wurlitzer (trademark)
cornet	(trademark)	melodica	rattle	spinet	trombone	xylophone
cornetto	handbell	mouth organ		steel drum	trumpet	zither
cymbal	harmonica	oboe			tuba	
didgeridoo					tubular bell	

## Types of singer

alto	basso	chorister	falsetto	Meistersinger	opera singer	spinto
balladeer	profundo	coloratura	folk singer	mezzo	pop singer	tenor
baritone	castrato	contralto	gleeman	mezzo-soprano	prima donna	treble
bass	choirboy	countertenor	Heldentenor	soprano	soloist	troubadour
	choirgirl	diva	jongleur	minstrel	soprano	

## Dances and types of dancing

ballet	carioca	eightsome	hokey-cokey	maypole	quadrille	slam dance
ballroom	ceroc	reel	hornpipe	dance	quickstep	snake dance
barn dance	cha-cha	fan dance	hula-hula	mazurka	rain dance	square dance
beguine	cha-cha-cha	farra	Irish jig	minuet	reel	stomp
belly dance	charleston	flamenco	Irish reel	moonstomp	robotic dancing	strut
body popping	circle dance	fling	jazz dance	moonwalk	rock and roll	sun dance
bolero	clog dance	folk dance	jig	morris dance	rumba	sword dance
boogaloo	conga	formation	jitterbug	mosh	ronde	tango
boogie	Cossack dance	dancing	jive	old-time	round dance	tap dance
bop	cotillion	foxtrot	jota	one-step	roundelay	turkey trot
bossa nova	country	galop	lambada	pas de deux	salsa	twist
Boston	dance	gavotte	Lambeth Walk	pas doble	samba	twosome reel
break-dancing	cumbia	Gay Gordons	lap dancing	pas seul	shake	two-step
cakewalk	disco	Highland fling	limbo	Paul Jones	shimmy	vogueing
cancan	do-si-do	hoedown	line dancing	pole dancing	shuffle	waltz
	ecossaise		mambo	polka	skank	war dance
				polonaise		

## Ballet steps and positions

arabesque	batterie	échappé	glissade	pas de chat	relevé	soubresaut
assemblé	bourrée	elevation	glissé	pas de cheval	retiré	temps
attitude	brisé	enchaînement	grand battement	pas de deux	rond de jambe à terre	temps levé
balancé	brisé volé	entree	grand batterie	petit battement	rond de jambe en l'air	third position
ballon	cabriole	fifth position	grand jeté	petit jeté		tour en l'air
ballonné	chaîné	first position	jeté	piqué		
ballotté	changement (de pieds)	fouetté	pas de basque	pirouette		
battement	chassé	fourth position	pas de bourrée	pointe work		
battement frappé	dégagé			port de bras		
battement tendu	développé					
	écarté					

# Plants

## Flowering plants and shrubs

Aaron's rod	bulrush	crowfoot	gypsophila	love-lies-bleeding	petunia	spiraea
abelia	burdock	crown	harebell	lungwort	peyote	spurge
acacia	burnet	imperial	hawkbit	lupin	pheasant's eye	spurrey
acanthus	busy Lizzie	crown of thorns	hawksbeard	madonna lily	phlox	squill
aconite	buttercup	cuckoo pint	hawkweed	magnolia	pimpernel	star of Bethlehem
African daisy	butterfly bush	cuckooflower	hawthorn	mahonia	pink	starwort
African violet	butenwort	cycamen	heartsease	marigold	pitcher plant	stitchwort
agapanthus	cabbage rose	daffodil	heather	marsh	plantain	stock
agave	cactus	dahlia	hebe	marguerite	plumbago	stonecrop
agrimony	calceolaria	daisy	helianthemum	marigold	poinsettia	storksbill
aloe	calendula	damask rose	helianthus	marsh	polyanthus	strawflower
alstroemeria	camellia	dandelion	heliotrope	marigold	poppy	streptocarpus
alyssum	camomile	daphne	hellebore	marshwort	potentilla	sunflower
amaranth	campanula	deadly nightshade	helleborine	may	prickly pear	sweetbriar
amaryllis	campion	delphinium	hemlock	mayflower	primrose	sweet cicely
anemone	candytuft	dianthus	herb	meadow rue	primula	sweet pea
angelica	canna lily	dill	herb Paris	meadow	pulsatilla	sweet rocket
angel's trumpet	Canterbury bell	dittany	herb Robert	saffron	pyracantha	sweet william
aquilegia	Cape primrose	dock	heuchera	meadow-sweet	pyrethrum	tansy
arabis	arnica	dogbane	hibiscus	Michaelmas daisy	ragweed	tea rose
arrowgrass	carnation	dog rose	hogweed	mignonette	ragwort	teasel
arum	catmint	dog violet	holly	milfoil	rampion	thistle
asphodel	cattleya	dropwort	hollyhock	mock orange	ramsons	thorn apple
aspidistra	ceanothus	duckweed	honesty	monkey flower	rape	thrift
aster	celandine	echinacea	honeysuckle	monkshood	red-hot poker	tiger lily
astilbe	centaury	edelweiss	hop	montbretia	rhododendron	toadflax
astrantia	chaffweed	eglantine	hosta	moonflower	rock rose	tornientil
aubretia	chervil	elder	hyacinth	morning glory	rose	tradescantia
avens	chickweed	evening primrose	hydrangea	motherwort	rosebay willowherb	traveller's joy
azalea	chicory	eyebright	ice plant	musk rose	rose of Sharon	trefoil
balsam	Chinese lantern	feverfew	iris	myrtle	safflower	tuberose
baneberry	chives	figwort	jacaranda	narcissus	sagaro	tulip
banksia	choisya	firethorn	Jack-by-the-hedge	nasturtium	St John's wort	turnsole
barberry	chokeberry	flax	Jacob's ladder	nemesia	salpiglossis	valerian
barrenwort	cholla	fleabane	japonica	nettle	salvia	Venus flytrap
bearberry	Christmas cactus	forget-me-not	jasmine	nicotiana	samphire	veronica
bedstraw	Christmas bellflower	foxglove	jonquil	nigella	sandwort	vervain
begonia	chrysanthemum	frangipani	juneberry	night-scented stock	saxifrage	vetch
belladonna	cicely	fraxinella	kalanchoe	nightshade	scabious	viburnum
bellflower	cinchona	freesia	kalmia	old man's beard	scarlet pimpernel	violet
bergamot	clarkia	fritillary	kerria	oleander	scilla	viper's bugloss
betony	clematis	fuchsia	kingcup	orchid	sedum	wallflower
bilberry	cloudberry	furze	knapweed	ox-eye daisy	shamrock	water lily
bindweed	clove pink	gaillardia	laburnum	oxlip	sheep's-bit	water violet
bird of paradise flower	clover	gardenia	lady's mantle	pansy	shrimp plant	willowherb
bird's-foot trefoil	cockscorn	gazanias	lady's slipper	Parma violet	skullcap	winter jasmine
black-eyed Susan	coltsfoot	gentian	lady's smock	parsley	snapdragon	wintergreen
blackthorn	columbine	geranium	lady's tresses	pasque flower	snow-in-summers	wintersweet
bleeding heart	comfrey	gerbera	larkspur	passion flower	snowflake	wisteria
bog asphodel	coneflower	gillyflower	lavatera	pelargonium	soapwort	witch hazel
bog rosemary	convolvulus	gladiolus	lemon balm	pennyroyal	Solomon's seal	wolfbane
boneset	coreopsis	globeflower	leopard lily	penstemon	sorrel	wood
borage	cornflower	glory-of-the-snow	lilac	peony	sowthistle	wood avens
bougainvillea	corydalis	gloxinia	lily	peppermint	speedwell	woodruff
bramble	cotoneaster	goat's beard	lily of the valley	periwinkle	spider flower	wood sorrel
broom	cotoneeaster	golden rod	lobelia		spider plant	woody nightshade
bryony	cottonweed	goldlocks	London pride		spiderwort	wormwood
buckeye	cow parsley	gorse	loosestrife		spikenard	yarrow
buddleia	cowslip	grape	lads and ladies			yerba buena
bugbane	cranesbill	hyacinth	lotus			yucca
bugle	creeping Jenny	grass of Parnassus	lovage			zinnia
bugloss	crocus	groundsel	love-in-a-mist			



## Trees and shrubs

acacia	buckthorn	cypress	hornbeam	lychee	pedunculate	silver birch
acer	bullace	damson	horse	macadamia	oak	Sitka
ackee	bur oak	dawn	chestnut	macrocarpa	persimmon	slippery elm
alder	butternut	redwood	hydrangea	madroño	pine	smoke tree
allspice	cacao	dogwood	ilex	magnolia	piñon	soapberry
almond	calabash	Douglas fir	iroko	mahogany	pistachio	spindle
angelica	camellia	dragon tree	ironbark	maidenhair	pitch pine	spruce
anise	camphor tree	ebony	ironwood	tree	plane	star anise
annatto	candelabra	elder	jacaranda	mandarin	plum	stinkwood
apple	tree	elm	jackfruit	mango	pomegranate	stone pine
apricot	candleberry	eucalyptus	jack pine	mangosteen	pomelo	storax
araucaria	candlenut	eunymus	japonica	mangrove	poplar	sugar maple
ash	carambola	false acacia	jasmine	maple	privet	sumac
aspen	carob	fever tree	jojoba	mastic	pussy willow	sycamore
avocado	cashew	ficus	jujube	maté	quassia	tallow tree
azalea	cassava	fig	juniper	may	quince	tamarind
balsa	cassia	filbert	kalmia	mimosa	rain tree	tamarisk
balsam fir	casuarina	filr	kapok	mirabelle	rambutan	tangerine
bamboo	cedar	firethorn	kermes oak	monkey	redbud	tea
banksia	cherimoya	flame tree	kola	puzzle	red cedar	teak
banyan	cherry	frangipani	kumquat	mountain ash	redwood	tea tree
baobab	cherry laurel	fuchsia	laburnum	mulberry	rhodo-	thuja
basswood	cherry plum	gean	lacquer tree	myrtle	dendron	tree of
bay tree	chestnut	genipapo	larch	nectarine	robinia	heaven
beech	chinaberry	ginkgo	laurel	Norway	roseapple	trembling
beefwood	cinnamon	gorse	lemon	spruce	rosewood	poplar
bergamot	citron	grapefruit	Leyland	nutmeg	rowan	tulip tree
birch	clove	greengage	cypress	nux vomica	royal palm	tulipwood
blackthorn	coco de mer	guaiacum	leylandii	oak	rubber plant	umbrella tree
bluegum	coconut palm	guava	lilac	oleaster	rubber tree	viburnum
bodh tree	coffee	gum tree	lime	olive	sallow	walnut
bog oak	cola	handkerchief	linden	osier	sandalwood	wattle
bottlebrush	coolibah	tree	liquidambar	pagoda tree	sapele	weeping
bottle tree	copper beech	hawthorn	live oak	palm	sapodilla	willow
bo tree	coral tree	hazel	locust	palmyra	sassafras	wellingtonia
box	cork oak	hemlock fir	lodgepole	papaya	satinwood	whitebeam
box elder	coromandel	hickory	pine	paper	schefflera	willow
breadfruit	cottonwood	holly	logwood	mulberry	Scots pine	witch hazel
bristlecone	crab apple	holly oak	Lombardy	paperbark	senna	wych elm
pine	cryptomeria	holm oak	poplar	pawpaw	sequoia	yew
broom	curry leaf	honey locust	London plane	pear	service tree	ylang-ylang
buckeye	custard apple	honeysuckle	loquat			

## Grasses and similar plants

bamboo	cat's-tail	dogstail	Job's tears	orchard grass	rush	switchgrass
barley	grass	dropseed	kangaroo	palmarosa	rye	sword grass
beach grass	cheat grass	durra	grass	pampas grass	ryegrass	teff
beard grass	China grass	elephant	kikuyu grass	panic grass	sawgrass	teosinte
bent	chufa	grass	lemon grass	papyrus	sedge	timothy grass
Bermuda	clubrush	esparto	lyme grass	paspalum	sheep's	tussock grass
grass	cocksfoot	feather grass	maize	pearl millet	fescue	twitch grass
bluegrass	cogon	fescue	marram grass	quack grass	small-reed	umbrella
bristle grass	cordgrass	finger grass	meadow	quaking	sorghum	plant
brome	corn	fiorin	fescue	grass	sour grass	vernal grass
broomcorn	cotton grass	fog	meadow	quitch grass	spartina	wheat
buffalo grass	couch grass	foxtail	grass	razor grass	spear grass	wild oat
bulrush	crabgrass	gama grass	melick	redtop	spelt	wild rice
bunch grass	cutgrass	hair grass	millet	reed	spinifex	wire grass
button grass	cutting grass	hare's-tail	milo	reed grass	squirrel-tail	witch grass
canary grass	danthonia	grass	moor grass	reed mace	grass	woodrush
carex	darnel	Indian corn	oat	rice	star grass	Yorkshire fog
	deergass		oat grass	rooigras	sugar cane	zoysia

## Mushrooms, toadstools, and other fungi

agaric	blusher	dead man's	field	ink cap	penny bun	stinkhorn
amethyst	boletus	fingers	mushroom	Jew's ear	polypore	straw
deceiver	bracket	death cap	fly agaric	liberty cap	porcini	mushroom
armillaria	fungus	destroying	grisette	morel	portobello	tartufo
beefsteak	button	angel	honey fungus	mousseron	puffball	truffle
fungus	mushroom	earthstar	horn of	oyster	reishi	
bird's-nest	cep	ergot	plenty	mushroom	russula	
black bulgar	champignon	fairies'	horse	parasol	shiitake	
blewit	chanterelle	bonnets	mushroom	mushroom	sickener	

## Plant parts

bark	fruit	leaf	root cap	stoma	vascular
bract	guard cell	phloem	root hair	tap root	bundle
flower	lateral root	root	stem		xylem

## Flower parts

androecium	corymb	hypanthium	nucellus	petal	receptacle	stigma
anther	cyathium	involucel	ovary	pistil	sepal	style
calyx	cyme	involucure	ovule	placenta	spadix	tassel
capitulum	dichasium	lemma	palea	pollen	spathe	tepala
carpel	filament	lip	panicle	pollen grain	spike	torus
carphophore	floret	mono-	pedicel	pollinium	spikelet	umbel
catkin	glume	chasiun	peduncle	raceme	spur	whorl
corolla	gynoecium	nectary	perianth	rachis	stamen	

# Religion

## Sacred texts and holy books

Text	Religion	Text	Religion	Text	Religion
Analects of Confucius	Confucianism	Koran	Islam	Shu Ching	Confucianism
Atharva Veda	Hinduism	Li Chi	Confucianism	Talmud	Judaism
Bhagavadgita	Hinduism	Mahabharata	Hinduism	Tao Te Ching	Taoism
Bible	Christianity	Ramayana	Hinduism	Torah	Judaism
Guru Granth Sahib	Sikhism	Rig Veda	Hinduism	Tripitaka	Buddhism
I Ching	Confucianism	Sama Veda	Hinduism	Yajur Veda	Hinduism
		Shih Ching	Confucianism		

## Books of the Bible

Old Testament			Apocrypha			
Genesis	Chronicles I	Daniel	Esdras I	Song of the Three Holy Children	Luke	Timothy II
Exodus	Chronicles II	Hosea	Esdras II	Susanna	John	Titus
Leviticus	Ezra	Joel	Tobit	Bel and the Dragon	Acts	Philemon
Numbers	Nehemiah	Amos	Judith	Prayer of Manasses	Romans	Hebrews
Deuteronomy	Esther	Obadiah	Additions to the Book of Esther	Maccabees I	Corinthians I	James
Joshua	Job	Jonah	Wisdom of Solomon	Maccabees II	Corinthians II	Peter I
Judges	Psalms	Micah	Ecclesiasticus		Galatians	Peter II
Ruth	Proverbs	Nahum	Baruch		Ephesians	John I
Samuel I	Ecclesiastes	Habakkuk	Letter of Jeremiah		Philippians	John II
Samuel II	Song of Solomon	Zephaniah			Colossians	John III
Kings I	Isaiah	Haggai			Thessalonians I	Jude
Kings II	Jeremiah	Zechariah			Thessalonians II	Revelation
	Lamentations	Malachi				
	Ezekiel					

## Priests, religious officials, and members of religious orders

General						
archpriest	ovate	beadle	Monsignor	thurifer	rebbe	Zoroastrian/Parsee
cleric	<b>Buddhist</b>	bishop	mother superior	verger	rebbetzin	
hierarch	Dalai Lama	brother	nun	vicar		
hierophant	lama	canon	nuncio	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Muslim</b>	dastur
high priest	Panchen Lama	canoness	padre	rishi	ayatollah	magus
preacher	pongyi	cantor	patriarch	brahman	bilal	
priest	talapoin	cardinal	pope	guru	caliph	
priestess	<b>Christian</b>	chaplain	precentor	mahant	fakir	
	abbess	church-warden	prelate	panda	imam	
<b>Ancient Roman</b>	abbot	confessor	presbyter	pandit	muezzin	
augur	acolyte	curate	primate	pujari	mullah	
flamen	almoner	deacon	prior	rishi	sheikh	
haruspex	anchoress	deaconess	prioress	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Sikh</b>	
oracle	anchorite	dean	rector	cantor	guru	
pontifex	archbishop	elder	rural dean	chief rabbi	<b>Voodoo</b>	
Pythia	archdeacon	friar	sacristan	dayan	houngan	
	archi-	lay brother	seminarist/ seminarian	hazzan	mamalo	
<b>Ancient Celtic</b>	mandrite	lay sister	sexton	kohen/cohen	mambo	
	area dean	mendicant	sister	Levite	papaloi	
Druid		monk	succentor	Maggid		
				rabbi		

Places of worship

abbey	chapel of ease	duomo	kirk	minster	sacrum	tabernacle
balmyard	chapel royal	fane	kiva	monopteros	sanctuary	temple
baptistery/ baptistry	chorten	feretory	mandir	mosque	sanctum	teocalli
basilica	church	gurdwara	marabout	oracle	sanctorum	tirtha/tirth
cathedral	collegiate	heiau	marae	oratory	shrine	valhalla
chantry	church	holy of holies	martyr	pagoda	shul	vihara
chapel	dargah	house of God	masjid	pantheon	stupa	wat
		joss house	meeting house	peculiar	synagogue	

Religious festivals and holy days

<b>Buddhism</b>	Corpus Christi	Maundy Thursday	Trinity Sunday	<b>Islam</b>	Passover or Pesach	Birthday of Guru Nanak
Bodhi Day	Dormition	Michaelmas	Visitation	Eid ul-Adha	Purim	Holi Mohalla
Dhamma-cakka	Easter	Mothering Sunday	<b>Hinduism</b>	Eid ul-Fitr	Rosh Hashana	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan
Vesak	Ember days	Palm Sunday	Diwali	Greater Bairam	Shavuoth	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
<b>Christianity</b>	Epiphany	Pentecost	Dusshera	Lailat ul-Bara'h	Succoth	
All Saints' Day or All Hallows	Good Friday	or Whit Sunday	Holi	Lailat ul-Isra wal Mi'raj	Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement	
Annunciation	Holy Cross	Purification	Janmashtami	Lailat ul-Qadr	<b>Sikhism</b>	<b>Pagan</b>
Ascension	of the Cross	Quinquagesima	Kumbh Mela	Lesser Bairam	Baisakhi	Beltane
Day	Holy Innocents'	Septuagesima	Mahashivaratri	Milad Muharram	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	Lammass Samhain
Ash Wednesday	Holy Week	Sexagesima	Navaratri	<b>Judaism</b>		
Assumption	Immaculate Conception	Shrove Tuesday	Raksha Bandhan	Hanukkah		
Candlemas	Invention of the Cross	Transfiguration	Rama Naumi	Lag b'Omer		
Christmas						
Circumcision						

Parts of a church

aisle	chancel	crypt	Jesse window	pew	sanctuary	traverse
ambulatory	chantry	dome	Lady chapel	predella	sedilia	tribune
antechapel	chapel	fenestella	Lady altar	presbytery	spire	triforium
apse	chevet	flèche	loft	pulpit	stall	undercroft
atrium	choir	font	narthex	retrochoir	steeple	vestibule
aumbry	choir stall	galilee	nave	rood loft	tabernacle	vestry
baptistery/ baptistry	ciborium	gallery	organ loft	rood screen	tambour	
belfry	clerestory	high altar	parclose	sacrum	tower	
	confessional	iconostasis	parvis/parvise	sacristy	transept	

Christian canonical hours

matins	lauds	terce	sext	none	vespers	compline
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Seven deadly sins

anger	covetousness	envy	gluttony	lust	pride	sloth
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Virtues

<b>Cardinal virtues</b>	<b>Theological virtues</b>
fortitude	charity
justice	faith
prudence	hope
temperance	

Science

Branches of science

acoustics	astronomy	biochemistry	computer science	cytology	electrical engineering	engineering
aerodynamics	astrophysics	biology	cosmology	dendrology	electronics	entomology
agriculture	bacteriology	botany	cryogenics	earth science	endo-	epidemiology
anatomy	behavioural science	chemistry	cybernetics	ecology	crinology	ethnology
anthropology		climatology		economics		



ethology	glaciology	mathematics	nuclear	parasitology	quantum	toxicology
exobiology	haematology	mechanics	chemistry	particle	mechanics	veterinary
fluid	herpetology	medicine	nuclear	physics	radiology	medicine
mechanics	histology	metallurgy	physics	pathology	robotics	virology
forensics	holography	meteorology	ocean-	petrology	seismology	volcanology/
genetic	hydro-	microbiology	ography	pharma-	sociobiology	vulcanology
engineering	dynamics	mineralogy	oncology	cology	sociology	zoo-
genetics	hydrology	molecular	ophthal-	physics	soil science	geography
geochemistry	hydrostatics	biology	mology	physiography	spectroscopy	zoology
geography	ichthyology	mycology	optics	physiology	statistics	zymurgy
geology	immunology	natural	ornithology	phytology	stratigraphy	
geomorph-	linguistics	history	palaeobotany	psychiatry	taxonomy	
ology	marine	neurology	palaeon-	psychology	tectonics	
geophysics	biology	neuroscience	tology			

## Chemical elements and symbols

Element	Symbol	Element	Symbol	Element	Symbol	Element	Symbol
actinium	Ac	einsteinium	Es	mendelevium	Md	rutherfordium	Rf
aluminium	Al	erbium	Er	mercury	Hg	samarium	Sm
americium	Am	europium	Eu	molybdenum	Mo	scandium	Sc
antimony	Sb	fermium	Fm	neodymium	Nd	seaborgium	Sg
argon	Ar	fluorine	F	neon	Ne	selenium	Se
arsenic	As	francium	Fr	neptunium	Np	silicon	Si
astatine	At	gadolinium	Gd	nickel	Ni	silver	Ag
barium	Ba	gallium	Ga	niobium	Nb	sodium	Na
berkelium	Bk	germanium	Ge	nitrogen	N	strontium	Sr
beryllium	Be	gold	Au	nobelium	No	sulphur	S
bismuth	Bi	hafnium	Hf	osmium	Os	tantalum	Ta
bohrium	Bh	hassium	Hs	oxygen	O	technetium	Tc
boron	B	helium	He	palladium	Pd	tellurium	Te
bromine	Br	holmium	Ho	phosphorus	P	terbium	Tb
cadmium	Cd	hydrogen	H	platinum	Pt	thallium	Tl
caesium	Cs	indium	In	plutonium	Pu	thorium	Th
calcium	Ca	iodine	I	polonium	Po	thulium	Tm
californium	Cf	iridium	Ir	potassium	K	tin	Sn
carbon	C	iron	Fe	praseodymium	Pr	titanium	Ti
cerium	Ce	krypton	Kr	promethium	Pm	tungsten	W
chlorine	Cl	lanthanum	La	protactinium	Pa	uranium	U
chromium	Cr	lawrencium	Lr	radium	Ra	vanadium	V
cobalt	Co	lead	Pb	radon	Rn	xenon	Xe
copper	Cu	lithium	Li	rhений	Re	ytterbium	Yb
curium	Cm	lutetium	Lu	rhodium	Rh	yttrium	Y
darmstadtium	Ds	magnesium	Mg	roentgenium	Rg	zinc	Zn
dubnium	Db	manganese	Mn	rubidium	Rb	zirconium	Zr
dysprosium	Dy	meitnerium	Mt	ruthenium	Ru		

## Alloys

aluminium	brass	eureka	mosaic gold	pinchbeck	speculum	tombac
brass	Britannia	German silver	nickel brass	platinoid	metal	type metal
aluminium	metal	gunmetal	nitinol	red gold	spiegeleisen	white gold
bronze	bronze	kamacite	ormolu	shakudo	stainless steel	white metal
babbitt metal	constantan	magnox	permalloy	silver solder	steel	zircaloy
bell metal	cupro-nickel	manganese	pewter	similar	terne	
bidri	Dutch metal	bronze	phosphor	solder	tin	
billon	electrum	misch metal	bronze			

## Explosives

amatol	dynamite	guncotton	lyddite	plastique	thermobaric	trinitro-
blasting	fuel-air	gunpowder	nitroglycerine	RDX	explosive	toluene
gelatin	explosive	high ex-	plastic	Semtex		(TNT)
cordite	gelnignite	plosive (HE)	explosive			

## Rocks and minerals

agate	basalt	cat's-eye	coal	emerald	garnet	ironstone
alabaster	beryl	chalcedony	conglomer-	emery	girasol	jacinth
alexandrite	bloodstone	chalk	ate	feldspar	gneiss	jade
almandine	Blue John	chert	cornelian	fire opal	granite	jadeite
amber	borax	chromite	corundum	flint	graphite	jasper
amethyst	breccia	chrysolite	cryolite	fluorite	greenstone	lapis lazuli
aquamarine	cairn gorm	chrysoprase	diamond	fluorspar	gypsum	lava
asbestos	calcite	cinnabar	diorite	fool's gold	haematite	limestone
balas ruby	carbuncle	cipolin	dolerite	gabbro	hornblende	magnetite
baryte	carnelian	citrine	dolomite	galena	hornfels	malachite

manganite	mudstone	oolite	porphyry	rock salt	slate	tuff
marble	muscovite	opal	pumice	ruby	smoky quartz	turquoise
marcasite	natron	orpiment	pyrites	sandstone	spinel	vermiculite
marl	nephrite	pegmatite	pyrope	sapphire	steatite	zeolite
mica	obsidian	peridot	quartz	sardonyx	sunstone	zircon
mica schist	oil shale	peridotite	quartzite	schist	talc	
moonstone	olivine	phosphorite	rag	serpentine	topaz	
moss agate	onyx	pitchblende	rhyolite	shale	tourmaline	

## Subatomic particles

antiparticle	boson	Higgs boson	lambda	neutrino	positron
antiproton	electron	Higgs particle	particle	neutron	proton
antiquark	fermion	hyperon	lepton	nucleon	quark
axion	gluon	kaon	meson	photon	tau particle
baryon	hadron		muon	pion	WIMP

# Society

## Political philosophies and systems

absolutism	egalitarianism	leftism	nationalism	situationism	state	timocracy
anarchism	ism	Leninism	neo-Marxism	social	socialism	Titotism
authoritarianism	Eurocommunism	liberalism	pluralism	democracy	statism	totalitarianism
Bolshevism	fascism	libertarianism	plutocracy	socialism	syndicalism	ism
collectivism	federalism	Maoism	populism	Sovietism	technocracy	Trotskyism
communism	imperialism	Marxism	republicanism	Stalinism	Thatcherism	utilitarianism
conservatism	individualism	meritocracy	rightism	state	theocracy	Utopianism
democracy	laissez-faire	monarchism		capitalism	the third way	

## Rulers' titles

aga	electress	kaiser	mogul	princess	shah	vicereine
archduke	emir	khan	nawab	queen	sheikh	viceroys
caesar	emperor	khedive	negus	raja	shogun	
caliph	empress	king	nizam	rani	sultan	
chief	Führer	maharaja	pharaoh	regent	tenno	
elector	grand duke	mikado	prince	satrap	tsar/czar	

## Nobles

baron	commander	esquire	life peer	margrave	paladin	thakur
baroness	contessa	grand duke	life peeress	marquesa	palsgrave	thane
baronet	count	gandee	maid of honour	marquess	prince	vicomte
begum	countess	hidalgo	marchese	marquis	rangatira	vicomtesse
bey	don	Junker	marchese	marquise	royal duke	viscount
boyar	duchess	knight	marchioness	Mistress of the Robes	seigneur/seignior	viscountess
burggrave	duke	knight commander	margrave	nawab	squire	
castellan	earl					

## Punishments

attainder	crucifixion	fine	hiding	mastheading	rope	stocks
auto-da-fé	cucking stool	firing squad	internal exile	necktie party	rustication	strap
banishment	flogging	jankers	jankers	noose	sanction	strappado
bastinado	death penalty	gallows	kadaitcha/kurdaitcha	noyade	scaffold	suspended
belt	debagging	gating	keelhauling	ostracism	scourging	sentence
birch	decimation	gauntlet	running the	pack drill	self-flagellation	tarring and
blackballing	demotion	gibbet	kneecapping	paddle	six of the	feathering
blacklisting	detention	knout	lash	peine forte et dure	sequestration	tawse
boycott	ducking	grounding	lethal injection	penal servitude	solitary confinement	torture
branks	ducking stool	hanging	lines	penance	spanking	trans- portation
capital punishment	endorsement	drawing, and quartering	lynching	perdition	spud-bashing	whipping
confiscation	excommunication					
corporal punishment	execution					
	fatigues					

## Currency units

afghani	at	baiza	birr	butut	centas	centésimo
agora	avo	balboa	bolivar	cedi	centavo	centime
anna	baht	ban	boliviano	cent	centesimo	centimo

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Thing collected	Collector	Thing collected	Collector	Thing collected	Collector
antiquarian	antiques	coins	numismatist	old bond and	scrippophilist
anything	completist	doll's houses	miniaturist	share certificates	
autographs	autographizer	early books	incunabulist	postcards	deltiologist
banknotes	notaphilist	flies	dipterist	shells	conchologist
beer mats	tegestologist	gramophone	discophile	sightings of rare	twitcher
beetles	coleopterist	records		birds	
birds' eggs	oologist/egger	matchboxes or	phillumenist	stamps	philatelist
book plates	ex-librist	their labels		teddy bears	arctophile
butterflies	lepidopterist	mineral specimens	rockhound		
cigarette cards/	cartophilist	money boxes	argyro-		
postcards			thecologist		

## Sports and Games

### Sports

aerobatics	canber tossing	figure-	hiking	parasailing	shinty	tennis
aerobics	Canadian	skating	hockey	parascending	shooting	tenpin
American	football	fishing	horse racing	pelota	showjumping	bowling
football	canoeing	five-a-side	hunting	pétanque	skate-	three-day
angling	canyoning	football	hurling	pigeon racing	boarding	eventing
aquaplaning	caving	fives	hydrospeed	pistol	skating	tobogganing
archery	clay-pigeon	flat-green	ice dancing	shooting	skeet	trap shooting
Association	shooting	bowls	ice hockey	point-to-	skiing	trotting
Football	climbing	flat racing	ice skating	point	skijoring	volleyball
athletics	clock golf	fly-fishing	jai alai	polo	ski jumping	wake-
Australian	coarse fishing	football	jet-skiing	pool	skin-diving	boarding
Rules	coursing	bowls	kabaddi	potholing	skittles	walking
football	cricket	free skating	kayaking	powerboat	skydiving	water polo
badminton	croquet	freestyling	kiteboarding	racing	slalom	waterskiing
ballooning	cross-country	French	kitesurfing	quoits	snooker	weightlifting
base-jumping	running	cricket	korfball	rackets	snorkelling	white-water
baseball	crown-green	Gaelic	lacrosse	racquetball	snow-	rafting
basketball	bowls	football	langlauf	rafting	boarding	wild-water
beach	curling	game fishing	lawn tennis	real tennis	soccer	racing
volleyball	cycle racing	gliding	luge	rock climbing	softball	wildfowling
beagling	cycling	goalball	match fishing	roller skating	speed skating	windsurfing
billiards	cyclo-cross	golf	mountain	rollerblading	spelunking	wrestling
BMX	darts	greyhound	biking	rounders	sprinting	yachting
bobsleighbing	dinghy racing	racing	mountain-	rowing	squash	
boule/boules	diving	gymkhana	eering	Rugby fivees	steep-	
bowling	downhill	gymnastics	netball	rugby league	chasing	
bowls	skiing	handball	ninepins	rugby union	surfing	
boxing	Eton fivees	hang-gliding	orienteering	sailing	swimming	
bullfighting	falconry	harness	parachuting	scuba-diving	synchronized	
bungee	fencing	racing	paragliding	sculling	swimming	
jumping	field hockey	heli-skiing	parapenting	sea fishing	table tennis	

### Athletics events

biathlon	half-	javelin	middle-	pole vault	tetrathlon
cross-country	marathon	long jump	distance	relay race	track event
running	hammer	long-distance	race	shot-put	triathlon
decathlon	heptathlon	race	mile	sprint	triple jump
discus	high jump	marathon	pentathlon	steeplechase	tug of war
field event	hurdles				

### Martial arts and combat sports

aikido	fencing	judo	Krav Maga	sumo	tang soo do	wrestling
ba gua	hapkido	kalaripayattu	kung fu	wrestling	Thai boxing	wushu
boxing	jeet kune do	karate	pa kua	tae kwon do	ultimate	
budo	jousting	kendo	Shotokan	t'ai chi	fighting	
capoeira	ju-jitsu	kick-boxing	Silat	chu'an	wing chun	

### Motor sports

autocross	dirt-track	F1	hill-climbing	motocross	rallycross	speedway
cross-country	racing	Formula One	Indy	motorcycle	rallying	stock-car
demolition	drag racing	go-karting	Indycar	racing	scrambling	racing
derby	enduro	Grand Prix	karting	off-roading	sidecar racing	trials

## Games

Aunt Sally	Cluedo	fantasy	I spy	musical	prisoner's	spin the
backgammon	(trademark)	football	jacks	chairs	base	bottle
bagatelle	conkers	fivestones	jackstraws	nim	quoits	Subbuteo
battleships	conse-	follow-my-	kabaddi	noughts and	ring-a-ring o'	(trademark)
billiards	quences	leader	King of the	crosses	roses	table football
bingo	cops and	forfeits	Castle	pass the	roulette	tag
blind man's	robbers	frisbee	kriegspiel	parcel	sardines	thimblering
buff	craps	(trademark)	leapfrog	pat-a-cake	Scrabble	tic-tac-toe
cards	darts	go	lotto	peekaboo	(trademark)	tiddlywinks
catch	deck quoits	halma	ludo	piggy in the	shove-	tig
cat's cradle	dice	hangman	mah-jong	middle	halfpenny	treasure hunt
charades	dominoes	hide-and-	marbles	pitch-and-	shovelboard	Trivial Pursuit
checkers	draughts	seek	Monopoly	toss	Simon Says	(trademark)
chess	ducks and	hoopla	(trademark)	murder in the	snakes and	tug of war
chicken	drakes	hopscotch	dark	poker dice	ladders	
Chinese	dungeons	housey-	musical	Poohsticks	snooker	
chequers	and	housey	bumps	pool	solitaire	
Chinese	dragons	hunt the		postman's	spillikins	
whispers		thimble		knock		

## Ball games

American	basketball	crown-green	Gaelic	lawn tennis	rackets	soccer
football	beach	bowls	football	mini rugby	real tennis	softball
Association	volleyball	Eton fives	golf	netball	rounders	squash
Football	billiards	five-a-side	handball	ninepins	rugby	table tennis
Australian	boule/boules	football	hockey	paddleball	rugby league	tennis
Rules	bowling	fives	hurling	pelota	rugby union	tenpin
football	bowls	football	jai alai	pétanque	shinty	bowling
bandy	cricket	French	korfball	polo	skittles	volleyball
baseball	croquet	cricket	lacrosse	pool	snooker	water polo

## Cricket roles and positions

all-rounder	deep square	leg-side	medium	off spinner	seamer	spinner
bat	leg	fielder	pacer	opener	short leg	square leg
batsman/	extra cover	leg slip	mid-off	opening	short	striker
batswoman	fielder	leg spinner	mid-on	batsman	midwicket	tail-ender
bowler	fieldsman	long field	midwicket	pace bowler	silly mid-off	third man
cover	fine leg	long leg	night-	paceman	silly mid-on	twelfth man
cover point	gully	long off	watchman	point	silly point	wicketkeeper
deep	keeper	long on	non-striker	runner	slip	
midwicket	last man	longstop	offside fielder	seam bowler	spin bowler	

## Golf clubs

brassie	driving iron	lofter	niblick	sand wedge	wood
cleek	iron	mashie	putter	spoon	
driver	jigger	midiron	sand iron	wedge	

## Card games

baccarat	brag	duplicate	happy	ombre	rummy	vingt-et-un
beggar-my-	bridge	bridge	families	patience	skat	whist
neighbour	canasta	écarté	loo	pinochle	snap	
bezique	cheat	euchre	monte	piquet	solitaire	
blackjack	chemin de	fan-tan	nap	poker	solo whist	
Black Maria	fer	faro	Newmarket	pontoon	stud poker	
Boston	cribbage	gin rummy	old maid	rouge et noir	twenty-one	

## Toys

action figure	catapult	hoop	marionette	rattle	tangram	whirligig
Advent	cuddly toy	hula hoop	party popper	rattlebox	teddy (bear)	windmill
calendar	diabolo	humming top	pea-shooter	rocking horse	teeter-totter	yo-yo
balloon	doll	jack-in-the-	pedal car	Russian doll	teetotum	zoetrope
beanbag	doll's house	box	peery	scooter	thaumatrope	
bear	Dutch doll	jigsaw	pegtop	see-saw	tin soldier	
board game	flannelboard	jumping	playhouse	skipping rope	top	
bobskate	frisbee	bean	pogo (stick)	slot car	tumbler	
box kite	(trademark)	jumping jack	popgun	snowstorm	water gun	
brick	glove puppet	kaleidoscope	puppet	squirt gun	water pistol	
building	golliwog	kite	puzzle	Swanee	Wendy house	
block	hobby horse	marble	rag doll	whistle	whipping top	

# Technology

## Computing and Internet terms

acoustic coupler	chat room	e-tailer	in-box	motherboard	register	URL
agent	chip	editor	information	mouse	rollerball	user interface
alias	click	email	technology	mouse mat	ROM	utility
applet	client	emoticon	inkjet printer	navigator	routine	vaccine
application	code	Ethernet	input	Net	scanner	VDU
assembler	compact disc	expansion	interactive	network	screen saver	video card
backup	computer	card	interface	newsgroup	script	viewscreen
bar-code	console	expert system	Internet	notebook	search	virtual reality
reader	control unit	FAQ	service	offline	engine	virus
BASIC	coprocessor	fax modem	provider	online	sequencer	visual display
baud	CPU	file	intranet	optical disk	serial port	unit
BIOS	crash	filename	ISP	output	server	wallpaper
bit	crawler	filter	joystick	palmtop	servlet	Web
bitmap	cursor	firewall	JPEG	parser	shareware	webcam
blog	daemon	firmware	keyboard	PC	shell program	weblog
blogger	data	flash memory	keypad	PDA	silicon chip	web page
board	debugger	floppy disk	kilobyte	PDF	sniffer	website
bookmark	desktop	format	laptop	phishing	software	wiki
boot	dialler	freeware	laser printer	plug-in	sound card	word
bot	dialog box	FTP	light pen	podcast	spam	processor
browser	digital	games	log in	pop-up	spellchecker	workstation
buffer	digitizer	console	log out	port	spider	World Wide
bug	disk	gateway	loop	portal	spreadsheet	Web
bulletin board	disk drive	GIF	macro	printed circuit	spyware	worm
bus	diskette	gigabit	mailer	printed circuit	surf	XML
byte	display	graphics card	malware	circuit board	talkboard	zip
cache	domain	groupware	manager	printer	telnet	zip file
cache memory	domain name	hacker	megabyte	printout	terminal	
card	DOS	hard disk	megapixel	processor	text editor	
CD-R	dot-matrix	hard drive	memory	RAM	toggle	
CD-ROM	printer	hardware	menu	random-access	tool	
CD-RW	download	home page	microchip	memory	toolbar	
central processing unit	drive	host	micro-computer	read-only memory	touch pad	
	DVD	HTML	mini-computer		touch screen	
	DVD-R	HTTP	monitor		trackball	
	DVD-ROM	hyperlink			transistor	
	DVD-RW	hypertext			Trojan Horse	
		icon			upload	

## Energy and fuels

acetylene	Calor gas	electricity	gasoline	light	petrol	unleaded
anthracite	(trademark)	electro-	geothermal	lignite	petroleum	petrol
atomic	chemical	magnetic	energy	methane	propane	water power
power	energy	energy	heat	natural gas	renewable	wave power
bio-diesel	coal	firewood	hydroelectric	nuclear	energy	wind power
biofuel	coal gas	fossil fuel	power	power	solar energy	wood
biogas	coke	fuel oil	hydrogen	oil	steam power	
briquette	derv	fusion energy	kerosene	paraffin	tidal power	
butane	diesel	gas	leaded petrol	peat	turf	

## Engines

aero engine	external-combustion	heat engine	magneto	ramjet	transverse	turboshaft
beam engine	engine	inboard	oil engine	rocket engine	engine	twin-cam
diesel engine	engine	outboard	outboard	rotary engine	thruster	engine
donkey engine	flat-four engine	internal-combustion	petrol engine	scramjet	turbine	two-stroke
dynamo	engine	engine	piston engine	steam engine	turbo diesel	V6
electric motor	four-stroke	jet engine	prop jet	steam	turbofan	V8
	gas turbine	linear motor	pulse jet	turbine	turbojet	V12
	generator		radial engine	straight-eight	turboprop	

## Tools

adze	axe	blowtorch	burin	chainsaw	cleaver	crowbar
air gun	bandsaw	bodkin	burnisher	chisel	compass saw	cultivator
Allen key	beetle	borer	burr	chopper	coping saw	cutter
(trademark)	bevel	bowsaw	capstan	circular saw	cramp	dibber
auger	billhook	brace	centre bit	clamp	cross peen/	dibble
awl	blowlamp	bradawl	centre punch	claw hammer	pein	diestock



dovetailer	grinder	lawnmower	pickaxe	sander	socket	trimmer
drill	grouter	loppers	pincers	sandpaper	spanner	trip hammer
edge tool	hack	mallet	pitchfork	saw	soldering iron	trowel
edging shears	hacksaw	marlinspike	plane	sawbench	spade	tweezers
edging tool	hammer	mattcock	pliers	scarifier	spanner	vice
file	hammer drill	mortar board	priest	scraper	spokeshave	wedge
flail	hatchet	nail punch	pruning hook	screwdriver	square	wheel brace
float	hedge clipper	nailer	punch	screw tap	staple gun	whipsaw
fork	hoe	needle	rake	scribe	steam hammer	wire cutter
former	hole saw	nippers	ram	scroll saw		wire stripper
frame saw	jack	padsaw	rasp	scythe	strickle	woodcarver
fretsaw	jackhammer	paint gun	reamer	secateurs	swage	wrench
froe	jemmy	panel saw	riddle	shears	swingle	
fuller	jigsaw	peen/pein	ripsaw	shovel	tenon saw	
gimlet	jointer	hammer	roller	sickle	tilt hammer	
glass cutter	keyhole saw	perforator	roulette	slasher	tinsnips	
graver	knife	pestle	router	sledgehammer	torque wrench	
	lathe	pick	rule			

## Units of measurement

acre	carat	ell	hour	maxwell	nautical mile	rod
age	centigram	epoch	hundred-weight	megabyte	newton	scruple
air mile	centilitre	erg	inch	megaflop	noggin	second
ampere	centimetre	farad	joule	megahertz	ohm	siemens
angstrom	century	fathom	kelvin	megaton	ounce	sievert
astronomical unit	chain	firkin	kilobyte	megavolt	parsec	span
atmosphere	cord	fluid drachm	kilocalorie	megawatt	pascal	square
atomic mass	coulomb	fluid ounce	kilogram	metre	peck	steradian
unit	cubit	foot	kilohertz	metric ton	pennyweight	stone
bale	cup	furong	kilojoule	microgram	perch	tablespoon
bar	cupful	gallon	kilolitre	microlitre	period	teaspoon
barrel	curie	gauss	kilometre	micrometre	pica	terabyte
baud	cycle	gigabit	kiloton	micron	pint	teraflop
becquerel	day	gigabyte	kilovolt	microsecond	pipe	tesla
bel	decade	gigaflap	kilowatt	mile	point	therm
bit	decaltre	gigahertz	kilowatt-hour	millennium	poise	tog
brake	decametre	gigawatt	knot	millibar	pole	ton
horsepower	decibel	gill	league	milligram	pound	tonne
British thermal unit	decilitre	grain	light year	millilitre	quantum bit	troy ounce
bushel	decimetre	gram	line	millimetre	quart	volt
byte	degree	gray	link	millisecond	quarter	watt
cable	denier	hand	litre	minim	quintal	weber
calorie	dessertspoon	hectare	lumen	minute	rad	week
candela	dioptr	hertz	lux	month	radian	yard
	dyne	hogshead	Mach	nanometre	rem	year
	electronvolt	horsepower	number	nanosecond	roentgen	

# Transport

## Motor vehicles

all-terrain vehicle	camper car	flatbed	hot rod	multi-purpose vehicle	racing car	snowplough
ambulance	charabanc	float	Jeep	vehicle (MPV)	ragtop	soft top
armoured car	coach	forklift truck	(trademark)	juggernaut	rally car	sports car
articulated lorry	convertible	four-by-four	kit car	kart	recreational vehicle (RV)	sportster
automobile	coupé	drive (4WD)	limousine	off-road vehicle	removal van	sport utility vehicle (SUV)
autorickshaw	dirt bike	go-kart	lorry	off-roader	roadroller	station wagon
battlebus	double-decker bus	golf cart	low-loader	omnibus	roadster	
beach buggy	dragster	gritter	microcar	pantechnicon	rover	
Black Maria	drophead	hackney cab	milk float	people carrier	runabout	stock car
bowser (trademark)	DUKW	half-track	minelayer	personnel carrier	saloon	stretch limo
buggy	dumper truck	hardtop	minicab	pickup	scooter	superbike
bulldozer	dune buggy	hatchback	moped	public service vehicle (PSV)	scrambler	supercar
bus	dustcart	hearse	motorbike	quadr bike	sedan	supermini
cab	estate vehicle (HGV)	heavy goods vehicle	motor caravan		shooting brake	tank
cabriolet	fastback	horsebox	motorcycle		snowcat	tanker
	fire engine				snowmobile	taxi
						taxicab

tourer	tracklayer	trailer	trolleybus	van	wrecker
touring car	tractor	tram	troop carrier	wagon/	
tow truck	trail bike	transporter	truck	waggon	

## Parts of a car

accelerator	carburettor	fan	hazard	pneumatic	seat belt	tail light/tail
pedal	catalytic	fan belt	warning	tyre	shaft	lamp
air condition-	converter	fascia (Brit.)	lights	points	shock	tailpipe
ing	central	fender (N.	headlight/	power brakes	absorber	tappet
alternator	locking	Amer.)	headlamp	power	sidelight	thermostat
anti-lock	system	filler cap	heater	steering	(Brit.)	tie rod
braking	chassis	final drive	hood (N.	propshaft/	sidescreeen	tow bar
system	clutch	floorpan	Amer.)	propeller	silencer	track rod
(ABS)	clutch pedal	flywheel	horn	shaft	sill	trafficator
anti-roll bar	connecting	fog lamp/fog	hubcap	pushrod	solenoid	(Brit.)
automatic	rod	light	hypoid gear	quarter-light	spare tyre	transaxle
choke	courtesy light	footbrake	ignition	(Brit.)	spare wheel	transmission
automatic	cowling	four-wheel	ignition key	rack-and-	spark plug	trim
trans-	crank	drive	immobilizer	pinion	speedometer	trunk (N.
mission	crankcase	front-wheel	indicator	radial tyre	spoiler	Amer.)
axle	cruise control	drive	instrument	radiator	starter	turbocharger
battery	crumple zone	fuel gauge	panel	radiator grille	starter motor	tyre
bench seat	cylinder	fuel injection	kick-down	radius rod	steering	underframe
big end	cylinder block	pump	(Brit.)	rear-view	column	valance
blinker	cylinder head	fuel tank	licence plate	mirror	steering gear	valve
bodywork	dampner	gasket	loadspace	rear-wheel	steering rack	vanity mirror
bonnet (Brit.)	dashboard/	gate	manifold	drive	steering	viscous
boot (Brit.)	dash	gear	milometer	reflector	wheel	coupling
brake	differential	gearbox	monocoque	registration	stick	wheel
brake disc	gear	gear change	muffler (N.	plate (Brit.)	stick shift	wheel nut
brake drum	differential	gear lever/	Amer.)	rocker	(N. Amer.)	windscreen
brake light	lock	gearstick	number plate	rocker panel	(Brit.)	(Brit.)
brake pad	disc brake	(Brit.)	odometer	roll bar	subframe	windshield
brake pedal	distributor	gear shift	oil gauge	roof light	sump	(N. Amer.)
brake shoe	doorbin	(N. Amer.)	overdrive	rotor arm	sunroof	wing
brush bar	door mirror	generator	override	running	suspension	wing mirror
bucket seat	drivetrain	glovebox	(Brit.)	board	switchgear	winker (Brit.)
bull bar	driving wheel	grille	parcel shelf	running	tachometer	wishbone
bumper	drum brake	handbrake	pedal	lights	tag (N. Amer.)	
cam belt	engine	hatch	piston	safety cage	tailgate	
camshaft	exhaust pipe			seat		

## Parts of a bicycle

bottom	cassette	derailleur	frameset	handlebars	pannier	stabilizers
bracket	chain	drop	freehub	headset	pedal	toe clip
brake	chain gear	handbars	freewheel	hub	reflector	twist-grip
brake block	chainring	dynamo	gear	hub gear	saddle	tyre
brake caliper	crank	fork	gearwheel	inner tube	spokes	wheel
carrier	crossbar	frame	groupset	mudguard	sprocket	

## Carriages and carts

barouche	carriole	coupé	droshky	hansom	stagecoach	Victoria
brake	chaise	covered	fiacre	landau	tilbury	wagon/
brougham	chariot	wagon	fly	ox cart	trailer	waggon
buggy	clarence	curricie	gig	phaeton	trap	wagonette
cab	coach	dog cart	hackney	postchaise	trishaw	
cabriolet	coach-and-	dray	handcart	rickshaw	tumbril	
caravan	four					

## Roads

A-road	B-road	clearway	drive	hard	national road	Queen's
access road	backstreet	close	driveway	high road	no through	highway
approach	beltway	corduoy	drove road	high street	road	radial (road)
road	blind alley	road	dual	highway	off-ramp	ramp
arterial road/	boreen	corniche	carriageway	interstate	one-way	rat run
route	boulevard	corso	escape road	(highway)	street	red route
artery	broadway	crecent	expressway	lane	orbital	relief road
Autobahn	bypass	cul-de-sac	feeder	loop (road)	overpass	rigdeway
autopista	byroad	dead end	flyover	main drag	parade	ring road
autoroute	byway	divided	freeway	main road	parkway	Roman road
autostrada	cart track	highway	frontage	main street	pike	row
avenue	causeway	drag	road	motorway	prospekt	service road

side road	skyway	strip	throughway/	tram road	unadopted
side street	slip road	super-	thruway	tramway	road
single	speedway	highway	toll road	trunk road	underpass
carriageway	spur	terrace	tollway	turnpike	viaduct
skid road	street	thoroughfare	trackway		woonerf

## Trains and rolling stock

armoured train	carriage coach	double-header	handcar	milk train	restaurant car	steam train
bogie	couchette	electric train	high-speed train	monorail	saddle tank	stopping train
boxcar	diesel-electric	engine	hopper	motor coach	shunter	subway train
brake van	diesel	express	hospital train	observation car	sleeper	tank engine
buffet car	locomotive	flatcar	locomotive	pannier tank	sleeping car	tender
bullet train	diesel	freight train	maglev	passenger train	smokebox	TGV
cable car	multiple unit	goods train	mail coach	Pullman	smoker	underground train
caboose	unit	goods wagon	mail train	railcar	steam locomotive	wagon-lit
car	dining car	guard's van	metro			

## Ships and boats

airboat	carrack	flagship	junk	oiler	sailing boat	tender
aircraft carrier	catamaran	flatboat	kayak	oil tanker	sailing ship	torpedo boat
amphibious	catboat	freighter	keelboat	outboard	sampan	trader
assault ship	clipper	frigate	ketch	outrigger	schooler	training ship
amphibious landing craft	coal ship	full-rigger	landing craft	paddle boat	scow	tramp
auxiliary barge	coaler	galleon	launch	paddle steamer	scull	steamer
barque	coaster	galley	liberty boat	pedal boat	sealer	trawler
barquentine	cockleshell	galliot	lifeboat	pedalo	shallop	trimaran
bateau mouche	collier	gig	life raft	pilot boat	shell	trirame
bathyscaphe	container ship	gondola	lighter	pink	ship of the line	troop carrier
bathysphere	coracle	gunboat	liner	pinnacle	showboat	troopship
battlecruiser	corvette	helicopter carrier	longboat	pirogue	side-wheeler	tub
battleship	cruiser	hermaphrodite brig	longship	pocket battleship	single-hander	tugboat
bireme	cruise ship	hospital ship	luggie	portoon	skiff	U-boat
boatel	cutter	inboard	mailboat	powerboat	skipjack	vaporetto
brig	destroyer	hovercraft	man-of-war	pram	slaver	warship
brigantine	dhow	hydrofoil	merchantman	privateer	sloop	water bus
bulk carrier	dinghy	iceboat	merchant ship	proa	sloop of war	water taxi
bumboat	diving bell	ice-breaker	minelayer	punt	smack	weekender
cabin cruiser	dredger	hydroplane	monitor	Q-ship	speedboat	whaleboat
cable ship	drifter	iceboat	monohull	quinquereme	square-rigger	wherry
caique	dugout	ice-breaker	motor boat	raft	stake boat	windjammer
canal boat	E-boat	inboard	motor	RIB	steamboat	workboat
canoe	East	ironclad	torpedo boat	rigger	steamer	xebec
capital ship	Indianan	jetboat	torpedo boat	riverboat	steamship	yacht
car ferry	factory ship	jetfoil	motor yacht	roll-on roll-off	sternwheeler	yawl
caravel	felucca	jet ski	multihull	rowing boat	submarine	
cargo ship	ferry	jet (trademark)	narrowboat	rubber dinghy	submersible	
	flag boat	jolly		safety boat	supertanker	
					supply ship	
					tall ship	
					tanker	

## Parts of a ship

after deck	carline	fin keel	hawsehole	outboard	quarters	strake
anchor	cathead	flight deck	hawsepipe	outrigger	radio room	stretcher
berth	cat hole	forecastle/fo'c'sle	hawser	paddle wheel	rail	stringer
bilge	centrebore	freeboard	head	painter	riding lamp	thole
bilge keel	chain locker	funnel	hold	pilot house	rigger	tiller
bitt	chart room	futtock	keel	pintle	round house	transom
board	cleat	galley	keelson	planking	rowlock	trunnion
boat deck	companion ladder	gangplank	larboard	Plimsoll line	rudder	turtleback
boiler room	companion-way	gangway	lazaretto	poop	rudderpost	wardroom
bollard	counter	glory hole	limber	poop deck	scupper	washboard
bow	crow's nest	guard rail	limber hole	porthole	skeg	washstrake
bridge	daggerboard	gun deck	maintop	portside	spanker	waterline
brig	davit	gunwale/gunnell	mast	promenade deck	stabilizer	weatherboard
bulkhead	dodger	half-deck	mizzenmast	propeller	stack	weather deck
bulwark	engine room	hatch	mizzenmast	propeller shaft	stanchion	wheel
cabin	false keel	hatchway	monkey rail	pro w	starboard	winch
caboose	figurehead		oar	quarter rail	stateroom	windlass
capstan			orlop deck		stern	
					sternpost	



## Sails

course fore-and-aft sail fore-course fore-royal foresail	forestaysail fore- topgallant- sail foretopsail gaff foresail	gaff topsail genny genoa (jib) gunter headsail jib	jigger kite lateen sail lugsail main course mainsail	maintopsail mizzen moonraker royal sail skysail spanker	spinnaker spritsail square sail staysail storm sail studdingsail	topgallant topsail trysail
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## Rigging

backstay baggywrinkle bibb bitt bobstay boom bottlescrew bowline brace brails bullseye buntline burton	chainplate cheek claw ring cleat cordage cringle crossjack crosstree crowfoot deadeye downhaul eye fairlead	foot rope foresheet forestay furling line gaff gantline garland gasket gooseneck halyard hank horse hound	inhaul jackstay jibsheet kicking strap lanyard lazy jack lutchet mainstay martingale mouse outhaul parrel passaree	pendant/ pennant pole preventer ratlines reefing line reefpoint sail tie sheer pole sheet shroud spar spider	spider hoop spreader sprit stay step stirrup stopper knot tabernacle thimble top topping lift track traveller	trestletree truck truss turnbuckle uphaul vangs wishbone yard yardarm yard sling
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## Aircraft

airliner airship autogiro balloon biplane blimp bomber chopper delta-wing	dirigible dive bomber drone fighter fighter- bomber floatplane flying boat freighter	glider gunship gyrocopter gyroplane hang-glider helicopter hot-air balloon hydroplane	interceptor jet jet plane jetliner jumbo jet jump jet microlight minelayer monoplane	night fighter paraglider sailplane seaplane ski-plane spaceplane spotter stealth bomber	stealth fighter swept-wing tanker towplane triplane troop carrier tug turbofan	turbojet turboprop warplane water bomber whirlybird widebody Zeppelin
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## Parts of an aircraft

aerofoil aileron air brake airfoil airframe air intake airscrew altimeter artificial horizon astrodome astrohatch balance tab belly black box bomb bay bombsight bubble canopy	bulkhead cabin canard canopy cockpit cockpit voice recorder collective pitch control control column cowl cowling cyclic pitch control delta wing droop-snoot drop tank	ejector seat elevator elevon emergency chute empennage engine escape hatch fairing fin firing button flap flexwing flight control flight deck flight recorder float former	fuel tank fuselage glareshield gondola hatch head-up display (HUD) heat shield hold joystick landing gear landing lights leading edge longeron mainplane nacelle navaid nose	nose cone pod pontoon porthole prop propeller pylon radome rate-of-climb indicator rib rotary wing rotor rotor blade rudder rudder bar skid skin spar	spinner spoiler sponson stabilator stabilizer strake stringer swept-wing swing-wing tab tail tail boom tail fin tailplane tail rotor tail skid throttle trailing edge trim tab	under- carriage undercart ventral fin vertical stabilizer viewport wing winglet wing tip yoke
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# War and Weapons

## Weapons

A-bomb air gun AK-47 anti-aircraft gun arquebus Armalite (trademark) arrow artillery	assault rifle assegai atom/atomic bomb automatic axe ballistic missile baseball bat baton	baton round battleaxe bayonet bazooka bill birdshot blackjack blade blowpipe bludgeon	blunderbuss Bofors gun bomb boomerang bowie knife brass knuckles breach- loader Bren gun	broadsword Browning buckshot cannon cannonball car bomb carbine case knife catapult claymore	club cluster bomb Colt (trademark) cordite cosh crossbow cruise missile cudgel cutlass	dagger daisy-cutter depth charge derringer dirk dirty bomb doodlebug duelling pistol
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dumdum	gun	incendiary	magnetic	pistol	Semtex	stick
bullet	gun cotton	device	mine	plastic bullet	sheath knife	stiletto
dynamite	gunpowder	jackknife	mail bomb	plastic	shell	sub-machine
épée	H-bomb	javelin	matchlock	explosive	shillelagh	gun
Exocet	halberd	Kalashnikov	Mausers	Polaris	shotgun	switchblade
express rifle	hand	knife	(trademark)	poleaxe	sidearm	sword
firebomb	grenade	knobkerrie	Maxim gun	porn-pom	siege gun	swordstick
firelock	handgun	knuckle-	Mills bomb	poniard	six-shooter	tanto
flick knife	harpoon	duster	missile	pump-action	sjambok	thirty-eight
flintlock	harpoon gun	kris	Molotov	shotgun	skean	time bomb
flying bomb	harquebus	kukri	cocktail	quarterstaff	skean-dhu	tomahawk
forty-five	hatchet	lance	mortar	rapier	sling	tommy gun
fragementation	high	landmine	musket	revolver	slug	torpedo
bomb	explosive	lathi	neutron	rifle	slung shot	tracer
fragementation	horse pistol	Lee-Enfield	bomb	rocket	small arms	trebuchet
grenade	howitzer	letter bomb	nuclear	rocket-propelled	small sword	trench
fusil	hydrogen	Lewis gun	bomb	grenade	Smith and	mortar
fusion bomb	bomb	life preserver	nulla-nulla	rubber bullet	Wesson	Trident
Gatling gun	inter-	limpet mine	panga	sabre	(trademark)	truncheon
gelignite	continental	longbow	parang	sawn-off	smoke bomb	Uzi
grapeshot	ballistic	Luger	parcel bomb	shotgun	smooth-bore	warhead
grenade	missile	(trademark)	pellet	scimitar	spear	Winchester
guided	(ICBM)	mace	petard	Scud	staff	(trademark)
missile	incendiary	machete	petrol bomb	semi-	stave	yataghan
	bomb	machine gun	pike	automatic	Sten gun	zip gun

## Parts of a suit of armour

basinet	burgonet	corselet	greave	mail	plastron	solleret
beaver	camail	couter	habergeon	morion	poleyn	tasses
bracer	casque	cuirass	hauberk	nasal	pouldron	vambrace
brassard	chain mail	cuisse	helmet	neck guard	rerebrace	ventail
breastplate	chausses	gauntlet	jambeau	nosepiece	sabaton	visor
brigandine	coif	gorget	lance rest	pectoral	sallet	

## Types of soldier

archer	commando	guardsman	knight	non-	ranger	scout
artilleryman	conscript	guerrilla	lancer	commis-	ranker	SEAL
beefeater	cuirassier	gunner	legionary	sioned	recruit	sentinel
blue helmet	dragoon	halberdier	legionnaire	officer	redcap	sentry
bowman	drum major	havildar	marine	(NCO)	redcoat	sepooy
cadet	ensign	hoplite	mercenary	officer	regular	spearman
cannoneer	evzone	hussar	militiaman	orderly	reservist	swordsman
carabineer	foot soldier	infantryman	musketeer	paratrooper	rifleman	trooper
cavalier	freelance	irregular		partisan	sabreur	yeoman
cavalryman	fusilier	janissary		pistoleer	samurai	
centurion	grenadier	klept		point man	sapper	

## Military ranks

<b>British Army</b>	Lance Corporal/	Petty Officer	Pilot Officer	Brigadier	Vice Admiral
Field Marshal	Lance	Leading Seaman	Acting Pilot	General	Rear Admiral
General	Bombardier	Able Seaman	Officer	Colonel	Captain
Lieutenant	Private/Gunner	Ordinary	Warrant Officer	Lieutenant	Commander
General		Seaman	Flight Sergeant	Colonel	Lieutenant
Major General	<b>Royal Navy</b>	<b>Royal Air Force</b>	Sergeant	Major	Commander
Brigadier	Admiral of the	Marshal of the	Senior	Captain	Lieutenant
Colonel	Fleet	Royal Air Force	Aircraftman/	First Lieutenant	Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Admiral	Air Chief	Aircraftwoman	Second	junior grade
Colonel	Vice Admiral	Marshal	Leading	Lieutenant	Ensign
Major	Rear Admiral	Air Marshal	Aircraftman/	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer
Captain	Commodore	Air Vice-Marshal	Aircraftwoman	Sergeant	Master Chief
Lieutenant	Captain	Air Commodore	Aircraftman/	Corporal	Petty Officer
Second	Commander	Group Captain	Aircraftwoman	Private First	Senior Chief
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Wing	<b>US Army and</b>	Class	Petty Officer
Warrant Officer	Commander	Commander	<b>Air Force</b>	Private	Petty Officer
Staff Sergeant	Lieutenant	Squadron	Chief of Staff		Seaman
Sergeant	Sub Lieutenant	Leader	General	<b>US Navy</b>	
Corporal/	Midshipman	Flight	Lieutenant	Chief of Naval	
Bombardier	Warrant Officer	Lieutenant	General	Operations	
	Chief Petty	Flying Officer	Major General	Fleet Admiral	
	Officer			Admiral	

# Mm

**macabre** adjective **1** *a macabre ritual*: gruesome, grisly, grim, gory, morbid, ghastly, unearthly, grotesque, hideous, horrific, shocking, dreadful, loathsome, repugnant, repulsive, sickening. **2** *a macabre joke*: black, weird, unhealthy; informal sick.

**mace** noun club, cudgel, stick, staff, shillelagh, bludgeon, truncheon; Brit. life preserver; N. Amer. nightstick, billy, billy club, blackjack; Brit. informal cosh.

**macerate** verb pulp, mash, squash, soften, liquefy, soak.

**Machiavellian** adjective devious, crafty, cunning, artful, wily, sly, scheming, treacherous, two-faced, tricky, double-dealing, unscrupulous, deceitful, dishonest; literary perfidious; informal foxy.

– OPPOSITES straightforward, ingenuous.

**machinations** plural noun scheming, plotting, intrigues, conspiracies, ruses, tricks, wiles, stratagems, tactics, manoeuvring.

**machine** noun **1** *it is quicker done by machine*: apparatus, appliance, device, contraption, contrivance, mechanism, engine, gadget, tool. **2** *an efficient publicity machine*: organization, system, structure, arrangement, machinery; informal set-up.

## WORD LINKS

**mechanical** relating to machines

**engineer** a person who designs and builds machines

**hardware** machines and other physical components of an electronic system

**machinery** noun **1** *road-making machinery*: equipment, apparatus, plant, hardware, gear, tackle; mechanism; instruments, tools; gadgetry, technology. **2** *the machinery of local government*: workings, organization, system, structure, administration, institution; informal set-up.

**machinist** noun operator, operative, machine-minder.

**machismo** noun (aggressive) masculinity, toughness, male chauvinism, sexism; virility, manliness; informal laddishness.

**macho** adjective *a macho, non-caring image*: (aggressively) male, (unpleasantly) masculine; manly, virile, red-blooded; informal butch, laddish.

– OPPOSITES wimpish.

• noun **1** *he was a macho at heart*: red-blooded male, macho man, muscleman; informal he-man, tough guy. **2** *macho is out*.

See **MACHISMO**.

– OPPOSITES wimp.

**mackintosh** noun raincoat, gaberdine, trench coat, waterproof; Brit. pakamac; N. Amer. slicker; Brit. informal mac; trademark Burberry, Drizabone.

**macrocosm** noun **1** *the law of the macrocosm*: universe, cosmos, creation, outer space. **2** *the individual is a microcosm of the social macrocosm*: system, structure, totality, entirety, complex.

– OPPOSITES microcosm.

**mad** adjective **1** *he was killed by his mad brother*: insane, mentally ill, certifiable, deranged, demented, of unsound mind, out of one's mind, not in one's right mind, sick in the head, crazy, crazed, lunatic, non compos mentis, unhinged, disturbed, raving, psychotic, psychopathic, mad as a hatter, mad as a March hare, away with the fairies; informal mental, off one's head, off one's nut, nuts, nutty, off one's rocker, not right in the head, round the bend, stark staring/raving mad, bats, batty, bonkers, dotty, cuckoo, cracked, loopy, loony, doolally, bananas, loco, dippy, screwy, schizoid, touched, gaga, up the pole, not all there, not right upstairs; Brit. informal barmy, crackers, barking, barking mad, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling; N. Amer. informal nutso, out of one's tree, meshuga, wacko, gonzo; Canadian informal spinnny; Austral./NZ informal bushed; NZ informal porangi; (**be mad**) informal have a screw loose, have bats in the/one's belfry; Austral. informal have kangaroos in the/one's top paddock; (**go mad**) lose one's reason, lose one's mind, take leave of one's senses; informal lose one's marbles, crack up. **2** (informal) *I'm still mad at him*: angry, furious, infuriated, irate, raging, enraged, fuming, incensed, seeing red, beside oneself; informal livid, spare; informal, dated in a wax; Brit. informal aerated; N. Amer. informal sore; literary wrathful; (**go mad**) lose one's temper, rant and rave; informal explode, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, flip one's lid; Brit. informal do one's nut; N. Amer. informal flip one's wig. **3** *some mad scheme*: foolish, insane, stupid, lunatic, foolhardy, idiotic, senseless, absurd, impractical, silly, inane, asinine, wild,

m



unwise, imprudent; informal crazy, crackpot, crackbrained; Brit. informal daft. **4** (informal) *he's mad about jazz*: **enthusiastic**, passionate; ardent, fervent, avid, fanatical; devoted to, infatuated with, in love with, hot for; informal crazy, dotty, nuts, wild, hooked on, gone on; Brit. informal potty; N. Amer. informal nutso.

**5** *it was a mad dash to get ready*: **frenzied**, frantic, frenetic, feverish, hysterical, wild, hectic, manic.

– **OPPOSITES** sane, pleased, sensible, indifferent, calm.

■ **like mad** (informal) **1** *I ran like mad*: fast, quickly, rapidly, speedily, hastily, hurriedly.

**2** *he had to fight like mad*: energetically, enthusiastically, madly, furiously, with a will, for all one is worth, passionately, intensely, ardently, fervently; informal like crazy, hammer and tongs; Brit. informal like billy-o.

**madcap** adjective **1** *a madcap scheme*: reckless, rash, foolhardy, foolish, hare-brained, wild, hasty, imprudent, ill-advised; informal crazy, crackpot, crackbrained.

**2** *a madcap comedy*: **zany**, eccentric, unconventional.

**madden** verb **1** *what maddens people most is his vagueness*: **infuriate**, exasperate, irritate; incense, anger, enrage, provoke, upset, agitate, vex, irk, make someone's hackles rise, make someone see red; informal aggravate, make someone's blood boil, make livid, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up; Brit. informal nark; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off. **2** *they were maddened with pain*: **drive mad**, drive insane, derange, unhinge, unbalance; informal drive round the bend.

**made-up** adjective **invented**, fabricated, trumped up, concocted, fictitious, fictional, false, untrue, specious, spurious, bogus, apocryphal, imaginary, mythical.

**madhouse** noun (informal) **1** *his father is shut up in a madhouse*: **mental hospital**, mental institution, psychiatric hospital, asylum; informal nuthouse, funny farm, loony bin; dated lunatic asylum. **2** *the place was a total madhouse*: **bedlam**, mayhem, chaos, pandemonium, uproar, turmoil, disorder, madness, all hell broken loose; N. Amer. three-ring circus.

**madly** adverb **1** *she was smiling madly*: **insanely**, deliriously, wildly, like a lunatic; informal crazily, barmily. **2** *it was fun, hurtling madly downhill*: **fast**, furiously, hurriedly, quickly, speedily, hastily, energetically; informal like mad, like crazy. **3** (informal) *he loved her madly*: **intensely**, fervently, wildly, unrestrainedly, to distraction.

**4** (informal) *his job isn't madly glamorous*: **very**, extremely, really, exceedingly, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily, immensely, tremendously, wildly, all that, hugely; informal awfully, terribly, terrifically, fantastically.

– **OPPOSITES** sanely, slowly, slightly.

**madman, madwoman** noun **lunatic**, maniac, psychotic, psychopath; informal loony, nut, nutcase, head case, psycho; Brit. informal

nutter, mentalist; N. Amer. informal screwball.

**madness** noun **1** *today madness is called mental illness*: **insanity**, mental illness, dementia, derangement; lunacy, instability; mania, psychosis; informal craziness. **2** *it would be madness to do otherwise*: **folly**, foolishness, idiocy, stupidity, insanity, lunacy, silliness; informal craziness. **3** *it's absolute madness in here*: **bedlam**, mayhem, chaos, pandemonium, uproar, turmoil, disorder, all hell broken loose; N. Amer. three-ring circus.

– **OPPOSITES** sanity, common sense, good sense, calm.

**maelstrom** noun **1** *a maelstrom in the sea*: **whirlpool**, vortex, eddy, swirl; literary Charybdis. **2** *the maelstrom of war*: **turbulence**, tumult, turmoil, disorder, disarray, chaos, confusion, upheaval, pandemonium, bedlam, whirlwind.

**maestro** noun **virtuoso**, master, expert, genius, wizard, prodigy; informal ace, whizz, pro, hotshot.

– **OPPOSITES** tyro, beginner.

**magazine** noun **journal**, periodical, supplement, fanzine; informal glossy, mag, 'zine.

**magenta** adjective **reddish-purple**, purplish-red, crimson, plum, carmine red, fuchsia.

**maggot** noun **grub**, larva.

**magic** noun **1** *do you believe in magic?* **sorcery**, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, enchantment, the supernatural, occultism, the occult, black magic, the black arts, voodoo, shamanism; charm, hex, spell, jinx; N. Amer. mojo. **2** *he does magic at children's parties*: **conjuring tricks**, sleight of hand, legerdemain, illusion, prestidigitation. **3** *the magic of the stage*: **allure**, attraction, excitement, fascination, charm, glamour. **4** *a taste of soccer magic*: **skill**, brilliance, ability, accomplishment, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, aptitude, expertise, art, finesse, talent.

• **adjective 1** *a magic spell*: **supernatural**, enchanted, occult. **2** *a magic place*: **fascinating**, captivating, charming, glamorous, magical, enchanting, entrancing, spellbinding, magnetic, irresistible, hypnotic. **3** (informal) *we had a magic time*: **marvellous**, wonderful, excellent, admirable; informal terrific, fabulous, fab, brilliant, brill.

#### WORD LINKS

**amulet**, **fetish**, **juju**, **talisman** an object thought to have magical powers  
**elixir** a magical potion  
**hex**, **incantation** a magic spell  
**pentagram**, **pentangle** a five-pointed star used as a magical symbol

**magical** adjective **1** *magical incantations*: **supernatural**, magic, occult, shamanistic, mystical, paranormal, preternatural, otherworldly. **2** *the news had a magical effect*: **extraordinary**, remarkable, exceptional, outstanding, incredible, phenomenal,

unbelievable, amazing, astonishing, astounding, stunning, staggering, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, sensational, breathtaking, miraculous; informal fantastic, fabulous, stupendous, out of this world, terrific, tremendous, brilliant, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, awesome; literary wondrous. **3** *this magical small land: enchanting, entrancing, spellbinding, bewitching, beguiling, fascinating, captivating, alluring, enthralling, charming, attractive, lovely, delightful, beautiful; informal dreamy, heavenly, divine, gorgeous.*

– OPPOSITES predictable, boring.

**magician** noun **1** *sorcerer, sorceress, witch, wizard, warlock, enchanter, enchantress, necromancer, shaman. 2* *conjuror, illusionist, prestidigitator.*

**magisterial** adjective **1** *a magisterial pronouncement: authoritative, masterful, assured, lordly, commanding, assertive.*

**2** *his magisterial style of questioning: domineering, dictatorial, autocratic, imperious, overbearing, peremptory, high-handed, arrogant, supercilious, patronizing; informal bossy.*

– OPPOSITES untrustworthy, humble, hesitant, tentative.

**magnanimity** noun *generosity, charity, benevolence, beneficence, big-heartedness, altruism, philanthropy, humanity, chivalry, nobility; clemency, mercy, leniency, forgiveness, indulgence.*

– OPPOSITES meanness, selfishness.

**magnanimous** adjective *generous, charitable, benevolent, beneficent, big-hearted, handsome, princely, altruistic, philanthropic, chivalrous, noble; forgiving, merciful, lenient, indulgent, clement.*

– OPPOSITES mean-spirited, selfish.

**magnate** noun *tycoon, mogul, captain of industry, baron, lord, king; industrialist, proprietor; informal big shot, honcho; derogatory fat cat.*

**magnet** noun **1** *you can tell steel by using a magnet: lodestone; electromagnet, solenoid. 2* *a magnet for tourists: attraction, focus, draw, lure.*

**magnetic** adjective *a magnetic personality: alluring, attractive, fascinating, captivating, enchanting, enthralling, appealing, charming, prepossessing, engaging, entrancing, seductive, inviting, irresistible, charismatic.*

**magnetism** noun *his sheer magnetism: allure, attraction, fascination, appeal, draw, drawing power, pull, charm, enchantment, seductiveness, magic, spell, charisma.*

**magnification** noun **1** *optical magnification: enlargement, enhancement, increase, augmentation, extension, expansion, amplification, intensification.*

**2** *the magnification of marginal details: exaggeration, overstatement, overemphasis, overplaying, dramatization, colouring, embellishment, inflation, hyperbole, aggrandizement; informal blowing up (out of all proportion).*

– OPPOSITES reduction, understatement.

**magnificence** noun *splendour, resplendence, grandeur, impressiveness, glory, majesty, nobility, pomp, stateliness, elegance, sumptuousness, opulence, luxury, lavishness, richness, brilliance, dazzle, skill, virtuosity.*

– OPPOSITES modesty, tawdriness, weakness.

**magnificent** adjective **1** *a magnificent view of the mountains: splendid, spectacular, impressive, striking, glorious, superb, majestic, awesome, awe-inspiring, breathtaking. 2* *a magnificent apartment overlooking the lake: sumptuous, resplendent, grand, impressive, imposing, monumental, palatial, stately, opulent, luxurious, lavish, rich, dazzling, beautiful, elegant; informal splendiferous, ritzy, posh. 3* *a magnificent performance: masterly, skilful, virtuoso, brilliant.*

– OPPOSITES uninspiring, modest, tawdry, poor, weak.

**magnify** verb **1** *the lens magnifies the image: enlarge, boost, enhance, maximize, increase, augment, extend, expand, amplify, intensify; informal blow up. 2* *the problem gets magnified: exaggerate, overstate, overemphasize, overplay, dramatize, colour, embroider, embellish, inflate, make a mountain out of (a molehill); informal blow up (out of all proportion), make a big thing out of.*

– OPPOSITES reduce, minimize, understate.

**magnitude** noun **1** *the magnitude of the task: immensity, vastness, hugeness, enormity; size, extent, expanse, greatness, largeness, bigness. 2* *events of tragic magnitude: importance, import, significance, weight, consequence, mark, notability, note; formal moment. 3* *a change in magnitude on the Richter scale: value, figure, number, measure, order, quantity, vector, index, indicator. 4* *a star of magnitude 4.2: brightness, brilliance, radiance, luminosity.*

– OPPOSITES smallness, triviality.

■ *of the first magnitude of the utmost importance, of the greatest significance, very important, of great consequence; formal of great moment.*

**maid** noun **1** *the maid cleared the table: female servant, maidservant, housemaid, parlourmaid, lady's maid, chambermaid, maid-of-all-work, domestic; help, cleaner, cleaning woman/lady; Brit. informal daily, skivvy, Mrs Mop; Brit. dated charwoman, charlady, char, tweeny. 2* (literary) *a village maid and her swain: girl, young woman, young lady, lass, miss; Scottish (wee) lassie; literary maiden, damsel, nymph; old use wench. 3* (literary) *she was no longer a maid: virgin, chaste woman, unmarried girl, celibate; formal virgo intacta; literary maiden.*

**maiden** noun (literary). See **MAID** senses 2, 3.

• adjective **1** *a maiden aunt: unmarried, spinster, unwed, unwedded, single, husbandless, celibate. 2* *a maiden voyage: first, initial, inaugural, introductory, initiatory.*

**maidenly** adjective *virginal, immaculate,*

intact, chaste, pure, virtuous; demure, reserved, retiring, decorous, seemly.

– OPPOSITES fast, slatternly.

**mail** *noun* *the mail arrived:* **post**, letters, correspondence; postal system, postal service, post office; delivery, collection; email; informal snail mail; N. Amer. the mails.

• **verb** *we mailed the parcels:* **send**, post, dispatch, direct, forward, redirect, ship; email.

**maim** *verb* **injure**, wound, cripple, disable, incapacitate, impair, mar, mutilate, lacerate, disfigure, deform, mangle.

**main** *adjective* *the main item:* **principal**, chief, head, leading, foremost, most important, major, ruling, dominant, central, focal, key, prime, master, premier, primary, first, fundamental, supreme, predominant, (most) prominent, pre-eminent, paramount, overriding, cardinal, crucial, critical, pivotal, salient, elemental, essential, staple.

– OPPOSITES subsidiary, minor.

• **noun** (literary) *the Spanish Main:* **sea**, ocean, deep; informal, dated the drink; Brit. informal, dated the briny.

■ **in the main.** See **MAINLY**.

**mainly** *adverb* **mostly**, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, to a large extent, predominantly, chiefly, principally, primarily; generally, usually, typically, commonly, on average, as a rule, almost always.

**m** **mainspring** *noun* **motive**, motivation, impetus, driving force, incentive, impulse, prime mover, reason, fountain, fount, root, generator.

**mainstay** *noun* **central component**, central figure, centrepiece, prop, linchpin, cornerstone, pillar, bulwark, buttress, chief support, backbone, anchor, foundation, base, staple.

**mainstream** *adjective* **normal**, conventional, ordinary, orthodox, conformist, accepted, established, recognized, common, usual, prevailing, popular.

– OPPOSITES fringe.

**maintain** *verb* **1** *they wanted to maintain*

*peace:* **preserve**, conserve, keep, retain, keep going, keep alive, keep up, prolong, perpetuate, sustain, carry on, continue.

**2** *the council maintains the roads:* **keep in good condition**, keep in (good) repair, keep up, service, care for, take good care of, look after. **3** *the costs of maintaining a family:*

**support**, provide for, keep, sustain; nurture, feed, nourish. **4** *he always maintained his innocence | he maintains that he is innocent:* **insist (on)**, declare, assert, protest, affirm, avow, profess, claim, allege, contend, argue, swear (to), hold to; formal aver; rare asseverate.

– OPPOSITES break, discontinue, neglect, deny.

**maintenance** *noun* **1** *the maintenance of peace:* **preservation**, conservation, keeping, prolongation, perpetuation, carrying on, continuation, continuance. **2** *car maintenance:* **upkeep**, service, servicing,

repair(s), care, aftercare. **3** *the maintenance of his children:* **support**, keeping, upkeep, sustenance; nurture, feeding, nourishment. **4** *absent fathers are forced to pay maintenance:* **financial support**, child support, alimony, provision; keep, subsistence, living expenses.

– OPPOSITES breakdown, discontinuation, neglect.

**majestic** *adjective* **stately**, dignified, distinguished, solemn, magnificent, grand, splendid, resplendent, glorious, sumptuous, impressive, august, noble, awe-inspiring, monumental, palatial; statuesque, Olympian, imposing, marvellous, sonorous, resounding, heroic.

– OPPOSITES modest, wretched.

**majesty** *noun* **1** *the majesty of the procession:* **stateliness**, dignity, distinction, solemnity, magnificence, pomp, grandeur, grandness, splendour, resplendence, glory, impressiveness, augustness, nobility.

**2** *the majesty invested in the monarch:* **sovereignty**, authority, power, dominion, supremacy.

– OPPOSITES modesty, wretchedness.

**major** *adjective* **1** *the major English poets:* **greatest**, best, finest, most important, chief, main, prime, principal, capital, cardinal, leading, star, foremost, outstanding, first-rate, pre-eminent, arch-. **2** *an issue of major importance:* **crucial**, vital, great, considerable, paramount, utmost, prime.

**3** *a major factor:* **important**, big, significant, weighty, crucial, key, sweeping, substantial.

**4** *major surgery:* **serious**, complicated, difficult.

– OPPOSITES minor, little, trivial.

**majority** *noun* **1** *the majority of cases:*

**larger part/number**, greater part/number, best/better part, most, more than half; bulk, mass, weight, (main) body, preponderance, predominance, generality, lion's share. **2** *a majority in the election:* (**winning**) **margin**; landslide. **3** *my son has reached his majority:* **coming of age**, legal age, adulthood, manhood/womanhood, maturity; age of consent.

– OPPOSITES minority.

**make** *verb* **1** *he makes models:* **construct**, build, assemble, put together, manufacture, produce, fabricate, create, form, fashion, model. **2** *she made me drink it:* **force**, compel, coerce, press, drive, pressure, pressurize, oblige, require; prevail on, dragoon, bludgeon, strong-arm, impel, constrain; informal railroad. **3** *don't make such a noise:* **cause**, create, give rise to, produce, bring about, generate, engender, occasion, effect, set up, establish, institute, found, develop, originate; literary beget. **4** *she made a little bow:* **perform**, execute, give, do, accomplish, achieve, bring off, carry out, effect. **5** *they made him chairman:* **appoint**, designate, name, nominate, select, elect, vote in, install; induct, institute, invest, ordain. **6** *he had made a will:* **formulate**, frame, draw up, devise, make out, prepare, compile, compose, put together; draft, write, pen.



**7 I've made a mistake:** **perpetrate**, commit, be responsible for, be guilty of, be to blame for. **8 he's made a lot of money:** **acquire**, obtain, gain, get, realize, secure, win, earn; gross, net, clear; bring in, take (in). **9 he made tea:** **prepare**, get ready, put together, concoct, cook, dish up, throw together, whip up, brew; informal fix; Brit. informal mash. **10 we've got to make a decision:** **reach**, come to, settle on, determine on, conclude. **11 she made a short announcement:** **utter**, give, deliver, give voice to, enunciate, recite, pronounce. **12 the sofa makes a good bed:** **be**, act as, serve as, function as, constitute, do duty for. **13 he just made his train:** **catch**, get, arrive/be in time for, arrive at, reach; get to.

— **OPPOSITES** destroy, lose, miss.

• **noun 1** *what make is the car?* **brand**, marque, label. **2** *a man of a different make from his brother:* **character**, nature, temperament, temper, disposition, kidney, mould, stamp.

■ **make as if/though** feign, pretend, make a show/pretence of, affect, feint, make out; informal put it on.

■ **make away with 1** *she decided to make away with him:* kill, murder, dispatch, eliminate; informal bump off, do away with, do in, do for, knock off, top, croak, stiff, blow away; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, smoke, waste; literary slay. **2** *they made away with the evidence:* dispose of, get rid of, destroy, throw away, jettison, ditch, dump; informal do away with.

■ **make believe** pretend, fantasize, daydream, build castles in the air, build castles in Spain, dream, imagine, play-act, play.

■ **make do** scrape by, scrape along, get by/along, manage, cope, survive, muddle along/through, improvise, make ends meet, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water; informal make out; (**make do with**) make the best of, get by on, put up with.

■ **make for 1** *she made for the door:* go for/towards, head for/towards, aim for, make one's way towards, move towards, steer a course towards, be bound for, make a beeline for. **2** *constant arguing doesn't make for a happy marriage:* contribute to, be conducive to, produce, promote, facilitate, foster; formal conduce to.

■ **make it 1** *he never made it as a singer:* succeed, be a success, distinguish oneself, get ahead, make good; informal make the grade, arrive, crack it. **2** *she's very ill—is she going to make it?* survive, come through, pull through, get better, recover.

■ **make love.** See **HAVE SEX** at **SEX**.

■ **make off** run away/off, take to one's heels, beat a hasty retreat, flee, make one's getaway, make a quick exit, run for it, make a run for it, take off, take flight, bolt, make oneself scarce, decamp, do a disappearing act; informal clear off/out, beat it, leg it, cut and run, skedaddle, vamoose, hightail it, hotfoot it, show a clean pair of heels, fly the coop, split, scoot, scam; Brit. informal scarper, do a runner; N. Amer. informal take a powder.

■ **make off with** take, steal, purloin, pilfer, abscond with, run away/off with, carry off, snatch; kidnap, abduct; informal walk away/off with, swipe, filch, snaffle, nab, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', snitch; Brit. informal pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off; N. Amer. informal heist, glom.

■ **make out** (informal) *how did you make out?* get on/along, fare, do, proceed, go, progress, manage, survive, cope, get by.

■ **make something out 1** *I could just make out a figure in the distance:* see, discern, distinguish, perceive, pick out, detect, observe, recognize; literary descry, espy. **2** *he couldn't make out what she was saying:* understand, comprehend, follow, grasp, fathom, work out, make sense of, interpret, decipher, make head or tail of, get, get the drift of, catch. **3** *she made out that he was violent:* allege, claim, assert, declare, maintain, affirm, suggest, imply, hint, insinuate, indicate, intimate, impute; formal aver. **4** *he made out a receipt for \$20:* write out, fill out, fill in, complete, draw up.

■ **make something over to someone** transfer, sign over, turn over, hand over/on/down, give, leave, bequeath, bestow, pass on, assign, consign, entrust; Law devolve, convey.

■ **make up let's kiss and make up:** be friends again, bury the hatchet, declare a truce, make peace, forgive and forget, shake hands, become reconciled, settle one's differences, mend fences, call it quits.

■ **make something up 1** *exports make up 42% of earnings:* comprise, form, compose, constitute, account for. **2** *Gina brought a friend to make up a foursome:* complete, round off, finish. **3** *the pharmacist made up the prescription:* prepare, mix, concoct, put together. **4** *he made up an excuse:* invent, fabricate, concoct, dream up, think up, hatch, trump up; devise, manufacture, formulate, coin; informal cook up. **5** *she made up her face:* apply make-up/cosmetics to, powder, rouge; (**make oneself up**) informal put on one's face, do/paint one's face, apply one's warpaint, doll oneself up.

■ **make up for 1** *she tried to make up for what she'd said:* atone for, make amends for, compensate for, make recompense for, make reparation for, make redress for, make restitution for, expiate. **2** *job satisfaction can make up for low pay:* offset, counterbalance, counteract, compensate for; balance, neutralize, cancel out, even up, redeem.

■ **make up one's mind** decide, come to a decision, make/reach a decision; come to a conclusion, reach a conclusion; determine, resolve.

■ **make up to** (informal) curry favour with, cultivate, try to win over, court, ingratiate oneself with; informal suck up to, butter up; N. Amer. informal shine up to; old use blandish.

■ **make way** move aside, clear the way, make a space, make room, stand back.

**make-believe** noun *that was sheer make-believe:* fantasy, pretence, day-dreaming, imagination, invention, fancy,

m

dream, fabrication, play-acting, charade, masquerade.

- OPPOSITES reality.
- **adjective** *make-believe adventures*: imaginary, imagined, made-up, fantasy, dreamed-up, fanciful, fictitious, fictive, feigned, fake, mock, sham, simulated; informal pretend, phoney.
- OPPOSITES real, actual.

**maker** **noun** creator, manufacturer, constructor, builder, producer, fabricator.

**makeshift** **adjective** temporary, provisional, stopgap, standby, rough and ready, improvised, ad hoc, extempore, thrown together, cobbled together.

- OPPOSITES permanent.

**make-up** **noun** **1** *she uses excessive make-up*: cosmetics, maquillage; greasepaint, face paint; informal warpaint, slap. **2** *the cellular make-up of plants*: composition, constitution, structure, configuration, arrangement, organization, formation. **3** *jealousy isn't part of his make-up*: character, nature, temperament, personality, disposition, mentality, persona, psyche; informal what makes someone tick.

**making** **noun** **1** *the making of cars*: manufacture, mass-production, building, construction, assembly, production, creation, putting together, fabrication, forming, moulding, forging. **2** *she has the makings of a champion*: qualities, characteristics, ingredients; potential, promise, capacity, capability; essentials, essence, beginnings, rudiments, basics, stuff.

- OPPOSITES destruction.
- **in the making** *a hero in the making*: budding, up and coming, emergent, developing, nascent, potential, promising, incipient.

**maladjusted** **adjective** disturbed, unstable, neurotic, unbalanced, unhinged, dysfunctional; informal mixed up, screwed up, hung up, messed up.

- OPPOSITES normal, stable.

**maladministration** **noun** (formal) mismanagement, mishandling, misgovernment, misrule, incompetence, inefficiency, bungling; malpractice, misconduct; Law malfeasance; formal malversations.

- OPPOSITES probity, efficiency.

**maladroit** **adjective** bungling, awkward, inept, clumsy, bumbling, incompetent, unskilful, heavy-handed, gauche, tactless, inconsiderate, undiplomatic, impolitic; informal ham-fisted, cack-handed.

- OPPOSITES adroit, skilful.

**malady** **noun** illness, sickness, disease, infection, ailment, disorder, complaint, indisposition, affliction, infirmity; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy; Austral. informal wog.

**malaise** **noun** unhappiness, uneasiness, unease, discomfort, melancholy, depression, despondency, dejection, angst, Weltschmerz, ennui; lassitude, listlessness, languor, weariness; indisposition, ailment, infirmity,

illness, sickness, disease.

- OPPOSITES comfort, well-being.

**malapropism** **noun** wrong word, solecism, misuse, misapplication, infelicity, slip of the tongue.

**malapropos** **adjective** (formal) inappropriate, unsuitable, inapposite, infelicitous, inapt, unseemly, inopportune, ill-timed, untimely.

**malcontent** **noun** a group of malcontents: troublemaker, mischief-maker, agitator, dissident, rebel; discontent, complainer, grumbler, moaner; informal stirrer, whinger, grouch, bellyacher; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

- **adjective** *a malcontent employee*: disaffected, discontented, dissatisfied, disgruntled, unhappy, annoyed, irritated, displeased, resentful; rebellious, dissentient, troublemaking, grumbling, complaining; informal browned off, hacked off, fed up, peeved, bellyaching; Brit. informal cheesed off, brassed off; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off.
- OPPOSITES happy.

**male** **adjective** *male sexual jealousy*: masculine, virile, manly, macho, red-blooded.

- OPPOSITES female.
- **noun** *two males walked past*. See **MAN** sense 1.

**malediction** **noun** curse, damnation, oath; spell; N. Amer. hex; formal imprecation; literary anathema; old use execration.

- OPPOSITES blessing.

**malefactor** **noun** wrongdoer, miscreant, offender, criminal, culprit, villain, lawbreaker, felon, evildoer, delinquent, sinner, transgressor; informal crook, baddy; Austral. informal crim; Law malfeasant; old use trespasser.

**malevolence** **noun** malice, hostility, hate, hatred, ill will, enmity, ill feeling, balefulness, venom, rancour, malignity, vindictiveness, viciousness, vengefulness; literary maleficence.

- OPPOSITES benevolence.

**malevolent** **adjective** malicious, hostile, evil-minded, baleful, evil-intentioned, venomous, evil, malign, malignant, rancorous, vicious, vindictive, vengeful; literary malefic, maleficent.

- OPPOSITES benevolent.

**malformation** **noun** deformity, distortion, crookedness, misshapeness, disfigurement, abnormality, warp.

**malformed** **adjective** deformed, misshapen, misproportioned, ill-proportioned, disfigured, distorted, crooked, contorted, twisted, wry, warped; abnormal, grotesque, monstrous; Scottish thrawn.

- OPPOSITES perfect, normal, healthy.

**malfunction** **verb** *the computer has malfunctioned*: crash, go wrong, break down, fail, stop working; informal conk out, go kaput, fall over, act up; Brit. informal play up, pack up.

- **noun** *a computer malfunction*: crash, breakdown, fault, failure, bug; informal glitch.

**malice** noun **spite**, malevolence, ill will, vindictiveness, vengeance, revenge, malignity, evil intentions, animus, enmity, rancour; informal bitchiness, cattiness; literary maleficence.

– OPPOSITES benevolence.

**malicious** adjective **spiteful**, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES benevolent.

**malign** adjective *a malign influence*:

**harmful**, evil, bad, baleful, hostile, inimical, destructive, malignant, injurious; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES beneficial.

• **verb** *he maligned an innocent man*: **defame**, slander, libel, blacken someone's name/character, smear, vilify, speak ill of, cast aspersions on, run down, traduce, denigrate, disparage, slur, abuse, revile; informal bad-mouth, knock; Brit. informal rubbish, slag off; formal derogate, calumniate; rare asperse.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**malignant** adjective **1** *a malignant disease*:

**virulent**, very infectious, invasive, uncontrollable, dangerous, deadly, fatal, life-threatening. **2** *a malignant growth*: **cancerous**; technical **metastatic**. **3** *a malignant thought*: **spiteful**, malicious, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES benign, benevolent.

**malinger** verb **pretend to be ill**, feign/fake illness, sham; shirk; informal put it on; Brit. informal skive, swing the lead; N. Amer. informal gold-brick.

**malingerer** noun **shirker**, idler, layabout; informal slacker; Brit. informal skiver, lead-slinger; N. Amer. informal gold brick.

**mall** noun **shopping precinct**, shopping centre, shopping complex, arcade, galleria; N. Amer. plaza.

**malleable** adjective **1** *a malleable substance*:

**pliable**, ductile, plastic, pliant, soft, workable. **2** *a malleable young woman*: **easily influenced**, suggestible, susceptible, impressionable, pliable, amenable, compliant, tractable; biddable, complaisant, manipulable, persuadable, like putty in someone's hands.

– OPPOSITES hard, intractable.

**malnutrition** noun **undernourishment**, malnourishment, poor diet, inadequate diet, unhealthy diet, lack of food.

**malodorous** adjective **foul-smelling**, evil-smelling, fetid, smelly, stinking (to high heaven), reeking, rank, high, putrid, noxious; informal stinky; Brit. informal niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; N. Amer. informal funky; literary noisome, mephitic.

– OPPOSITES fragrant.

**malpractice** noun **wrongdoing**, professional misconduct, breach of ethics,

unprofessionalism, unethical behaviour; negligence, carelessness, incompetence.

**maltreat** verb **ill-treat**, mistreat, abuse, ill-use, misuse, mishandle; knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, manhandle, harm, hurt, persecute, molest; informal beat up, rough up, do over.

**maltreatment** noun **ill-treatment**, mistreatment, abuse, ill use, ill usage, misuse, mishandling; violence, harm, persecution, molestation.

**mammoth** adjective **huge**, enormous, gigantic, giant, colossal, massive, vast, immense, mighty, stupendous, monumental, Herculean, epic, prodigious, mountainous, monstrous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan, Brobdingnagian; informal mega, monster, whopping, humongous, bumper, jumbo, astronomical; Brit. informal whacking, whacking great, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**man** noun **1** *a handsome man*: **male**, adult male, gentleman; youth; informal guy, fellow, geezer, gent; Brit. informal bloke, chap, lad, cove; Scottish & Irish informal bodach; N. Amer. informal dude, hombre; Austral./NZ informal digger. **2** *all men are mortal*: **human**

**being**, human, person, mortal, individual, personage, soul. **3** *the evolution of man*: **the human race**, the human species, Homo sapiens, humankind, humanity, human beings, humans, people, mankind. **4** *the men voted to go on strike*: **worker**, workman, labourer, hand, blue-collar worker. See also

**STAFF** sense 1. **5** *have you met her new man?* **boyfriend**, partner, husband, spouse, lover, admirer, fiancé; common-law husband, live-in lover, significant other, cohabitee; informal fancy man, toy boy, sugar daddy, intended; N. Amer. informal squeeze; dated beau, steady, young man; old use leman. **6** *his man brought him a cocktail*: **manservant**, valet, gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, attendant, retainer; page, footman, flunkey; Military, dated batman; N. Amer. houseman.

• **verb** **1** *the office is manned from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*: **staff**, crew, occupy, people. **2** *firemen manned the pumps*: **operate**, work, use, utilize.

■ **man to man** frankly, openly, honestly, directly, candidly, plainly, forthrightly, without beating about the bush; woman to woman.

■ **to a man** without exception, with no exceptions, bar none, one and all, everyone, each and every one, unanimously, as one.

#### WORD LINKS

**male**, masculine, virile relating to men  
**machismo** strong or aggressive male pride  
**emasculate** deprive a man of his male role or identity  
**patriarchy** a system in which men hold the power  
**patrilineal** based on relationship with the father or male line of descent  
**spear side** the male side of a family  
**misandry** hatred of men



**androcentric** focused or centred on men  
**yang** (in Chinese philosophy) the active male principle of the universe

**manacle** verb shackle, fetter, chain, put/clap in irons, handcuff, restrain; secure; informal cuff.

**manacles** plural noun handcuffs, shackles, chains, irons, fetters, restraints, bonds; informal cuffs, bracelets; Brit. old use darbies.

**manage** verb **1** *she manages a staff of 80 people: be in charge of, run, be head of, head, direct, control, preside over, lead, govern, rule, command, superintend, supervise, oversee, administer, organize, conduct, handle, guide, be at the helm of, helm; informal head up.* **2** *how much work can you manage this week? accomplish, achieve, do, carry out, perform, undertake, bring about/off, effect, finish; succeed in, contrive, engineer.* **3** *will you be able to manage without him? cope, get along/on, make do, be/fare/do all right, carry on, survive, get by, muddle through/along, fend for oneself, shift for oneself, make ends meet, weather the storm; informal make out, hack it.* **4** *she can't manage that horse: control, handle, master; cope with, deal with.*

**manageable** adjective **1** *a manageable amount of work: achievable, doable, practicable, possible, feasible, reasonable, attainable, viable.* **2** *a manageable child: compliant, tractable, pliant, pliable, malleable, biddable, docile, amenable, governable, controllable, accommodating, acquiescent, complaisant, yielding.* **3** *a manageable tool: user-friendly, easy to use, handy.*

– OPPOSITES difficult, impossible.

**management** noun **1** *he's responsible for the management of the firm: administration, running, managing, organization; charge, care, direction, leadership, control, governing, governance, ruling, command, superintendence, supervision, overseeing, conduct, handling, guidance, operation.* **2** *workers are in dispute with the management: managers, employers, directors, board of directors, board, directorate, executives, administrators, administration; owners, proprietors; informal bosses, top brass.*

**manager** noun **1** *the works manager: executive, head of department, line manager, supervisor, principal, administrator, head, director, managing director, employer, superintendent, foreman, forewoman, overseer; proprietor; informal boss, chief, head honcho, governor; Brit. informal gaffer, guv'nor.* **2** *the band's manager: organizer, controller, comptroller; impresario.*

**mandate** noun **1** *he called an election to seek a mandate for his policies: authority, approval, acceptance, ratification, endorsement, sanction, authorization.* **2** *a mandate from the UN: instruction, directive, decree, command, order, injunction, edict,*

*charge, commission, bidding, ruling, fiat; formal ordinance.*

**mandatory** adjective obligatory, compulsory, binding, required, requisite, necessary, essential, imperative.  
 – OPPOSITES optional.

**manful** adjective brave, courageous, bold, plucky, gallant, manly, heroic, intrepid, fearless, stout-hearted, valiant, valorous, dauntless, doughty; resolute, with gritted teeth, determined; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES cowardly.

**manfully** adverb bravely, courageously, boldly, gallantly, pluckily, heroically, intrepidly, fearlessly, valiantly, dauntlessly; resolutely, determinedly, hard, strongly, vigorously, with might and main, like a Trojan; with all one's strength, to the best of one's abilities, as best one can, desperately.

**mange** noun scabies, scab, rash, eruption, skin infection.

**manger** noun trough, feeding trough, fodder rack, feeder, crib.

**mangle** verb **1** *the bodies were mangled beyond recognition: mutilate, maim, disfigure, damage, injure, crush; hack, cut up, lacerate, tear apart, butcher, maul.* **2** *he's mangling the English language: spoil, ruin, mar, mutilate, make a mess of, wreck; informal murder, make a hash of, butcher.*

**mangy** adjective **1** *a mangy cat: scabby, scaly, scabious, diseased.* **2** *a mangy old armchair: scruffy, moth-eaten, shabby, worn; dirty, squalid, sleazy, seedy; informal tatty, the worse for wear, scuzzy; Brit. informal grotty.*

**manhandle** verb **1** *he was manhandled by a gang of youths: push, shove, jostle, hustle; maltreat, ill-treat, mistreat, maul, molest; informal paw, rough up; N. Amer. informal roast.* **2** *we manhandled the piano down the stairs: heave, haul, push, shove; pull, tug, drag, lug, carry, lift, manoeuvre; informal hump.*

**manhood** noun **1** *the transition from boyhood to manhood: maturity, sexual maturity, adulthood.* **2** *an insult to his manhood: virility, manliness, machismo, masculinity, maleness; mettle, spirit, strength, fortitude, determination, bravery, courage, intrepidity, valour, heroism, boldness.*

**mania** noun **1** *fits of mania: madness, derangement, dementia, insanity, lunacy, psychosis, mental illness; delirium, frenzy, hysteria, raving, wildness.* **2** *his mania for gadgets: obsession, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fascination, preoccupation, passion, enthusiasm, desire, urge, craving; craze, fad, rage; informal thing, yen.*

**maniac** noun **1** *a homicidal maniac: lunatic, madman, madwoman, psychopath; informal loony, fruitcake, nutcase, nut, psycho, head case, headbanger, sicko; Brit. informal nutter, mentalist; N. Amer. informal screwball, crazy, meshuggener.* **2** (informal) *a football maniac: enthusiast, fan, devotee, aficionado; informal freak, fiend, fanatic, nut, buff, addict.*

**manic** adjective **1** *a manic grin: mad, insane,*

deranged, demented, maniacal, lunatic, wild, crazed, demonic, hysterical, raving, unhinged, unbalanced; informal crazy. **2 manic activity:** frenzied, feverish, frenetic, hectic, intense; informal hyper, mad.

– OPPOSITES sane, calm.

**manifest** verb **1** *she manifested signs of depression:* **display**, show, exhibit, demonstrate, betray, present, reveal; formal evince. **2** *strikes manifest bad industrial relations:* **be evidence of**, be a sign of, indicate, show, attest, reflect, bespeak, prove, establish, evidence, substantiate, corroborate, confirm; literary betoken.

– OPPOSITES hide, mask.

• **adjective** *his manifest lack of interest:* **obvious**, clear, plain, apparent, evident, patent, palpable, distinct, definite, blatant, overt, glaring, barefaced, explicit, transparent, conspicuous, undisguised, unmistakable, noticeable, perceptible, visible, recognizable.

– OPPOSITES secret.

**manifestation** noun **1** *the manifestation of anxiety:* **display**, demonstration, show, exhibition, presentation. **2** *manifestations of global warming:* **sign**, indication, evidence, token, symptom, testimony, proof, substantiation, mark, reflection, example, instance. **3** *a supernatural manifestation:* **apparition**, appearance, materialization, visitation.

**manifesto** noun **policy statement**, mission statement, platform, programme, declaration, proclamation, pronouncement, announcement.

**manifest** adjective **many**, numerous, multiple, multifarious, legion, diverse, various, several, varied, different, miscellaneous, assorted, sundry; literary myriad, divers.

**manikin** noun **midget**, dwarf, homunculus, pygmy, Tom Thumb.

**manipulate** verb **1** *he manipulated some knobs and levers:* **operate**, work; turn, pull. **2** *she manipulated the muscles of his back:* **massage**, rub, knead, feel, palpate. **3** *the government tried to manipulate the situation:* **control**, influence, use/turn to one's advantage, exploit, manoeuvre, engineer, steer, direct; twist someone round one's little finger. **4** *they accused him of manipulating the data:* **falsify**, rig, distort, alter, change, doctor, massage, juggle, tamper with, tinker with, interfere with, misrepresent; informal cook, fiddle.

**manipulative** adjective **scheming**, calculating, cunning, crafty, wily, shrewd, devious, designing, conniving, Machiavellian, artful, guileful, slippery, slick, sly, unscrupulous, disingenuous; informal foxy.

**manipulator** noun **exploiter**, user, manoeuvrer, conniver, puppet master, wheeler-dealer; informal operator, thimble-rigger.

**mankind** noun **the human race**, man, humanity, human beings, humans, Homo

sapiens, humankind, people, men and women.

**manly** adjective **1** *his manly physique:* **virile**, masculine, strong, all-male, muscular, muscly, strapping, well built, sturdy, robust, rugged, tough, powerful, brawny, red-blooded, vigorous; informal hunky.

**2** *their manly deeds:* **brave**, courageous, bold, valiant, valorous, fearless, plucky, macho, manful, intrepid, daring, heroic, lionhearted, gallant, chivalrous, swashbuckling, adventurous, stout-hearted, dauntless, doughty, resolute, determined, stalwart; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES effeminate, cowardly.

**man-made** adjective **artificial**, synthetic, manufactured; imitation, ersatz, simulated, mock, fake, false, faux, plastic.

– OPPOSITES natural, real.

**mannequin** noun **1** *mannequins in a shop window:* **dummy**, model, figure.

**2** *mannequins on the catwalk:* **model**, fashion model, supermodel; informal clothes horse.

**manner** noun **1** *it was dealt with in a very efficient manner:* **way**, fashion, mode, means, method, system, style, approach, technique, procedure, process, methodology, modus operandi, form. **2** (old use) *what manner of person is he?* **kind**, sort, type, variety, nature, breed, brand, stamp, class, category, genre, order. **3** *her rather unfriendly manner:* **demeanour**, air, aspect, attitude, bearing, cast, behaviour, conduct; mien; formal comportment. **4** *the life and manners of Victorian society:* **customs**, habits, ways, practices, conventions, usages. **5** *it's bad manners to stare:* **behaviour**, conduct, way of behaving; form. **6** *you ought to teach him some manners:* **correct behaviour**, etiquette, social graces, good form, protocol, politeness, decorum, propriety, gentility, civility, Ps and Qs, breeding; informal the done thing; old use convenances.

**mannered** adjective **affected**, pretentious, unnatural, artificial, contrived, stilted, stiff, forced, put-on, theatrical, precious, stagy, camp; informal pseudo.

– OPPOSITES natural.

**mannerism** noun **idiosyncrasy**, quirk, oddity, foible, trait, peculiarity, habit, characteristic.

**mannerly** adjective. See **polite** sense 1.

**mannish** adjective **unfeminine**, unwomanly, masculine, unladylike, Amazonian; informal butch.

– OPPOSITES feminine, girlish.

**manoeuvre** verb **1** *I manoeuvred the car into the space:* **steer**, guide, drive, negotiate, navigate, pilot, direct, manipulate, move, work, jockey. **2** *he manoeuvred things to suit himself:* **manipulate**, contrive, manage, engineer, devise, plan, fix, organize, arrange, set up, orchestrate, choreograph, stage-manage; informal wangle. **3** *he began manoeuvring for the party leadership:* **intrigue**, plot, scheme, plan, lay plans, conspire, pull strings.

• **noun 1** *a rather tricky parking manoeuvre: operation, exercise, activity, move, movement, action.* **2** *diplomatic manoeuvres: stratagem, tactic, gambit, ploy, trick, dodge, ruse, plan, scheme, operation, device, plot, machination, artifice, subterfuge, intrigue.* **3** *military manoeuvres: training exercises, exercises, war games, operations.*

**manse** **noun** minister's house, vicarage, parsonage, rectory, deanery.

**manservant** **noun** valet, attendant, retainer, equerry, gentleman's gentleman, man, Jeeves; steward, butler, footman, flunkey, page, houseboy, lackey; N. Amer. houseman; Military, dated batman.

**mansion** **noun** stately home, hall, seat, manor, manor house, country house; informal palace, pile; formal residence.

– OPPOSITES hovel.

**mantle** **noun 1** *a dark green velvet mantle: cloak, cape, shawl, wrap, stole; historical pelisse.* **2** *a thick mantle of snow: covering, layer, blanket, sheet, veil, curtain, canopy, cover, cloak, pall, shroud.* **3** *the mantle of leadership: role, burden, onus, duty, responsibility.*  
• **verb** *heavy mists mantled the forest: cover, envelop, veil, cloak, curtain, shroud, swathe, wrap, blanket, conceal, hide, disguise, mask, obscure, surround, clothe; literary enshroud.*

**manual** **adjective 1** *manual work: done with one's hands, labouring, physical, blue-collar.*

**2** *a manual typewriter: hand-operated, hand, non-automatic.*

• **noun** *a training manual: handbook, instruction book, instructions, guide, companion, ABC, guidebook; informal bible.*

**manufacture** **verb 1** *the company manufactures laser printers: make, produce, mass-produce, build, construct, assemble, put together, create, fabricate, prefabricate, turn out, process, engineer.* **2** *a story manufactured by the press: make up, invent, fabricate, concoct, hatch, dream up, think up, trump up, devise, formulate, frame, contrive; informal cook up.*

• **noun** *the manufacture of aircraft engines: production, making, manufacturing, mass-production, construction, building, assembly, creation, fabrication, prefabrication, processing.*

**manufacturer** **noun** maker, producer, builder, constructor, creator; factory owner, industrialist, captain/baron of industry.

**manure** **noun** dung, muck, excrement, droppings, ordure, guano, cowpats; fertilizer; N. Amer. informal cow chips, horse apples.

**manuscript** **noun** document, text, script, paper, typescript; codex, palimpsest, scroll; autograph, holograph.

**many** **determiner & adjective 1** *many animals were killed: numerous, a great/good deal of, a lot of, plenty of, countless, innumerable, scores of, crowds of, droves of, an army of, a horde of, a multitude of, a multiplicity of, multitudinous, multiple, untold; several, various, sundry, diverse, assorted,*

*multifarious; copious, abundant, profuse, an abundance of, a profusion of; frequent; informal lots of, umpteen, loads of, masses of, stacks of, scads of, heaps of, piles of, bags of, tons of, oodles of, dozens of, hundreds of, thousands of, millions of, billions of, zillions of, a slew of, more — than one can shake a stick at; Brit. informal a shedload of; N. Amer. informal gazillions of; Austral./NZ informal a swag of; literary myriad, divers.* **2** *sacrificing the individual for the sake of the many: the people, the common people, the masses, the multitude, the populace, the public, the rank and file; derogatory the hoi polloi, the common herd, the mob, the proletariat, the riff-raff, the great unwashed, the proles.*

– OPPOSITES few.

**map** **noun** plan, chart, cartogram; road map, A to Z, street plan, guide; atlas, globe; sketch map, relief map, contour map; Mercator projection, Peters projection; N. Amer. plat, plot.

• **verb** *the region was mapped from the air: chart, plot, delineate, draw, depict, portray.*

■ **map something out** outline, set out, lay out, sketch out, trace out, rough out, block out, delineate, detail, draw up, formulate, work out, frame, draft, plan, plot out, arrange, design, programme.

#### WORD LINKS

**cartography** the science of drawing maps  
**contour line** a line on a map joining points of equal height

**isobar** a line on a map connecting points with the same atmospheric pressure

**isotherm** a line on a map connecting points with the same temperature

**orienteering** the sport of finding one's way across country using a map and compass

**mar** **verb 1** *an ugly scar marred his features: spoil, impair, disfigure, detract from, blemish, scar; mutilate, deface, deform.*

**2** *the celebrations were marred by violence: spoil, ruin, impair, damage, wreck; harm, hurt, blight, taint, tarnish, sully, stain, pollute; informal foul up; formal vitiate.*

– OPPOSITES enhance.

**marauder** **noun** raider, plunderer, pillager, looter, robber, pirate, freebooter, bandit, highwayman, rustler; literary brigand; old use buccaneer, corsair, reaver, cateran, mosstrooper.

**marauding** **adjective** predatory, rapacious, thieving, plundering, pillaging, looting, freebooting, piratical.

**march** **verb 1** *the men marched past: stride, walk, troop, step, pace, tread; footslog, slog, tramp, hike, trudge; parade, file, process; Brit. informal yomp.* **2** *she marched in without even knocking: stalk, stride, strut, flounce, storm, stomp, sweep.* **3** *time marches on: advance, progress, move on, roll on.*

• **noun 1** *a 20-mile march: hike, trek, tramp, slog, footslog, walk; route march, forced march; Brit. informal yomp.* **2** *police sought to ban the march: parade, procession, march past, cortège; demonstration; informal demo.* **3** *the march of technology: progress, advance,*



progression, development, evolution; passage.

**marches** plural noun *the Welsh marches*: borders, boundaries, borderlands, frontiers; historical marcher lands.

**margin** noun **1** *the margin of the lake*: edge, side, verge, border, perimeter, brink, brim, rim, fringe, boundary, limits, periphery, bound, extremity; literary *marge*, *bourne*, *skirt*. **2** *there's no margin for error*: **leeway**, latitude, scope, room, room for manoeuvre, space, allowance, extra, surplus. **3** *they won by a narrow margin*: **gap**, majority, amount, difference.

**marginal** adjective **1** *the difference is marginal*: slight, small, tiny, minute, insignificant, minimal, negligible. **2** *a very marginal case*: **borderline**, disputable, questionable, doubtful.

**marijuana** noun *cannabis*, hashish, bhang, hemp, kif, ganja, sinsemilla, skunkweed; informal *dope*, *hash*, *grass*, *pot*, *blow*, *draw*, *the weed*, *skunk*; Brit. informal *wacky baccy*; N. Amer. informal *locoweed*.

**marinate** verb *souse*, soak, steep, immerse, *marinate*.

**marine** adjective **1** *marine plants*: **seawater**, sea, saltwater, oceanic; aquatic; technical *pelagic*, *thalassic*. **2** *a marine insurance company*: **maritime**, nautical, naval; seafaring, seagoing, ocean-going.

**mariner** noun *sailor*, seaman, seafarer; informal *Jack tar*, *tar*, *sea dog*, *salt*, *bluejacket*, *matelot*; N. Amer. informal *shellback*.

**marital** adjective **matrimonial**, married, wedded, conjugal, nuptial, marriage, wedding; Law *spousal*; literary *connubial*, *epithalamic*.

**maritime** adjective **1** *maritime law*: **naval**, marine, nautical; seafaring, seagoing, sea, ocean-going. **2** *maritime regions*: **coastal**, **seaside**, **littoral**.

**mark** noun **1** *a dirty mark*: **blemish**, streak, spot, fleck, dot, blot, stain, smear, speck, speckle, blotch, smudge, smut, *fingermark*, *fingerprint*; bruise, discoloration; *birthmark*; informal *splotch*, *splodge*; technical *stigma*; literary *smirch*. **2** *a punctuation mark*: **symbol**, sign, character; diacritic. **3** *books bearing the mark of a well-known bookseller*: **logo**, seal, stamp, imprint, symbol, emblem, device, insignia, badge, brand, trademark, monogram, *hallmark*, *logotype*, *watermark*. **4** *unemployment passed the three million mark*: **point**, level, stage, degree. **5** *a mark of respect*: **sign**, token, symbol, indication, badge, emblem; symptom, evidence, proof. **6** *the war left its mark on him*: **impression**, imprint, traces; effect, impact, influence. **7** *the mark of a civilized society*: **characteristic**, feature, trait, attribute, quality, *hallmark*, badge, stamp, property, indicator. **8** *he got good marks for maths*: **grade**, grading, rating, score, percentage. **9** *the bullet missed its mark*: **target**, goal, aim, *bullseye*; objective, object, end. • verb **1** *be careful not to mark the paintwork*: **discolour**, stain, smear, smudge, streak,

blotch, blemish; dirty, pockmark, bruise; informal *splotch*, *splodge*; literary *smirch*.

**2** *her possessions were clearly marked*:

**put one's name on**, name, initial, label; *hallmark*, *watermark*, brand. **3** *I've marked the relevant passages*: **indicate**, label, flag, tick; show, identify, designate, delineate, denote. **4** *a festival to mark the town's 200th anniversary*: **celebrate**, observe, recognize, acknowledge, keep, honour, solemnize, pay tribute to, salute, commemorate, remember, memorialize. **5** *the incidents marked a new phase in their campaign*: **represent**, signify, be a sign of, indicate, herald. **6** *his style is marked by simplicity and concision*: **characterize**, distinguish, identify, typify, brand, signalize, stamp. **7** *I have a pile of essays to mark*: **assess**, evaluate, appraise, correct; N. Amer. **grade**. **8** *it'll cause trouble, you mark my words!* **take heed of**, pay heed to, heed, listen to, take note of, pay attention to, attend to, note, mind, bear in mind, take into consideration.

■ **make one's mark** be successful, distinguish oneself, succeed, be a success, prosper, get ahead/on, make good; informal *make it*, make the grade, find a place in the sun.

■ **mark something down** reduce, decrease, lower, cut, put down, discount; informal *slash*.

■ **mark someone out 1** *his honesty marked him out from the rest*: set apart, separate, single out, differentiate, distinguish. **2** *she is marked out for fame*: **destine**, ordain, predestine, preordain.

■ **mark something up** increase, raise, up, put up, hike (up), escalate; informal *jack up*.

■ **of mark** (dated) important, distinguished, eminent, pre-eminent, prominent, notable, famous, great, prestigious; of importance, of consequence, of note, of high standing, of distinction.

■ **quick off the mark** alert, quick, quick-witted, bright, clever, perceptive, sharp, sharp-witted, observant, wide awake, on one's toes; informal *on the ball*, quick on the uptake.

■ **wide of the mark** inaccurate, incorrect, wrong, erroneous, off target, off beam, out, mistaken, misguided, misinformed.

**marked** adjective **noticeable**, pronounced, decided, distinct, striking, clear, glaring, blatant, unmistakable, obvious, plain, manifest, patent, palpable, prominent, signal, significant, conspicuous, notable, recognizable, identifiable, distinguishable, discernible, apparent, evident; written all over one.

– OPPOSITES imperceptible.

**market** noun **1** **shopping centre**, market-place, mart, flea market, bazaar, souk, fair; old use *emporium*. **2** *there's no market for such goods*: **demand**, call, want, desire, need, requirement. **3** *the market is sluggish*: **trade**, trading, business, commerce, buying and selling, dealing.

• verb *the product was marketed worldwide*: **sell**, retail, vend, merchandise, trade, peddle, hawk; advertise, promote.

■ **on the market** on sale, (up) for sale,

m

on offer, available, obtainable; N. Amer. on the block.

**marksman, markswoman** noun sniper, sharpshooter, good shot; informal crack shot; N. Amer. informal deadeye, shootist.

**maroon** verb strand, cast away, cast ashore; abandon, leave behind, leave, leave in the lurch, desert; informal leave high and dry.

**marriage** noun **1** a proposal of marriage: (holy) matrimony, wedlock. **2** the marriage took place at St Margaret's: wedding, nuptials, union; old use espousal. **3** a marriage of jazz, pop, and gospel: union, alliance, fusion, mixture, mix, blend, amalgamation, combination, merger.

– OPPOSITES divorce, separation.

#### WORD LINKS

conjugal, connubial, marital, matrimonial, nuptial relating to marriage

monogamy the practice of having only one husband or wife at a time

bigamy the crime of marrying someone while already married to another person

polygamy the practice of having more than one husband or wife at a time

dowry property or money brought by a bride to her marriage

trousseau the clothes and other belongings collected by a bride for her marriage

elope run away secretly to get married

spouse a husband or wife

bachelor a man who has never been married

spinster a woman who has never been married

**married** adjective **1** a married couple: wedded, wed; informal spliced, hitched.

**2** married bliss: marital, matrimonial, conjugal, nuptial; Law spousal; literary connubial.

– OPPOSITES single.

**marrow** noun the marrow of his statement: essence, core, nucleus, pith, kernel, heart, quintessence, gist, substance, sum and substance, meat, nub; informal nitty-gritty.

**marry** verb **1** the couple married last year: get/be married, wed, be wed, become man and wife, plight/pledge one's troth; informal tie the knot, walk down the aisle, take the plunge, get spliced, get hitched, say 'I do'. **2** John wanted to marry her: wed; informal make an honest woman of; old use espouse. **3** the show marries poetry with art: join, unite, combine, fuse, mix, blend, merge, amalgamate, link, connect, couple, knit, yoke.

– OPPOSITES divorce, separate.

**marsh** noun swamp, marshland, bog, peat bog, swampland, morass, mire, quagmire, slough, fen, fenland, wetland; N. Amer. bayou; Scottish & N. English moss; old use quag.

#### WORD LINKS

paludal relating to marshes

will-o'-the-wisp, ignis fatuus a flickering light seen at night over marshes

**marshal** verb **1** the king marshalled an army: assemble, gather together, collect,

muster, call together, draw up, line up, align, array, organize, group, arrange, deploy, position, order, dispose; mobilize, rally, round up. **2** guests were marshalled to their seats: usher, guide, escort, conduct, lead, shepherd, steer, take.

**marshy** adjective boggy, swampy, muddy, squelchy, soggy, waterlogged, miry, fenny; Scottish & N. English mossy; Ecology paludal.

– OPPOSITES dry, firm.

**martial** adjective military, soldierly, soldier-like, army, naval; warlike, fighting, combative, militaristic; informal gung-ho.

**martinet** noun disciplinarian, slave-driver, stickler for discipline, (hard) taskmaster, authoritarian, tyrant.

**martyr** verb put to death, kill, martyrize; burn, burn at the stake, immolate, stone to death, throw to the lions, crucify.

**martyrdom** noun death, suffering, torture, torment, agony, ordeal; killing, sacrifice, crucifixion, immolation, burning, auto-da-fé; Christianity Passion.

**marvel** verb she marvelled at their courage: be amazed, be astonished, be surprised, be awed, stand in awe, wonder; stare, gape, goggle, not believe one's eyes/ears, be dumbfounded; informal be flabbergasted. • noun the marvels of technology: wonder, miracle, sensation, spectacle, phenomenon; informal something else, something to shout about, eye-opener.

**marvellous** adjective **1** his solo climb was marvellous: amazing, astounding, astonishing, awesome, breathtaking, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, staggering, stunning; phenomenal, prodigious, miraculous, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable; literary wondrous. **2** marvellous weather: excellent, splendid, wonderful, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, too good to be true; informal super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, to die for, magic, ace, wicked, mind-blowing, far out, out of this world; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; N. Amer. informal boss; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer; Brit. informal, dated champion, wizard, corking, ripping, spiffing, top-hole; N. Amer. informal, dated swell.

– OPPOSITES commonplace, awful.

**masculine** adjective **1** a masculine trait: male, man's, men's. **2** a powerfully masculine man: virile, macho, manly, all-male, muscular, muscly, strong, strapping, well built, rugged, robust, brawny, powerful, red-blooded, vigorous; informal hunky. **3** a rather masculine woman: mannish, unfeminine, unwomanly, unladylike, Amazonian; informal butch.

– OPPOSITES feminine, effeminate.

**masculinity** noun virility, manliness, maleness, machismo, vigour, strength, muscularity, ruggedness, robustness.

**mash** verb mash the potatoes: pulp, crush, purée, cream, smash, squash, pound, beat.

• **noun** *first pound the garlic to a mash*: **pulp**, purée, mush, paste.

**mask** **noun** **1** *she wore a mask to conceal her face*: **disguise**, false face; historical domino, visor; old use vizard. **2** *he dropped his mask of good humour*: **pretence**, semblance, veil, screen, front, false front, facade, veneer, blind, false colours, disguise, guise, concealment, cover, cover-up, cloak, camouflage.

• **verb** *poplar trees masked the factory*: **hide**, conceal, disguise, cover up, obscure, screen, cloak, camouflage, veil.

**masquerade** **noun** **1** *a grand masquerade*: **masked ball**, masque, fancy-dress party. **2** *he couldn't keep up the masquerade much longer*: **pretence**, deception, pose, act, front, facade, disguise, dissimulation, cover-up, bluff, play-acting, make-believe; informal put-on.

• **verb** *a woman masquerading as a man*: **pretend to be**, pose as, pass oneself off as, impersonate, disguise oneself as; formal personate.

**Mass** **noun** Eucharist, Holy Communion, Communion, the Lord's Supper.

**mass** **noun** **1** *a soggy mass of fallen leaves*: **pile**, heap; accumulation, aggregation, accretion, concretion, build-up. **2** *a mass of cyclists*: **crowd**, horde, large group, throng, host, troop, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, mob, pack, press, crush, flood, multitude. **3** *the mass of the population*: **majority**, greater part/number, best/better part, major part, most, bulk, main body, lion's share. **4** *the common people*, the populace, the public, the people, the rank and file, the crowd, the third estate; derogatory the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the common herd, the great unwashed. **5** (informal) *masses of food*. See **LOT** pronoun.

• **adjective** *mass hysteria*: **widespread**, general, wholesale, universal, large-scale, extensive, pandemic.

• **verb** *they began massing troops in the region*: **assemble**, marshal, gather together, muster, round up, mobilize, rally.

**massacre** **noun** **1** *a cold-blooded massacre of innocent civilians*: **slaughter**, wholesale/ mass slaughter, indiscriminate killing, mass murder, mass execution, annihilation, liquidation, decimation, extermination; carnage, butchery, bloodbath, bloodletting, pogrom, genocide, ethnic cleansing, holocaust, Shoah, night of the long knives; literary slaying. **2** (informal) *the match was an 8-0 massacre*. See **ROUT** noun sense 2.

• **verb** **1** *thousands were brutally massacred*: **slaughter**, butcher, murder, kill, annihilate, exterminate, execute, liquidate, eliminate, decimate, wipe out, mow down, cut down, put to the sword, put to death; literary slay. **2** (informal) *they were massacred in the final*. See **TROUCE**.

**massage** **noun** **rub**, rub-down, rubbing, kneading, palpation, manipulation, pummelling; shiatsu, reflexology, acupressure, hydromassage, Swedish

massage, osteopathy; effleurage, Roling, tapotement.

• **verb** **1** *he massaged her tired muscles*: **rub**, knead, palpate, manipulate, pummel, work. **2** *the statistics have been massaged*: **alter**, tamper with, manipulate, doctor, falsify, juggle, fiddle with, tinker with, distort, change, rig, interfere with, misrepresent; informal fix, cook, fiddle.

**massive** **adjective** **huge**, enormous, vast, immense, large, big, mighty, great, colossal, tremendous, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monstrous, monumental, giant, towering, elephantine, mountainous, titanic; epic, Herculean, Brobdingnagian; informal monster, jumbo, mega, whopping, humongous, hulking, bumper, astronomical; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– **OPPOSITES** tiny.

**mast** **noun** **1** *a ship's mast*: spar, boom, yard, gaff, foremast, mainmast, topmast, mizzenmast, mizzen, royal mast. **2** *the mast on top of the building*: **flagpole**, flagstaff, pole, post, rod, upright; aerial, transmitter, pylon.

**master** **noun** **1** (historical) *he acceded to his master's wishes*: **lord**, overlord, lord and master, ruler, sovereign, monarch, liege (lord), suzerain. **2** *the dog's master*: **owner**, keeper. **3** *a chess master*: **expert**, adept, genius, past master, maestro, virtuoso, professional, doyen, authority; informal ace, pro, wizard, whizz, hotshot; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack. **4** *the master of the ship*: **captain**, commander; informal skipper. **5** *the geography master*: **teacher**, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, tutor, instructor, preceptor; formal pedagogue. **6** *their spiritual master*: **guru**, teacher, leader, guide, mentor; swami, Maharishi; Roshi.

– **OPPOSITES** servant, amateur, pupil.

• **verb** **1** *I managed to master my fears*: **overcome**, conquer, beat, quell, quash, suppress, control, overpower, triumph over, subdue, vanquish, subjugate, prevail over, govern, curb, check, bridle, tame, defeat, get the better of, get a grip on, get over; informal lick. **2** *it took ages to master the technique*: **learn**, become proficient in, know inside out, know backwards; pick up, grasp, understand; informal get the hang of.

• **adjective** **1** *a master craftsman*: **expert**, adept, proficient, skilled, skilful, deft, dexterous, adroit, practised, experienced, masterly, accomplished, complete, demon, brilliant; informal crack, ace, mean, wizard; N. Amer. informal crackerjack. **2** *the master bedroom*: **principal**, main, chief; biggest.

**masterful** **adjective** **1** *a masterful man*: **commanding**, powerful, imposing, magisterial, lordly, authoritative; dominating, domineering, overbearing, overweening, imperious. **2** *their masterful handling of the situation*: **expert**, adept, clever, masterly, skilful, skilled, adroit, proficient, deft, dexterous, accomplished, polished, consummate; informal crack, ace.



– OPPOSITES weak, inept.

**masterly** adjective. See **MASTERFUL** sense 2.

**mastermind** verb *he masterminded the whole campaign*: **plan**, control, direct, be in charge of, run, conduct, organize, arrange, preside over, orchestrate, stage-manage, engineer, manage, coordinate; conceive, devise, originate, initiate, think up, frame, hatch, come up with; informal be the brains behind.

• **noun** *the mastermind behind the project*: **genius**, mind, intellect, author, architect, organizer, originator, prime mover, initiator, inventor; informal brain, brains, bright spark.

**masterpiece** noun *chef-d'œuvre*, pièce de résistance, masterwork, magnum opus, finest/best work, tour de force.

**master stroke** noun *stroke of genius*, coup, triumph, coup de maître, tour de force.

**mastery** noun **1** *her mastery of the language*: proficiency, ability, capability; knowledge, understanding, comprehension, familiarity, command, grasp, grip. **2** *they played with tactical mastery*: skill, skilfulness, expertise, dexterity, finesse, adroitness, virtuosity, prowess, deftness, proficiency; informal know-how. **3** *man's mastery over nature*: control, domination, command, ascendancy, supremacy, pre-eminence, superiority; triumph, victory, the upper hand, the whip hand, rule, government, power, sway, authority, jurisdiction, dominion, sovereignty.

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**masticate** verb *chew*, munch, champ, chomp, crunch, eat; ruminate, chew the cud; formal manducate.

**mat** noun **1** *the hall mat*: rug, runner, carpet, drugget; doormat, hearthrug; dhurrie, numdah; kilim, flokati; N. Amer. floorcloth. **2** *he placed his glass on the mat*: coaster, doily; Brit. drip mat. **3** *a thick mat of hair*: mass, tangle, knot, mop, thatch, shock, mane. • **verb** *his hair was matted with blood*: tangle, entangle, knot, ravel, snarl up.

**match** noun **1** *a football match* | *a boxing match*: contest, competition, game, tournament, tie, cup tie, event, fixture, trial, test, meet, bout, fight; friendly, (local) derby; play-off, replay, rematch; old use tourney. **2** *he was no match for the champion*: equal, rival, equivalent, peer, counterpart; formal compeer. **3** *the vase was an exact match of the one she already owned*: lookalike, double, twin, duplicate, mate, fellow, companion, counterpart, pair; replica, copy; informal spitting image, spit and image, dead spit, dead ringer. **4** *a love match*: marriage, betrothal, relationship, partnership, union. • **verb** **1** *the curtains matched the duvet cover*: go with, coordinate with, complement, suit; be the same as, be similar to. **2** *did their statements match?* correspond, be in agreement, tally, agree, match up, coincide, accord, conform, square. **3** *no one can match him at chess*: equal, be a match for, measure up to, compare with, parallel, be in the same league as, be on a par with, touch, keep pace

with, keep up with, emulate, rival, vie with, compete with, contend with; informal hold a candle to.

■ **match up** to measure up to, come up to, meet with, be equal to, be as good as, satisfy, fulfil, answer to.

**matching** adjective corresponding, equivalent, parallel, analogous; coordinating, complementary, toning; paired, twin, identical, like, like (two) peas in a pod, alike.

– OPPOSITES different, clashing.

**matchless** adjective incomparable, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/ comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, peerless, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil, unique, consummate, perfect, rare, transcendent, surpassing; formal unexampled.

**matchmaker** noun *marriage broker*, shadchan; marriage bureau, dating agency; go-between.

**mate** noun **1** (Brit. informal) *he's gone out with his mates*: friend, companion, boon companion, intimate, familiar, confidant; playmate, playfellow, schoolmate, classmate, workmate; informal pal, chum; Brit. informal china, mucker; N. English informal marrer; N. Amer. informal buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy; old use compeer. **2** *she's finally found her ideal mate*: partner, husband, wife, spouse, lover, live-in lover, significant other, companion, helpmate, helpmeet, consort; informal better half, hubby, missus, missis; Brit. informal other half, dutch, trouble and strife. **3** *I can't find the mate to this sock*: match, fellow, twin, companion, pair, other half, equivalent. **4** *a plumber's mate*: assistant, helper, apprentice.

• **verb** *pandas rarely mate in captivity*: breed, couple, copulate.

**material** noun **1** *the decomposition of organic material*: matter, substance, stuff, medium. **2** *the materials for a new building*: constituent, raw material, element, component. **3** *cleaning materials*: things, items, articles, stuff, necessities; Brit. informal gubbins. **4** *curtain material*: fabric, cloth, textiles. **5** *material for a magazine article*: information, data, facts, facts and figures, statistics, evidence, details, particulars, background, notes; informal info, gen, dope, low-down.

• **adjective** **1** *the material world*: physical, corporeal, tangible, non-spiritual, mundane, worldly, earthly, secular, temporal, concrete, real, solid, substantial. **2** *she was too fond of material pleasures*: sensual, physical, carnal, corporal, fleshly, bodily. **3** *information that could be material to the inquiry*: relevant, pertinent, applicable, germane; apropos, to the point; vital, essential, key. **4** *the storms caused material damage*: significant, major, important.

– OPPOSITES spiritual, aesthetic, irrelevant.

**materialistic** adjective consumerist, acquisitive, money-oriented, greedy; worldly, capitalistic, bourgeois.

**materialize** verb **1** *the forecast investment boom did not materialize*: **happen**, occur, come about, take place, come into being, transpire; informal come off; formal eventuate; literary come to pass. **2** *Harry materialized at the door*: **appear**, turn up, arrive, make/put in an appearance, present oneself/itself, emerge, surface, reveal oneself/itself, show one's face, pop up; informal show up, fetch up, pitch up.

**materially** adverb significantly, greatly, much, very much, to a great extent, considerably, substantially, a great deal, appreciably, markedly, fundamentally, seriously, gravely.

**maternal** adjective **1** *her maternal instincts*: **motherly**, protective, caring, nurturing, loving, devoted, affectionate, fond, warm, tender, gentle, kind, kindly, comforting. **2** *his maternal grandparents*: **on one's mother's side**, on the distaff side.

**mathematical** adjective **1** *mathematical symbols*: **arithmetical**, numerical; statistical, algebraic, geometric, trigonometric. **2** *mathematical precision*: **rigorous**, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, scientific, strict, precise, exact, accurate, pinpoint, correct, careful, unerring.

**matrimonial** adjective **marital**, conjugal, married, wedded; nuptial; Law spousal; literary connubial.

**matrimony** noun marriage, wedlock, union; nuptials.

– OPPOSITES divorce.

**matted** adjective tangled, tangly, knotted, knotty, tousled, dishevelled, uncombed, unkempt, ratty; black English natty.

**matter** noun **1** *decaying vegetable matter*: **material**, substance, stuff. **2** *the heart of the matter*: **affair**, business, proceeding, situation, circumstance, event, happening, occurrence, incident, episode, experience; subject, topic, issue, question, point, point at issue, case, concern. **3** *it is of little matter now*: **importance**, consequence, significance, note, import, weight; formal moment. **4** *what's the matter?* **problem**, trouble, difficulty, complication; upset, worry. **5** *the matter of the sermon*: **content**, subject matter, text, argument, substance. **6** *an infected wound full of matter*: **pus**, suppuration, purulence, discharge.

• verb *it doesn't matter what you wear*: **be important**, make any/a difference, be of importance, be of consequence, signify, be irrelevant, count; informal cut any ice.

■ **as a matter of fact** actually, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, as it happens, really, believe it or not, in reality, in truth, to tell the truth.

**matter-of-fact** adjective **unemotional**, practical, down-to-earth, sensible, realistic, rational, sober, unsentimental, pragmatic, businesslike, commonsensical, level-headed, hard-headed, no-nonsense, factual, literal, straightforward, plain, unembellished, unvarnished, unadorned.

**mature** adjective **1** *a mature woman*: **adult**,

grown-up, grown, fully grown, full-grown, of age, fully developed, in one's prime.

**2** *he's very mature for his age*: **sensible**, responsible, adult, level-headed, reliable, dependable; wise, discriminating, shrewd, sophisticated. **3** *mature cheese*: **ripe**, ripened, mellow; ready to eat/drink. **4** *on mature reflection, he decided not to go*: **careful**, thorough, deep, considered.

– OPPOSITES adolescent, childish.

• verb **1** *kittens mature when they are about a year old*: **be fully grown**, be full-grown; grow up, come of age, reach adulthood, reach maturity. **2** *leave the cheese to mature*: **ripen**, mellow; age. **3** *their friendship didn't have time to mature*: **develop**, grow, evolve, bloom, blossom, flourish, thrive.

**maturity** noun **1** *her progress from childhood to maturity*: **adulthood**, majority, coming of age, manhood/womanhood. **2** *he displayed a maturity beyond his years*: **responsibility**, sense, level-headedness; wisdom, discrimination, shrewdness, sophistication.

**maudlin** adjective **1** *maudlin self-pity*: **sentimental**, over-sentimental, emotional, overemotional, tearful; informal weepy; formal lachrymose. **2** *a maudlin ballad*: **mawkish**, sentimental, over-sentimental, mushy, slushy, sloppy; Brit. twee; informal schmaltzy, cheesy, corny, toe-curling; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, three-hankie.

**maul** verb **1** *he had been mauled by a lion*: **savage**, attack, tear to pieces, lacerate, claw, scratch. **2** *she hated being mauled by men*: **molest**, feel, fondle, manhandle; informal grope, paw, touch up. **3** *his book was mauled by the critics*. See **CRITICIZE**.

**maunder** verb **1** *he maundered on about his problems*: **ramble**, prattle, blather, blether, rattle, chatter, jabber, babble; informal yak, yatter; Brit. informal rabbit, witter, waffle, natter, chunter. **2** *she maundered across the road*: **wander**, drift, meander, amble, potter; Brit. informal mooch.

**mausoleum** noun tomb, sepulchre, crypt, vault, charnel house, burial chamber, catacomb, undercroft.

**maverick** noun **individualist**, free spirit, nonconformist, nonorthodox person, original, eccentric; rebel, dissenter, dissident.

– OPPOSITES conformist.

**maw** noun **mouth**, jaws, muzzle; throat, gullet; informal trap, chops, kisser; Brit. informal gob.

**mawkish** adjective **sentimental**, over-sentimental, maudlin, mushy, slushy, sloppy, cloying, sickly, saccharine, sugary, syrupy, nauseating; Brit. twee; informal schmaltzy, weepy, cutesy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny, sick-making, toe-curling; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, hokey, three-hankie.

**maxim** noun saying, adage, aphorism, proverb, motto, saw, axiom, apophthegm, dictum, precept, epigram; truism, cliché.

**maximum** adjective *the maximum amount*: **greatest**, highest, biggest, largest, top, topmost, most, utmost, maximal.

• **noun** *production levels are near their maximum: upper limit, limit, utmost, uttermost, greatest, most, extremity, peak, height, ceiling, top.*

– **OPPOSITES** minimum.

**maybe** **adverb** *perhaps, possibly, conceivably, it could be, it is possible, for all one knows; N. English happen; literary peradventure, perchance.*

**mayhem** **noun** *chaos, disorder, havoc, bedlam, pandemonium, tumult, uproar, turmoil, commotion, all hell broken loose, maelstrom, trouble, disturbance, confusion, riot, anarchy, violence; informal madhouse.*

**maze** **noun** *labyrinth, complex network, warren; web, tangle, jungle, snarl.*

**meadow** **noun** *field, paddock; pasture, pastureland; literary lea, mead.*

**meagre** **adjective** **1** *their meagre earnings: inadequate, scanty, scant, paltry, limited, restricted, modest, insufficient, sparse, deficient, negligible, skimpy, slender, poor, miserable, pitiful, puny, miserly, niggardly, beggarly; informal measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling; formal exiguous.* **2** *a tall, meagre man: thin, lean, skinny, spare, scrawny, scraggy, gangling, gangly, spindly, stringy, bony, raw-boned, gaunt, underweight, underfed, undernourished, emaciated, skeletal, cadaverous.*

– **OPPOSITES** abundant, fat.

**meal** **noun** *snack; feast, banquet; informal bite (to eat), spread, blowout, feed; Brit. informal nosh-up; formal repast, collation; literary refecton.*

**WORD LINKS**

**prandial** relating to meals  
**appetizer, hors d'oeuvre** a small dish of food eaten before a meal to stimulate the appetite  
**entrée** the main course of a meal  
**dessert** (Brit. **pudding**) the sweet course at the end of a meal

**mean**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *flashing lights mean the road is blocked: signify, convey, denote, designate, indicate, connote, show, express, spell out; stand for, represent, symbolize; imply, suggest, intimate, hint at, insinuate, drive at, refer to, allude to; literary betoken.* **2** *she didn't mean to break it: intend, aim, plan, design, have in mind, contemplate, purpose, propose, set out, aspire, desire, want, wish, expect.* **3** *he was hit by a bullet meant for a soldier: intend, design; destine, predestine.* **4** *the closures will mean a rise in unemployment: entail, involve, necessitate, lead to, result in, give rise to, bring about, cause, engender, produce.* **5** *this means a lot to me: matter, be important, be significant.* **6** *a red sky in the morning usually means rain: presage, portend, foretell, augur, promise, foreshadow, herald, signal, bode; literary betoken, foretoken.*

**mean**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** **1** *he's too mean to leave a tip: miserly, niggardly, close-fisted, parsimonious, penny-pinching, cheese-*

*paring, Scrooge-like; informal tight-fisted, stingy, tight, minging, money-grubbing; N. Amer. informal cheap; formal penurious; old use near, niggard.* **2** *a mean trick: unkind, nasty, unpleasant, spiteful, malicious, unfair, cruel, shabby, foul, despicable, contemptible, horrible, obnoxious, vile, odious, loathsome, base, low; informal horrid, hateful, rotten, low-down; Brit. informal beastly.* **3** *the truth was obvious to even the meanest intelligence: inferior, poor, limited, restricted.* **4** *her flat was mean and cold: squalid, shabby, dilapidated, sordid, seedy, slummy, sleazy, insalubrious, wretched, dismal, dingy, miserable, run down, down at heel; informal scruffy, scuzzy, crummy, grungy; Brit. informal grotty.* **5** *a man of mean birth: lowly, humble, ordinary, low, low-born, modest, common, base, proletarian, plebeian, obscure, undistinguished, ignoble; old use baseborn.* **6** (informal) *he's a mean cook.* See **EXCELLENT.**

– **OPPOSITES** generous, kind, luxurious, noble.

**mean**<sup>3</sup> **noun** *a mean between saving and splashing out: middle course, middle way, midpoint, happy medium, golden mean, compromise, balance; median, norm, average.*

• **adjective** *the mean temperature: average, median, middle, medial, medium, normal, standard.*

**meander** **verb** **1** *the river meandered gently: zigzag, wind, twist, turn, curve, curl, bend, snake.* **2** *we meandered along the path: stroll, saunter, amble, wander, ramble, drift, maunder; Scottish stravaig; informal mosey, tootle.*

**meandering** **adjective** **1** *a meandering stream: winding, windy, zigzag, twisting, turning, curving, serpentine, sinuous, twisty.* **2** *meandering reminiscences: rambling, maundering, circuitous, roundabout, digressive, discursive, indirect, tortuous, convoluted.*

– **OPPOSITES** straight, succinct.

**meaning** **noun** **1** *the meaning of his remark: significance, sense, signification, import, gist, thrust, drift, implication, tenor, message, essence, substance, purport, intention.* **2** *the word has several different meanings: definition, sense, explanation, denotation, connotation, interpretation.* **3** *my life has no meaning: value, validity, worth, consequence, account, use, usefulness, significance, point.* **4** *his smile was full of meaning: expressiveness, significance, eloquence, implications, insinuations.*

**WORD LINKS**

**semantic** relating to meaning  
**synonym** a word having the same meaning as another  
**antonym** a word having the opposite meaning to another

**meaningful** **adjective** **1** *a meaningful remark: significant, relevant, important, consequential, telling, material, valid, worthwhile.* **2** *a meaningful relationship:*



**sincere**, deep, serious, in earnest, significant, important. **3** *a meaningful glance*: **expressive**, eloquent, pointed, significant, meaning; pregnant, speaking, telltale, revealing, suggestive.

– **OPPOSITES** inconsequential.

**meaningless** adjective **1** *a jumble of*

**meaningless words**: **unintelligible**, incomprehensible, incoherent. **2** *she felt her life was meaningless*: **futile**, pointless, aimless, empty, hollow, vain, purposeless, valueless, useless, of no use, worthless, senseless, trivial, trifling, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential.

– **OPPOSITES** worthwhile.

**means** plural noun **1** *the best means to achieve*

*your goal*: **method**, way, manner, mode, measure, technique, expedient, agency, medium, instrument, channel, vehicle, avenue, course, process, procedure. **2** *she doesn't have the means to support herself*: **money**, resources, capital, income, finance, funds, cash, the wherewithal, assets; informal dough, bread; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, ackers. **3** *a man of means*: **wealth**, riches, affluence, substance, fortune, property, money, capital.

■ **by all means** of course, certainly, definitely, surely, absolutely, with pleasure; N. Amer. informal sure thing.

■ **by means of** using, utilizing, employing, through, with the help of; as a result of, by dint of, by way of, by virtue of.

■ **by no means** not at all, in no way, not in the least, not in the slightest, not the least bit, not by a long shot, certainly not, absolutely not, definitely not, on no account, under no circumstances; Brit. not by a long chalk; informal no way.

**meantime** adverb. See **MEANWHILE**.

**meanwhile** adverb **1** *meanwhile, I'll stay*

*here*: **for now**, for the moment, for the present, for the time being, meantime, in the meantime, in the interim, in the interval. **2** *cook for a further half hour; meanwhile, make the stuffing*: **at the same time**, simultaneously, concurrently, the while.

**measurable** adjective **1** *a measurable amount*: **quantifiable**, assessable, gaugeable, computable. **2** *a measurable improvement*: **appreciable**, noticeable, significant, visible, perceptible, definite, obvious.

**measure** verb **1** *they measured the length of the room*: **calculate**, compute, count, meter, quantify, weigh, size, evaluate, assess, gauge, plumb, determine. **2** *I had better measure my words*: **choose carefully**, consider, plan. **3** *she did not need to measure herself against some ideal*: **compare with**, pit against, set against, test against, judge by.

• **noun** **1** *cost-cutting measures*: **action**, act, course (of action), deed, proceeding, procedure, step, means, expedient; manoeuvre, initiative, programme, operation. **2** *the Senate passed the measure*: **statute**, act, bill, law, legislation. **3** *the original dimensions were in imperial*

*measure*: **system**, standard, units, scale.

**4** *use a measure to check the size*: **ruler**, tape measure, rule, gauge, meter, scale, level, yardstick. **5** *a measure of egg white*: **quantity**, amount, portion. **6** *the states retain a measure of independence*: **certain amount**, degree; some. **7** *sales are the measure of the company's success*: **yardstick**, test, standard, barometer, touchstone, litmus test, criterion, benchmark. **8** *poetic measure*: **metre**, cadence, rhythm; foot.

■ **beyond measure** immensely, extremely, vastly, greatly, excessively, immeasurably, incalculably, infinitely.

■ **for good measure** as a bonus, as an extra, into the bargain, to boot, in addition, besides, as well.

■ **get/have the measure of** evaluate, assess, gauge, judge, weigh up; understand, fathom, read, be wise to, see through; informal have someone's number.

■ **measure something off** mark off, measure out, demarcate, delimit, delineate, outline, describe, define, stake out.

■ **measure up** pass muster, match up, come up to standard, fit/fill the bill, be acceptable; informal come up to scratch, make the grade, cut the mustard, be up to snuff.

■ **measure someone up** evaluate, rate, assess, appraise, judge, weigh up; informal size up.

■ **measure up to** meet, come up to, equal, match, bear comparison with, be on a level with; achieve, satisfy, fulfil.

**measured** adjective **1** *his measured tread*:

**regular**, steady, even, rhythmic, rhythmic, unflinching; slow, dignified, stately, sedate, leisurely, unhurried. **2** *his measured tones*: **thoughtful**, careful, carefully chosen, studied, calculated, planned, considered, deliberate, restrained.

**measureless** adjective **boundless**, limitless,

unlimited, unbounded, untold, immense, vast, endless, inexhaustible, infinite, illimitable, immeasurable, incalculable.

– **OPPOSITES** limited.

**measurement** noun **1** *measurement*

*of the effect is difficult*: **quantification**, computation, calculation, mensuration; evaluation, assessment, gauging. **2** *all measurements are given in metric form*: **size**, dimension, proportions, magnitude, amplitude; mass, bulk, volume, capacity, extent; value, amount, quantity, area, length, height, depth, weight, width, range.

**meat** noun **1** *flesh*, animal flesh. **2** (old use) *meat and drink*: **food**, nourishment, sustenance, provisions, rations, fare, foodstuff(s), provender, daily bread; informal grub, eats, chow, nosh, scoff; formal comestibles; dated victuals; literary viands; old use commons. **3** *the meat of the matter*: **substance**, pith, marrow, heart, kernel, core, nucleus, nub, essence, essentials, gist, fundamentals, basics; informal nitty-gritty.

#### WORD LINKS

carnivore an animal that feeds on meat  
carnivorous feeding on meat

m

**butcher** a person whose trade is cutting up and selling meat

**meaty** adjective **1** *a tall, meaty young man:* beefy, brawny, burly, muscular, muscly, powerful, sturdy, strapping, well built, solidly built, thickset; fleshy, stout. **2** *a good, meaty story:* interesting, thought-provoking, three-dimensional, stimulating; substantial, satisfying, meaningful, deep, profound.

**mechanical** adjective **1** *a mechanical device:* mechanized, machine-driven, automated, automatic, power-driven, robotic. **2** *a mechanical response:* automatic, unthinking, robotic, involuntary, reflex, knee-jerk, habitual, routine, unemotional, unfeeling, lifeless; perfunctory, cursory, careless, casual.

– OPPOSITES manual, conscious.

**mechanism** noun **1** *an electrical mechanism:* machine, piece of machinery, appliance, apparatus, device, instrument, contraption, gadget; informal gizmo. **2** *the train's safety mechanism:* machinery, workings, works, movement, action, gears, components. **3** *a formal mechanism for citizens to lodge complaints:* procedure, process, system, operation, method, technique, means, medium, agency, channel.

**mechanize** verb automate, industrialize, motorize, computerize.

m

**medal** noun decoration, ribbon, star, badge, laurel, palm, award; honour; Military slang fruit salad; Brit. informal gong.

**meddle** verb **1** *don't meddle in my affairs:* interfere, butt in, intrude, intervene, pry; informal poke one's nose in, horn in on, muscle in on, snoop, put/stick one's oar in; N. Amer. informal kibitz. **2** *someone had been meddling with her things:* fiddle, interfere, tamper, tinker, finger; Brit. informal muck about/around.

**meddlesome** adjective interfering, meddling, intrusive, prying, busybody; informal nosy, nosy-parker.

**mediate** verb **1** *Austria tried to mediate between the belligerents:* arbitrate, conciliate, moderate, act as peacemaker, make peace; intervene, step in, intercede, act as an intermediary, liaise. **2** *a tribunal was set up to mediate disputes:* resolve, settle, arbitrate in, umpire, reconcile, referee; mend, clear up; informal patch up. **3** *he attempted to mediate a solution to the conflict:* negotiate, bring about, effect; formal effectuate.

**mediation** noun arbitration, conciliation, reconciliation, intervention, intercession, good offices; negotiation, shuttle diplomacy.

**mediator** noun arbitrator, arbiter, negotiator, conciliator, peacemaker, go-between, middleman, intermediary, moderator, intervenor, intercessor, broker, honest broker, liaison officer; umpire, referee, adjudicator, judge.

**medicinal** adjective curative, healing, remedial, therapeutic, restorative,

corrective, health-giving; medical; old use sanative.

**medicine** noun medication, medicament, drug, prescription, dose, treatment, remedy, cure; nostrum, panacea, cure-all; old use physic.

#### WORD LINKS

**pharmaceutical** relating to medicine

**dispensary** a room where medicines are prepared

**pharmacy** (Brit. **chemist**; N. Amer. **drugstore**) a shop selling medicines

**codex, formulary, pharmacopoeia** an official list of medicinal drugs with directions for their use or prescription

**medieval** adjective **1** *medieval times:* of the Middle Ages, of the Dark Ages, Dark-Age; Gothic. **2** (informal) *the plumbing's a bit medieval:* primitive, antiquated, archaic, antique, antediluvian, old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, outmoded, anachronistic, passé, obsolete; informal out of the ark; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky.

– OPPOSITES modern.

**mediocre** adjective ordinary, average, middling, middle-of-the-road, uninspired, undistinguished, indifferent, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, forgettable, amateur, amateurish; informal OK, so-so, (plain) vanilla, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much; Brit. informal not much cop; N. Amer. informal bush-league; NZ informal half-pie.

– OPPOSITES excellent.

**meditate** verb contemplate, think, consider, ponder, muse, reflect, deliberate, ruminate, chew the cud, brood, mull over; be in a brown study, be deep/lost in thought, debate with oneself; pray; informal put on one's thinking cap; formal cogitate.

**meditation** noun contemplation, thought, thinking, musing, pondering, consideration, reflection, deliberation, rumination, brooding, reverie, brown study, concentration; prayer; formal cogitation.

**meditative** adjective pensive, thoughtful, contemplative, reflective, musing, ruminative, introspective, brooding, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study; prayerful; formal cogitative.

**medium** noun **1** *using technology as a medium for job creation:* means, method, way, form, agency, avenue, channel, vehicle, organ, instrument, mechanism. **2** *organisms growing in their natural medium:* habitat, element, environment, surroundings, milieu, setting, conditions. **3** *she consulted a medium:* spiritualist, spiritist, necromancer. **4** *a happy medium:* middle way, middle course, middle ground, middle, mean, median, midpoint; compromise, golden mean.

• **adjective medium height:** average, middling, medium-sized, middle-sized, moderate, normal, standard.

**medley** noun assortment, miscellany,

mixture, melange, variety, mixed bag, mix, collection, selection, potpourri, patchwork; motley collection, ragbag, gallimaufry, mishmash, hotchpotch, jumble; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**meek** adjective *submissive*, yielding, obedient, compliant, tame, biddable, tractable, acquiescent, deferential, timid, unprotesting, unresisting, like a lamb to the slaughter; quiet, mild, gentle, docile, lamblike, shy, diffident, unassuming, self-effacing.

– OPPOSITES assertive.

**meet** verb **1** *I met an old friend on the train:* encounter, meet up with, come face to face with, run into, run across, come across/upon, chance on, happen on, light on, stumble across/on; informal bump into, hook up with. **2** *She first met Paul at a party:* get to know, be introduced to, make the acquaintance of. **3** *The committee met on Saturday:* assemble, gather, come together, get together, congregate, convene; formal foregather. **4** *The place where three roads meet:* converge, connect, touch, link up, intersect, cross, join. **5** *He met death bravely:* face, encounter, undergo, experience, go through, suffer, endure, bear; cope with, handle. **6** *The announcement was met with widespread hostility:* greet, receive, answer, treat. **7** *He does not meet the job's requirements:* fulfil, satisfy, fill, measure up to, match (up to), conform to, come up to, comply with, answer. **8** *Shipowners would meet the cost of oil spills:* pay, settle, clear, honour, discharge, pay off, square.

• **noun** *an athletics meet.* See **MEETING** sense 5.

■ **meet someone halfway.** See **HALFWAY**.

**meeting** noun **1** *he stood up to address the meeting:* gathering, assembly, conference, congregation, convention, summit, forum, convocation, conclave, council of war, rally; N. Amer. caucus; informal get-together. **2** *she demanded a meeting with the minister:* consultation, audience, interview. **3** *he intrigued her on their first meeting:* encounter, contact; appointment, assignation, rendezvous; literary tryst. **4** *the meeting of land and sea:* convergence, coming together, confluence, conjunction, union, junction, abutment; intersection, T-junction, crossing. **5** *an athletics meeting:* event, tournament, meet, rally, competition, match, game, contest.

**megalomania** noun *delusions of grandeur*, folie de grandeur, thirst for power; self-importance, egotism, conceit, conceitedness.

**melancholy** adjective *a melancholy expression:* sad, sorrowful, unhappy, desolate, mournful, lugubrious, gloomy, despondent, dejected, depressed, downhearted, downcast, disconsolate, glum, miserable, wretched, dismal, morose, woeful, woebegone, doleful, joyless, heavy-hearted; informal down in the dumps, down in the mouth, blue.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

• **noun** *a feeling of melancholy:* sadness, sorrow, unhappiness, woe, desolation,

melancholia, dejection, depression, despondency, gloom, gloominess, misery; informal the dumps, the blues.

**melange** noun *mixture*, medley, assortment, blend, variety, mixed bag, mix, miscellany, selection, potpourri, patchwork; motley collection, ragbag, gallimaufry, mishmash, hotchpotch, jumble; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**melee, mêlée** noun *fracas*, disturbance, rumpus, tumult, commotion, disorder, fray; brawl, fight, scuffle, struggle, skirmish, free-for-all, tussle; informal scrap, set-to, ruction; N. Amer. informal rough house.

**mellifluous** adjective *sweet-sounding*, dulcet, honeyed, mellow, soft, liquid, silvery, soothing, rich, smooth, euphonious, harmonious, tuneful, musical.

– OPPOSITES cacophonous.

**mellow** adjective **1** *the mellow tone of his voice:* dulcet, sweet-sounding, tuneful, melodious, mellifluous; soft, smooth, warm, full, rich. **2** *a mellow wine:* full-bodied, mature, well matured, full-flavoured, rich, smooth. **3** *a mellow mood:* genial, affable, amiable, good-humoured, good-natured, amicable, pleasant, relaxed, easy-going; jovial, jolly, cheerful, happy, merry.

**melodious** adjective *tuneful*, melodic, musical, mellifluous, dulcet, sweet-sounding, silvery, silvery-toned, harmonious, euphonious, lyrical; informal easy on the ear.

– OPPOSITES discordant.

**melodramatic** adjective *exaggerated*, histrionic, extravagant, overdramatic, overdone, over-sensational, sensationalized, overemotional, sentimental; theatrical, stagy, actressy; informal hammy.

**melody** noun **1** *familiar melodies:* tune, air, strain, theme, song, refrain, piece of music. **2** *his unique gift for melody:* melodiousness, tunefulness, lyricism, musicality, euphony.

**melt** verb **1** *the snow was beginning to melt:* liquefy, thaw, defrost, soften, dissolve, deliquesce. **2** *his smile melted her heart:* soften, disarm, touch, affect, move. **3** *his anger melted away:* vanish, disappear, fade away, dissolve, evaporate; literary evanesce.

**member** noun **1** *a member of the club:* subscriber, associate, fellow, life member, founder member, card-carrying member. **2** *a member of a mathematical set:* constituent, element, component, part, portion, piece, unit. **3** (old use) *many victims had injured members:* limb, organ; arm, leg, appendage.

**membrane** noun *layer*, sheet, skin, film, tissue, integument, overlay; technical pellicle.

**memento** noun *souvenir*, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, token, memorial; trophy, relic.

**memoir** noun **1** *a touching memoir of her childhood:* account, history, record, chronicle, narrative, story, portrayal, depiction, sketch, portrait, profile, biography, monograph. **2** *he published his memoirs in 1955:* autobiography, life story,

m



life, memories, recollections, reminiscences; journal, diary.

**memorable** adjective unforgettable, indelible, catchy, haunting; momentous, significant, historic, notable, noteworthy, important, consequential, remarkable, special, signal, outstanding, extraordinary, striking, vivid, arresting, impressive, distinctive, distinguished, famous, celebrated, renowned, illustrious, glorious.

**memorandum** noun **1** a memorandum from the managing director: message, communication, note, email, letter, missive; informal memo. **2** hasty memoranda and jottings-down: record, minute, note, aide-memoire, reminder.

**memorial** noun **1** the war memorial: monument, cenotaph, mausoleum; statue, plaque, cairn; shrine; tombstone, gravestone, headstone. **2** the Festschrift is a memorial to his life's work: tribute, testimonial; remembrance, memento.

• adjective a memorial service: commemorative, remembrance, commemorating; monumental.

**memorize** verb commit to memory, remember, learn by heart, get off by heart, learn, learn by rote, become word-perfect in, get off pat; old use con.

**memory** noun **1** she is losing her memory: ability to remember, powers of recall.

**2** happy memories of her young days: recollection, remembrance, reminiscence; impression. **3** the town built a statue in memory of him: commemoration, remembrance; honour, tribute, recognition, respect. **4** a computer's memory: memory bank, store, cache, disk, RAM, ROM.

#### WORD LINKS

amnesia loss of memory  
keepsake, memento an item kept as a reminder of someone or something  
mnemonic a pattern of letters or words that aids the memory

**menace** noun **1** an atmosphere full of menace: threat, ominousness, intimidation, warning, ill omen. **2** a menace to British society: danger, peril, risk, hazard, threat; jeopardy. **3** that child is a menace: nuisance, pest, annoyance, plague, torment, troublemaker, mischief-maker, thorn in someone's side/flesh.

• verb **1** the elephants are still menaced by poaching: threaten, be a danger to, put at risk, jeopardize, imperil. **2** a gang of skinheads menaced local residents: intimidate, threaten, terrorize, frighten, scare, terrify.

**menacing** adjective threatening, ominous, intimidating, frightening, terrifying, alarming, forbidding, black, thunderous, glowering, unfriendly, hostile, sinister, baleful, warning; formal minatory.

– OPPOSITES friendly.

**mend** verb **1** workmen were mending faulty cabling: repair, fix, piece together, restore; sew (up), stitch, darn, patch, cobble;

rehabilitate, renew, renovate; informal patch up. **2** 'How's Walter?' 'He'll mend': get better, get well, recover, recuperate, improve; be well, be cured, heal. **3** quarrels could be mended by talking: put/set right, set straight, straighten out, sort out, rectify, remedy, cure, right, resolve, square, settle, put to rights, correct, retrieve, improve, make better. **4** he mended the fire: stoke (up), make up, add fuel to.

– OPPOSITES break, worsen.

**mendacious** adjective lying, untruthful, dishonest, deceitful, false, dissembling, insincere, disingenuous, hypocritical, fraudulent, double-dealing, two-faced, two-timing, duplicitous, perjured; untrue, fictitious, falsified, fabricated, fallacious, invented, made up; euphemistic economical with the truth; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES truthful.

**mendicant** noun beggar, tramp, vagrant, vagabond; N. Amer. hobo; informal scrounger, sponger; N. Amer. informal bum, mooch, moocher, schnorrer.

**menial** adjective a menial job: unskilled, lowly, humble, low-grade, low-status, inferior, degrading; routine, humdrum, boring, dull.

• noun they were treated like menials: servant, drudge, minion, factotum, lackey; informal wage slave, gofer; Brit. informal dogsbody, skivvy; N. Amer. informal peon; old use scullion.

**menstruation** noun periods, menses, menorrhoea, menstrual cycle; menarche; informal the curse, monthlies, time of the month.

**mensuration** noun measurement, measuring, calculation, computation, quantification.

**mental** adjective **1** mental faculties:

intellectual, cerebral, brain, rational, cognitive. **2** a mental disorder: psychiatric, psychological, psychogenic. **3** (informal) he's completely mental. See MAD sense 1.

– OPPOSITES physical.

**mentality** noun **1** I can't understand the mentality of these people: way of thinking, mind set, cast of mind, frame of mind, turn of mind, mind, psychology, mental attitude, outlook, disposition, make-up. **2** a person of limited mentality: intellect, intellectual capabilities, intelligence, IQ, (powers of) reasoning, rationality.

**mentally** adverb in one's mind, in one's head, inwardly, intellectually, cognitively.

**mention** verb **1** don't mention the war:

allude to, refer to, touch on; bring up, raise, broach, introduce, moot. **2** Jim mentioned that he'd met them before: state, say, indicate, let someone know, disclose, divulge, reveal.

**3** I'll gladly mention your work to my friends: recommend, commend, put in a good word for, speak well of.

• noun **1** he made no mention of your request: reference, allusion, remark, statement, announcement, indication. **2** a mention in dispatches: tribute, citation,

acknowledgement, recognition. **3** *my book got a mention on the show*: **recommendation**, commendation, a good word.

■ **not to mention** in addition to, as well as; not counting, not including, to say nothing of, aside from, besides.

**mentor** noun **1** *his political mentors*: adviser, guide, guru, counsellor, consultant; confidant(e). **2** *regular meetings between mentor and trainee*: **trainer**, teacher, tutor, instructor.

**menu** noun **bill of fare**, carte du jour, set menu, table d'hôte.

**mephitic** adjective (literary). See **MALODOROUS**.

**mercantile** adjective **commercial**, trade, trading, business, merchant, sales.

**mercenary** adjective **1** *mercenary self-interest*: **money-oriented**, grasping, greedy, acquisitive, avaricious, covetous, bribable, venal, materialistic; informal **money-grubbing**. **2** *mercenary soldiers*: **hired**, paid, bought, professional.

• **noun** *a group of mercenaries*: **soldier of fortune**, professional soldier, hired soldier; informal **hired gun**; historical **freelance**, **condottiere**.

**merchandise** noun *a wide range of merchandise*: **goods**, wares, stock, commodities, lines, produce, products.

• **verb** *a new product that can be easily merchandised*: **promote**, market, sell, retail; advertise, publicize, push; informal **hype** (up), **plug**.

**merchant** noun **trader**, dealer, wholesaler, broker, agent, seller, buyer, buyer and seller, vendor, distributor.

**merciful** adjective **1** *God is merciful*: **forgiving**, compassionate, clement, pitying, forbearing, lenient, humane, mild, kind, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, gracious, sympathetic, humanitarian, liberal, tolerant, indulgent, generous, magnanimous, benign, benevolent. **2** *a merciful silence fell*: **welcome**, **blessed**.

– **OPPOSITES** cruel.

■ **be merciful to** have mercy on, have pity on, show mercy to, spare, pardon, forgive, be lenient on/to; informal **go/be easy on**, **let off**.

**mercifully** adverb **luckily**, fortunately, happily, thank goodness/God/heavens.

**merciless** adjective **ruthless**, remorseless, pitiless, unforgiving, unsparing, implacable, inexorable, relentless, inflexible, inhumane, inhuman, unsympathetic, unfeeling, intolerant, rigid, severe, cold-blooded, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, heartless, harsh, callous, cruel, brutal, barbarous, cut-throat.

– **OPPOSITES** compassionate.

**mercurial** adjective **volatile**, capricious, temperamental, excitable, fickle, changeable, unpredictable, variable, protean, mutable, erratic, quicksilver, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, unsteady, fluctuating, ever-changing, moody, flighty, wayward, whimsical, impulsive; technical **labile**.

– **OPPOSITES** stable.

**mercy** noun **1** *he showed no mercy to the others*: **leniency**, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, quarter, humanity; soft-heartedness, tender-heartedness, kindness, sympathy, liberality, indulgence, tolerance, generosity, magnanimity, beneficence. **2** *we must be thankful for small mercies*: **blessing**, godsend, boon, favour, piece/stroke of luck.

– **OPPOSITES** ruthlessness, cruelty.

■ **at the mercy of 1** *they found themselves at the mercy of the tyrant*: in the power of, under/in the control of, in the clutches of, under the heel of, subject to. **2** *he was at the mercy of the elements*: defenceless against, vulnerable to, exposed to, susceptible to, prey to, (wide) open to.

**mere** adjective **no more than**, just, only, merely; no better than.

**merely** adverb **only**, purely, solely, simply, just, but.

**meretricious** adjective **worthless**, valueless, cheap, tawdry, trashy, Brummagem, tasteless, kitsch; false, artificial, fake, imitation; informal **tacky**.

**merge** verb **1** *the company merged with a European firm*: **join** (together), join forces, amalgamate, unite, affiliate, team up, link (up). **2** *the two organizations were merged*: **amalgamate**, bring together, join, consolidate, conflate, unite, unify, combine, incorporate, integrate, link (up), knit, yoke. **3** *the two colours merged*: **mingle**, blend, fuse, mix, intermix, intermingle, coalesce; literary **commingle**.

– **OPPOSITES** separate.

**merger** noun **amalgamation**, combination, union, fusion, coalition, affiliation, unification, incorporation, consolidation, link-up, alliance.

– **OPPOSITES** split.

**merit** noun **1** *composers of outstanding merit*: **excellence**, quality, calibre, worth, worthiness, credit, value, distinction, eminence. **2** *the merits of the scheme*: **good point**, strong point, advantage, benefit, value, asset, plus.

– **OPPOSITES** inferiority, fault, disadvantage.

• **verb** *the accusation did not merit a response*: **deserve**, earn, be deserving of, warrant, rate, justify, be worthy of, be worth, be entitled to, have a right to, have a claim to/on.

**meritorious** adjective **praiseworthy**, laudable, commendable, admirable, estimable, creditable, worthy, deserving, excellent, exemplary, good.

– **OPPOSITES** discreditable.

**merriment** noun **high spirits**, high-spiritedness, exuberance, cheerfulness, gaiety, fun, effervescence, verve, buoyancy, levity, zest, liveliness, cheer, joy, joyfulness, joyousness, jolliness, jollity, happiness, gladness, jocularity, conviviality, festivity, merrymaking, revelry, mirth, glee, gleefulness, laughter, hilarity, light-heartedness, amusement, pleasure.

– **OPPOSITES** misery.

**merry** adjective **1** *merry throngs of students:* cheerful, cheery, in high spirits, high-spirited, bright, sunny, smiling, light-hearted, buoyant, lively, carefree, without a care in the world, joyful, joyous, jolly, convivial, festive, mirthful, gleeful, happy, glad, laughing; informal chirpy; formal jocund; dated gay; literary blithe, blithesome. **2** (Brit. informal) *after three beers he began to feel quite merry:* tipsy, mellow, slightly drunk; Brit. informal tiddly, squiffy.

– OPPOSITES miserable.

■ **make merry** have fun, enjoy oneself, celebrate, carouse, feast, {eat, drink, and be merry}, revel, roister; informal party, have a ball.

**merry-go-round** noun carousel; Brit. roundabout.

**mesh** noun **1** *wire mesh:* netting, net, network; web, webbing, lattice, latticework. **2** *a mesh of political intrigue:* entanglement, net, tangle, web.

• verb **1** *one gear meshes with the input gear:* engage, connect, lock, interlock. **2** *our ideas just do not mesh:* harmonize, fit together, match, dovetail.

**mesmerize** verb enthrall, spellbind, entrance, dazzle, bewitch, charm, captivate, enchant, fascinate, transfix, grip, hypnotize.

**mess** noun **1** *please clear up the mess:* untidiness, disorder, disarray, clutter, shambles, jumble, muddle, chaos; Brit. informal tip. **2** *cat mess:* excrement, muck, faeces, excreta. **3** *I've got to get out of this mess:* plight, predicament, tight spot/corner, difficulty, trouble, quandary, dilemma, problem, muddle, mix-up, imbroglio; informal jam, fix, pickle, stew, hole, scrape. **4** *he made a mess of the project:* muddle, bungle; informal botch, hash, foul-up; Brit. informal cock-up; N. Amer. informal snafu.

■ **make a mess of** mismanage, mishandle, bungle, fluff, spoil, ruin, wreck; informal mess up, botch, make a hash of, muck up, foul up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of, cock up.

■ **mess about/around** potter about, pass the time, fiddle about/around, foolle about/around, play about/around, fool about/around; fidget, toy, trifle, tamper, tinker, interfere, meddle, monkey (about/around); informal piddle about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around, lark (about/around).

■ **mess something up** **1** *he messed up my kitchen:* dirty, clutter up, disarrange, jumble, dishevel, rumple; N. Amer. informal muss up; literary befoul. **2** (informal) *Eddie messed things up.* See **MAKE A MESS OF**.

**message** noun **1** *are there any messages for me?* communication, piece of information, news, note, memorandum, memo, email, letter, missive, report, bulletin, communiqué, dispatch. **2** *the message of his teaching:* meaning, sense, import, idea; point, thrust, gist, essence, content, subject (matter), substance, implication, drift, lesson.

■ **get the message** (informal) understand, get

the point, comprehend; informal catch on, latch on, get the picture.

**messenger** noun *message-bearer*, postman, courier, runner, dispatch rider, envoy, emissary, agent, go-between; historical herald; old use legate.

**messy** adjective **1** *messy oil spills | messy hair:* dirty, filthy, grubby, soiled, grimy; mucky, muddy, slimy, sticky, sullied, spotted, stained, smeared, smudged; dishevelled, scruffy, unkempt, rumpled, matted, tousled, bedraggled, tangled; informal yucky; Brit. informal gungy. **2** *a messy kitchen:* disorderly, disordered, in a muddle, chaotic, confused, disorganized, in disarray, disarranged; untidy, cluttered, in a jumble; informal like a bomb's hit it; Brit. informal shambolic. **3** *a messy legal battle:* complex, intricate, tangled, confused, convoluted; unpleasant, nasty, bitter, acrimonious.

– OPPOSITES clean, tidy.

**metallic** adjective **1** *a metallic sound:* tinny, grating, jingling; jangling, harsh, jarring, dissonant. **2** *metallic paint:* metallized, burnished; shiny, glossy, lustrous.

**metamorphose** verb transform, change, mutate, transmute, transfigure, convert, alter, modify, remodel, recast, reconstruct; humorous transmogrify; formal transubstantiate.

**metamorphosis** noun transformation, mutation, transmutation, change, alteration, conversion, modification, remodelling, reconstruction; humorous transmogrification; formal transubstantiation.

**metaphor** noun *figure of speech*, image, trope, analogy, comparison, symbol, word painting/picture.

**metaphorical** adjective figurative, allegorical, symbolic; imaginative, extended. – OPPOSITES literal.

**metaphysical** adjective **1** *metaphysical questions:* abstract, theoretical, conceptual, notional, philosophical, speculative, intellectual, academic. **2** *Good and Evil are inextricably linked in a metaphysical battle:* transcendental, spiritual, supernatural, paranormal.

**mete** verb

■ **mete something out** dispense, hand out, allocate, allot, apportion, issue, deal out, dole out, dish out, assign, administer.

**meteor** noun *falling star*, shooting star, meteorite, meteoroid, bolide.

**meteoric** adjective rapid, lightning, swift, fast, quick, speedy, accelerated, instant, sudden, spectacular.

– OPPOSITES gradual.

**meteorologist** noun weather forecaster, met officer, weatherman, weatherwoman.

**method** noun **1** *they use very old-fashioned methods:* procedure, technique, system, practice, routine, modus operandi, process; strategy, tactic, plan. **2** *there's method in his madness:* order, orderliness, organization, structure, form, system, logic, planning, design.



– OPPOSITES disorder.

**methodical** adjective **orderly**, well ordered, well organized, (well) planned, efficient, businesslike, systematic, structured, logical, analytic, disciplined; meticulous, punctilious.

**meticulous** adjective **careful**, conscientious, diligent, scrupulous, punctilious, painstaking, accurate; thorough, studious, rigorous, detailed, perfectionist, fastidious, methodical, particular.

– OPPOSITES careless.

**métier** noun **1** *he had another métier besides the priesthood*: **occupation**, job, work, profession, business, employment, career, vocation, trade, craft, line (of work); N. Amer. specialty. **2** *television is more my métier*: **forte**, strong point, strength, speciality, talent, bent; informal thing, cup of tea.

**metropolis** noun **capital (city)**, chief town, county town; big city, conurbation, megalopolis; informal big smoke; old use wen.

**mettle** noun **1** *a man of mettle*: **spirit**, fortitude, strength of character, moral fibre, steel, determination, resolve, resolution, backbone, grit, courage, courageousness, bravery, valour, fearlessness, daring; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle. **2** *Frazer was of a very different mettle*: **calibre**, character, disposition, nature, temperament, personality, make-up, stamp.

**mettlesome** adjective **spirited**, game, gritty, intrepid, fearless, courageous, brave, plucky, daring; tenacious, determined, resolved, resolute, indomitable.

**mew** verb **1** *the cat mewed plaintively*: miaow, mewl, cry. **2** *above them, seagulls mewed*: cry, screech.

**mewl** verb **whimper**, cry, whine; informal grizzle; literary pule.

**miasma** noun (literary) **stink**, reek, stench, smell, odour, malodour; Brit. informal pong, niff, whiff.

**miasmatic, miasmal** adjective (literary) **foul-smelling**, fetid, smelly, stinking (to high heaven), reeking, rank, noxious, malodorous; Brit. informal niffy, pongy, whiffy; literary noisome, mephitic.

**microbe** noun **microorganism**, bacillus, bacterium, virus, germ; informal bug.

**microscopic** adjective **tiny**, very small, minute, infinitesimal, minuscule, nanoscopic; little, micro, diminutive; Scottish wee; informal teeny, weeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy; Brit. informal titchy, tidily.

– OPPOSITES huge.

**midday** noun **noon**, twelve noon, high noon, noontide, noonday.

– OPPOSITES midnight.

**middle** noun **1** *a shallow dish with a spike in the middle*: **centre**, midpoint, halfway point, dead centre, focus, hub; eye, heart, core, kernel. **2** *he had a towel round his middle*: **midriff**, waist, belly, stomach, abdomen; informal tummy, tum.

– OPPOSITES outside.

• adjective **1** *the middle point*: **central**, mid, mean, medium, medial, median, midway, halfway. **2** *the middle level*: **intermediate**, intermediary.

**middleman** noun **intermediary**, go-between; dealer, broker, agent, factor, wholesaler, distributor.

**middling** adjective **average**, standard, normal, middle-of-the-road; moderate, ordinary, commonplace, everyday, workaday, tolerable, passable; run-of-the-mill, fair, mediocre, undistinguished, unexceptional, unremarkable; informal OK, so-so, bog-standard, fair-to-middling, (plain) vanilla; NZ informal half-pie.

**midget** noun *the inhabitants must have been midgets*: **small person**, dwarf, homunculus, Lilliputian, manikin, gnome, pygmy; informal shrimp.

• adjective **1** *a story about midget matadors*: **diminutive**, dwarfish, petite, very small, pygmy; informal pint-sized; N. Amer. informal sawn-off. **2** *a midget camera*: **miniature**, pocket, dwarf, baby.

– OPPOSITES giant.

**midnight** noun **the middle of the night**, twenty-four hundred hours, the witching hour.

– OPPOSITES midday.

**midst** (literary) noun **middle**, centre, heart, core, midpoint, kernel, nub; depth(s), thick; (in the midst of) in the course of, halfway through, at the heart/core of.

**midway** adverb **halfway**, in the middle, at the midpoint, in the centre; part-way.

**mien** noun **appearance**, look, expression, countenance, aura, demeanour, attitude, air, manner, bearing; formal comportment.

**miffed** adjective (informal). See **ANNÓYED**.

**might** noun **strength**, force, power, vigour, energy, brawn, powerfulness, forcefulness.

■ **with might and main** with all one's strength, as hard as one can, as hard as possible, (with) full force, forcefully, powerfully, strongly, vigorously.

**mightily** adverb **1** *he is mightily impressive*: **extremely**, exceedingly, enormously, immensely, tremendously, hugely, dreadfully, very (much); informal awfully, majorly, mega; N. Amer. informal mighty, plumb; informal, dated devilish. **2** *Ann and I laboured mightily*: **strenuously**, energetically, powerfully, hard, with all one's might, with might and main, all out, heartily, vigorously, diligently, assiduously, persistently, indefatigably; informal like mad, like crazy; Brit. informal like billy-o.

**mighty** adjective **1** *a mighty blow*: **powerful**, forceful, violent, vigorous, hefty, thunderous. **2** *a mighty warrior*: **fearsome**, ferocious; big, tough, robust, muscular, strapping. **3** *mighty industrial countries*: **dominant**, influential, strong, powerful, important, predominant. **4** *mighty oak trees*: **huge**, enormous, massive, gigantic, big, large, giant, colossal, mammoth, immense; informal monster, whopping (great), thumping

(great), humongous, jumbo(-sized); Brit. informal whacking (great), ginormous.

– **OPPOSITES** feeble, puny, tiny.

• **adverb** (N. Amer. informal) *I'm mighty pleased to see you: extremely*, exceedingly, enormously, immensely, tremendously, hugely, mightily, very (much); informal awfully, dreadfully, majorly, mega; Brit. informal well, jolly; N. Amer. informal plumb; informal, dated devilish, frightfully.

**migrant** noun *economic migrants:*

**immigrant, emigrant;** nomad, itinerant, traveller, vagrant, transient, rover, wanderer, drifter.

• **adjective** *migrant workers:* travelling, wandering, drifting, nomadic, roving, roaming, itinerant, vagrant, transient.

**migrate** verb **1** *rural populations migrated to urban areas:* relocate, resettle, move (house); emigrate, go abroad, go overseas; N. Amer. pull up stakes; Brit. informal up sticks; dated remove. **2** *wildebeest migrate across the Serengeti:* roam, wander, drift, rove, travel (around).

**migratory** adjective **migrant**, migrating, moving, travelling.

**mild** adjective **1** *a mild tone of voice:* gentle, tender, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, sensitive, sympathetic, warm, placid, calm, tranquil, serene, peaceable, good-natured, amiable, affable, genial, easy-going. **2** *a mild punishment:* lenient, light; compassionate, merciful, humane. **3** *he was eyeing her with mild interest:* slight, faint, vague, minimal, nominal, token, feeble. **4** *mild weather:* warm, balmy, temperate, clement. **5** *a mild curry:* bland, insipid.

– **OPPOSITES** harsh, strong, severe.

**mildewy** adjective **mouldy**, mildewed, rotten, decaying.

**milieu** noun *environment*, sphere, background, backdrop, setting, context, atmosphere; location, conditions, surroundings, environs.

**militant** adjective *militant supporters:* aggressive, violent, belligerent, bellicose, vigorous, forceful, active, fierce, combative, pugnacious; radical, extremist, extreme, zealous, fanatical.

• **noun** *the demands of the militants:* activist, extremist, radical, Young Turk, zealot.

**militaristic** adjective *warmongering*, warlike, martial, hawkish, pugnacious, combative, aggressive, belligerent, bellicose; informal gung-ho.

– **OPPOSITES** peaceable.

**military** adjective *military activity:* fighting, service, army, armed, defence, martial.

– **OPPOSITES** civilian.

• **noun** *the military took power:* (armed) forces, services, militia; army, navy, air force, marines.

#### WORD LINKS

enlist enrol for military service

recruit a newly enlisted person

conscript call up for compulsory military service

**cashier** dismiss from military service for serious wrongdoing

**court martial** a court trying members of the armed forces accused of breaking military law

**munitions, armament, materiel**, (US **ordnance**) military weapons, equipment, etc.

**tattoo** a military display of music, marching, etc.

**militate** verb tend to prevent, work against, hinder, discourage, prejudice, be detrimental to.

**milk** verb **1** *Pam was milking the cows:* draw milk from, express milk from. **2** *a fraudster who milked £3000 from the rich and famous:* draw off, siphon (off), tap, drain, extract. **3** *he milked his rich clients:* exploit, take advantage of, cash in on, suck dry; informal bleed, squeeze, fleece.

#### WORD LINKS

**dairy**, **lactic** relating to milk

**lactate** (of a female animal) produce milk

**casein** the main protein in milk

**lactose** a compound sugar found in milk

**pasteurize** make milk safe to eat by heating it

**curds** a soft substance formed when milk coagulates

**whey** the watery part of milk remaining after curds have formed

**milksop** noun **namby-pamby**, coward, weakling; informal drip, mummy's boy, sissy, jellyfish, wimp; Brit. informal wet, big girl's blouse; N. Amer. informal pantywaist, pussy; old use poltroon.

**milky** adjective **pale**, white, milk-white, whitish, off-white, cream, creamy, chalky, pearly, nacreous, ivory, alabaster.

– **OPPOSITES** swarthy.

**mill** noun **1** *a steel mill:* factory, (processing) plant, works, workshop, shop, foundry, industrial unit. **2** *a pepper mill:* grinder, quern, crusher.

• **verb** *the wheat is milled into flour:* grind, pulverize, powder, granulate, pound, crush, press; technical comminute, triturate; old use bray, levigate.

■ **mill around/about** throng, swarm, seethe, crowd.

**millstone** noun **burden**, encumbrance, dead weight, cross to bear, albatross; duty, obligation, liability, misfortune; old use cumber.

**mime** noun *a mime of someone fencing:* dumb show, pantomime.

• **verb** *she mimed picking up a phone:* act out, pantomime, gesture, simulate, represent.

**mimic** verb **1** *she mimicked his accent:*

imitate, copy, impersonate, do an impression of, ape, caricature, parody, lampoon, burlesque; informal send up, take off, spoof; old use monkey. **2** *most hoverflies mimic wasps:* resemble, look like, have the appearance of, simulate; N. Amer. informal make like.

• **noun** *he was a superb mimic*: impersonator, impressionist, imitator, mimicker; parodist, caricaturist, lampooner, lampoonist; informal copycat; historical zany; old use ape.

• **adjective** *they were waging mimic war*: simulated, mock, imitation, make-believe, sham; informal pretend, copycat.

**mimicry** **noun** *imitation, imitating, impersonation, copying, aping; old use apery.*

**minatory** **adjective** (formal) *menacing, threatening, baleful, intimidating, admonitory, warning, cautionary; rare minacious, comminatory.*

**mince** **verb** **1** *mince the meat and onions*: grind, chop up, cut up, dice; N. Amer. hash. **2** *she minced out of the room: walk affectedly*; N. Amer. informal sashay.  
**■ not mince (one's) words** talk straight, not beat about the bush, call a spade a spade, speak straight from the shoulder, pull no punches; informal tell it like it is; N. Amer. informal talk turkey.

**mincing** **adjective** *affected, dainty, effeminate, niminy-piminy; pretentious; informal camp, sissy; Brit. informal poncey.*

**mind** **noun** **1** *a good teacher must stretch pupils' minds*: brain, intelligence, intellect, intellectual capabilities, brains, brainpower, wits, understanding, reasoning, judgement, sense, head; informal grey matter, brainbox, brain cells; Brit. informal loaf; N. Amer. informal smarts. **2** *he kept his mind on the job*: attention, thoughts, concentration, attentiveness. **3** *the tragedy affected her mind*: sanity, mental faculties, senses, wits, reason, reasoning, judgement; informal marbles. **4** *his words stuck in her mind*: memory, recollection. **5** *a great mind*: intellect, thinker, brain, scholar, academic. **6** *I've a mind to complain*: inclination, desire, wish, urge, notion, fancy, intention, will. **7** *of the same mind*: opinion, way of thinking, outlook, attitude, view, viewpoint, point of view.

• **verb** **1** *do you mind if I smoke?* care, object, be bothered, be annoyed, be upset, take offence, disapprove, dislike it, look askance; informal give/care a damn, give/care a toss, give/care a hoot, give/care a rap. **2** *mind the step!* be careful of, watch out for, look out for, beware of, be on one's guard for, be wary of. **3** *mind you wipe your feet*: be/make sure (that), see (that); remember to, don't forget to. **4** *her husband was minding the baby*: look after, take care of, keep an eye on, attend to, care for, tend. **5** *mind what your mother says*: pay attention to, heed, pay heed to, attend to, take note/notice of, note, mark, listen to, be mindful of; obey, follow, comply with; old use regard.

**■ be in two minds** be undecided, be uncertain, be unsure, hesitate, waver, vacillate, dither; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal dilly-dally, shilly-shally.

**■ bear/keep something in mind** remember, note, be mindful of, take note of; formal take cognizance of.

**■ cross one's mind** occur to one, enter one's mind/head, strike one, hit one, dawn on one.

**■ mind out** take care, be careful, watch out, look out, beware, be on one's guard, be wary.

**■ never mind** **1** *never mind the cost*: don't bother about, don't worry about, disregard, forget. **2** *never mind, it's all right now*: don't apologize, forget it, don't worry about it, it doesn't matter.

**■ out of one's mind** **1** *you must be out of your mind!* See MAD sense 1. **2** *I've been out of my mind with worry*: frantic, beside oneself, distraught, in a frenzy.

**■ to my mind** in my opinion, in my view, as I see it, personally, in my estimation, in my book, if you ask me.

#### WORD LINKS

**cognitive**, **mental**, **psychological** relating to the mind

**psychology** the study of the mind

**psychiatry** the branch of medicine dealing with the mind

**ego** the part of the mind responsible for a person's sense of identity

**id** the part of the unconscious mind consisting of inherited instincts and feelings

**superego** the part of the mind acting as a conscience, reflecting learned social standards

**mindful** **adjective** *aware, conscious, sensible, alive, alert, acquainted, heedful, wary, chary; informal wise, hip; formal cognizant, regardful.*

– **OPPOSITES** heedless.

**mindless** **adjective** **1** *a mindless idiot*: stupid, idiotic, brainless, imbecilic, imbecile, asinine, witless, foolish, empty-headed, slow-witted, obtuse, feather-brained, doltish; informal dumb, pig-ignorant, brain-dead, cretinous, moronic, thick, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, half-witted, dippy, fat-headed, boneheaded; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded. **2** *mindless acts of vandalism*: unthinking, thoughtless, senseless, gratuitous, wanton, indiscriminate, unreasoning. **3** *a mindless task*: mechanical, automatic, routine; tedious, boring, monotonous, brainless, mind-numbing.

**■ mindless of** indifferent to, heedless of, unaware of, unmindful of, careless of, blind to.

**mine** **noun** **1** *a coal mine*: pit, excavation, quarry, workings, diggings; strip mine; Brit. opencast mine; N. Amer. open-pit mine. **2** *a mine of information*: rich source, repository, store, storehouse, reservoir, gold mine, treasure house, treasury, reserve, fund, wealth, stock. **3** *he was killed by a mine*: explosive, landmine.

• **verb** **1** *the iron ore was mined from shallow pits*: quarry, excavate, dig (up), extract, remove; strip-mine. **2** *medical data was mined for relevant statistics*: search, delve into, scour, scan, read through, survey.

**miner** **noun** *pitman, digger, collier, faceworker, haulier, tinner; dated hewer.*

**mingle** **verb** **1** *fact and fiction are skilfully mingled in his novels*: mix, blend, intermingle, intermix, interweave,

m



interlace, combine, merge, fuse, unite, join, amalgamate, meld, mesh; literary commingle; old use commix. **2** *wedding guests mingled in the marquee*: socialize, circulate, fraternize, get together, associate with others; informal hobnob.

– OPPOSITES separate.

**miniature** adjective *a miniature railway*:

small-scale, mini; tiny, little, small, minute, baby, toy, pocket, dwarf, pygmy, minuscule, diminutive; Scottish wee; N. Amer. vest-pocket; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy; Brit. informal titchy, tiddly.

– OPPOSITES giant.

**minimal** adjective *very little, minimum, the least (possible)*; nominal, token, negligible.

– OPPOSITES maximum.

**minimize** verb **1** *the aim is to minimize costs*: keep down, keep at/to a minimum,

reduce, decrease, cut down, lessen, curtail, diminish, prune; informal slash. **2** *we should not minimize his contribution*: belittle, make light of, play down, underestimate, underrate, downplay, undervalue, understate; informal pooh-pooh; old use hold cheap; rare misprize.

– OPPOSITES maximize, exaggerate.

**minimum** noun *costs will be kept to the*

*minimum*: lowest level, lower limit, bottom level, rock bottom; least, lowest, slightest.

– OPPOSITES maximum.

• adjective *the minimum amount of effort*:

*minimal*, least, smallest, least possible, slightest, lowest, minutest.

**minion** noun *underling, henchman, flunkie, lackey, hanger-on, follower, servant, hireling, vassal, stooge*; informal yes-man, bootlicker; Brit. informal poodle; N. Amer. informal suck-up.

**minister** noun **1** *a government minister*:

*member of the government*, cabinet minister, Secretary of State, undersecretary.

**2** *a minister of religion*: clergyman, clergywoman, cleric, ecclesiastic, pastor, vicar, rector, priest, parson, father, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, churchman, churchwoman; curate, chaplain; informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot; Austral. informal jossler. **3** *the British minister in Egypt*: ambassador, chargé d'affaires, plenipotentiary, envoy, emissary, diplomat, consul, representative; old use legate.

• verb *doctors were ministering to the injured*: tend, care for, take care of, look after, nurse, treat, attend to, see to, administer to, help, assist.

**ministrations** plural noun *attention, treatment, help, assistance, aid, care, services*.

**ministry** noun **1** *the ministry for foreign*

*affairs*: (government) department, bureau, agency, office. **2** *he's training for the ministry*: holy orders, the priesthood, the cloth, the church. **3** *the ministry of Jesus*: teaching, preaching, evangelism.

**4** *Gladstone's first ministry*: period of office, term (of office), administration.

**minor** adjective **1** *a minor problem*:

slight, small; unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, subsidiary, negligible, trivial, trifling, paltry, petty; N. Amer. nickel-and-dime; informal piffling, piddling. **2** *a minor poet*: little known,

unknown, lesser, unimportant, insignificant, obscure; N. Amer. minor-league; informal small-time; N. Amer. informal two-bit. **3** (Brit.) *Smith minor*: junior, younger.

– OPPOSITES major, important.

• noun *the heir to the throne was a minor*:

child, infant, youth, adolescent, teenager, boy, girl; informal kid, kiddie.

– OPPOSITES adult.

**minstrel** noun (historical) *musician, singer, balladeer; historical troubadour, jongleur; literary bard*.

**mint** noun **1** *coinage factory, money factory*.

**2** (informal) *the bank made a mint out of the deal*: a vast sum of money, a king's ransom, millions, billions; informal a (small) fortune, a tidy sum, a bundle, a packet, a pile; Brit. informal a bomb, big money; N. Amer. informal big bucks; Austral. informal big bickies, motser.

• adjective *in mint condition*: brand new, pristine, perfect, immaculate, unblemished, undamaged, unmarked, unused, first-class, excellent.

• verb **1** *the shilling was minted in 1742*: coin, stamp, strike, cast, forge, manufacture.

**2** *the slogan had been freshly minted*: create, invent, make up, think up, dream up.

**minuscule** adjective *tiny, minute,*

microscopic, nanoscopic, very small, little, micro, diminutive, miniature, baby, dwarf; Scottish wee; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy, tiddly; Brit. informal titchy.

– OPPOSITES huge.

**minute**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *it'll only take a minute*:

moment, short time, little while, second, bit, instant; informal sec, jiffy; Brit. informal tick, mo, two ticks. **2** *at that minute, Tony walked in*: point (in time), moment, instant, juncture. **3** *their objection was noted in the minutes*: record(s), proceedings, log, notes; transcript, summary, résumé.

■ **at the minute** (Brit. informal) at present, at the moment, now, currently.

■ **in a minute** very soon, in a moment/second/instant, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in a short time, in (less than) no time, before long; N. Amer. momentarily; informal anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes, before you can say Jack Robinson; Brit. informal in a tick, in a mo, in two ticks; N. Amer. informal in a snap; literary ere long.

■ **this minute** at once, immediately, directly, this second, instantly, straight away, right away/now, forthwith; informal pronto, straight off, right off, toot sweet; old use straight.

■ **up to the minute** latest, newest, up to date, modern, fashionable, smart, chic, stylish, all the rage, in vogue; informal trendy, with it, in.

■ **wait a minute** be patient, hold on; informal hang on, hold your horses; Brit. informal hang about.

**minute**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** **1** *minute particles*: tiny, minuscule, microscopic, nanoscopic, very small, little, micro, diminutive, miniature, baby, toy, dwarf, pygmy, Lilliputian; Scottish wee; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy; Brit. informal titchy, tidily. **2** *a minute chance of success*: negligible, slight, infinitesimal, minimal, insignificant, inappreciable. **3** *minute detail*: exhaustive, painstaking, meticulous, rigorous, scrupulous, punctilious, detailed.  
 – OPPOSITES huge.

**minutely** **adverb** exhaustively, painstakingly, meticulously, rigorously, scrupulously, punctiliously, in detail.

**minutiae** **plural noun** details, niceties, finer points, particulars, trivia, trivialities.

**minx** **noun** tease, seductress, coquette, slut, Lolita; informal floozie, tart, vamp; Brit. informal scrubber, slapper; N. Amer. informal tramp; dated hussy; old use strumpet, trollop.

**miracle** **noun** **1** *Christ's first miracle*: supernatural phenomenon, mystery, prodigy. **2** *Germany's economic miracle*: wonder, marvel, sensation, phenomenon.

**maraculous** **adjective** **1** *the miraculous help of St Blaise*: supernatural, preternatural, inexplicable, unaccountable, magical. **2** *a miraculous escape*: amazing, astounding, remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable, sensational; informal mind-boggling, mind-blowing.

**mirage** **noun** optical illusion, hallucination, phantasmagoria, apparition, fantasy, chimera, vision, figment of the imagination; literary phantasm.

**mire** **noun** **1** *it's a mire out there*: swamp, bog, morass, quagmire, slough; swampland, wetland, marshland. **2** *her horse was spattered with mire*: mud, slime, dirt, filth, muck. **3** *struggling to pull Russia out of the mire*: mess, difficulty, plight, predicament, tight spot, trouble, quandary, muddle; informal jam, fix, pickle, hot water.  
 • **verb** **1** *Frank's horse got mired in a bog*: bog down, sink (down). **2** *the children were mired*: dirty, soil, muddy; literary begrime. **3** *he has become mired in lawsuits*: entangle, tangle up, embroil, catch up, mix up, involve.

**mirror** **noun** **1** *a quick look in the mirror*: looking glass, cheval glass; Brit. glass. **2** *the Frenchman's life was a mirror of his own*: reflection, twin, replica, copy, match, parallel.  
 • **verb** *pop music mirrored the mood of desperation*: reflect, match, reproduce, imitate, simulate, copy, mimic, echo, parallel, correspond to.

#### WORD LINKS

catoptric, specular relating to mirrors

**mirth** **noun** merriment, high spirits, mirthfulness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, hilarity, glee, laughter, gaiety, buoyancy, blitheness, euphoria, exhilaration, light heartedness, joviality, joy, joyfulness, joyousness.

– OPPOSITES misery.

**mirthful** **adjective** merry, high-spirited, gleeful, cheerful, cheery, jocular, buoyant, euphoric, exhilarated, elated, light-hearted, jovial, joyous, jolly, festive.

**mirthless** **adjective** humourless, unamused, grim, sour, surly, dour, sullen, sulky, gloomy, mournful, melancholy, doleful, miserable, grumpy.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**miry** **adjective** muddy, slushy, slimy, swampy, marshy, boggy, squelchy, waterlogged.

**misadventure** **noun** accident, problem, difficulty, misfortune, mishap; setback, reversal (of fortune), stroke of bad luck, blow; failure, disaster, tragedy, calamity, woe, trial, tribulation, catastrophe.

**misanthropic** **adjective** antisocial, unsociable, unfriendly, reclusive, uncongenial, cynical, jaundiced.

**misapply** **verb** misuse, mishandle, misemploy, abuse; distort, garble, warp, misinterpret, misconstrue, misrepresent.

**misapprehend** **verb** misunderstand, misinterpret, misconstrue, misconceive, mistake, misread, get the wrong idea about, take something the wrong way.

**misapprehension** **noun** misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misreading, misjudgement, misconception, misbelief, the wrong idea, false impression, delusion.

**misappropriate** **verb** embezzle, expropriate, steal, thief, pilfer, pocket, help oneself to, make off with; informal swipe, filch, rip off, snitch; Brit. informal pinch, nick, whip, knock off; formal peculate.

**misappropriation** **noun** embezzlement, expropriation, stealing, theft, thieving, pilfering; formal peculation.

**misbegotten** **adjective** **1** *a misbegotten scheme*: ill-conceived, ill-advised, badly planned, badly thought-out, hare-brained. **2** *you misbegotten hound!* contemptible, despicable, wretched, miserable, confounded; informal infernal, damned, flaming; dated cursed, accursed. **3** (old use) *misbegotten children*. See ILLEGITIMATE sense 2.

**misbehave** **verb** behave badly, be misbehaved, be naughty, be disobedient, get up to mischief, get up to no good; be bad-mannered, be rude; informal carry on, act up.

**misbehaviour** **noun** bad behaviour, misconduct, naughtiness, disobedience, mischief, mischievousness; bad/poor manners, rudeness; informal acting-up.

**misbelief** **noun** false belief, delusion, illusion, fallacy, error, mistake, misconception, misapprehension.

**miscalculate** **verb** misjudge, make a mistake (about), calculate wrongly, estimate wrongly, overestimate, underestimate, overvalue, undervalue; go wrong, err, be wide of the mark.

**miscalculation** **noun** error of judgement,

misjudgement, mistake, overestimate, underestimate.

**miscarriage** noun **1** *she's had a miscarriage:* (spontaneous) abortion, stillbirth. **2** *the miscarriage of the project:* failure, foundering, ruin, ruination, collapse, breakdown, thwarting, frustration, undoing, non-fulfilment, mismanagement.

**miscarry** verb **1** *the shock caused her to miscarry:* lose one's baby, have a miscarriage, abort, have a (spontaneous) abortion. **2** *our plan miscarried:* go wrong, go awry, go amiss, be unsuccessful, be ruined, fail, misfire, abort, founder, come to nothing, fall through, fall flat; informal flop, go up in smoke.

– OPPOSITES succeed.

**miscellaneous** adjective various, varied, different, assorted, mixed, sundry, diverse, disparate; diversified, motley, multifarious, heterogeneous; literary divers.

**miscellany** noun assortment, mixture, melange, blend, variety, mixed bag, mix, medley, diversity, collection, selection, assemblage, potpourri, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, salmagundi, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**mischance** noun accident, misfortune, mishap, misadventure, setback, disaster, tragedy, calamity, catastrophe, reversal, upset, blow; bad luck, ill fortune.

**m mischief** noun **1** *the boys are always getting up to mischief:* naughtiness, bad behaviour, misbehaviour, mischievousness, misconduct, disobedience; pranks, tricks, larks, capers, nonsense, devilry, funny business; informal monkey business, shenanigans, hanky-panky; Brit. informal monkey tricks, carryings-on, jiggy-pokery. **2** *the mischief in her eyes:* impishness, roguishness, devilment. **3** (informal) *you'll do yourself a mischief:* harm, hurt, injury, damage.

**mischievous** adjective **1** *a mischievous child:* naughty, badly behaved, misbehaving, disobedient, troublesome, full of mischief; rascally, roguish. **2** *a mischievous smile:* playful, teasing, wicked, impish, roguish, arch. **3** *a mischievous allegation:* malicious, malevolent, spiteful, venomous, poisonous, evil-intentioned, evil, baleful, vindictive, vengeful, vitriolic, rancorous, malign, malignant, pernicious, mean, nasty, harmful, hurtful, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES well behaved.

**misconceive** verb misunderstand, misinterpret, misconstrue, misapprehend, mistake, misread; miscalculate, err, be mistaken, get the wrong idea.

**misconception** noun misapprehension, misunderstanding, mistake, error, misinterpretation, misconstruction, misreading, misjudgement, misbelief, miscalculation, false impression, illusion, fallacy, delusion.

**misconduct** noun **1** *allegations of misconduct:* wrongdoing, unlawfulness,

lawlessness, crime, felony, criminality, sin, sinfulness; unprofessionalism, unethical behaviour, malpractice, negligence, impropriety; formal maladministration, malversation. **2** *misconduct in the classroom:* misbehaviour, bad behaviour, misdeeds, misdemeanours, disorderly conduct, mischief, naughtiness, rudeness.

**misconstruction** noun misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misapprehension, misconception, misreading, misjudgement, misbelief, miscalculation, false impression.

**misconstrue** verb misunderstand, misinterpret, misconceive, misapprehend, mistake, misread; be mistaken about, get the wrong idea about, get it/someone wrong.

**miscreant** noun criminal, culprit, wrongdoer, malefactor, offender, villain, lawbreaker, evildoer, delinquent, reprobate; Law malfeasant.

**misdeed** noun wrongdoing, wrong, evil deed, crime, felony, misdemeanour, misconduct, offence, error, transgression, sin; old use trespass.

**misdemeanour** noun wrongdoing, evil deed, crime, felony; misdeed, misconduct, offence, error, peccadillo, transgression, sin; old use trespass.

**miser** noun penny-pincher, pinchpenny, niggard, cheese-parer, Scrooge; informal skinflint, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate; N. Amer. informal tightwad.

– OPPOSITES spendthrift.

**miserable** adjective **1** *I'm too miserable to eat:* unhappy, sad, sorrowful, dejected, depressed, downcast, downhearted, down, despondent, disconsolate, wretched, glum, gloomy, dismal, melancholy, woebegone, doleful, forlorn, heartbroken; informal blue, down in the mouth/dumps. **2** *their miserable surroundings:* dreary, dismal, gloomy, drab, wretched, depressing, grim, cheerless, bleak, desolate; poor, shabby, squalid, seedy, dilapidated. **3** *miserable weather:* unpleasant, disagreeable, depressing; wet, rainy, stormy; informal rotten. **4** *a miserable old grouch:* grumpy, sullen, gloomy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, dour, surly, sour, glum, moody, unsociable, saturnine, lugubrious, irritable, churlish, cantankerous, crotchety, cross, crabby, grouchy, testy, peevish, crusty, waspish. **5** *miserable wages:* inadequate, meagre, scanty, paltry, small, poor, pitiful, niggardly; informal measly, stingy, pathetic; formal exiguous. **6** *all that fuss about a few miserable pounds:* wretched, confounded; informal blithering, flaming, blessed, damned, blasted; dated accused.

– OPPOSITES cheerful, lovely.

**miserliness** noun meanness, niggardliness, close-fistedness, closeness, parsimony, parsimoniousness; informal stinginess, tight-fistedness; N. Amer. cheapness; old use nearness.

**miserly** adjective **1** *his miserly great-uncle:* mean, niggardly, parsimonious, close, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, grasping, Scrooge-like; informal stingy, tight, tight-fisted; N. Amer. informal cheap; old use



near. **2** *the prize is a miserly £300*: **meagre**, inadequate, paltry, negligible, miserable, pitiful, niggardly, beggarly; informal measly, stingy, pathetic; formal exiguous.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**misery** noun **1** *periods of intense misery*:

unhappiness, distress, wretchedness, suffering, anguish, anxiety, angst, torment, pain, grief, heartache, heartbreak, despair, despondency, dejection, depression, desolation, gloom, melancholy, melancholia, woe, sadness, sorrow; informal the dumps, the blues; literary *delour*. **2** *the miseries of war*: affliction, misfortune, difficulty, problem, ordeal, trouble, hardship, deprivation; pain, sorrow, trial, tribulation, woe. **3** (Brit. informal) *he's a real old misery*: **killjoy**, dog in the manger, spoilsport; informal sourpuss, grouch, grump, party-pooper.

– OPPOSITES contentment, pleasure.

**misfire** verb **go wrong**, go awry, be unsuccessful, fail, founder, fall through/flat; backfire; informal flop, go up in smoke.

**misfit** noun **nonconformist**, eccentric, maverick, individualist, square peg in a round hole; informal oddball, weirdo, freak; N. Amer. informal screwball.

**misfortune** noun **problem**, difficulty, setback, trouble, adversity, stroke of bad luck, reversal (of fortune), misadventure, mishap, blow, failure, accident, disaster; sorrow, misery, woe, trial, tribulation.

#### WORD LINKS

**Schadenfreude** pleasure gained from another person's misfortune

**misgiving** noun **qualm**, doubt, reservation; suspicion, distrust, mistrust, lack of confidence, second thoughts; trepidation, scepticism, unease, uneasiness, anxiety, apprehension, disquiet.

**misguided** adjective **1** *the policy is misguided*: **erroneous**, fallacious, unsound, misplaced, misconceived, ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, inappropriate, unwise, injudicious, imprudent. **2** *you are quite misguided*: **misinformed**, misled, labouring under a misapprehension, wrong, mistaken, deluded.

**mishandle** verb **1** *the officer mishandled the situation*: **bungle**, fluff, make a mess of, mismanage, spoil, ruin, wreck; informal botch, make a hash of, mess up, muck up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of. **2** *he mishandled his wife*: **bully**, persecute, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat; informal beat up. **3** *the equipment could be dangerous if mishandled*: **misuse**, abuse, handle/treat roughly.

**mishap** noun **accident**, trouble, problem, difficulty, setback, adversity, reversal (of fortune), misfortune, blow; failure, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe, calamity.

**misgash** noun **jumble**, confusion, hotchpotch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, assortment, medley, miscellany, mixture, melange, blend, mix, potpourri, conglomeration, gallimaufry, omnium

gatherum, salmagundi; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**misinform** verb **mislead**, misguide, delude, take in, deceive, lie to, hoodwink; informal lead up the garden path, take for a ride; N. Amer. informal give someone a bum steer.

**misinformation** noun **disinformation**, false/misleading information; lie, fib; N. Amer. informal bum steer.

**misinterpret** verb **misunderstand**, misconceive, misconstrue, misapprehend, mistake, misread; confuse, take amiss, be mistaken, get the wrong idea.

**misjudge** verb **get the wrong idea about**, get wrong, judge incorrectly, estimate wrongly, be wrong about, miscalculate, misread; overestimate, underestimate, overvalue, undervalue, underrate.

**mislay** verb **lose**, misplace.

– OPPOSITES find.

**mislead** verb **deceive**, delude, take in, lie to, fool, hoodwink, throw off the scent, pull the wool over someone's eyes, misguide, misinform, give wrong information to; informal lead up the garden path, take for a ride; N. Amer. informal give someone a bum steer.

**misleading** adjective **deceptive**, confusing, deceiving, equivocal, ambiguous, fallacious, specious, spurious, false.

**mismanage** verb **bungle**, fluff, make a mess of, mishandle, misconduct, spoil, ruin, wreck; informal botch, make a hash of, mess up, muck up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of.

**mismatch** noun **discrepancy**, inconsistency, contradiction, incongruity, incongruousness, conflict, discord, irreconcilability.

**mismatched** adjective **ill-assorted**, ill-matched, incongruous, unsuited, incompatible, inconsistent, at odds; out of keeping, clashing, dissimilar, unlike, different, at variance, disparate, unrelated, divergent, contrasting.

– OPPOSITES matching.

**misogynist** noun **woman-hater**, anti-feminist, (male) chauvinist, sexist; informal male chauvinist pig, MCP.

**misplace** verb **lose**, mislay, put in the wrong place, be unable to find, forget the whereabouts of.

– OPPOSITES find.

**misplaced** adjective **1** *his comments were misplaced*: **misguided**, unwise, ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, inappropriate. **2** *misplaced keys*: **lost**, mislaid, missing.

**misprint** noun **mistake**, error, typographical mistake/error, typing mistake/error, corrigendum, erratum; Brit. literal; informal typo.

**misquote** verb **misreport**, misrepresent, misstate, take/quote out of context, distort, twist, slant, bias, put a spin on, falsify.

**misrepresent** verb **give a false account/idea of**, misstate, misreport, misquote, quote/take out of context, misinterpret, put a spin on, falsify, distort.

**misrule** noun **1** *the misrule of Edward IV:*

bad government, misgovernment, mismanagement, malpractice, incompetence; formal maladministration.

**2** *the misrule at football games:* lawlessness, anarchy, disorder, chaos, mayhem.

— OPPOSITES order.

**miss**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *the shot missed her by inches:* fail to hit, be/go wide of, fall short of. **2** *Mandy missed the catch:* fail to catch, drop, fumble, fluff, mishandle, misfield, mishit. **3** *I've missed my bus:* be too late for, fail to catch/get. **4** *I missed what you said:* fail to hear, mishear. **5** *you can't miss the station:* fail to see/notice, overlook. **6** *she never missed a meeting:* fail to attend, be absent from, play truant from, cut, skip; Brit. informal skive off. **7** *don't miss this exciting opportunity!* let slip, fail to take advantage of, let go/pass, pass up. **8** *I left early to miss the rush-hour traffic:* avoid, beat, evade, escape, dodge, sidestep, elude, circumvent, steer clear of, find a way round, bypass. **9** *she missed him when he was away:* pine for, yearn for, ache for, long for, long to see.

— OPPOSITES hit, catch.

■ **miss someone/something out** leave out, exclude, miss (off), fail to mention, pass over, skip; Brit. informal give something a miss.

**miss**<sup>2</sup> noun *a headstrong young miss:* young woman, young lady, girl, schoolgirl, missy; Scottish lass, lassie; Irish colleen; informal girlie, chick, bit, doll; Brit. informal bird, bint; N. Amer. informal broad, dame; Austral./NZ informal sheila; literary maiden, maid, damsel; old use wench.

**misshapen** adjective *deformed, malformed,* distorted, crooked, twisted, warped, out of shape, bent, asymmetrical, irregular, misproportioned, ill-proportioned, disfigured, grotesque.

**missile** noun *projectile, shell, rocket, weapon, brickbat.*

**WORD LINKS**

**ballistics** the science of missiles and firearms  
**payload, warhead** the explosive head of a missile  
**silo** an underground chamber for guided missiles

**missing** adjective **1** *his wallet is missing:* lost, mislaid, misplaced, absent, gone (astray), unaccounted for. **2** *passion was missing from her life:* absent, not present, lacking, wanting.

— OPPOSITES present.

**mission** noun **1** *a mercy mission to Romania:* assignment, commission, expedition, journey, trip, undertaking, operation; task, job, labour, work, duty, charge, trust. **2** *her mission in life:* vocation, calling, goal, aim, quest, purpose, function. **3** *a trade mission:* delegation, deputation, commission, legation, delegacy. **4** *a teacher in a mission:* missionary post, missionary station. **5** *a bombing mission:* sortie, operation, raid.

**missionary** noun evangelist, apostle, proselytizer, preacher, minister, priest.

**missive** noun message, communication,

letter, word, note, memorandum, line, communiqué, dispatch, news; informal memo; formal epistle; literary tidings.

**misspent** adjective *wasted, dissipated, squandered, thrown away, frittered away, misused, misapplied.*

**misstate** verb *misreport, misrepresent, take/quote out of context, distort, twist, put a spin on, falsify.*

**mist** noun *the mist was clearing:* haze, fog, smog, murk, cloud, Scotch mist; literary brume, fume.

■ **mist over/up** steam up, become misty, fog over/up, film over, cloud over.

**mistake** noun **1** *I assumed it had been a mistake:* error, fault, inaccuracy, omission, slip, blunder, miscalculation, misunderstanding, oversight, misinterpretation, gaffe, faux pas, solecism; informal slip-up, boo-boo, howler, boner; Brit. informal boob, clanger, bloomer; N. Amer. informal goof. **2** *spelling mistakes:* misprint, typographical error/mistake, typing error/mistake, corrigendum, erratum; Brit. literal; informal typo.

• verb **1** *men are apt to mistake their own feelings:* misunderstand, misinterpret, get wrong, misconstrue, misread. **2** *children often mistake vitamin pills for sweets:* confuse with, mix up with, take for, misinterpret as.

■ **be mistaken** be wrong, be in error, be under a misapprehension, be misinformed, be misguided; informal be barking up the wrong tree, get the wrong end of the stick.

■ **make a mistake** go wrong, err, make an error, blunder, miscalculate; informal slip up, make a boo-boo, make a howler; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal drop the ball, goof (up).

**mistaken** adjective *wrong, erroneous, inaccurate, incorrect, off beam, false, fallacious, unfounded, misguided, misinformed.*

— OPPOSITES correct.

**Mistakenly** adverb **1** *we often mistakenly imagine that when a problem is diagnosed it is solved:* wrongly, in error, erroneously, incorrectly, falsely, fallaciously, inaccurately. **2** *Matt mistakenly opened the letter:* by accident, accidentally, inadvertently, unintentionally, unwittingly, unconsciously, by mistake.

— OPPOSITES correctly, intentionally.

**mistimed** adjective *ill-timed, badly timed, inopportune, inappropriate, untimely, unseasonable.*

— OPPOSITES opportune.

**mistreat** verb *ill-treat, maltreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, molest, injure, harm, hurt; misuse, mishandle; informal beat up, rough up.*

**mistreatment** noun *ill-treatment, maltreatment, abuse, beating, molestation, injury, harm; mishandling, manhandling.*

**mistress** noun *lover, girlfriend, kept woman; courtesan, concubine; informal fancy woman, bit on the side; old use paramour.*

**mistrust** verb 1 *I mistrust his motives:*

be suspicious of, be mistrustful of, be distrustful of, be sceptical of, be wary of, be chary of, distrust, have doubts about, have misgivings about, have reservations about, suspect. 2 *don't mistrust your impulses:* question, challenge, doubt, have no confidence/faith in.

• noun 1 *mistrust of Russia was widespread:* suspicion, distrust, doubt, misgivings, wariness. 2 *their mistrust of David's competence:* questioning, lack of confidence/faith in, doubt about.

**mistrustful** adjective suspicious, chary, wary, distrustful, doubtful, dubious, uneasy, sceptical, leery.

**misty** adjective 1 *misty weather:* hazy, foggy, cloudy; smoggy. 2 *a misty figure:* blurry, fuzzy, blurred, dim, indistinct, unclear, vague. 3 *misty memories:* vague, unclear, indefinite, hazy, nebulous.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**misunderstand** verb misapprehend, misinterpret, misconstrue, misconceive, mistake, misread; be mistaken, get the wrong idea; informal be barking up the wrong tree, get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick.

**misunderstanding** noun 1 *a fundamental misunderstanding of juvenile crime:* misinterpretation, misconstruction, misreading, misapprehension, misconception, the wrong idea, false impression. 2 *we have had some misunderstandings:* disagreement, difference (of opinion), dispute, falling-out, quarrel, argument, altercation, squabble, wrangle, row, clash; informal spat, scrap, tiff.

**misuse** verb 1 *misusing public funds:* put to wrong use, misemploy, embezzle, use fraudulently; abuse, squander, waste. 2 *she had been misused by her husband:* ill-treat, maltreat, mistreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, molest, injure, harm, hurt; mishandle, manhandle; informal beat up, rough up.

• noun 1 *a misuse of company assets:* wrong use, embezzlement, fraud; squandering, waste. 2 *the misuse of drugs:* illegal use, abuse.

**mitigate** verb alleviate, reduce, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, attenuate, take the edge off, allay, ease, assuage, palliate, relieve, tone down.

– OPPOSITES aggravate.

**mitigating** adjective extenuating, exonerative, justificatory, justifying, vindicatory, vindicating, qualifying; formal exculpatory.

**mitigation** noun 1 *the mitigation of the problems:* alleviation, reduction, diminution, lessening, easing, weakening, assuagement, palliation, relief. 2 *what did she say in mitigation?* extenuation, explanation, excuse.

**mix** verb 1 *mix all the ingredients together:* blend, mix up, mingle, combine, put

together, jumble; fuse, unite, unify, join, amalgamate, incorporate, meld, marry, coalesce, homogenize, intermingle, intermix; technical admix; literary commingle; old use commix. 2 *she mixes with all sorts:* associate, socialize, fraternize, keep company, consort; mingle, circulate; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hang out/around, knock about/around, hobnob; Brit. informal hang about. 3 *we just don't mix:* be compatible, get along/on, be on the same wavelength, be in harmony, see eye to eye, agree; informal hit it off, click.

– OPPOSITES separate.

• noun *a mix of ancient and modern:* mixture, blend, mingling, combination, compound, fusion, alloy, union, amalgamation; medley, melange, collection, selection, assortment, variety, mixed bag, miscellany, potpourri, jumble, hotchpotch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, salmagundi; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

■ **mix something up** 1 *mix up the rusk with milk.* See **MIX** verb sense 1. 2 *I mixed up the dates:* confuse, get confused, muddle (up), get muddled up, mistake.

■ **mixed up in** involved in, embroiled in, caught up in.

**mixed adjective** 1 *a mixed collection:* assorted, varied, variegated, miscellaneous, disparate, diverse, diversified, motley, sundry, jumbled, heterogeneous. 2 *chickens of mixed breeds:* hybrid, half-caste, cross-bred, interbred. 3 *mixed reactions:* ambivalent, equivocal, contradictory, conflicting, confused, muddled.

– OPPOSITES homogeneous.

**mixed up** adjective (informal) confused, (all) at sea, befuddled, bemused, bewildered, muddled; maladjusted, disturbed, neurotic, unbalanced; informal hung up, messed up.

**mixer** noun 1 *a kitchen mixer:* blender, food processor, liquidizer, beater, churn. 2 *she was never really a mixer:* sociable person, socializer, extrovert, socialite.

**mixture** noun 1 *the pudding mixture:* blend, mix, brew, combination, concoction; composition, compound, alloy, amalgam. 2 *a strange mixture of people:* assortment, miscellany, medley, melange, blend, variety, mixed bag, mix, diversity, collection, selection, potpourri, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, salmagundi; N. Amer. hodgepodge. 3 *the animals were a mixture of genetic strands:* cross, cross-breed, mongrel, hybrid, half-breed, half-caste.

**mix-up** noun confusion, muddle, misunderstanding, mistake, error.

**moan** noun 1 *moans of pain:* groan, wail, whimper, sob, cry. 2 *the moan of the wind:* sigh, murmur. 3 (informal) *there were moans about the delay:* complaint, complaining, grouse, grouching, grumble, grumbling, whine, whining, carping; informal gripe, griping, grouch, grouching, bellyache, bitch, whinge, whingeing, beef, beefing.

• verb 1 *he moaned in agony:* groan, wail,

m



whimper, sob, cry. **2** *the wind moaned in the trees*: **sough**, sigh, murmur. **3** (informal) *you're always moaning about the weather*: **complain**, grouse, grumble, whine, carp; informal gripe, grouch, bellyache, bitch, beef, whinge; N. English informal mither.

**mob** noun **1** *troops dispersed the mob*: crowd, horde, multitude, rabble, mass, throng, group, gang, gathering, assemblage; old use rout. **2** *the mob were excluded from political life*: the common people, the masses, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, the proletariat; the hoi polloi, the lower classes, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed; informal the proles, the plebs. **3** (Brit. informal) *he stood out from the rest of the mob*: group, set, crowd, lot, circle, coterie, clan, faction, pack, band, ring; informal gang, bunch.  
 • verb **1** *the Chancellor was mobbed when he visited Berlin*: surround, swarm around, besiege, jostle. **2** *reporters mobbed her hotel*: crowd (into), fill, pack, throng, press into, squeeze into.

**mobile** adjective **1** *both patients are mobile*: able to move (around), moving, walking; Zoology motile; Medicine ambulant. **2** *her mobile face*: expressive, eloquent, revealing, animated. **3** *a mobile library*: travelling, transportable, portable, movable; itinerant, peripatetic. **4** *highly mobile young people*: adaptable, flexible, versatile, adjustable.  
 – OPPOSITES motionless, static.

**mobility** noun **1** *restricted mobility*: ability to move, movability. **2** *the mobility of Billy's face*: expressiveness, eloquence, animation. **3** *mobility in the workforce*: adaptability, flexibility, versatility, adjustability.

**mobilize** verb **1** *the government mobilized the troops*: marshal, deploy, muster, rally, call up, assemble, mass, organize, prepare. **2** *mobilizing support for the party*: generate, arouse, awaken, excite, incite, provoke, foment, prompt, stimulate, stir up, galvanize, encourage, inspire, whip up; literary waken.

**mock** verb **1** *the local children mocked the old people*: ridicule, jeer at, sneer at, deride, scorn, make fun of, laugh at, scoff at, tease, taunt; informal take the mickey out of, josh; N. Amer. informal goof on, rag on, pull someone's chain; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at, sling off at. **2** *they mocked the way he speaks*: parody, ape, take off, satirize, lampoon, imitate, mimic; informal send up.

• adjective *mock leather*: imitation, artificial, man-made, simulated, synthetic, ersatz, fake, faux, reproduction, dummy, sham, false, spurious, bogus, counterfeit, pseudo; informal pretend, phoney.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**mockery** noun **1** *the mockery in his voice*: ridicule, derision, jeering, sneering, contempt, scorn, scoffing, teasing, taunting, sarcasm. **2** *the trial was a mockery*: travesty, charade, farce, parody.

**mocking** adjective sneering, derisive,

contemptuous, scornful, sardonic, ironic, sarcastic.

**mode** noun **1** *an informal mode of policing*: manner, way, fashion, means, method, system, style, approach, technique, procedure, process, practice. **2** *the camera is in manual mode*: function, position, operation. **3** *the mode for active wear*: fashion, vogue, style, look, trend; craze, rage, fad.

**model** noun **1** *a working model*: replica, copy, representation, mock-up, dummy, imitation, duplicate, reproduction, facsimile. **2** *the American model of airline deregulation*: prototype, stereotype, archetype, type, version; mould, template, framework, pattern, design, blueprint. **3** *she was a model as a teacher*: ideal, paragon, perfect example/specimen; perfection, acme, epitome, nonpareil, crème de la crème. **4** *a top model*: fashion model, supermodel, mannequin; informal clothes horse. **5** *an artist's model*: sitter, poser, subject. **6** *the latest model of car*: version, type, design, variety, kind, sort. **7** *this dress is a model*: original (design), exclusive; informal one-off.

• adjective **1** *model trains*: replica, toy, miniature, dummy, imitation, duplicate, reproduction, facsimile. **2** *model farms*: prototypical, prototypal, archetypal. **3** *a model teacher*: ideal, perfect, exemplary, classic, flawless, faultless.

**moderate** adjective **1** *moderate success*: average, modest, medium, middling, ordinary, common, commonplace, everyday, workaday; tolerable, passable, adequate, fair; mediocre, indifferent, unexceptional, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill; informal OK, so-so, bog-standard, fair-to-middling, (plain) vanilla, no great shakes, not up to much; NZ informal half-pie. **2** *moderate prices*: reasonable, acceptable; inexpensive, low, fair, modest. **3** *moderate views*: middle-of-the-road, non-extreme, non-radical. **4** *moderate behaviour*: restrained, controlled, sober; tolerant, lenient.

– OPPOSITES great, unreasonable, extreme.

• verb **1** *the wind has moderated*: die down, abate, let up, calm down, lessen, decrease, diminish; recede, weaken, subside. **2** *you can help to moderate her anger*: curb, control, check, temper, restrain, subdue; repress, tame, lessen, decrease, lower, reduce, diminish, alleviate, allay, appease, assuage, ease, soothe, calm, tone down; old use remit. **3** *the Speaker moderates the assembly*: chair, take the chair of, preside over.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**moderately** adverb somewhat, quite, rather, fairly, reasonably, comparatively, relatively, to some extent; tolerably, passably, adequately; informal pretty.

**moderation** noun **1** *he urged them to show moderation*: self-restraint, restraint, self-control, self-discipline; moderateness, temperance, leniency, fairness. **2** *a moderation of their confrontational style*: relaxation, easing (off), reduction, abatement, weakening, slackening,

tempering, softening, diminution, diminishing, lessening; decline, modulation, modification, mitigation, allaying; informal let-up.

**modern** adjective **1** *modern times*: present-day, contemporary, present, current, twenty-first-century, latter-day, recent. **2** *her clothes are very modern*: fashionable, in fashion, in style, in vogue, up to date, all the rage, trendsetting, stylish, voguish, modish, chic, à la mode; the latest, new, newest, newfangled, modernistic, advanced; informal trendy, cool, in, with it, now, hip, happening; N. Amer. informal tony.

– OPPOSITES past, old-fashioned.

**modernity** noun contemporaneity, contemporaneousness, modernness, modernism; fashionableness, vogue; informal trendiness.

**modernize** verb **1** *they are modernizing their manufacturing facilities*: update, bring up to date, streamline, rationalize, overhaul; renovate, remodel, refashion, revamp. **2** *we must modernize to survive*: get up to date, move with the times, innovate; informal get in the swim, get with it.

**modest** adjective **1** *she was modest about her poetry*: self-effacing, self-deprecating, humble, unpretentious, unassuming, unostentatious; shy, bashful, self-conscious, diffident, reserved, reticent, coy. **2** *modest success*: moderate, fair, limited, tolerable, passable, adequate, satisfactory, acceptable, unexceptional. **3** *a modest house*: small, ordinary, simple, plain, humble, inexpensive, unostentatious, unpretentious. **4** *her modest dress*: decorous, decent, seemly, demure, proper.

– OPPOSITES conceited, great, grand.

**modesty** noun **1** *Hannah's modesty cloaks many talents*: self-effacement, humility, unpretentiousness; shyness, bashfulness, self-consciousness, reserve, reticence, timidity. **2** *the modesty of his aspirations*: limited scope, moderation. **3** *the modesty of his home*: unpretentiousness, simplicity, plainness. **4** *her maidenly modesty*: decorum, decorousness, decency, seemliness, demureness.

**modicum** noun small amount, particle, speck, fragment, scrap, crumb, grain, morsel, shred, dash, drop, pinch, jot, iota, whit, atom, smattering, scintilla, hint, suggestion; informal smidgen, tad; old use scantling.

**modification** noun **1** *the design is undergoing modification*: alteration, adjustment, change, adaptation, refinement, revision. **2** *some minor modifications were made*: revision, refinement, improvement, amendment, adaptation, adjustment, change, alteration. **3** *the modification of his views*: softening, moderation, tempering, qualification.

**modify** verb **1** *their economic policy has been modified*: alter, change, adjust, adapt, amend, revise, reshape, refashion, restyle, revamp, rework, remodel, refine; informal tweak. **2** *he modified his more extreme views*:

moderate, revise, temper, soften, tone down, qualify.

**modish** adjective fashionable, stylish, chic, modern, contemporary, all the rage, in vogue, voguish, up to the minute, à la mode; informal trendy, cool, with it, in, now, hip, happening; N. Amer. informal kinky, tony.

**modulate** verb regulate, adjust, set, modify, moderate.

**modus operandi** noun method (of working), way, MO, manner, technique, style, procedure, approach, methodology, strategy, plan, formula; formal praxis.

**mogul** noun magnate, tycoon, VIP, notable, personage, baron, captain, king, lord, grandee, nabob; informal bigwig, big shot, big noise, top dog; N. Amer. informal top banana, big enchilada.

**moist** adjective **1** *the air was moist*: damp, dampish, steamy, humid, muggy, clammy, dank, wet, wetish, soggy, sweaty, sticky. **2** *a moist fruitcake*: succulent, juicy, soft. **3** *her eyes grew moist*: tearful, watery, misty.

– OPPOSITES dry.

**moisten** verb dampen, wet, damp, water, humidify; literary bedew.

**moisture** noun wetness, wet, water, liquid, condensation, steam, vapour, dampness, damp, humidity, clamminess, mugginess, dankness, wateriness.

#### WORD LINKS

desiccated having had the moisture removed

humectant preserving moisture

hygroscopic tending to absorb moisture from the air

saturated full of moisture

**moisturizer** noun lotion, cream, balm, emollient, salve, unguent, lubricant; technical humectant.

**mole<sup>1</sup>** noun *the mole on his left cheek*: mark, freckle, blotch, spot, blemish.

**mole<sup>2</sup>** noun *a well-placed mole*: spy, (secret) agent, undercover agent, operative, plant, infiltrator; N. Amer. informal spook; old use intelligencer.

**mole<sup>3</sup>** noun *the mole protecting the harbour*: breakwater, groyne, dyke, pier, sea wall, causeway.

**molest** verb **1** *he molested a ten-year-old boy*: (sexually) abuse, (sexually) assault, interfere with, rape, violate; informal grope, paw; literary ravish. **2** (dated) *the crowd were molesting the police*: harass, harry, pester, beset, persecute, torment; N. Amer. informal roust.

**mollify** verb **1** *they mollified the protesters*: appease, placate, pacify, conciliate, soothe, calm (down). **2** *mollifying the fears of the public*: allay, assuage, alleviate, mitigate, ease, reduce, moderate, temper, tone down.

– OPPOSITES enrage.

**mollycoddle** verb *his parents mollycoddle him*: pamper, cosset, coddle, spoil, indulge, overindulge, pet, baby, nanny, nursemaid, wait on hand and foot, wrap in cotton wool.

• **noun** (informal) *the boy's a mollycoddle!* See **DRIP** noun sense 2.

**molten** **adjective** *liquefied, liquid, fluid, melted, flowing.*

**moment** **noun** **1** *he thought for a moment: little while, short time, bit, minute, instant, (split) second; informal sec, jiffy; Brit. informal tick, mo, two ticks.* **2** *the moment they met: point (in time), time, hour.* **3** (formal) *issues of little moment: importance, import, significance, consequence, note, weight, concern, interest.*

■ **in a moment** very soon, in a minute, in a second, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in the twinkling of an eye, in (less than) no time, in no time at all; N. Amer. momentarily; informal in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, in the blink of an eye; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap; literary ere long.

**momentarily** **adverb** **1** *he paused momentarily: briefly, fleetingly, for a moment, for a second, for an instant.* **2** (N. Amer.) *my husband will be here momentarily.* See **IN A MOMENT**.

**momentary** **adjective** *brief, short, short-lived, fleeting, passing, transient, ephemeral; literary evanescent.*

– **OPPOSITES** lengthy.

**momentous** **adjective** *important, significant, historic, portentous, critical, crucial, life-and-death, decisive, pivotal, consequential, of consequence, far-reaching; informal earth-shattering; formal of moment.*

– **OPPOSITES** insignificant.

**momentum** **noun** *impetus, energy, force, power, strength, thrust, speed, velocity.*

**monarch** **noun** *sovereign, ruler, Crown, crowned head, potentate; king, queen, emperor, empress, prince, princess.*

**monarchy** **noun** **1** *a constitutional monarchy: kingdom, sovereign state, principality, empire.* **2** *hereditary monarchy: kingship, sovereignty, autocracy, monocracy, absolutism.*

**monastery** **noun** *religious community; friary, abbey, priory, cloister.*

**monastic** **adjective** **1** *a monastic community: cloistered, cloistral, claustral.* **2** *a monastic existence: austere, ascetic, simple, solitary, monkish, celibate, quiet, cloistered, sequestered, secluded, reclusive, hermit-like, hermitic.*

**monetary** **adjective** *financial, fiscal, pecuniary, money, cash, economic, budgetary.*

**money** **noun** **1** *I haven't got enough money: (hard) cash, ready money; the means, the wherewithal, funds, capital, finances, (filthy) lucre; banknotes, notes, coins, change, specie, silver, copper, currency; Brit. sterling; N. Amer. bills; N. Amer. & Austral. roll; informal dough, bread, loot, readies, shekels, moolah, the necessary; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks; N. Amer. informal dinero, bucks, mazuma; US informal*

*greenbacks, simoleons, jack, rocks; Austral./NZ informal Oscar; Brit. dated l.s.d.; old use pelf.* **2** *she married him for his money: wealth, riches, fortune, affluence, (liquid) assets, resources, means.* **3** *the money here is better: pay, salary, wages, remuneration; formal emolument.*

■ **for my money** in my opinion, to my mind, in my view, as I see it, personally, in my estimation, in my judgement, if you ask me.

■ **in the money** (informal) *rich, wealthy, affluent, well-to-do, well off, prosperous, moneyed, in clover, opulent; informal rolling in it, loaded, stinking rich, well heeled, made of money.*

#### WORD LINKS

**monetary, pecuniary** relating to money  
**numismatics** the study or collection of coins and banknotes

**avarice, cupidity** greed for money

**mercenary** interested only in money  
**miser** a person who hoards money and spends as little as possible

**embezzlement, defalcation, peculation** the stealing of money entrusted to one's care

**Mammon** money seen as evil influence or object of worship

**moneyed** **adjective** *rich, wealthy, affluent, well-to-do, well off, prosperous, in clover, opulent, of means, of substance; informal in the money, rolling in it, loaded, stinking/ filthy rich, well heeled, made of money.*

– **OPPOSITES** poor.

**money-grubbing** **adjective** (informal) *acquisitive, avaricious, grasping, money-grabbing, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic; N. Amer. informal grabby.*

**moneymaking** **adjective** *profitable, profit-making, remunerative, lucrative, successful, financially rewarding.*

– **OPPOSITES** loss-making.

**mongrel** **noun** *a rough-haired mongrel: cross-breed, cross, mixed breed, half-breed; tyke, cur, mutt; NZ kuri; Austral. informal mong, bitzer.*

• **adjective** *a mongrel bitch: cross-bred, of mixed breed, half-breed.*

– **OPPOSITES** pedigree.

**monitor** **noun** **1** *monitors covered all entrances: detector, scanner, recorder; security camera, CCTV.* **2** *UN monitors: observer, watchdog, overseer, supervisor.*

**3** *a computer monitor: screen, visual display unit, VDU.* **4** (Brit.) *a school monitor: prefect, praepostor; senior boy/girl, senior pupil.*

• **verb** *his movements were closely monitored: observe, watch, track, keep an eye on, keep under observation, keep watch on, keep under surveillance, record, note, oversee; informal keep tabs on, keep a beady eye on.*

**monk** **noun** *brother, religious, coenobite, contemplative, mendicant; friar; abbot, prior; novice, oblate, postulant; Benedictine, Black Monk, Cluniac, Carthusian, Cistercian, Trappist, White Monk.*



## WORD LINKS

**monastic** relating to monks  
**monastery** a community of monks  
**cloister** a covered passage round a courtyard in a monastery  
**cowl** a large hood forming part of a monk's habit  
**scapular** a monk's short cloak  
**tonsure** the shaven part of a monk's head

**monkey** noun **1** primate, ape. **2** *you little monkey!* See **RASCAL**.

■ **monkey about/around** fool about/around, play about/around, clown about/around, fiddle about/around; informal mess about/around, horse about/around, lark (about/around); Brit. informal muck about/around.  
 ■ **monkey with** tamper with, fiddle with, interfere with, meddle with, tinker with, play with; informal mess with; Brit. informal muck about/around with.

## WORD LINKS

**simian** relating to or resembling monkeys  
**primatology** the study of monkeys  
**troop** a group of monkeys

**monkey business** noun (informal) **mischief**, misbehaviour, mischievousness, devilry, devilment, tomfoolery; dishonesty, trickery, chicanery, skulduggery; informal shenanigans, funny business, hanky-panky; Brit. informal monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines.

**monocle** noun eyeglass, glass.

**monolith** noun standing stone, menhir, sarsen (stone), megalith.

**monolithic** adjective **1** a *monolithic building*:

massive, huge, vast, colossal, gigantic, immense, giant, enormous; featureless, characterless. **2** the *old monolithic Communist party*: inflexible, rigid, unbending, unchanging, fossilized.

**monologue** noun soliloquy, speech, address, lecture, sermon; formal oration.

**monomania** noun obsession, fixation, consuming passion, mania, compulsion.

**monopolize** verb **1** *the company has monopolized the market*: corner, control, take over, gain control/dominance over; old use engross. **2** *he monopolized the conversation*: dominate, take over, keep to oneself; informal hog.

**monotonous** adjective **1** a *monotonous job*: tedious, boring, dull, uninteresting, unexciting, wearisome, tiresome, repetitive, repetitious, unvarying, unchanging, unvaried, humdrum, routine, mechanical, mind-numbing, soul-destroying; colourless, featureless, dreary; informal deadly; Brit. informal samey; N. Amer. informal dullsville. **2** a *monotonous voice*: toneless, flat, uninflected, soporific.

– OPPOSITES interesting.

**monotony** noun **1** the *monotony of everyday life*: tedium, tediousness, lack of variety, dullness, boredom, repetitiveness, repetitiousness, uniformity, routineness, wearisomeness, tiresomeness; lack of

excitement, uneventfulness, dreariness, colourlessness, featurelessness; informal deadliness. **2** the *monotony of her voice*: tonelessness, flatness.

**monster** noun **1** *her husband is a monster*:

brute, fiend, beast, devil, demon, barbarian, savage, animal; informal swine, pig. **2** the *boy's a little monster*: rascal, imp, monkey, wretch, devil; informal horror, scamp, scallywag, tyke; Brit. informal perisher, pickle; N. Amer. informal varmint, hellion; old use scapegrace, rapscallion. **3** *he's a monster of a man*: giant, mammoth, colossus, leviathan, titan; informal jumbo.

• adjective (informal) a *monster carp*. See **HUGE**.

**monstrosity** noun **1** a *concrete monstrosity*:

eyesore, blot on the landscape, carbuncle, excrescence. **2** a *biological monstrosity*: mutant, mutation, freak (of nature), monster, abortion.

**monstrous** adjective **1** a *monstrous creature*: grotesque, hideous, ugly, ghastly, gruesome, horrible, horrific, horrifying, grisly, disgusting, repulsive, repellent, dreadful, frightening, terrifying, malformed, misshapen. **2** a *monstrous tidal wave*. See **HUGE**. **3** *monstrous acts of violence*: appalling, heinous, egregious, evil, wicked, abominable, terrible, horrible, dreadful, vile, outrageous, shocking, disgraceful; unspeakable, despicable, vicious, savage, barbaric, barbarous, inhuman; Brit. informal beastly.

– OPPOSITES lovely, small.

**monument** noun **1** a *stone monument*:

memorial, statue, pillar, column, obelisk, cross; cenotaph, tomb, mausoleum, shrine. **2** a *monument was placed over the grave*: gravestone, headstone, tombstone. **3** a *monument to a past era of aviation*: testament, record, reminder, remembrance, memorial, commemoration.

**monumental** adjective **1** a *monumental task*: huge, great, enormous, gigantic, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, tremendous, mighty, stupendous. **2** a *monumental error of judgement*: terrible, dreadful, awful, colossal, staggering, huge, enormous, unforgivable, egregious. **3** *Beethoven's monumental works*: impressive, striking, outstanding, remarkable, magnificent, majestic, stupendous, ambitious, large-scale, grand, awe-inspiring, important, significant, distinguished, memorable, immortal. **4** a *monumental inscription*: commemorative, memorial, celebratory, commemorating.

**mood** noun **1** *she's in a good mood*: frame/state of mind, humour, temper; disposition, spirit, tenor. **2** *he's obviously in a mood*: bad mood, (bad) temper, sulk, pet, fit of pique; low spirits, the doldrums, the blues; informal the dumps, grump; Brit. informal paddy. **3** the *mood of the film*: atmosphere, feeling, spirit, ambience, aura, character, tenor, flavour, feel, tone.

■ in the mood in the right frame of mind, feeling like, wanting to, inclined to,

disposed to, minded to, eager to, willing to.

**moody** adjective temperamental, emotional, volatile, capricious, changeable, mercurial; sullen, sulky, morose, glum, depressed, dejected, despondent, doleful, dour, sour, saturnine; informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**moon** noun satellite.

• verb 1 *stop mooning about*: waste time, loaf, idle, mope; Brit. informal mooch; N. Amer. informal lollygag. 2 *he's mooning over her photograph*: mope, pine, brood, daydream, fantasize, be in a reverie.

■ *once in a blue moon* (informal) hardly ever, scarcely ever, rarely, very seldom.

■ *over the moon* (informal). See ECSTATIC.

#### WORD LINKS

lunar relating to the moon

gibbous referring to the moon when it is more than half but less than fully illuminated

harvest moon a full moon in autumn

waning referring to the moon when it is apparently decreasing in size

waxing referring to the moon when it is apparently increasing in size

mare a large plain of volcanic rock on the moon

selenology the scientific study of the moon

**moonshine** noun. See RUBBISH noun sense 2.

**m** **moor**<sup>1</sup> verb *a boat was moored to the quay*: tie up, secure, make fast, fix firmly, anchor, berth, dock.

**moor**<sup>2</sup> noun *a walk on the moor*: upland, moorland, heath; grouse moor; Brit. fell, wold.

**moot** adjective *a moot point*: debatable, open to discussion/question, arguable, questionable, at issue, open to doubt, disputable, controversial, contentious, disputed, unresolved, unsettled, up in the air.

• verb *the idea was first mooted in the 1930s*: raise, bring up, broach, mention, put forward, introduce, advance, propose, suggest.

**mop** noun *her tousled mop of hair*: shock, mane, tangle, mass.

• verb *a man was mopping the floor*: wash, clean, wipe.

■ *mop something up* 1 *I mopped up the spilt coffee*: wipe up, clean up, sponge up. 2 *troops mopped up the last pockets of resistance*: finish off, deal with, dispose of, take care of, clear up, eliminate.

**mope** verb 1 *it's no use moping*: brood, sulk, be miserable, be despondent, pine, eat one's heart out, fret, grieve; informal be down in the dumps/mouth; literary repine. 2 *she was moping about the house*: languish, moon, idle, loaf; Brit. informal mooch; N. Amer. informal lollygag.

• noun *she's regarded as a mope*: melancholic, depressive, pessimist, killjoy; informal sourpuss, party-pooper, spoilsport, grouch, grump; Brit. informal misery.

**moral** adjective 1 *moral issues*: ethical. 2 *a very moral man*: virtuous, good, righteous, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, honourable, honest, just, noble, incorruptible, scrupulous, respectable, decent, clean-living, law-abiding. 3 *moral support*: psychological, emotional, mental. – OPPOSITES dishonourable.

• noun 1 *the moral of the story*: lesson, message, meaning, significance, signification, import, point, teaching.

2 *he has no morals*: moral code, code of ethics, moral standards/values, principles, standards, (sense of) morality, scruples.

**morale** noun confidence, self-confidence, self-esteem, spirit(s), team spirit.

**moral fibre** noun strength of character, fibre, fortitude, resolve, backbone, spine, mettle, firmness of purpose.

**morality** noun 1 *the morality of nuclear weapons*: ethics, rights and wrongs, ethicality. 2 *a sharp decline in morality*:

virtue, goodness, good behaviour, righteousness, rectitude, uprightness; morals, principles, honesty, integrity, propriety, honour, justice, decency.

3 *orthodox Christian morality*: moral standards, morals, ethics, standards/principles of behaviour, mores, standards.

**moralize** verb pontificate, sermonize, lecture, preach; informal preachify.

**morass** noun 1 *the muddy morass*: quagmire, swamp, bog, marsh, mire, marshland, slough; N. Amer. moor. 2 *a morass of paperwork*: confusion, chaos, muddle, tangle, entanglement, imbroglia, jumble, clutter.

**moratorium** noun embargo, ban, prohibition, suspension, postponement, stay, stoppage, halt, freeze, standstill, respite.

**morbid** adjective *a morbid fascination with contemporary warfare*: ghoulis, macabre, unhealthy, gruesome, unwholesome; informal sick.

– OPPOSITES wholesome.

**mordant** adjective caustic, trenchant, biting, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, acid, sharp, keen; critical, bitter, virulent, vitriolic; formal mordacious.

**more** determiner *I could do with some more clothes*: additional, further, added, extra, increased, new, other, supplementary.

– OPPOSITES less, fewer.

• adverb 1 *he was able to concentrate more on his writing*: to a greater extent, further, some more, better. 2 *he was rich, and more, he was handsome*: moreover, furthermore, besides, what's more, in addition, also, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, into the bargain; old use withal, forbye.

• pronoun *we're going to need more*: extra, an additional amount/number, an addition, an increase.

– OPPOSITES less, fewer.

■ *more or less* approximately, roughly, nearly, almost, close to, about, of the order of, in the region of.

**moreover** adverb besides, furthermore, what's more, in addition, also, as well, too, to boot, additionally, on top of that, into the bargain, more; old use withal, forbye.

**more** plural noun customs, conventions, ways, way of life, traditions, practices, habits; formal praxis.

**morgue** noun mortuary, funeral parlour; Brit. chapel of rest.

**moribund** adjective **1** *the patient was moribund*: dying, expiring, on one's deathbed, near death, at death's door, not long for this world. **2** *the moribund shipbuilding industry*: declining, in decline, waning, dying, stagnating, stagnant, crumbling, on its last legs.

– OPPOSITES thriving.

**morning** noun **1** *I've got a meeting this morning*: before noon, before lunch(time), a.m.; literary morn; Nautical & N. Amer. forenoon. **2** *morning is on its way*: dawn, daybreak, sunrise, first light, cockcrow; N. Amer. sunup; literary dayspring, dawning, aurora.

■ **morning, noon, and night** all the time, without a break, constantly, continually, incessantly, ceaselessly, perpetually, unceasingly; informal 24-7.

#### WORD LINKS

antemeridian, matutinal relating to the morning

**moron** noun (informal). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**moronic** adjective (informal). See **STUPID** sense 1.

**morose** adjective sullen, sulky, gloomy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, dour, surly, sour, glum, moody, ill-humoured, melancholy, melancholic, doleful, Eeyorish, miserable, depressed, dejected, despondent, downcast, unhappy, in low spirits, low, down, grumpy, irritable, churlish, cantankerous, crotchety, cross, crabby, grouchy, testy, snappish, peevish, crusty; informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth, fed up.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**morsel** noun mouthful, bite, nibble, bit, soupçon, taste, spoonful, forkful, sliver, drop, dollop, spot, gobbet; titbit, bonne bouche; informal smidgen.

**mortal** adjective **1** *mortal remains* | all men are mortal: perishable, physical, bodily, corporeal, fleshly, earthly; human, impermanent, transient, ephemeral. **2** *a mortal blow*: deadly, fatal, lethal, death-dealing, murderous, terminal. **3** *mortal enemies*: irreconcilable, deadly, sworn, bitter, out-and-out, implacable. **4** *a mortal sin*: unpardonable, unforgivable. **5** *living in mortal fear*: extreme, (very) great, terrible, awful, dreadful, intense, severe, grave, dire, unbearable. **6** *the punishment is out of all mortal proportion*: conceivable, imaginable, perceivable, possible, earthly.

– OPPOSITES venial.

• noun we are mere mortals: human (being), person, man/woman; earthly.

**mortality** noun **1** *a sense of his own*

*mortality*: impermanence, transience, ephemerality, perishability; humanity; corporeality. **2** *the causes of mortality*: death, loss of life, dying.

**mortification** noun **1** *scarlet with mortification*: embarrassment, humiliation, chagrin, discomfiture, discomposure, shame. **2** *the mortification of the flesh*: subduing, suppression, subjugation, control, controlling; disciplining, chastening, punishment.

**mortify** verb **1** *I'd be mortified if my friends found out*: embarrass, humiliate, chagrin, discomfit, shame, abash, horrify, appal. **2** *he was mortified at being excluded*: hurt, wound, affront, offend, put out, pique, irk, annoy, vex; informal rile. **3** *mortifying the flesh*: subdue, suppress, subjugate, control; discipline, chasten, punish. **4** *the cut had mortified*: become gangrenous, fester, putrefy, gangrene, rot, decay, decompose.

**mortuary** noun morgue, funeral parlour; Brit. chapel of rest.

**most** pronoun *most of the guests brought flowers*: nearly all, almost all, the greatest part/number, the majority, the bulk, the preponderance.

– OPPOSITES little, few.

■ **for the most part** mostly, mainly, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, to a large extent, predominantly, chiefly, principally, basically, generally, usually, typically, commonly, as a rule, on balance, on verge.

**mostly** adverb **1** *the other passengers were mostly businessmen*: mainly, for the most part, on the whole, in the main, largely, chiefly, predominantly, principally, primarily. **2** *I mostly wear jeans*: usually, generally, in general, as a rule, ordinarily, normally, customarily, typically, most of the time, almost always.

**mote** noun speck, particle, grain, spot, fleck, atom, scintilla.

**moth-eaten** adjective threadbare, worn (out), well worn, old, shabby, scruffy, tattered, ragged; informal tatty, the worse for wear; N. Amer. informal raggedy.

**mother** noun **1** *I will ask my mother*: female parent, materfamilias, matriarch; informal ma, mam, mammy, old lady, old woman; Brit. informal mum, mummy; N. Amer. informal mom, mommy; Brit. informal, dated mater. **2** *the foal's mother*: dam. **3** *the wish was mother of the deed*: source, origin, genesis, fountainhead, inspiration, stimulus; literary wellspring.

– OPPOSITES child, father.

• verb **1** *she mothered her husband*: look after, care for, take care of, nurse, protect, tend, raise, rear; pamper, coddle, cosset, fuss over. **2** *she mothered an illegitimate daughter*: give birth to, have, bear, produce; N. Amer. birth; old use be brought to bed of.

– OPPOSITES neglect.

#### WORD LINKS

maternal relating to a mother  
maternity motherhood



**matriarchy** a form of social organization in which the mother is head of the family  
**matrilineal** based on relationship with the mother or female line of descent  
**matricide** the killing of one's mother

**motherly** adjective **maternal**, maternalistic, protective, caring, loving, devoted, affectionate, fond, warm, tender, gentle, kind, kindly, understanding, compassionate.

**motif** noun **1** a colourful tulip motif: **design**, pattern, decoration, figure, shape, device, emblem, ornament. **2** a recurring motif in Pinter's work: **theme**, idea, concept, subject, topic, leitmotif, element.

**motion** noun **1** the rocking motion of the boat | a planet's motion around the sun: **movement**, moving, locomotion, rise and fall, shifting; progress, passage, passing, transit, course, travel, travelling; technical kinesist. **2** a motion of the hand: **gesture**, movement, signal, sign, indication; wave, nod, gesticulation. **3** the motion failed to obtain a majority: **proposal**, proposition, recommendation, suggestion.

• **verb** he motioned her to sit down: **gesture**, signal, direct, indicate; wave, beckon, nod, gesticulate.

■ **in motion** moving, on the move, going, travelling, running, functioning, operational.

■ **set in motion** start, commence, begin, activate, initiate, launch, get under way, get going, get off the ground; trigger off, set off, spark off, generate, cause.

**WORD LINKS**

kinetic relating to motion  
 mobile able to move or be moved easily

**motionless** adjective **unmoving**, still, stationary, stock-still, immobile, static, not moving a muscle, rooted to the spot, transfixed, paralysed, frozen.

– OPPOSITES moving.

**motivate** verb **1** she was primarily motivated by the desire for profit: **prompt**, drive, move, inspire, stimulate, influence, activate, impel, push, propel, spur (on). **2** it's the teacher's job to motivate the child: **inspire**, stimulate, encourage, spur (on), excite, inspirit, incentivize, fire with enthusiasm.

**motivation** noun **1** his motivation was financial:  **motive**, motivating force, incentive, stimulus, stimulation, inspiration, inducement, incitement, spur, reason. **2** staff motivation: **enthusiasm**, drive, ambition, initiative, determination, enterprise; informal get-up-and-go.

**motive** noun **1** the motive for the attack: **reason**, motivation, motivating force, rationale, grounds, cause, basis, object, purpose, intention; incentive, inducement, incitement, lure, inspiration, stimulus, stimulation, spur. **2** religious motives in art: **motif**, theme, idea, concept, subject, topic, leitmotif.

• **adjective motive power**: **kinetic**, driving, impelling, propelling, propulsive, motor.

**motley** adjective **miscellaneous**, disparate, diverse, assorted, varied, diversified, heterogeneous.

– OPPOSITES homogeneous.

**mottled** adjective **blotchy**, blotched, spotted, spotty, speckled, streaked, streaky, marbled, flecked, freckled, dappled, stippled, piebald, skewbald, brindled, brindle; N. Amer. pinto; informal splotchy.

**motto** noun **maxim**, saying, proverb, aphorism, adage, saw, axiom, apophthegm, formula, expression, phrase, dictum, precept; slogan, catchphrase; truism, cliché, platitude.

**mould**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** the molten metal is poured into a mould: **cast**, die, form, matrix, shape, template, pattern, frame. **2** an actress in the traditional Hollywood mould: **pattern**, form, shape, format, model, kind, type, style; archetype, prototype. **3** he is a figure of heroic mould: **character**, nature, temperament, disposition; calibre, kind, sort, variety, stamp, type.

• **verb** **1** a figure moulded from clay: **shape**, form, fashion, model, work, construct, make, create, manufacture, sculpt, sculpture; forge, cast. **2** moulding US policy: **determine**, direct, control, guide, lead, influence, shape, form, fashion, make.

**mould**<sup>2</sup> noun **walls stained with mould**: **mildew**, fungus, must, mouldiness, mustiness.

**mould**<sup>3</sup> noun **leaf mould**: **earth**, soil, dirt, loam, humus.

**moulder** verb **decay**, decompose, rot (away), go mouldy, go off, go bad, spoil, putrefy.

**mouldy** adjective **mildewed**, mildewy, musty, mouldering, fusty; decaying, decayed, rotting, rotten, bad, spoiled, spoilt, decomposing.

**mound** noun **1** a mound of leaves: **heap**, pile, stack, mountain; mass, accumulation, assemblage. **2** high on the mound:

**hillock**, hill, knoll, rise, hummock, hump, embankment, bank, ridge, elevation, acclivity; Scottish brae; Geology drumlin. **3** a burial mound: **barrow**, tumulus; **motte**.

• **verb** mound up the rice on a serving plate: **pile (up)**, heap (up).

**mount** verb **1** he mounted the stairs: **go up**, ascend, climb (up), scale. **2** the committee mounted the platform: **climb on to**, jump on to, clamber on to, get on to. **3** they mounted their horses: **get astride**, bestride, get on to, hop on to. **4** the museum is mounting an exhibition: (**put on**) **display**, exhibit, present, install; organize, put on, stage. **5** the company mounted a takeover bid: **organize**, stage, prepare, arrange, set up; launch, set in motion, initiate. **6** their losses mounted rapidly: **increase**, grow, rise, escalate, soar, spiral, shoot up, rocket, climb, accumulate, build up, multiply. **7** cameras were mounted above the door: **install**, place, fix, set, put up, put in position.

– OPPOSITES descend.

• **noun** **1** he hung on to his mount's bridle: **horse**; old use **steed**. **2** a decorated photograph

**mount:** setting, backing, support, mounting, frame, stand.

**mountain** noun **1** *a range of mountains:* peak, height, mount, prominence, summit, pinnacle, alp; (**mountains**) range, massif, sierra; Scottish ben, Munro. **2** *a mountain of work:* a great deal, a lot; profusion, abundance, quantity, backlog; informal heap, pile, stack, slew, lots, loads, heaps, piles, tons, masses; N. Amer. informal gobs. **3** *a butter mountain:* surplus, surfeit, glut, oversupply.

#### WORD LINKS

**montane, orographic** relating to mountains or mountainous country  
**avalanche** a mass of snow and ice falling rapidly down a mountainside  
**glacier** a slowly moving mass of ice on a mountain  
**tarn** a small mountain lake

**mountainous** adjective **1** *a mountainous region:* hilly, craggy, rocky, alpine; upland, highland. **2** *mountainous waves:* huge, enormous, gigantic, massive, giant, colossal, immense, tremendous, mighty; informal whooping, thumping, humongous; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

– OPPOSITES flat, tiny.

**mountebank** noun swindler, charlatan, confidence trickster, fraud, fraudster, impostor, trickster, hoaxer, quack; informal con man, flimflammer, sharp; N. Amer. informal grifter, bunco artist; Austral. informal magsman, illywhacker.

**mourn** verb **1** *Isobel mourned her husband:* grieve for, sorrow over, lament for, weep for, wail/keen over; old use plain for. **2** *he mourned the loss of the beautiful buildings:* deplore, bewail, bemoan, rue, regret.

**mournful** adjective sad, sorrowful, doleful, melancholy, melancholic, woeful, grief-stricken, miserable, unhappy, heartbroken, broken-hearted, gloomy, dismal, desolate, dejected, despondent, depressed, downcast, disconsolate, weebegone, forlorn, rueful, lugubrious, joyless, cheerless; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**mourning** noun **1** *a period of mourning:* grief, grieving, sorrowing, lamentation, lament, keening, wailing, weeping; literary dole. **2** *she was dressed in mourning:* black (clothes), (widow's) weeds; old use sables.

**mouse** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**murine** relating to mice  
**musophobia** fear of mice

**moustache** noun whiskers, mustachios, handlebar moustache, walrus moustache, burnside; informal tash; N. Amer. informal stash.

**mousy** adjective **1** *mousy hair:* lightish brown, brownish, brownish-grey, dun-coloured; dull, lacklustre. **2** *a small, mousy woman:* timid, quiet, fearful, timorous, shy, self-effacing, diffident, unassertive, unforthcoming, withdrawn, introverted, introvert.

**mouth** noun **1** *open your mouth:* lips, jaws; maw, muzzle; informal trap, chops, kisser; Brit. informal gob, cakehole; N. Amer. informal puss, bazoo. **2** *the mouth of the cave:* entrance, opening, entry, way in, access, ingress. **3** *the mouth of the bottle:* opening, rim, lip. **4** *the mouth of the river:* outfall, outlet, debouchment; estuary, firth. **5** (informal) *he's all mouth:* boasting, bragging, idle talk, bombast, braggadocio; informal hot air. **6** (informal) *you've got a lot of mouth:* impudence, cheek, cheekiness, insolence, impertinence, effrontery, presumption, presumptuousness, rudeness, disrespect; informal lip, (brass) neck; Brit. informal sauce, backchat; N. Amer. informal sass, sassiness, back talk.

• **verb** *he mouthed platitudes:* utter, speak, say; pronounce, enunciate, articulate, voice, express; say insincerely, say for form's sake.

■ **mouth off** (informal) rant, spout, declaim, snuff off.

#### WORD LINKS

**oral, buccal** relating to the mouth

**mouthful** noun **1** *a mouthful of pizza:* bite, nibble, taste, bit, piece; spoonful, forkful. **2** *a mouthful of beer:* draught, sip, swallow, drop, gulp, slug; informal swig. **3** *'sesquipedalian' is a bit of a mouthful:* tongue-twister, long word, difficult word.

**mouthpiece** noun **1** *the flute's mouthpiece:* embouchure. **2** *a mouthpiece for the government:* spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman, agent, representative, propagandist, voice.

**movable** adjective **1** *movable objects:* portable, transportable, transferable; mobile. **2** *movable feasts:* variable, changeable, alterable.

– OPPOSITES fixed.

**movables** plural noun possessions, belongings, effects, property, goods, chattels, paraphernalia, impedimenta; informal gear.

– OPPOSITES fixtures, fittings.

**move** verb **1** *she moved to the door | don't move!* go, walk, proceed, progress, advance; budge, stir, shift, change position. **2** *he moved the chair closer to the fire:* carry, transport, transfer, shift. **3** *things were moving too fast:* (make) progress, make headway, advance, develop. **4** *he urged the council to move quickly:* take action, act, take steps, do something, take measures; informal get moving. **5** *she's moved to Cambridge:* relocate, move house, move away/out, change address/house, leave, go away, decamp; Brit. informal up sticks; N. Amer. informal pull up stakes. **6** *I was deeply moved by the story:* affect, touch, impress, shake, upset, disturb, make an impression on. **7** *she was moved to find out more about it:* inspire, prompt, stimulate, motivate, provoke, influence, rouse, induce, incite. **8** *they are not prepared to move on this issue:* change, budge, shift one's ground, change one's tune, change one's mind, have second

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thoughts; do a U-turn, do an about-face; Brit. do an about-turn. **9** *she moves in the art worlds*: circulate, mix, socialize, keep company, associate; informal hang out/around; Brit. informal hang about. **10** *I move that we adjourn*: propose, submit, suggest, advocate, recommend, urge.

• **noun** **1** *his eyes followed her every move*: movement, motion, action; gesture, gesticulation. **2** *his recent move to London*: relocation, change of house/address, transfer, posting. **3** *the latest move in the war against drugs*: initiative, step, action, act, measure, manoeuvre, tactic, stratagem. **4** *it's your move*: turn, go; opportunity, chance.

■ **get a move on** (informal) hurry up, speed up, move faster; informal get cracking, get moving, step on it, shake a leg, get a wiggle on; Brit. informal get one's skates on, stir one's stumps; dated make haste.

■ **make a move** **1** *waiting for the other side to make a move*: do something, take action, act, take the initiative; informal get moving. **2** (Brit.) *I'd better be making a move*: leave, take one's leave, be on one's way, get going, depart, be off; informal push off, shove off, split.

■ **on the move** **1** *she's always on the move*: travelling, in transit, moving, journeying, on the road; informal on the go. **2** *the economy is on the move*: progressing, making progress, advancing, developing.

**movement** **noun** **1** *Rachel made a sudden movement* | *there was almost no movement*: motion, move; gesture, gesticulation, sign, signal; action, activity. **2** *the movement of supplies*: transportation, shift, shifting, conveyance, moving, transfer. **3** *the labour movement*: political group, party, faction, wing, lobby, camp. **4** *a movement to declare war on poverty*: campaign, crusade, drive, push. **5** *there have been movements in the financial markets*: development, change, fluctuation, variation. **6** *the movement towards equality*: trend, tendency, drift, swing. **7** *some movement will be made by the end of the month*: progress, progression, advance. **8** *a symphony in three movements*: part, section, division. **9** *the clock's movement*: mechanism, machinery, works, workings; informal innards, guts.

#### WORD LINKS

**kinetic** relating to movement

**mobile** able to move or be moved easily

**movie** **noun** **1** *a horror movie*: film, (motion) picture, feature (film); informal flick; dated moving picture. **2** *let's go to the movies*: the cinema, the pictures, the silver screen; informal the flicks, the big screen.

**moving** **adjective** **1** *moving parts* | *a moving train*: in motion, operating, operational, working, going, on the move, active; movable, mobile. **2** *a moving book*: affecting, touching, poignant, heart-warming, heart-rending, emotional, disturbing; inspiring, inspirational, stimulating, stirring. **3** *the party's moving force*: driving, motivating, dynamic, stimulating, inspirational.

– OPPOSITES fixed, stationary.

**mow** **verb** *she had mown the grass*: cut (down), trim; crop, clip.

■ **mow someone/something down** kill, gun down, shoot down, cut down, cut to pieces, butcher, slaughter, massacre, annihilate, wipe out; informal blow away.

**much** **determiner** *did you get much help?* a lot of, a great/good deal of, a great/large amount of, plenty of, ample, copious, abundant, plentiful, considerable; informal lots of, loads of, heaps of, masses of, tons of.

– OPPOSITES little.

• **adverb** **1** *it didn't hurt much*: greatly, to a great extent/degree, a great deal, a lot, considerably, appreciably. **2** *does he come here much?* often, frequently, many times, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, routinely, usually, normally, commonly; informal a lot.

• **pronoun** *he did so much for our team*: a lot, a great/good deal, plenty; informal lots, loads, heaps, masses.

■ **much of a muchness** (informal) very similar, much the same, very alike, practically identical.

**muck** **noun** **1** *I'll just clean off the muck*: dirt, grime, filth, mud, slime, mess; informal crud, gunk, grunge, gloop; Brit. informal gunge, grot; N. Amer. informal guck, glop. **2** *spreading muck on the fields*: dung, manure, ordure, excrement, excreta, droppings, faeces, sewage; N. Amer. informal cow chips, horse apples.

■ **muck something up** (informal) make a mess of, mess up, bungle, spoil, ruin, wreck; informal botch, make a hash of, muff, fluff, foul up, louse up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of; N. Amer. informal goof up.

■ **muck about/around** (Brit. informal) **1** *he was mucking about with his mates*: fool about/around, play about/around, clown about/around, footle about/around; informal mess about/around, horse about/around, lark (about/around). **2** *someone's been mucking about with the video*: interfere, fiddle (about/around), play about/around, tamper, meddle, tinker; informal mess (about/around).

**mucky** **adjective** dirty, filthy, grimy, muddy, grubby, messy, soiled, stained, smeared, slimy, sticky, bespattered; informal cruddy, grungy, gloopy; Brit. informal gungy, grotty; Austral./NZ informal scungy; literary besmirched, begrimed, befouled.

– OPPOSITES clean.

**mud** **noun** mire, sludge, ooze, silt, clay, dirt, soil.

**muddle** **verb** **1** *the papers have got muddled up*: confuse, mix up, jumble (up), disarrange, disorganize, disorder, disturb, mess up. **2** *it would only muddle you*: bewilder, confuse, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, baffle, nonplus, mystify.

• **noun** **1** *the files are in a muddle*: mess, confusion, jumble, tangle, hotchpotch, mishmash, chaos, disorder, disarray, disorganization; N. Amer. hodgepodge. **2** *a bureaucratic muddle*: bungle, mix-up,



misunderstanding; informal foul-up; N. Amer. informal snafu.

■ **muddle along/through** cope, manage, get by/along, scrape by/along, make do.

**muddled** adjective **1** *a muddled pile of photographs*: **jumbled**, in a jumble, in a muddle, in a mess, chaotic, in disorder, in disarray, topsy-turvy, disorganized, disordered, disorderly, mixed up, at sixes and sevens; informal higgledy-piggledy. **2** *she felt muddled*: **confused**, bewildered, bemused, perplexed, disorientated, disoriented, in a muddle, befuddled; N. Amer. informal discombobulated. **3** *muddled thinking*: **incoherent**, confused, muddle-headed, woolly.

– OPPOSITES orderly, clear.

**muddy** adjective **1** *muddy ground*: waterlogged, boggy, marshy, swampy, squelchy, squishy, mucky, slimy, spongy, wet, soft, heavy; old use quaggy. **2** *muddy boots*: **mud-caked**, muddied, dirty, filthy, mucky, grimy, soiled; literary begrimed. **3** *muddy water*: **murky**, cloudy, muddied, turbid; N. Amer. riled, roily. **4** *a muddy pink*: **dingy**, dirty, drab, dull, sludgy.

– OPPOSITES clean, clear.

● **verb 1** *don't muddy your boots*: **make muddy**, dirty, soil, spatter, bespatter; literary besmirch, begrime. **2** *these results muddy the situation*: **make unclear**, obscure, confuse, obfuscate, blur, dull, befog.

– OPPOSITES clarify.

**muff** verb (informal) **mishandle**, mismanage, mess up, make a mess of, bungle; informal botch, make a hash of, fluff, foul up, louse up; Brit. informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of; N. Amer. informal goof up.

**muffle** verb **1** *everyone was muffled up in coats*: **wrap (up)**, swathe, enfold, envelop, cloak. **2** *the sound of their footsteps was muffled*: **deadened**, dull, dampen, damp down, mute, soften, quieten, tone down, mask, stifle, smother.

**muffled** adjective **indistinct**, faint, muted, dull, soft, stifled, smothered.

– OPPOSITES loud.

**mug**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a china mug*: **beaker**, cup; tankard, glass, stein, flagon; dated seidel; old use stoup. **2** (informal) *her ugly mug*. See **FACE** noun sense 1. **3** (Brit. informal) *he's no mug*. See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

● **verb** (informal) *he was mugged by three youths*: **assault**, attack, set upon, beat up, rob; informal jump, rough up, lay into; Brit. informal duff up, do over.

**mug**<sup>2</sup> verb

■ **mug something up** (informal) *she's mugging up the Highway Code*: study, read up, cram; informal bone up (on); Brit. informal swot; old use con.

**muggy** adjective **humid**, close, sultry, sticky, oppressive, airless, stifling, suffocating, stuffy, clammy, damp, heavy, fuggy.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**mulish** adjective **obstinate**, stubborn, pig-headed, recalcitrant, intransigent, unyielding, inflexible, bullheaded,

stiff-necked; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie.

**mull** verb

■ **mull something over** ponder, consider, think over/about, reflect on, contemplate, turn over in one's mind, chew over, cogitate on, give some thought to; old use pore on.

**multicoloured** adjective **kaleidoscopic**, psychedelic, colourful, multicolour, many-coloured, many-hued, rainbow, jazzy, varicoloured, variegated, harlequin, polychromatic.

– OPPOSITES monochrome.

**multifarious** adjective **diverse**, many, numerous, various, varied, diversified, multiple, multitudinous, multiplex, manifold, multifaceted, different, heterogeneous, miscellaneous, assorted; literary myriad, divers.

– OPPOSITES homogenous.

**multiple** adjective **numerous**, many, various, different, diverse, several, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous; literary myriad, divers.

– OPPOSITES single.

**multiplicity** noun **abundance**, scores, mass, host, array, variety; range, diversity, heterogeneity, plurality, profusion; informal loads, stacks, heaps, masses, tons; literary myriad.

**multiply** verb **1** *their difficulties seem to be multiplying*: **increase**, grow, accumulate, proliferate, mount up, mushroom, snowball. **2** *the rabbits have multiplied*: **breed**, reproduce, procreate.

– OPPOSITES decrease.

**multitude** noun **1** *a multitude of birds*: **a lot**, a great/large number, a great/large quantity, host, horde, mass, swarm, abundance, profusion; scores, quantities, droves; informal slew, lots, loads, masses, stacks, heaps, tons, dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions; N. Amer. informal gazillions. **2** *Father Peter addressed the multitude*: **crowd**, gathering, assembly, congregation, flock, throng, horde, mob; formal concourse. **3** *political power in the hands of the multitude*: **the (common) people**, the populace, the masses, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the plebeians; the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the common herd, the rabble, the proles, the plebs.

**multitudinous** adjective **numerous**, many, abundant, profuse, prolific, copious, multifarious, innumerable, countless, numberless, infinite; literary divers, myriad.

**mun**<sup>1</sup> noun (Brit. informal) *my mum looks after me*. See **MOTHER** noun sense 1.

**mun**<sup>2</sup> (informal) adjective *he was keeping mum*:

**silent**, quiet, mute, dumb, tight-lipped, unforthcoming, reticent; old use mumchance.

■ **mum's the word** say nothing, keep quiet, don't breathe a word, don't tell a soul, keep it secret, keep it to yourself, keep it under your hat; informal don't let on, keep sth/m, don't let the cat out of the bag.

**mumble** verb **mutter**, murmur, speak

m

indistinctly, talk under one's breath.

**mumbo-jumbo** *noun* nonsense, gibberish, claptrap, rubbish, balderdash, blather, hocus-pocus; informal gobbledegook, double Dutch, argle-bargle.

**munch** *verb* chew, champ, chomp, masticate, crunch, eat; formal manducate.

**mundane** *adjective* **1** *her mundane life*: humdrum, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, tiresome, wearisome, unexciting, uninteresting, uneventful, unvarying, unremarkable, repetitive, repetitious, routine, ordinary, everyday, day-to-day, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, workaday; informal (plain) vanilla. **2** *the mundane world*: earthly, worldly, terrestrial, material, temporal, secular; literary sublunary.  
– OPPOSITES extraordinary, spiritual.

**municipal** *adjective* civic, civil, metropolitan, urban, city, town, borough.  
– OPPOSITES rural.

**municipality** *noun* borough, town, city, district; N. Amer. precinct, township; Scottish burgh.

**munificence** *noun* generosity, bountifulness, open-handedness, magnanimity, lavishness, liberality, philanthropy, charitableness, largesse, big-heartedness, beneficence; literary bounty, bounteousness.

**munificent** *adjective* generous, bountiful, open-handed, magnanimous, philanthropic, princely, handsome, lavish, liberal, charitable, big-hearted, beneficent; literary bounteous.  
– OPPOSITES mean.

**murder** *noun* **1** *a brutal murder*: killing, homicide, assassination, liquidation, extermination, execution, slaughter, butchery, massacre; manslaughter; literary slaying. **2** (informal) *driving there was murder: hell (on earth)*, a nightmare, an ordeal, a trial, misery, torture, agony.  
• *verb* **1** *someone tried to murder him*: kill, put/do to death, assassinate, execute, liquidate, eliminate, dispatch, butcher, slaughter, massacre, wipe out; informal bump off, do in, do away with, knock off, blow away, blow someone's brains out, take out, dispose of; N. Amer. informal ice, rub out, smoke, waste; literary slay. **2** (informal) *Anna was murdering a Mozart sonata*. See **MANGLE** sense 2. **3** (informal) *he murdered his opponent*. See **TROUCE**.

**murderer, murderess** *noun* killer, assassin, serial killer, butcher, slaughterer; informal hit man, hired gun; dated homicide; literary slayer.

**murderous** *adjective* **1** *a murderous attack*: homicidal, brutal, violent, savage, ferocious, fierce, vicious, bloodthirsty, barbarous, barbaric; fatal, lethal, deadly, mortal, death-dealing; old use sanguinary. **2** (informal) *a murderous schedule*: arduous, gruelling, strenuous, punishing, onerous, exhausting, taxing, difficult, rigorous; informal killing, hellish.

**murky** *adjective* **1** *a murky winter afternoon*: dark, gloomy, grey, leaden, dull, dim, overcast, cloudy, clouded, sunless, dismal, dreary, bleak; literary tenebrous. **2** *murky water*: dirty, muddy, cloudy, turbid; N. Amer. riled, roily. **3** *her murky past*: questionable, suspicious, suspect, dubious, dark, mysterious, secret; informal shady.  
– OPPOSITES bright, clear.

**murmur** *noun* **1** *his voice was a murmur*: whisper, undertone, mutter, mumble. **2** *there were murmurs in Tory ranks*: complaint, grumble, grouse; informal gripe, moan. **3** *the murmur of bees*: hum, humming, buzz, buzzing, thrum, thrumming, drone; sigh, rustle; literary susurration, murmuration.  
• *verb* **1** *he heard them murmuring in the hall*: mutter, mumble, whisper, talk under one's breath, speak softly. **2** *no one murmured at the delay*: complain, mutter, grumble, grouse; informal gripe, moan. **3** *the wind was murmuring through the trees*: rustle, sigh; burble, purr; literary whisper.

**muscle** *noun* **1** *he had muscle but no brains*: strength, power, muscularity, brawn, burliness; informal beef, beefiness; literary thew. **2** *financial muscle*: influence, power, strength, might, force, forcefulness, weight; informal clout.  
■ **muscle in** (informal) interfere with, force one's way into, impose oneself on, encroach on; informal horn in on.

#### WORD LINKS

**isometrics** a system of physical exercise in which muscles act against each other  
**myalgia** pain in a muscle  
**myology** the scientific study of muscles

**muscular** *adjective* **1** *muscular tissue*: fibrous, sinewy. **2** *he's very muscular*: strong, brawny, muscly, sinewy, powerfully built, well muscled, burly, strapping, sturdy, powerful, athletic; Physiology mesomorphic; informal hunky, beefy; literary thewy. **3** *a muscular economy*: vigorous, robust, strong, powerful, dynamic, potent, active.

**muse**<sup>1</sup> *noun* *the poet's muse*: inspiration, creative influence, stimulus; formal afflatus.

**muse**<sup>2</sup> *verb* *I mused on Toby's story*: ponder, consider, think over/about, mull over, reflect on, contemplate, turn over in one's mind, chew over, give some thought to, cogitate on; think, be lost in contemplation/thought, daydream; old use pore on.

**mush** *noun* **1** *some sort of greyish mush*: pap, pulp, slop, paste, purée, mash; informal gloop, goo, gook; N. Amer. informal glop. **2** *romantic mush*: sentimentality, mawkishness; informal schmaltz, corn, slush; N. Amer. informal slop.

**mushroom** *noun* fungus.

• *verb* *ecotourism mushroomed in the 1980s*: proliferate, grow/develop rapidly, burgeon, spread, increase, expand, boom, explode, snowball, rocket, skyrocket; thrive, flourish, prosper.

– OPPOSITES contract.

**mushy** *adjective* **1** *cook until the fruit is mushy*: soft, semi-liquid, pulpy, pappy,

sloppy, spongy, squashy, squelchy, squishy; informal gooey, gloopy; Brit. informal squidgy.

**2 a mushy film:** sentimental, mawkish, emotional, saccharine; informal slushy, schmaltzy, weepy, corny; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy, hokey, three-hankie.

– OPPOSITES firm.

**musical** adjective *tuneful*, melodic, melodious, harmonious, sweet-sounding, sweet, mellifluous, euphonious, euphonic; rare mellifluent.

– OPPOSITES discordant.

**musician** noun *player*, performer, instrumentalist, accompanist, soloist, virtuoso, maestro; historical minstrel.

**musings** noun *meditation*, thinking, contemplation, deliberation; pondering, reflection, rumination, introspection, daydreaming, reverie, dreaming, preoccupation, brooding; formal cogitation.

**muss** verb (N. Amer. informal) *ruffle*, tousle, dishevel, rumple, mess up, make a mess of, disarrange, make untidy.

**must<sup>1</sup>** verb *I must go*: ought to, should, have (got) to, need to, be obliged to, be required to, be compelled to.

• noun (informal) *this video is a must*: not to be missed, very good; necessity, essential, requirement, requisite.

**must<sup>2</sup>** noun *a smell of must*: mould, mustiness, mouldiness, mildew, fustiness.

**muster** verb **1** *they mustered 50,000 troops*:

assemble, mobilize, rally, raise, summon, gather (together), mass, collect, convene, call up, call to arms, recruit, conscript; US draft; old use levy. **2** *reporters mustered outside her house*: congregate, assemble, gather together, come together, collect together, convene, mass, rally; formal foregather. **3** *she mustered her courage*: summon (up), screw up, call up, rally.

• noun *the colonel called a muster*: roll-call, assembly, rally, meeting, gathering, assemblage, congregation, convention; parade, review.

■ **pass muster** be good enough, come up to standard, come up to scratch, measure up, be acceptable/adequate, fill/fit the bill; informal make the grade, come/be up to snuff.

**musty** adjective **1** *the room smelled musty*: mouldy, stale, fusty, damp, dank, mildewy, smelly, stuffy, airless, unventilated; N. Amer. informal funky. **2** *the play seemed musty*:

unoriginal, uninspired, unimaginative, hackneyed, stale, flat, tired, banal, trite, clichéd, old-fashioned, outdated; informal old hat.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**mutable** adjective *the mutable nature of fashion*: changeable, variable, varying, fluctuating, shifting, inconsistent, unpredictable, inconstant, uneven, unstable, protean; literary fluctuant.

– OPPOSITES invariable.

**mutant** noun *freak (of nature)*, deviant, monstrosity, monster, mutation.

**mutate** verb *change*, metamorphose, evolve; transmute, transform, convert; humorous transmogrify.

**mutation** noun **1** *alteration*, change, variation, modification, transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation; humorous transmogrification. **2** *a genetic mutation*: mutant, freak (of nature), deviant, monstrosity, monster.

**mute** adjective **1** *Yasmin remained mute*: silent, speechless, dumb, unable to speak, unspeaking, tight-lipped, taciturn; informal mum; old use mumchance. **2** *a mute appeal*: wordless, silent, dumb, unspoken, unvoiced, unexpressed. **3** *the church was mute*: quiet, silent, hushed.

– OPPOSITES voluble, spoken.

• verb **1** *the noise was muted by the heavy curtains*: deaden, muffle, dampen, soften, quieten; stifle, smother, suppress. **2** *Bruce muted his criticisms*: restrain, soften, tone down, moderate, temper.

– OPPOSITES intensify.

**muted** adjective **1** *the muted hum of traffic*: muffled, faint, indistinct, quiet, soft, low.

**2** *muted tones*: subdued, pastel, delicate, subtle, understated, restrained.

**mutilate** verb **1** *the bodies had been mutilated*: mangle, maim, disfigure, butcher, dismember; cripple. **2** *the carved screen had been mutilated*: vandalize, damage, deface, ruin, destroy, wreck, violate, desecrate; N. Amer. informal trash.

**mutinous** adjective rebellious, insubordinate, subversive, seditious, insurgent, insurrectionary, rebel, riotous.

**mutiny** noun *a mutiny over pay arrears*:

insurrection, rebellion, revolt, riot, uprising, insurgence, insubordination.

• verb *thousands of soldiers mutinied*: rise up, rebel, revolt, riot, disobey/defy authority, be insubordinate.

**mutt** noun (informal) **1** *a long-haired mutt*: mongrel, hound, dog, cur; Austral. informal mong, bitzer. **2** *he pitied the poor mutt*. See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**mutter** verb **1** *a group of men stood muttering*: talk under one's breath, murmur, mumble, whisper, speak in an undertone. **2** *back-benchers muttered about the reshuffle*: grumble, complain, grouse, carp, whine; informal moan, gripe, beef, whinge; Brit. informal chunter; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**mutual** adjective reciprocal, reciprocated, requited, returned; common, joint, shared.

**muzzle** noun *the dog's velvety muzzle*: snout, nose, mouth, maw.

• verb *attempts to muzzle the media*: gag, silence, censor, stifle, restrain, check, curb, fetter.

**muzzy** adjective **1** *she felt muzzy*: groggy, light-headed, faint, dizzy, befuddled, befogged; informal doopey, woozy. **2** *a slightly muzzy picture*: blurred, blurry, fuzzy, unfocused, unclear, ill-defined, foggy, hazy.

– OPPOSITES clear.



**myopic** adjective **1** *a myopic patient*: short-sighted, nearsighted. **2** *the government's myopic attitude*: unimaginative, uncreative, unadventurous, narrow-minded, small-minded, short-term.

– OPPOSITES long-sighted, far-sighted.

**myriad** (literary) noun *myriads of insects*: multitude, a large/great number, a large/great quantity, scores, quantities, mass, host, droves, horde; informal lots, loads, masses, stacks, tons, hundreds, thousands, millions; N. Amer. informal gazillions.

• adjective *the myriad lights of the city*: innumerable, countless, infinite, numberless, untold, unnumbered, immeasurable, multitudinous, numerous; literary divers.

**mysterious** adjective **1** *he vanished in mysterious circumstances*: puzzling, strange, peculiar, curious, funny, queer, odd, weird, bizarre, mystifying, inexplicable, baffling, perplexing, incomprehensible, unexplainable, unfathomable. **2** *he was being very mysterious*: enigmatic, inscrutable, secretive, reticent, evasive, furtive, surreptitious.

– OPPOSITES straightforward.

**mystery** noun **1** *his death remains a mystery*: puzzle, enigma, conundrum, riddle, secret, (unsolved) problem. **2** *her past is shrouded in mystery*: secrecy, obscurity, uncertainty, mystique. **3** *a murder mystery*: thriller, detective story/novel, murder story; informal whodunnit.

**mystic, mystical** adjective **1** *a mystic*

*experience*: spiritual, religious, transcendental, paranormal, other-worldly, supernatural, occult, metaphysical. **2** *mystic rites*: symbolic, symbolical, allegorical, representational, metaphorical. **3** *a figure of mystical significance*: cryptic, concealed, hidden, abstruse, arcane, esoteric, inscrutable, inexplicable, unfathomable, mysterious, secret, enigmatic.

**mystify** verb *bewilder*, puzzle, perplex, baffle, confuse, confound, bemuse, nonplus, throw; informal flummox, stump, bamboozle, faze, fox.

**mystique** noun *charisma*, glamour, romance, mystery, magic, charm, appeal, allure.

**myth** noun **1** *ancient Greek myths*: (folk) tale, (folk) story, legend, fable, saga, mythos, mythus; lore, folklore. **2** *the myths surrounding childbirth*: misconception, fallacy, false notion, old wives' tale, fairy story/tale, fiction; informal (tall) story, cock and bull story.

**mythical** adjective **1** *mythical beasts*: legendary, mythological, fabled, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale, storybook; fantastical, imaginary, imagined, fictitious. **2** *her mythical child*: imaginary, fictitious, make-believe, fantasy, invented, made-up, non-existent; informal pretend.

**mythological** adjective *fabled*, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale, legendary, mythical, mythic, traditional; fictitious, imaginary.

**mythology** noun *myth(s)*, legend(s), folklore, folk tales/stories, lore, tradition.

# Nn

**nab** verb (informal) **catch**, capture, apprehend, arrest, seize; informal **nail**, cop, pull in, pick up; Brit. informal **nick**.

**nabob** noun **very rich person**, tycoon, magnate, millionaire, billionaire, multimillionaire; informal **fat cat**.

**nadir** noun **the lowest point/level**, the all-time low, the bottom, rock bottom; informal **the pits**.

– OPPOSITES **zenith**.

**nag**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *she's constantly nagging me*: **harass**, keep on at, go on at, badger, give someone a hard time, chivy, hound, harry, criticize, find fault with, moan at, grumble at; **henpeck**; informal **hassle**; N. Amer. informal **ride**; Austral. informal **heavy**. **2** *this has been nagging me for weeks*: **trouble**, worry, bother, plague, torment, niggle, prey on one's mind; annoy, irritate; informal **bug**, aggravate.

• noun *she's such a nag*: **shrew**, nagger, harpy, termagant, harridan; old use **scold**.

**nag**<sup>2</sup> noun *she rode the old nag*: **worn-out horse**, old horse, hack; N. Amer. informal **plug**, **crowbait**; Austral./NZ informal **moke**; old use **jade**.

**nagging** adjective **1** *his nagging wife*: **shrewish**, complaining, grumbling, fault-finding, scolding, carping, criticizing.

**2** *a nagging pain*: **persistent**, continuous, nagging, unrelenting, unremitting, unabating.

**nail** noun **1** *fastened with nails*: **tack**, spike, pin, rivet; **hobnail**. **2** *biting her nails*: **finger nail**, **thumb nail**, **toenail**.

• verb **1** *a board was nailed to the wall*:

**fasten**, attach, fix, affix, secure, tack, hammer, pin. **2** (informal) *nailing suspects*: **catch**, capture, apprehend, arrest, seize; informal **collar**, nab, cop, pull in, pick up; Brit. informal **nick**. **3** *the pictures had nailed the lie*: **expose**, reveal, uncover, unmask, bring to light, detect, identify.

■ **hard as nails** callous, hard-hearted, heartless, unfeeling, unsympathetic, uncaring, insensitive, unsentimental, hardbitten, tough, lacking compassion.

■ **on the nail** immediately, at once, without delay, straight away, right away, promptly, directly, now, this minute; N. Amer. **on the barrelhead**.

## WORD LINKS

**ungual** relating to fingernails and toenails  
**cuticle** the dead skin at the base of a

finger nail or toenail

**manicure** a cosmetic treatment of the hands and fingernails

**pedicure** a cosmetic treatment of the feet and toenails

**naive** adjective **innocent**, unsophisticated, artless, ingenuous, inexperienced, guileless, unworldly, trusting; gullible, credulous, immature, callow, raw, green; informal **wet behind the ears**.

– OPPOSITES **worldly**.

**naivety** noun **innocence**, ingenuousness, guilelessness, unworldliness, trustfulness; gullibility, credulousness, credulity, immaturity, callowness.

**naked** adjective **1** *a naked woman*: **nude**, bare, in the nude, stark naked, having nothing on, stripped, unclothed, undressed, in a state of nature; informal without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw/buff, in the altogether, in the nuddy, mother naked; Brit. informal **starkers**; N. Amer. informal **buck naked**.

**2** *a naked flame*: **unprotected**, uncovered, exposed, unguarded. **3** *the naked branches of the trees*: **bare**, barren, denuded, stripped, uncovered. **4** *I felt naked and exposed*:

**vulnerable**, helpless, weak, powerless, defenceless, exposed, open to attack. **5** *the naked truth* | *naked hostility*: **undisguised**, plain, unadorned, unvarnished, unqualified, stark, bald; overt, obvious, open, patent, evident, apparent, manifest, unmistakable, blatant.

– OPPOSITES **clothed**, **covered**.

**nakedness** noun **1** *she covered her nakedness*: **nudity**, state of undress, bareness. **2** *the nakedness of the landscape*: **bareness**, barrenness, starkness.

**namby-pamby** adjective **weak**, feeble, spineless, effeminate, effete, limp-wristed, ineffectual; informal **wet**, **weedy**, **wimpy**, **sissy**.

**name** noun **1** *her name's Gemma*: designation, honorific, title, tag, epithet, label; informal **moniker**, handle; formal **denomination**, **appellation**. **2** *the top names in the fashion industry*: **celebrity**, star, superstar, VIP, leading light, big name, luminary; expert, authority; informal **celeb**, somebody, megastar, big noise, big shot, bigwig, big gun.

n

**3** *the good name of the firm: reputation*, character, repute, standing, stature, esteem, prestige, cachet, kudos; renown, popularity, notability, distinction.  
**• verb 1** *they named the child Phoebe: call*, dub; label, style, term, title, entitle; baptize, christen; formal denominate. **2** *the driver was named as Jason Penter: identify*, specify. **3** *he has named his successor: choose*, select, pick, decide on, nominate, designate.

**WORD LINKS**

**nominal**, **onomastic** relating to names  
**anonymous** having no name  
**eponymous** referring to a person after whom something is named  
**nomenclature** a system of names used in a certain subject  
**onomastics** the study of personal names  
**toponymy** the study of place names

**named adjective 1** *a girl named Anne: called*, by the name of, baptized, christened, known as; dubbed, entitled, styled, termed, labelled. **2** *named individuals: specified*, designated, identified, cited, mentioned, singled out.

**nameless adjective 1** *a nameless photographer: unnamed*, unidentified, anonymous, incognito, unspecified, unacknowledged, uncredited; unknown, unsung, uncelebrated. **2** *nameless fears: unspeakable*, unutterable, inexpressible, indescribable; indefinable, vague, unspecified, unspecifiable.

**namely adverb that is (to say)**, to be specific, specifically, viz, to wit.

**nanny noun** *the children's nanny: nursemaid*, au pair, childminder, childcarer; governess; dated nurse.

**• verb** *stop nannying me: mollycoddle*, cosset, coddle, wrap in cotton wool, baby, feather-bed; spoil, pamper, indulge, overindulge.

**nap<sup>1</sup> noun** *she's having a nap: sleep*, catnap, siesta, doze, lie-down, rest; informal snooze, forty winks; Brit. informal kip, zizz.

**• verb** *they were napping on the sofa: doze*, sleep, take a nap, catnap, rest; informal snooze, get some shut-eye; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs.

**■ catch someone napping** catch off guard, catch unawares, (take by) surprise, catch out, find unprepared; informal catch someone with their trousers/pants down; Brit. informal catch on the hop.

**nap<sup>2</sup> noun** *the nap of the velvet: pile*, fibres, threads, weave, surface, grain.

**nappy noun** N. Amer. diaper; Brit. dated napkin.

**narcissism noun** *vanity*, self-love, self-admiration, self-absorption, self-obsession, conceit, self-centredness, self-regard, egotism, egoism.

– OPPOSITES modesty.

**narcissistic adjective** *vain*, self-loving, self-admiring, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, conceited, self-centred, self-regarding, egotistic, egotistical, egoistic.

**narcotic noun** *soporific (drug)*, opiate, sleeping pill; painkiller, pain reliever,

analgesic, anodyne, palliative, anaesthetic; tranquillizer, sedative; informal downer; Medicine stupefacient.

**• adjective** *soporific*, sleep-inducing, opiate; painkilling, pain-relieving, analgesic, anodyne, anaesthetic, tranquillizing, sedative; Medicine stupefacient.

**marked adjective** (Brit. informal). See **ANNNOYED**.

**narrate verb** *tell*, relate, recount, describe, chronicle, give a report of, report; voice-over.

**narration noun 1** *a narration of past events: account*, narrative, chronicle, description, report, relation, chronicling. **2** *his narration of the story: voice-over*, commentary.

**narrative noun** *account*, chronicle, history, description, record, report.

**narrator noun 1** *the narrator of 'the Arabian Nights': storyteller*, chronicler, romancer; raconteur, anecdotalist; Austral. informal magsman. **2** *the film's narrator: voice-over*, commentator.

– OPPOSITES listener, audience.

**narrow adjective 1** *the path became narrower: small*, tapered, tapering, narrowing; old use strait. **2** *her narrow waist: slender*, slim, slight, spare, attenuated, thin. **3** *a narrow space: confined*, cramped, tight, restricted, limited, constricted. **4** *a narrow range of products: limited*, restricted, circumscribed, small, inadequate, insufficient, deficient. **5** *a narrow view of the world*. See **NARROW-MINDED**. **6** *nationalism in the narrowest sense of the word: strict*, literal, exact, precise.

**7** *a narrow escape: by a very small margin*, close, near, by a hair's breadth; informal by a whisker.

– OPPOSITES wide, broad.

**• verb** *the path narrowed | narrowing the gap between rich and poor: get/become/make narrower*, get/become/make smaller, taper, diminish, decrease, reduce, contract, shrink, constrict; old use straiten.

**narrowly adverb 1** *one bullet narrowly missed him: (only) just*, barely, scarcely, hardly, by a hair's breadth; informal by a whisker. **2** *she looked at me narrowly: closely*, carefully, searchingly, attentively.

**narrow-minded adjective** *intolerant*, illiberal, reactionary, conservative, parochial, provincial, insular, small-minded, petty, blinkered, inward-looking, narrow, hidebound, prejudiced, bigoted; Brit. parish-pump, blimpish; N. Amer. informal jerkwater.

– OPPOSITES tolerant.

**narrows plural noun** *strait(s)*, sound, channel, waterway, (sea) passage.

**nascent adjective** *just beginning*, budding, developing, growing, embryonic, incipient, young, fledgling, evolving, emergent, dawning, burgeoning.

**nastiness noun 1** *my mother tried to shut herself off from nastiness: unpleasantness*, disagreeableness, offensiveness, vileness, foulness. **2** *her uncharacteristic nastiness: unkindness*, unpleasantness, unfriendliness, disagreeableness, rudeness,



churlishness, spitefulness, maliciousness, meanness, ill temper, ill nature, viciousness, malevolence; informal bitchiness, cattiness.

**3** *I abhor such nastiness: obscenity, indecency, offensiveness, crudity, vulgarity, pornography, smuttiness, lewdness, licentiousness.*

**nasty** adjective **1** *a nasty smell: unpleasant, disagreeable, disgusting, distasteful, awful, dreadful, horrible, terrible, vile, foul, abominable, frightful, loathsome, revolting, repulsive, odious, sickening, nauseating, repellent, repugnant, horrendous, appalling, atrocious, offensive, objectionable, obnoxious, unsavoury, unappetizing, off-putting; noxious, foul-smelling, smelly, stinking, rank, fetid, malodorous, mephitic; informal ghastly, horrid, gruesome, diabolical, yucky, skanky, God-awful, gross; Brit. informal beastly, grotty, whiffy, pongy, niffy; N. Amer. informal lousy, funky; Austral. informal on the nose; literary miasmal, noisome.* **2** *the weather turned nasty: unpleasant, disagreeable, foul, filthy, inclement; wet, stormy, cold, blustery.* **3** *she can be really nasty: unkind, unpleasant, unfriendly, disagreeable, rude, churlish, spiteful, malicious, mean, ill-tempered, ill-natured, vicious, malevolent, obnoxious, hateful, hurtful; informal bitchy, catty.* **4** *a nasty accident | a nasty cut: serious, dangerous, bad, awful, dreadful, terrible, severe; painful, ugly.* **5** *she had the nasty habit of appearing unannounced: annoying, irritating, infuriating, disagreeable, unpleasant, maddening, exasperating.* **6** *they wrote nasty things on the wall: obscene, indecent, offensive, crude, rude, dirty, filthy, vulgar, foul, gross, disgusting, pornographic, smutty, lewd; informal sick.*

– OPPOSITES nice.

**nation** noun country, (sovereign/nation) state, land, realm, kingdom, republic; fatherland, motherland; people, race.

**national** adjective **1** *national politics: state, public, federal, governmental; civic, civil, domestic, internal.* **2** *a national strike: nationwide, countrywide, state, general, widespread.*

– OPPOSITES local, international.

• noun *a French national: citizen, subject, native; voter.*

**nationalism** noun patriotism, patriotic sentiment, xenophobia, chauvinism, jingoism.

**nationalistic** adjective patriotic, nationalist, xenophobic, chauvinistic, jingoistic.

**nationality** noun **1** *British nationality: citizenship.* **2** *all the main nationalities of Ethiopia: ethnic group, ethnic minority, tribe, clan, race, nation.*

**nationwide** adjective national, countrywide, state, general, widespread, extensive.

– OPPOSITES local.

**native** noun *a native of Sweden: inhabitant, resident, local; citizen, national; aborigine, autochthon; formal dweller.*

– OPPOSITES foreigner.

• adjective **1** *the native population: indigenous, original, first, earliest, aboriginal, autochthonous.* **2** *native produce | native plants: domestic, home-grown, home-made, local; indigenous.* **3** *a native instinct for politics: innate, inherent, inborn, instinctive, intuitive, natural; hereditary, inherited, congenital, inbred, connate, connatural.* **4** *her native tongue: mother, vernacular.*

– OPPOSITES immigrant.

**nativity** noun birth, childbirth, delivery; formal parturition.

**natter** (Brit. informal) verb *they nattered away.* See **CHAT** verb.

• noun *she rang up for a natter.* See **CHAT** noun.

**natty** adjective (informal) smart, stylish, fashionable, dapper, debonair, dashing, spruce, well dressed, chic, elegant, trim; N. Amer. trig; informal snazzy, trendy, snappy, nifty; N. Amer. informal sassy, spiffy, fly, kicky.

– OPPOSITES scruffy.

**natural** adjective **1** *a natural occurrence: normal, ordinary, everyday, usual, regular, common, commonplace, typical, routine, standard, established, customary, accustomed, habitual.* **2** *natural produce: unprocessed, organic, pure, wholesome, unrefined, pesticide-free, additive-free.* **3** *Alex is a natural leader: born, naturally gifted, untaught.* **4** *his natural instincts: innate, inborn, inherent, native, instinctive, intuitive; hereditary, inherited, inbred, congenital, connate, connatural.* **5** *she seemed very natural: unaffected, spontaneous, uninhibited, relaxed, unselfconscious, genuine, open, artless, guileless, ingenuous, unpretentious, without airs.* **6** *it was quite natural to think she admired him: reasonable, logical, understandable, (only) to be expected, predictable.* **7** (old use) *his natural son: illegitimate, born out of wedlock; dated born on the wrong side of the blanket; old use bastard, misbegotten, baseborn.*

– OPPOSITES abnormal, artificial, affected.

**naturalist** noun natural historian, life scientist, wildlife expert; biologist, botanist, zoologist, ornithologist, entomologist, ecologist, conservationist, environmentalist.

**naturalistic** adjective realistic, real-life, true-to-life, lifelike, graphic, representational, photographic.

– OPPOSITES abstract.

**naturalize** verb **1** *he was naturalized in 1950: grant citizenship to, give a passport to; enfranchise.* **2** *coriander has now been naturalized in southern Britain: establish, introduce, acclimatize, domesticate; N. Amer. acclimate.*

**naturally** adverb **1** *he's naturally shy: by nature, by character, inherently, innately, congenitally.* **2** *try to act naturally: normally, in a natural way, unaffectedly, spontaneously, genuinely, unpretentiously; informal natural.* **3** *naturally, they wanted everything kept quiet: of course, as might be expected, needless to say; obviously, clearly,*

it goes without saying.

– OPPOSITES self-consciously.

**naturalness** noun unselfconsciousness, spontaneity, spontaneity, straightforwardness, genuineness, openness, ingenuousness, lack of sophistication, unpretentiousness.

**nature** noun **1** *the beauty of nature: the natural world*, Mother Nature, Mother Earth, the environment; the universe, the cosmos; wildlife, flora and fauna, the countryside. **2** *such crimes are, by their very nature, difficult to hide: essence*, inherent/basic/essential qualities, inherent/basic/essential features, character, complexion. **3** *it was not in Daisy's nature to be bitchy: character*, personality, disposition, temperament, make-up, psyche, constitution. **4** *experiments of a similar nature: kind*, sort, type, variety, category, ilk, class, species, genre, style, cast, order, kidney, mould, stamp; N. Amer. stripe.

**naturist** noun nudist.

– OPPOSITES textile.

**naught** noun (old use) **nothing (at all)**, nil, zero; N. English nowt; informal zilch, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA; Brit. informal damn all, not a sausage; N. Amer. informal zip, nada, diddly-squat; old use nought.

**naughty** adjective **1** *a naughty boy: badly behaved*, disobedient, bad, misbehaved, misbehaving, wayward, defiant, unruly, insubordinate, wilful, delinquent, undisciplined, uncontrollable, ungovernable, unbiddable, disorderly, disruptive, fractious, recalcitrant, wild, wicked, obstreperous, difficult, troublesome, awkward, contrary, perverse, incorrigible; mischievous, playful, impish, roguish, rascally; informal brattish; formal refractory. **2** *naughty jokes: indecent*, risqué, rude, racy, ribald, bawdy, suggestive, improper, indelicate, indecorous; vulgar, dirty, filthy, smutty, crude, coarse, obscene, lewd, pornographic; informal raunchy; Brit. informal fruity, saucy; N. Amer. informal gamy; euphemistic adult.

– OPPOSITES well behaved, decent.

**nausea** noun **1** *symptoms include nausea and a headache: sickness*, biliousness, queasiness; vomiting, retching, gagging; travel-sickness, seasickness, carsickness, airsickness. **2** *it induces a feeling of nausea: disgust*, revulsion, repugnance, repulsion, distaste, aversion, loathing, abhorrence.

**nauseate** verb *sicken*, make sick, turn someone's stomach, make someone's gorge rise; N. Amer. informal gross out.

**nauseating** adjective *sickening*, stomach-churning, nauseous, emetic, sickly; disgusting, revolting, offensive, loathsome, obnoxious, foul; N. Amer. vomitous; informal sick-making, gross, rank, gut-churning.

**nauseous** adjective **1** *the food made her feel nauseous: sick*, nauseated, queasy, bilious, green about/at the gills, ill, unwell; seasick, carsick, airsick, travel-sick; N. Amer. informal barfy. **2** *a nauseous stench*. See **NAUSEATING**.

**nautical** adjective *maritime*, marine, naval, seafaring; boating, sailing.

**navel** noun informal belly button, tummy button; Anatomy umbilicus.

**WORD LINKS**

umbilical relating to the navel

**navigable** adjective *passable*, negotiable, traversable; clear, open, unobstructed, unblocked.

**navigate** verb **1** *he navigated the yacht across the Atlantic: steer*, pilot, guide, direct, helm, captain; Nautical con; informal skipper. **2** *the upper reaches are dangerous to navigate: sail (across/over)*, cross, traverse, negotiate. **3** *I'll drive—you can navigate: map-read*, give directions.

**navigation** noun **1** *the navigation of the ship: steering*, piloting, sailing, guiding, directing, guidance. **2** *the skills of navigation: helmsmanship*, steersmanship, seamanship, map-reading, chart-reading.

**navigator** noun *helmsman*, steersman, pilot, guide; N. Amer. wheelman.

**navvy** noun *labourer*, manual worker, workman, worker, hand, coolie, roustabout; Austral./NZ rouseabout; old use mechanic.

**navy** noun **1** *a 600-ship navy: fleet*, flotilla, armada. **2** *a navy suit: navy blue*, dark blue, indigo.

**nay** adverb or **rather**, (and) indeed, and even, in fact, actually, in truth.

**near** adverb **1** *her children all live near: close (by)*, nearby, close/near at hand, in the neighbourhood, in the vicinity, at hand, within reach, on the doorstep, a stone's throw away; informal within spitting distance; old use nigh. **2** *near perfect conditions: almost*, just about, nearly, well-nigh, practically, virtually.

• **preposition** *a hotel near the seafront: close to*, close by, a short distance from, in the vicinity of, in the neighbourhood of, within reach of, a stone's throw away from; informal within spitting distance of.

• **adjective** **1** *the nearest house: close*, nearby, close/near at hand, at hand, a stone's throw away, within reach, accessible, handy, convenient; informal within spitting distance. **2** *the final judgement is near: imminent*, in the offing, close/near at hand, at hand, (just) round the corner, impending, looming. **3** *a near relation: closely related*, close, related. **4** *a near escape: narrow*, close, by a hair's breadth; informal by a whisker.

– OPPOSITES far, distant.

• **verb** **1** *by dawn we were nearing Moscow: approach*, draw near/nearer to, get close/closer to, advance towards, close in on. **2** *the death toll is nearing 3,000: verge on*, border on, approach.

**nearby** adjective *one of the nearby villages: not far away/off*, close/near at hand, close (by), near, within reach, at hand, neighbouring; accessible, handy, convenient.

– OPPOSITES faraway.

• **adverb** *her mother lives nearby: close (by)*,

close/near at hand, near, a short distance away, in the neighbourhood, in the vicinity, at hand, within reach, on the doorstep, (just) round the corner.

**nearly** adverb almost, (just) about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, not far off, well-nigh, to all intents and purposes; not quite; informal pretty much, pretty well.

**near miss** noun close thing, near thing, narrow escape; informal close shave.

**nearness** noun **1** *the town's nearness to Rome*: closeness, proximity, propinquity; accessibility, handiness; old use vicinity. **2** *the nearness of death*: imminence, closeness, immediacy.

**nearsighted** adjective short-sighted, myopic.

**neat** adjective **1** *the bedroom was neat and clean*: tidy, orderly, well ordered, in (good) order, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, spick and span, uncluttered, straight, trim. **2** *he's very neat*: smart, spruce, dapper, trim, well groomed, well turned out; N. Amer. trig; informal natty. **3** *her neat script*: well formed, regular, precise, elegant, well proportioned. **4** *this neat little gadget*: compact, well designed, handy; Brit. informal dinky. **5** *his neat footwork*: skilful, deft, dexterous, adroit, adept, expert; informal nifty. **6** *a neat solution*: clever, ingenious, inventive. **7** *neat gin*: undiluted, straight, unmixed; N. Amer. informal straight up.

– OPPOSITES untidy.

**neaten** verb tidy (up), make neat/neater, straighten (up), smarten (up), spruce up, put in order; N. Amer. informal fix up.

**neatly** adverb **1** *neatly arranged papers*: tidily, methodically, systematically; smartly, sprucely. **2** *the point was neatly put*: cleverly, aptly, elegantly. **3** *a neatly executed header*: skilfully, deftly, adroitly, adeptly, expertly.

**neatness** noun **1** *the neatness of the cottage*: tidiness, orderliness, trimness, spruceness; smartness. **2** *the neatness of her movements*: grace, gracefulness, nimbleness, deftness, dexterity, adroitness, agility.

**nebulous** adjective **1** *the figure was nebulous*: indistinct, indefinite, unclear, vague, hazy, cloudy, fuzzy, misty, blurred, blurry, foggy; faint, shadowy, obscure, formless, amorphous. **2** *nebulous ideas*: vague, ill-defined, unclear, hazy, uncertain, indefinite, indeterminate, imprecise, unformed, muddled, confused, ambiguous.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**necessarily** adverb as a consequence, as a result, automatically, as a matter of course, certainly, surely, definitely, incontrovertibly, undoubtedly, inevitably, unavoidably, inescapably, ineluctably, of necessity; formal perforce.

**necessary** adjective **1** *planning permission is necessary*: obligatory, requisite, required, compulsory, mandatory, imperative, needed, de rigueur; essential, indispensable, vital. **2** *a necessary consequence*: inevitable,

unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable; predetermined, preordained.

• noun (informal) *could you lend me the necessary?* See MONEY sense 1.

**necessitate** verb make necessary, entail, involve, mean, require, demand, call for, be grounds for, warrant, constrain, force.

**necessitous** adjective needy, poor, short of money, disadvantaged, underprivileged, in straitened circumstances, impoverished, poverty-stricken, penniless, impecunious, destitute, pauperized, indigent; Brit. on the breadline, without a penny to one's name; informal on one's uppers, hard up, without two pennies to rub together; Brit. informal in Queer Street; formal penurious.

– OPPOSITES wealthy.

**necessity** noun **1** *the VCR is now regarded as a necessity*: essential, indispensable item, requisite, prerequisite, necessary, basic, sine qua non, desideratum. **2** *political necessity forced him to resign*: force of circumstance, obligation, need, call, exigency; force majeure. **3** *the necessity of growing old*: inevitability, certainty, inescapability, inexorability, ineluctability. **4** *necessity made them steal*: poverty, need, neediness, want, deprivation, privation, penury, destitution, indigence.

■ **of necessity** necessarily, inevitably, unavoidably, inescapably, ineluctably; as a matter of course, naturally, automatically, certainly, surely, definitely, incontrovertibly, undoubtedly; formal perforce.

**neck** noun technical cervix; old use scrag.

• verb (informal) kiss, caress, pet; informal smooch, canoodle; Brit. informal snog; N. Amer. informal make out; informal, dated spoon.

■ **neck and neck** level, equal, tied, side by side, nip and tuck; Brit. level pegging; informal even-steven(s).

#### WORD LINKS

cervical, jugular relating to the neck  
Adam's apple the lump of cartilage at the front of the neck

goitre a swelling of the neck caused by an enlarged thyroid gland

scruff the back of the neck

**necklace** noun chain, choker, necklet; beads, pearls; pendant, locket; historical torc.

**necromancer** noun sorcerer, sorceress, (black) magician, wizard, warlock, witch, enchantress, occultist, diviner; spiritualist, medium.

**necromancy** noun sorcery, (black) magic, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, the occult, occultism, voodoo, hoodoo; divination; spiritualism.

**necropolis** noun cemetery, graveyard, churchyard, burial ground; informal boneyard; historical potter's field; old use God's acre.

**née** adjective Jill Wyatt, née Peters: born, formerly, previously; formal heretofore.

**need** verb **1** *do you need money?* require, be in need of, have need of, want; be crying out for, be desperate for; demand, call for,



necessitate, entail, involve; lack, be without, be short of. **2** *you needn't come: have to*, be obliged to, be compelled to. **3** *she needed him so much: yearn for*, pine for, long for, desire, miss.

• **noun 1** *there's no need to apologize: necessity*, obligation, requirement, call, demand. **2** *basic human needs: requirement*, essential, necessity, want, requisite, prerequisite, demand, desideratum. **3** *their need was particularly pressing: neediness*, want, poverty, deprivation, privation, hardship, destitution, indigence. **4** *my hour of need: difficulty*, trouble, distress; crisis, emergency, urgency, extremity.

■ **in need** needy, necessitous, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, poor, impoverished, poverty-stricken, destitute, impecunious, indigent; Brit. on the breadline; formal penurious.

**needed** adjective necessary, required, wanted, desired, lacking; essential, requisite, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory.

– OPPOSITES optional.

**needful** adjective (formal) necessary, needed, required, requisite; essential, imperative, vital, indispensable.

**needle** noun **1** *a needle and thread: darning, bodkin*. **2** *the virus is transmitted via needles: hypodermic needle; informal hype, spike*. **3** *the needle on the meter: indicator, pointer, marker, arrow, hand*. **4** *put the needle on the record: stylus*.

• **verb** (informal) *he needed her too much*. See ANNOY.

**n** **needless** adjective unnecessary, inessential, non-essential, unneeded, undesired, unwanted, uncalled for; gratuitous, pointless; dispensable, expendable, superfluous, redundant, excessive, supererogatory.

– OPPOSITES necessary.

■ **needless to say** of course, as one would expect, not unexpectedly, it goes without saying, obviously, naturally; informal natch.

**needlework** noun sewing, stitching, embroidery, needlepoint, needlecraft, tapestry, crewel work.

**needy** adjective poor, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, necessitous, in need, needful, hard up, in straitened circumstances, poverty-stricken, indigent, impoverished, pauperized, destitute, impecunious, penniless, moneyless; Brit. on the breadline; informal on one's uppers, broke, strapped (for cash), cash-strapped, without two pennies to rub together; Brit. informal skint, stony broke, in Queer Street; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious.

– OPPOSITES wealthy.

**ne'er-do-well** noun good-for-nothing, layabout, loafer, idler, shirker, sluggard, slugged, drone; informal waster, lazybones; Brit. informal skiver; N. Amer. informal bum, gold brick; old use wastrel.

**nefarious** adjective wicked, evil, sinful, iniquitous, egregious, heinous,

atrocious, vile, foul, abominable, odious, depraved, monstrous, fiendish, diabolical, unspeakable, despicable; villainous, criminal, corrupt, illegal, unlawful; dated dastardly.

– OPPOSITES good.

**negate** verb **1** *they negated the court's ruling: invalidate*, nullify, neutralize, cancel; undo, reverse, annul, void, revoke, rescind, repeal, retract, countermand, overrule, overturn; Law avoid; formal abrogate. **2** *he negates the political nature of education: deny*, dispute, contradict, controvert, refute, rebut, reject, repudiate; formal gainsay.

– OPPOSITES validate, confirm.

**negation** noun **1** *negation of the findings: denial*, contradiction, repudiation, refutation, rebuttal; nullification, cancellation, revocation, repeal, retraction; Law disaffirmation; formal abrogation. **2** *evil is not just the negation of goodness: opposite*, reverse, antithesis, contrary, inverse, converse; absence, want.

**negative** adjective **1** *a negative reply: opposing*, opposed, contrary, anti-, dissenting, dissentient. **2** *stop being so negative: pessimistic*, defeatist, gloomy, cynical, fatalistic, dismissive, antipathetic; unenthusiastic, uninterested, unresponsive. **3** *a negative effect on the economy: harmful*, bad, adverse, damaging, detrimental, unfavourable, disadvantageous.

– OPPOSITES positive, optimistic, favourable.

• **noun** *he murmured a negative: 'no'*, refusal, rejection, veto; dissension, contradiction; denial.

• **verb 1** *the bill was negated by the house: reject*, turn down, refuse, veto, squash; informal give the thumbs down to. **2** *his arguments were negated: disprove*, belie, invalidate, refute, rebut, discredit; contradict, deny, negate; formal gainsay.

**3** *they tried to negate the effect of the tax: neutralize*, cancel out, counteract, nullify, negate; offset, balance, counterbalance.

– OPPOSITES ratify, prove.

**negativity** noun pessimism, defeatism, gloom, cynicism, hopelessness, despair, despondency; apathy, indifference.

**neglect** verb **1** *she neglected the children: fail to look after*, leave alone, abandon; literary forsake. **2** *he's neglecting his work: pay no attention to*, let slide, not attend to, be remiss about, be lax about, leave undone, shirk. **3** *don't neglect our advice: disregard*, ignore, pay no attention to, take no notice of, pay no heed to, overlook; disdain, scorn, spurn. **4** *I neglected to inform her: fail*, omit, forget.

– OPPOSITES cherish, heed, remember.

• **noun 1** *the place had an air of neglect: disrepair*, dilapidation, deterioration, shabbiness, disuse, abandonment. **2** *her doctor was guilty of neglect: negligence*, dereliction of duty, remissness, carelessness, heedlessness, unconcern, laxity, slackness, irresponsibility; formal delinquency. **3** *the relative neglect of women: disregard*, ignoring, overlooking; inattention to,

indifference to, heedlessness to.

– OPPOSITES care, attention.

**neglected** adjective **1** *neglected animals*: uncared for, abandoned; mistreated, maltreated; literary forsaken. **2** *a neglected cottage*: derelict, dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, untended. **3** *a neglected masterpiece of prose*: disregarded, forgotten, overlooked, ignored, unrecognized, unnoticed, unsung, underestimated, undervalued, unappreciated.

**neglectful** adjective. See **NEGLIGENT**.

**negligent** adjective *neglectful*, remiss, careless, lax, irresponsible, inattentive, heedless, thoughtless, unmindful, forgetful; slack, sloppy; N. Amer. derelict; formal delinquent.

– OPPOSITES dutiful.

**negligible** adjective *trivial*, trifling, insignificant, unimportant, minor, inconsequential; minimal, small, slight, inappreciable, infinitesimal, nugatory, petty; paltry, inadequate, insufficient, meagre, pitiful; informal minuscule, piddling, measly, poxy; formal exiguous.

– OPPOSITES significant.

**negotiable** adjective **1** *the salary will be negotiable*: open to discussion, discussable, flexible, open to modification; unsettled, undecided. **2** *the path was negotiable*: passable, navigable, crossable, traversable; clear, unblocked, unobstructed. **3** *negotiable cheques*: transferable; valid.

**negotiate** verb **1** *she refused to negotiate*: discuss terms, talk, consult, parley, confer, debate; compromise; mediate, intercede, arbitrate, moderate, conciliate; bargain, haggle. **2** *he negotiated a new contract*: arrange, broker, work out, thrash out, agree on; settle, clinch, conclude, pull off, bring off, transact; informal sort out, swing. **3** *I negotiated the obstacles*: get round, get past, get over, clear, cross; surmount, overcome, deal with, cope with.

**negotiation** noun **1** *the negotiations resume next week*: discussion(s), talks, deliberations; conference, debate, dialogue, consultation; mediation, arbitration, conciliation. **2** *the negotiation of the deal*: arrangement, brokering; settlement, conclusion, completion, transaction.

**negotiator** noun mediator, arbitrator, arbiter, moderator, go-between, middleman, intermediary, intercessor, intervener, conciliator; representative, spokesperson, broker, bargainer.

**neigh** verb *whinny*, bray, nicker, snicker, whicker.

**neighbourhood** noun **1** *a quiet neighbourhood*: district, area, locality, locale, quarter, community; part, region, zone; informal neck of the woods; Brit. informal manor; N. Amer. informal hood, nabe. **2** *in the neighbourhood of Canterbury*: vicinity, environs, purlieus, precincts, vicinage. ■ *in the neighbourhood of* approximately, about, around, roughly, in the region of, of the order of, nearly, almost, close to, just

about, practically, there or thereabouts, circa; Brit. getting on for.

**neighbouring** adjective *adjacent*, adjoining, bordering, connecting, abutting; proximate, near, close (at hand), next-door, nearby, in the vicinity, vicinal.

– OPPOSITES remote.

**neighbourly** adjective *obliging*, helpful, friendly, kind, amiable, amicable, affable, genial, agreeable, hospitable, companionable, well disposed, civil, cordial, good-natured, nice, pleasant, generous; considerate, thoughtful, unselfish; Brit. informal decent.

– OPPOSITES unfriendly.

**nemesis** noun **1** *this could be the bank's nemesis*: downfall, undoing, ruin, ruination, destruction, Waterloo. **2** *the nemesis that his crime deserved*: retribution, vengeance, punishment, just deserts; fate, destiny.

**neologism** noun *new word*, new expression, new term, new phrase, coinage; made-up word, nonce-word.

**neophyte** noun **1** *a neophyte of the monastery*: novice, novitiate; postulant, catechumen. **2** *cooking classes are offered to neophytes*: beginner, learner, novice, newcomer; initiate, tyro, fledgling; trainee, apprentice, probationer; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie, newbie, newie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn.

**ne plus ultra** noun *the last word*, the ultimate, the perfect example, the height, the acme, the zenith, the epitome, the quintessence; old use the nonsuch.

**nepotism** noun *favouritism*, preferential treatment, the old boy network, looking after one's own, bias, partiality, partisanship; Brit. jobs for the boys, the old school tie.

– OPPOSITES impartiality.

**nerd** noun (informal) *bore*; informal dork, dweeb, geek; Brit. informal anorak, spod; N. Amer. informal Poindexter.

**nerve** noun **1** *the nerves that transmit pain*: nerve fibre, neuron, axon; Physiology dendrite. **2** *the match will be a test of nerve*: confidence, assurance, cool-headedness, self-possession; courage, bravery, pluck, boldness, intrepidity, fearlessness, daring; determination, will power, spirit, backbone, fortitude, mettle, grit, stout-heartedness; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie. **3** *he had the nerve to chat her up*: audacity, cheek, effrontery, gall, temerity, presumption, boldness, brazenness, impudence, impertinence, arrogance, cockiness; informal face, front, brass neck, chutzpah; Brit. informal sauce.

**4** *pre-wedding nerves*: anxiety, tension, nervousness, stress, worry, cold feet, apprehension; informal butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobbles, the jitters, the shakes; Brit. informal the (screaming) abdots.

■ *get on someone's nerves* irritate, annoy, irk, anger, bother, vex, provoke, displease, exasperate, infuriate, gall, pique, needle, ruffle someone's feathers, try someone's patience; jar on, grate on, rankle; Brit. rub up

the wrong way; informal aggravate, get to, bug, miff, peeve, rile, nettle, get up someone's nose, hack off, get someone's goat; Brit. informal nark, get on someone's wick, wind up. ■ **nerve oneself** brace oneself, steel oneself, summon one's courage, gear oneself up, prepare oneself; fortify oneself; informal psych oneself up; literary gird one's loins.

**WORD LINKS**

**neural** relating to the nerves in the body  
**neuralgia** intense pain along a nerve  
**neuritis** inflammation of a nerve  
**neurology, neuropathology, neurosurgery** branches of medicine concerned with the nerves  
**neuron, neurone** a nerve cell  
**ganglion** a mass of nerve cells  
**synapse** a connection between two nerve cells

**nerveless** adjective **1** *her nerveless fingers:* inert, lifeless; weak, powerless, feeble. **2** *a nerveless lack of restraint:* confident, self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed, cool, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, composed, relaxed.

– OPPOSITES nervous.

**nerve-racking** adjective **stressful**, anxious, worrying, fraught, nail-biting, tense, difficult, trying, worrisome, daunting, frightening; informal scary, hairy.

**nervous** adjective **1** *a nervous woman:* highly strung, anxious, edgy, tense, nervy, excitable, skittish, brittle, neurotic; timid, mousy, shy, fearful; informal jumpy. **2** *he was so nervous he couldn't eat:* anxious, worried, apprehensive, on edge, edgy, tense, stressed, agitated, uneasy, restless, worked up, keyed up, overwrought; fearful, frightened, scared, shaky, in a cold sweat; informal with butterflies in one's stomach, jittery, twitchy, jumpy, in a state, uptight, wired, in a flap, het up; Brit. informal strung up, having kittens; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrely. **3** *a nervous disorder:* neurological, neural.

– OPPOSITES relaxed, calm.

**nervous breakdown** noun (mental) collapse, breakdown, crisis, trauma; nervous exhaustion, mental illness; informal crack-up.

**nervousness** noun anxiety, edginess, tension, agitation, stress, worry, apprehension, uneasiness, disquiet, fear, trepidation, perturbation, alarm; Brit. nerviness; informal butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobbles, the jitters, the willies, the heebie-jeebies, the shakes; Brit. informal the (screaming) abdots.

**nervy** adjective. See **NERVOUS** senses 1, 2.

**nest** noun **1** *the birds built a nest:* roost, eyrie. **2** *the animals disperse rapidly from the nest:* lair, den, burrow, set. **3** *a cosy love nest:* hideaway, hideout, retreat, shelter, refuge, snuggery, den; informal hidey-hole. **4** *a nest of intrigue:* hotbed, den, breeding ground, cradle.

**nest egg** noun (life) savings, cache, funds, reserve.

**nestle** verb snuggle, cuddle, huddle, nuzzle,

settle, burrow, snug down.

**nestling** noun chick, fledgling, baby bird.

**net**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *fishermen mending their nets:* fishing net, dragnet, drift net, trawl net, landing net, gill net, cast net. **2** *a dress of green net:* netting, meshwork, webbing, tulle, fishnet, openwork, lace, latticework. **3** *he managed to escape the net:* trap, snare. • verb *they netted big criminals:* catch, capture, trap, entrap, snare, ensnare, bag, hook, land; informal nab, collar.

**net**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *net earnings: after tax,* after deductions, take-home, final; informal bottom line. **2** *the net result:* final, end, ultimate, closing; overall, actual, effective.

– OPPOSITES gross.

• verb *she netted £50,000:* earn, make, get, gain, obtain, acquire, accumulate, take home, bring in, pocket, realize, be paid; informal rake in.

**nether** adjective lower, low, bottom, bottommost, under, basal; underground.

– OPPOSITES upper.

**netherworld** noun hell, the underworld, the infernal regions, the abyss; eternal damnation, perdition; Hades, Acheron, Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol; literary the pit.

– OPPOSITES heaven.

**nettle** verb irritate, annoy, irk, gall, vex, anger, exasperate, infuriate, provoke; upset, displease, offend, affront, pique, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers; Brit. rub up the wrong way; N. Amer. rankle; informal peeve, aggravate, miff, rile, needle, get to, bug, get up someone's nose, hack off, get someone's goat; Brit. informal nark, get on someone's wick, wind up; N. Amer. informal tick off.

**network** noun **1** *a network of arteries:* web, lattice, net, matrix, mesh, criss-cross, grid, reticulum, reticulation; Anatomy plexus. **2** *a network of lanes:* maze, labyrinth, warren, tangle. **3** *a network of friends:* system, complex, nexus, web.

**neurosis** noun mental illness, mental disorder, psychological disorder; psychoneurosis, psychopathy; obsession, phobia, fixation; Medicine neuroticism.

**neurotic** adjective **1** (Medicine) *neurotic patients:* mentally ill, mentally disturbed, unstable, unbalanced, maladjusted; psychopathic, phobic, obsessive–compulsive. **2** *a neurotic, self-obsessed woman:* overanxious, oversensitive, nervous, tense, nervy, highly strung, paranoid; obsessive, fixated, hysterical, overwrought, irrational; informal twitchy.

– OPPOSITES stable, calm.

**neuter** adjective asexual, sexless, unsexed; androgynous, epicene.

• verb *have your pets neutered:* sterilize, castrate, spay, geld, cut, fix, desex; N. Amer. & Austral. alter; Brit. informal doctor; old use emasculate.

**neutral** adjective **1** *she's neutral on this issue:* impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, open-minded, non-partisan,



disinterested, dispassionate, detached, impersonal, unemotional, indifferent, uncommitted. **2** *Switzerland remained neutral*: unaligned, non-aligned, unaffiliated, unallied, uninvolved; non-combatant. **3** *a neutral topic of conversation*: inoffensive, bland, unobjectionable, unexceptionable, anodyne, unremarkable, ordinary, commonplace; safe, harmless, innocuous. **4** *a neutral background*: pale, light; beige, cream, taupe, oatmeal, ecru, buff, fawn, grey; colourless, uncoloured, achromatic; indeterminate, insipid, nondescript, dull, drab.

– OPPOSITES biased, partisan, provocative, colourful.

**neutralize** verb counteract, offset, counterbalance, balance, counterpoise, countervail, compensate for, make up for; cancel out, nullify, negate, negative; equalize.

**never** adverb **1** *his room is never tidy*: not ever, at no time, not at any time, not once; literary ne'er. **2** *she will never agree to it*: not at all, certainly not, not for a moment, under no circumstances, on no account; informal no way, not on your life, not in a million years; Brit. informal not on your nelly.

– OPPOSITES always, definitely.

**never-ending** adjective **1** *never-ending noise*: incessant, continuous, unceasing, ceaseless, constant, continual, perpetual, uninterrupted, unbroken, steady, unremitting, relentless, persistent, interminable, non-stop, endless, unending, everlasting, eternal. **2** *never-ending tasks*: endless, countless, innumerable, untold, unlimited, limitless, boundless; literary myriad.

**nevertheless** adverb nonetheless, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, in spite of that, despite that, be that as it may, for all that, that said, just the same, all the same; notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow; informal still and all.

**new** adjective **1** *new technology*: recently developed, up to date, latest, current, state-of-the-art, contemporary, advanced, recent, modern. **2** *new ideas*: novel, original, fresh, imaginative, innovative, creative, experimental; contemporary, modernist, up to date; newfangled, ultra-modern, avant-garde, futuristic; informal way out, far out. **3** *is your boat new?* unused, brand new, pristine, fresh, in mint condition. **4** *new neighbours moved in*: different, another, alternative; unfamiliar, unknown, strange; unaccustomed, untried. **5** *they had a new classroom built*: additional, extra, supplementary, further, another, fresh. **6** *I came back a new woman*: reinvigorated, restored, revived, improved, refreshed, regenerated, reborn.

– OPPOSITES old, hackneyed, second-hand, present.

#### WORD LINKS

novice, neophyte a person who is new to something

neophobia fear of new things

**newborn** adjective *newborn babies*: just born, recently born.

• noun *the bacteria are fatal to newborns*: young baby, tiny baby, infant; Medicine neonate.

**newcomer** noun **1** *a newcomer to the village*: (new) arrival, immigrant, incomer, settler; stranger, outsider, foreigner, alien; N. English offcomer; informal johnny-come-lately, new kid on the block; Austral. informal blow-in. **2** *photography tips for the newcomer*: beginner, novice, learner; trainee, apprentice, probationer, tyro, initiate, neophyte; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie, newbie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn.

**newfangled** adjective new, the latest, modern, ultra-modern, up to the minute, state-of-the-art, advanced, contemporary; new-fashioned; informal trendy, flash.

– OPPOSITES dated.

**newly** adverb recently, (only) just, lately, freshly; not long ago, a short time ago, only now, of late; new-.

**news** noun report, announcement, story, account; article, news flash, newscast, headlines, press release, communication, communiqué, bulletin; message, dispatch, statement, intelligence; disclosure, revelation, word, talk, gossip; informal scoop; literary tidings.

**newspaper** noun paper, journal, gazette, news-sheet; tabloid, broadsheet, quality (paper), national (paper), local (paper), daily (paper), weekly (paper); free sheet, scandal sheet; informal rag; N. Amer. informal tab.

**newsworthy** adjective interesting, topical, notable, noteworthy, important, significant, momentous, historic, remarkable, sensational.

– OPPOSITES unremarkable.

**next** adjective **1** *the next chapter*: following, succeeding, upcoming, to come. **2** *the next house in the street*: neighbouring, adjacent, adjoining, next-door, bordering, connected, attached; closest, nearest.

– OPPOSITES previous.

• adverb *where shall we go next?* then, after, afterwards, after this/that, following that/this, later, subsequently; formal thereafter, thereupon.

– OPPOSITES before.

■ next to beside, by, alongside, by the side of, next door to, adjacent to, side by side with; close to, near, neighbouring, adjoining.

**nibble** verb **1** *he nibbled at a biscuit*: bite, pick, gnaw, chew, peck, snack on; toy with; taste, sample; informal graze (on); dialect chumble. **2** *the mouse nibbled his finger*: peck, nip, bite.

• noun *nuts and nibbles*: morsel, mouthful, bite; snack, titbit, canapé, hors d'oeuvre, bonne bouche.

**nice** adjective **1** *have a nice time*: enjoyable,

pleasant, agreeable, good, satisfying, gratifying, delightful, marvellous; entertaining, amusing, diverting; informal lovely, great; N. Amer. informal neat. **2** *nice people*: pleasant, likeable, agreeable, personable, congenial, amiable, affable, genial, friendly, charming, delightful, engaging; sympathetic, compassionate, good. **3** *nice manners*: polite, courteous, civil, refined, polished, genteel, elegant. **4** *that's a rather nice distinction*: subtle, fine, delicate, minute, precise, strict, close; careful, meticulous, scrupulous. **5** *it's a nice day*: fine, pleasant, agreeable; dry, sunny, warm, mild.

– OPPOSITES unpleasant, nasty, rough.

**nicety** noun **1** *legal niceties*: subtlety, fine point, nuance, refinement, detail. **2** *great nicety of control*: precision, accuracy, exactness, meticulousness.

**niche** noun **1** *a niche in the wall*: recess, alcove, nook, cranny, hollow, bay, cavity, cubbyhole, pigeonhole. **2** *he found his niche in life*: ideal position, place, function, vocation, calling, métier, job.

**nick** noun **1** *a slight nick in the blade*: cut, scratch, incision, snick, notch, chip, gouge, gash; dent, indentation. **2** (Brit. informal) *she's in the nick*. See **PRISON**. **3** (Brit. informal) *he's under arrest at the nick*: police station, station; N. Amer. precinct, station house; informal cop shop. **4** (Brit. informal) *the car's in good nick*: condition, repair, shape, state, order, form, fettle, trim.

• verb **1** *I nicked my toe*: cut, scratch, incise, snick, gouge, gash, score. **2** (Brit. informal) *she nicked his wallet*. See **STEAL** verb sense 1. **3** (Brit. informal) *Steve's been nicked*. See **ARREST** verb sense 1.

■ **in the nick of time** just in time, not a moment too soon, at the critical moment; N. Amer. informal under the wire.

**nickname** noun *sobriquet*, byname, tag, label, epithet, cognomen; pet name, diminutive, endearment; informal moniker; formal appellation.

**nifty** adjective (informal) **1** *nifty camerawork*: skilful, deft, agile, capable. **2** *a nifty little gadget*: useful, handy, practical. **3** *a nifty suit*: fashionable, stylish, smart.

– OPPOSITES clumsy.

**niggardly** adjective **1** *a niggardly person*: mean, miserly, parsimonious, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, grasping, ungenerous, illiberal; informal stingy, tight, tight-fisted; N. Amer. informal cheap. **2** *niggardly rations*: meagre, inadequate, scanty, scant, skimpy, paltry, sparse, insufficient, deficient, short, lean, small, slender, poor, miserable, pitiful, puny; informal measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**niggle** verb **1** *his behaviour does niggle me*: irritate, annoy, bother, provoke, exasperate, upset, gall, irk, rankle with; informal rile, get to, bug. **2** *he niggles on about taxes*: complain, fuss, carp, cavi, grumble, grouse; informal moan, nit-pick.

• noun *niggles about the lack of equipment*: quibble, trivial complaint, criticism, grumble, grouse, cavi; informal gripe, moan, beef, grouch.

**night** noun night-time; (hours of) darkness, dark.

– OPPOSITES day.

■ **night and day** all the time, around the clock, {morning, noon, and night}, {day in, day out}, ceaselessly, endlessly, incessantly, unceasingly, interminably, constantly, perpetually, continually, relentlessly; informal 24-7.

**WORD LINKS**

nocturnal relating to night  
nyctophobia fear of the night

**nightclub** noun disco, discotheque, night spot, club, bar; N. Amer. cafe; informal niterie.

**nightfall** noun sunset, sundown, dusk, twilight, evening, close of day, dark; literary eventide.

– OPPOSITES dawn.

**nightly** adjective **1** *nightly raids*: every night, each night, night after night. **2** *his nightly wanderings*: nocturnal, night-time.

• adverb **a band plays there nightly**: every night, each night, night after night.

**nightmare** noun **1** *she woke from a nightmare*: bad dream, night terrors; old use incubus. **2** *the journey was a nightmare*: ordeal, trial, torment, horror, hell, misery, agony, torture, murder; curse, bane.

**nightmarish** adjective *unearthly*, spine-chilling, hair-raising, horrific, macabre, hideous, unspeakable, gruesome, grisly, ghastly, harrowing, disturbing; informal scary, creepy.

**nihilism** noun scepticism, disbelief, unbelief, agnosticism, atheism; negativity, cynicism, pessimism; rejection, denial.

**nihilist** noun sceptic, disbeliever, unbeliever, agnostic, atheist; negativist, cynic, pessimist.

**nil** noun nothing, none; nought, zero, 0; Tennis love; Cricket a duck; N. English nowt; informal zilch, nix, not a dicky bird; Brit. informal sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, not a sausage; N. Amer. informal zip, nada, a goose egg; dated cipher; old use naught.

**nimble** adjective **1** *he was nimble on his feet*: agile, sprightly, light, spry, lively, quick, graceful, lithe, limber; skilful, deft, dexterous, adroit; informal nippy, twinkletod; literary lightsome. **2** *a nimble mind*: quick-witted, quick, alert, lively, wide awake, observant, astute, perceptive, penetrating, discerning, shrewd, sharp; intelligent, bright, smart, clever, brilliant; informal brainy, quick on the uptake.

– OPPOSITES clumsy, dull.

**nincompoop** noun (informal). See **IDIOT**.

**nine** cardinal number

**WORD LINKS**

nonagon a nine-sided figure  
nonet a group of nine people or things

**nip** verb **1** *the child nipped her*: bite, nibble,

peck; pinch, tweak, squeeze, grip. **2** (Brit. informal) *I'm just nipping out*: **rush**, dash, dart, hurry, scurry, scamper; go; informal pop, whip.

• **noun** *penguins can give a serious nip*: **bite**, peck, nibble; pinch, tweak.

■ **nip something in the bud** cut short, curtail, check, curb, thwart, frustrate, stop, halt, arrest, stifle, obstruct, block, squash, quash, subdue, crack down on, stamp out; informal put the kibosh on.

■ **nip something off** cut, snip, trim, clip, prune, lop, dock, crop; remove, take off.

**nipple** **noun** teat, dug; Anatomy mamilla.

**nippy** **adjective** (informal) **1** *he's too big to be nippy*: **agile**, light-footed, nimble, light on one's feet, spry, supple, limber; informal twinkle-toed; literary lightsome. **2** *a nippy hatchback*: **fast**, quick, lively; informal zippy. **3** *it's a bit nippy in here*: **cold**, chilly, icy, bitter, raw.

– **OPPOSITES** lumbering, slow, warm.

**nirvana** **noun** **paradise**, heaven; bliss, ecstasy, joy, peace, serenity, tranquillity; enlightenment.

– **OPPOSITES** hell.

**nit-picking** **adjective** (informal). See **PEDANTIC**.

**nitty-gritty** **noun** (informal) **basics**, essentials, fundamentals, substance, essence, quintessence, heart of the matter; nub, crux, gist, meat, kernel, marrow; informal brass tacks, nuts and bolts.

**nitwit** **noun** (informal). See **IDIOT**.

**no** **adverb** absolutely not, under no circumstances, by no means, not at all, negative, never, not really; informal nope, nah, not on your life, no way; Brit. informal no fear, not on your nelly; old use nay.

– **OPPOSITES** yes.

**nobble** **verb** (Brit. informal) **1** *he nobbled the jury*: **bribe**, suborn, buy, pay off, corrupt, get at; influence, persuade, win over, sway, control, manipulate; informal grease someone's palm, oil someone's palm. **2** *a stable lad nobbled the horse*: **drug**, dope; tamper with, interfere with; disable, incapacitate. **3** *I stopped him nobbling her money*: **steal**, thief, embezzle; informal rob. **4** *people tried to nobble her at parties*: **accost**, waylay, detain, catch, confront, importune; informal buttonhole.

**nobility** **noun** **1** *a member of the nobility*: **aristocracy**, aristocrats, peerage, peers (of the realm), lords, nobles, noblemen, noblewomen, patricians; informal aristos; Brit. informal nob. **2** *the nobility of his deed*: **virtue**, goodness, honour, decency, integrity; magnanimity, generosity, selflessness.

**noble** **adjective** **1** *a noble family*: **aristocratic**, patrician, blue-blooded, high-born, titled; old use gentle. **2** *a noble cause*: **righteous**, virtuous, good, honourable, upright, decent, worthy, moral, ethical, reputable; magnanimous, unselfish, generous. **3** *a noble pine forest*: **magnificent**, splendid, grand, stately, imposing, dignified, proud, striking, impressive, majestic, glorious, awesome, monumental, statuesque, regal, imperial.

– **OPPOSITES** humble, dishonourable, base.

• **noun** *Scottish nobles*: **aristocrat**,

nobleman, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer (of the realm), peeress, patrician; informal arist; Brit. informal nob.

**nod** **verb** **1** *she nodded her head*: **incline**, bob, bow, dip, wag. **2** *he nodded to me to start*: **signal**, gesture, gesticulate, motion, sign, indicate.

• **noun** **1** *she gave a nod to the manager*: **signal**, indication, sign, cue; gesture.

**2** *a quick nod of his head*: **inclination**, bob, bow, dip.

■ **give someone the nod** **1** *the winger was given the nod*: **select**, choose, pick, go for; Brit. cap. **2** *the Lords will give the treaty the nod*: **approve**, agree to, sanction, ratify, endorse, rubber-stamp; informal OK, give something the green light, give something the thumbs up.

■ **nod off** fall asleep, go to sleep, doze off, drop off; informal drift off, flake out, go out like a light; N. Amer. informal sack out.

**node** **noun** **junction**, intersection, interchange, fork, confluence, convergence, crossing.

**noise** **noun** **sound**, din, hubbub, clamour, racket, uproar, tumult, commotion, pandemonium, babel; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row.

– **OPPOSITES** silence.

**noisome** **adjective** (literary). See **ODIOUS**.

**noisy** **adjective** **1** *a noisy crowd*: **rowdy**, clamorous, boisterous, turbulent, rackety; chattering, talkative, vociferous, shouting, screaming. **2** *noisy music*: **loud**, fortissimo, blaring, booming, deafening, thunderous, tumultuous, clamorous, ear-splitting, piercing, strident, cacophonous, raucous.

– **OPPOSITES** quiet, soft.

**nomad** **noun** **itinerant**, traveller, migrant, wanderer, roamer, rover; Gypsy, Bedouin; transient, drifter, vagabond, vagrant, tramp; dated bird of passage.

**nominal** **adjective** **1** *the nominal head of the campaign*: **in name only**, titular, formal, official; theoretical, supposed, ostensible, so-called. **2** *a nominal rent*: **token**, symbolic; tiny, minute, minimal, small, insignificant, trifling; Brit. peppercorn; informal minuscule, piddling, piffling; N. Amer. informal nickel-and-dime.

– **OPPOSITES** real, considerable.

**nominate** **verb** **1** *you may nominate a candidate*: **propose**, recommend, suggest, name, put forward, present, submit. **2** *he nominated his assistant*: **appoint**, select, choose, elect, commission, designate, name, delegate.

**non-believer** **noun** **unbeliever**, disbeliever, sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas, cynic, nihilist; atheist, agnostic, freethinker; infidel, pagan, heathen.

**nonchalant** **adjective** **calm**, composed, unconcerned, cool, {cool, calm, and collected}, cool as a cucumber; indifferent, blasé, dispassionate, apathetic, casual, insouciant; informal laid-back.

– **OPPOSITES** anxious.



**non-combatant** adjective non-fighting, non-participating, civilian; pacifist, neutral, non-aligned.

**non-committal** adjective evasive, equivocal, guarded, circumspect, reserved; discreet, uncommunicative, tactful, diplomatic, vague; informal cagey.

■ **be non-committal** prevaricate, give nothing away, dodge the issue, sidestep the issue, hedge, fence, pussyfoot around, beat about the bush, equivocate, temporize, shilly-shally, vacillate, waver; Brit. hum and haw; informal sit on the fence.

**non compos mentis** adjective. See **INSANE** sense 1.

**nonconformist** noun dissenter, dissident, protester, rebel, renegade, schismatic; freethinker, apostate, heretic; individualist, free spirit, maverick, eccentric, original, deviant, misfit, dropout, outsider; informal freak, oddball, odd fish, weirdo; N. Amer. informal screwball, kook.

**nondescript** adjective undistinguished, unremarkable, unexceptional, featureless, characterless, unmemorable; ordinary, commonplace, average, run-of-the-mill, mundane; uninteresting, uninspiring, colourless, bland; informal bog-standard; Brit. informal common or garden.

– **OPPOSITES** distinctive.

**none** pronoun **1** *none of the fish are unusual:* not one, not a one. **2** *none of this concerns me:* no part, not a bit, not any. **3** *none can know better than you:* not one, no one, nobody, not a soul, not a single person, no man.

– **OPPOSITES** all.

■ **none the** — *we were left none the wiser:* not at all, not a bit, not the slightest bit, in no way, by no means any.

**nonentity** noun nobody, unimportant person, cipher, non-person, nothing, small fry, lightweight, mediocrity; informal no-hoper, non-starter.

– **OPPOSITES** celebrity.

**non-essential** adjective unnecessary, inessential, unessential, needless, unneeded, superfluous, uncalled for, redundant, dispensable, expendable, unimportant, extraneous.

**nonetheless** adverb nevertheless, even so, however, but, still, yet, though; in spite of that, despite that, be that as it may, for all that, that said, just the same, all the same; notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow; informal still and all.

**non-existent** adjective imaginary, imagined, unreal, fictional, fictitious, made up, invented, fanciful; fantastic, mythical; illusory, hallucinatory, chimerical, notional, shadowy, insubstantial; missing, absent; literary illusive.

– **OPPOSITES** real.

**non-intervention** noun laissez-faire, non-participation, non-interference, inaction, passivity, neutrality; live and let live.

**non-observance** noun infringement, breach, violation, contravention, transgression, non-compliance, infraction; dereliction, neglect.

**nonpareil** adjective *a nonpareil storyteller:* incomparable, matchless, unrivalled, unparalleled, unequalled, peerless, beyond compare, second to none, unsurpassed, unbeatable, inimitable; unique, consummate, superlative, supreme; formal unexampled.

– **OPPOSITES** mediocre.

• **noun** *Britain's nonpareil of the 1980s:* best, finest, crème de la crème, peak of perfection, elite, jewel in the crown, ne plus ultra, paragon; old use nonsuch.

**nonplus** verb surprise, stun, dumbfound, confound, take aback, disconcert, throw (off balance); puzzle, perplex, baffle, bemuse, bewilder; informal faze, flummox, stump, bamboozle, fox; N. Amer. informal discombobulate.

**nonsense** noun **1** *he was talking nonsense:* rubbish, balderdash, gibberish, claptrap, blarney, blather, garbage; informal hogwash, rot, guff, baloney, tripe, drivel, gobbledegook, bilge, bosh, bunk, hot air, piffle, poppycock, phooey, twaddle; Brit. informal cobblers, codswallop, tosh, double Dutch; Scottish & N. English informal havers; N. Amer. informal flapdoodle, bushwa, applesauce; informal, dated bunkum, tommyrot. **2** *she stands no nonsense:* mischief, naughtiness, bad behaviour, misbehaviour, misconduct, misdemeanour; pranks, tricks, clowning, buffoonery, funny business; informal tomfoolery, monkey business, shenanigans, hanky-panky; Brit. informal monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery. **3** *they dismissed the concept as a nonsense:* absurdity, folly, stupidity, ludicrousness, inanity, foolishness, idiocy, insanity, madness.

– **OPPOSITES** sense, wisdom.

**nonsensical** adjective *a nonsensical generalization:* foolish, insane, stupid, idiotic, illogical, irrational, senseless, absurd, silly, inane, hare-brained, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous; informal crazy, crackpot, nutty; Brit. informal daft.

– **OPPOSITES** logical, sensible.

**non-stop** adjective *non-stop entertainment:* continuous, constant, continual, perpetual, incessant, unceasing, ceaseless, uninterrupted, round-the-clock; unremitting, relentless, persistent.

– **OPPOSITES** occasional.

• **adverb** *we worked non-stop:* continuously, continually, incessantly, unceasingly, ceaselessly, all the time, constantly, perpetually, round the clock, steadily, relentlessly, persistently; informal 24-7.

– **OPPOSITES** occasionally.

**nook** noun recess, corner, alcove, niche, bay, inglenook, cavity, cubbyhole, pigeonhole; opening, gap, aperture; hideaway, hiding place, hideout, shelter; informal hidey-hole.

**noon** noun midday, twelve o'clock, twelve

hundred hours, twelve noon, high noon, noonday; literary noontime, noontide.

#### WORD LINKS

**meridian** relating to noon

**solstice** each of two times in the year when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon

**no one** pronoun **nobody**, not a soul, not anyone, not a single person, never a one, none.

**norm** noun **1** *norms of diplomatic behaviour: convention*, standard; criterion, yardstick, benchmark, touchstone, rule, formula, pattern, guide, guideline, model, exemplar. **2** *such teams are now the norm: standard*, usual, the rule; normal, typical, average, unexceptional, par for the course, expected.

**normal** adjective **1** *they issue books in the normal way: usual*, standard, ordinary, customary, conventional, habitual, accustomed, expected; typical, stock, common, everyday, regular, routine, established, set, fixed, traditional; literary wonted. **2** *a normal couple: ordinary*, average, typical, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, common, conventional, mainstream, unremarkable, unexceptional; N. Amer. garden-variety; informal bog-standard, a dime a dozen; Brit. informal common or garden. **3** *the man was not normal: sane*, in one's right mind, right in the head, of sound mind, compos mentis, lucid, rational, coherent; informal all there.

– OPPOSITES unusual, insane.

**normality** noun **normalcy**, business as usual, the daily round; routine, order, regularity.

**normally** adverb **1** *she wanted to walk normally: naturally*, conventionally, ordinarily; as usual, as normal. **2** *normally we'd keep quiet about this: usually*, ordinarily, as a rule, generally, in general, mostly, for the most part, by and large, mainly, most of the time, on the whole; typically, customarily, traditionally.

**north** adjective **northern**, northerly, boreal.

**nose** noun **1** *a punch on the nose: snout*, muzzle, proboscis, trunk; informal beak, conk, snoot, schnozzle, hooter, sniffer. **2** *he has a good nose: sense of smell*. **3** *a nose for scandal: instinct*, feeling, sixth sense, intuition, insight, perception. **4** *wine with a fruity nose: smell*, bouquet, aroma, fragrance, perfume, scent, odour. **5** *the plane's nose dipped: nose cone*, bow, prow, front end; informal droop-snoot.

• verb **1** *the dog nosed the ball: nuzzle*, nudge, push. **2** *she's nosing into my business: pry*, inquire, poke about/around, interfere (in), meddle (in); be a busybody, stick/poke one's nose in; informal be nosy (about), snoop; Austral./NZ informal stickybeak. **3** *he nosed the car into the traffic: ease*, inch, edge, move, manoeuvre, steer, guide.

■ **by a nose** (only) just, barely, narrowly, by a hair's breadth, by the skin of one's teeth; informal by a whisker.

■ **nose around/about/round** investigate, explore, ferret (about/around), rummage, search; delve into, peer into; prowl around; informal snoop about/around/round.

■ **nose something out** detect, find, discover, bring to light, track down, dig up, ferret out, root out, uncover, unearth, sniff out.

#### WORD LINKS

**nasal**, **rhinal** relating to the nose

**aquiline** referring to a nose curved like an eagle's beak

**retroussé** referring to a nose turned up at the tip

**Roman** referring to a nose with a high bridge

**snub** referring to a short, turned-up nose

**rhinoplasty** plastic surgery performed on the nose

**rhinitis** inflammation of the nose

**epistaxis** bleeding from the nose

**nosedive** noun **1** *the plane went into a nosedive: dive*, descent, drop, plunge, plummet, fall. **2** (informal) *sterling took a nosedive: fall*, drop, plunge, plummet, tumble, decline, slump; informal crash.

– OPPOSITES climb, rise.

• verb **1** *the device nosedived to earth: dive*, plunge, pitch, drop, plummet. **2** (informal) *costs have nosedived: fall*, drop, sink, plunge, plummet, tumble, slump, go down, decline; informal crash.

– OPPOSITES soar, rise.

**nosegay** noun **posy**, bouquet, bunch, spray, sprig, buttonhole, corsage, boutonnière, tussie-mussie.

**nosh** (informal) noun **all kinds of nosh**. See **FOOD** sense 1.

• verb *they nosh smoked salmon*. See **EAT** sense 1.

**nostalgia** noun **reminiscence**, remembrance, recollection; wistfulness, regret, sentimentality.

**nostalgic** adjective **wistful**, evocative, romantic, sentimental; regretful, dewy-eyed, maudlin.

**nostrum** noun **1** *they have to prove their nostrums work: medicine*, quack remedy, potion, elixir, panacea, cure-all, wonder drug; informal magic bullet. **2** *right-wing nostrums: magic formula*, recipe for success, remedy, cure, prescription, answer.

**nosy** adjective (informal) **prying**, inquisitive, curious, busybody, spying, eavesdropping, intrusive; informal snooping, snoopy.

**notability** noun **1** *the village has always enjoyed notability: noteworthiness*, prominence, importance, significance, eminence; fame, renown, notoriety. **2** *the patronage of notabilities*. See **NOTABLE** noun.

**notable** adjective **1** *notable examples of workmanship: noteworthy*, remarkable, outstanding, important, significant, momentous, memorable; marked, striking, impressive; uncommon, unusual, special, exceptional, signal. **2** *a notable author: prominent*, important, well known, famous, famed, noted, distinguished, great, eminent,

illustrious, respected, esteemed, renowned, celebrated, acclaimed, influential, prestigious, of note.

– OPPOSITES unremarkable, unknown.

• **noun** *movie stars and other notables*: **celebrity**, public figure, VIP, personage, notability, dignity, worthy, luminary; star, superstar, (big) name; informal celeb, somebody, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, big fish, megastar; Brit. informal nob; N. Amer. informal kahuna, high muckamuck.

– OPPOSITES nonentity.

**notably** **adverb** **1** *other countries, notably the USA*: in particular, particularly, especially, specially; primarily, principally. **2** *these are notably short-lived birds*: remarkably, especially, specially, very, extremely, exceptionally, singularly, particularly, peculiarly, distinctly, significantly, unusually, extraordinarily, uncommonly, incredibly, really, decidedly, surprisingly, conspicuously; informal seriously; Brit. informal jolly, dead.

**notation** **noun** **1** *algebraic notation*: symbols, alphabet, syllabary, script; code, cipher, hieroglyphics. **2** *notations in the margin*: annotation, jotting, comment, footnote, entry, memo, gloss, explanation; historical scholium.

**notch** **noun** **1** *a notch in the end of the arrow*: nick, cut, incision, score, scratch, slit, snick, slot, groove, cleft, indentation. **2** *her opinion of Nick dropped a notch*: degree, level, rung, point, mark, measure, grade.

• **verb** *notch the plank*: nick, cut, score, incise, carve, scratch, slit, snick, gouge, groove, furrow.

■ **notch something up** score, achieve, attain, gain, earn, make; rack up; register, record.

**note** **noun** **1** *a note in her diary*: record, entry, item, notation, jotting, memorandum, reminder, aide-memoire; informal memo.

**2** *he will take notes of the meeting*: minutes, records, details; report, account, commentary, transcript, proceedings, transactions; synopsis, summary, outline.

**3** *notes in the margins*: annotation, footnote, commentary, comment; marginalia, exegesis; historical scholium. **4** *he dropped me a note*: message, communication, letter, line;

formal epistle, missive. **5** (Brit.) *a £20 note*: banknote; N. Amer. bill; US informal greenback;

(notes) paper money. **6** *this is worthy of note*: attention, consideration, notice, heed, observation, regard. **7** *a composer of note*: distinction, importance, eminence, prestige, fame, celebrity, acclaim, renown, reputation, stature, standing, consequence, account. **8** *a note of hopelessness in her voice*: tone, intonation, inflection, sound; hint, indication, sign, element, suggestion.

• **verb** **1** *we will note your suggestion*: bear in mind, be mindful of, consider, observe, heed, take notice of, pay attention to, take in. **2** *the letter noted the ministers' concern*: mention, refer to, touch on, indicate, point out, make known, state. **3** *note the date in your diary*: write down, put down, jot down,

take down, inscribe, enter, mark, record, register, pencil.

**notebook** **noun** *notepad*, exercise book; register, logbook, log, diary, daybook, journal, record; Brit. jotter, pocketbook; N. Amer. scratch pad; informal memo pad.

**noted** **adjective** *renowned*, well known, famous, famed, prominent, celebrated; notable, of note, important, eminent, distinguished, illustrious, acclaimed, esteemed; of distinction, of repute.

– OPPOSITES unknown.

**noteworthy** **adjective** *notable*, interesting, significant, important; remarkable, impressive, striking, outstanding, memorable, unique, special; unusual, extraordinary, singular, rare.

– OPPOSITES unexceptional.

**nothing** **pronoun** **1** *there's nothing I can do*: not a thing, not anything, nil, zero; N. English nowt; informal zilch, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, nix, not a dicky bird; Brit. informal damn all, not a sausage; N. Amer. informal zip, nada; old use naught. **2** *forget it—it's nothing*: a trifling matter, a trifle; neither here nor there; informal no big deal. **3** *he treats her as nothing*: a nobody, an unimportant person, a nonentity, a cipher, a non-person; Brit. small beer. **4** *the share value fell to nothing*: zero, nought, 0; Tennis love; Cricket a duck.

– OPPOSITES something.

■ **be/have nothing to do with 1** *it has nothing to do with you*: be unconnected with, be unrelated to; be irrelevant to, be inapplicable to, be inapposite to. **2** *I'll have nothing to do with him*: avoid, have no truck with, steer clear of, give a wide berth to.

■ **for nothing 1** *she hosted the show for nothing*: free (of charge), gratis, without charge, at no cost; informal for free, on the house. **2** *all this trouble for nothing*: in vain, to no avail, to no purpose, with no result, needlessly, pointlessly.

■ **nothing but he's nothing but a nuisance**: merely, only, just, solely, simply, purely, no more than.

**nothingness** **noun** **1** *the nothingness of death*: oblivion, nullity, blankness; void, vacuum; rare nihility. **2** *the nothingness of it all overwhelmed him*: unimportance, insignificance, triviality, pointlessness, uselessness, worthlessness.

**notice** **noun** **1** *nothing escaped his notice*: attention, observation, awareness, consciousness, perception; regard, consideration, scrutiny; watchfulness, vigilance, attentiveness. **2** *a notice on the wall*: poster, bill, handbill, advertisement, announcement, bulletin; flyer, leaflet, pamphlet; sign, card; informal ad; Brit. informal advert. **3** *times may change without notice*: notification, (advance) warning, announcement; information, news, communication, word. **4** *I handed in my notice*: resignation. **5** *the film got bad notices*: review, write-up, critique, criticism; Brit. informal crit.

• **verb** **1** *I noticed that the door was open*:



**observe**, perceive, note, see, discern, detect, spot, distinguish, mark, remark; Brit. informal clook; literary behold.

– OPPOSITES overlook.

■ **take no notice (of)** ignore, pay no attention (to), disregard, pay no heed (to), take no account (of), brush aside, shrug off, turn a blind eye (to), pass over, let go, overlook, look the other way.

**noticeable** adjective distinct, evident, obvious, apparent, manifest, patent, plain, clear, marked, conspicuous, unmistakable, undeniable, pronounced, prominent, striking, arresting; perceptible, discernible, detectable, observable, visible, appreciable.

**noticeboard** noun pinboard, cork board, bulletin board; hoarding.

**notification** noun **1** the notification of the victim's wife: **informing**, telling, alerting. **2** she received notification that he was on the way: **information**, word, advice, news, intelligence; communication, message; literary tidings.

**notify** verb **1** we will notify you as soon as possible: **inform**, tell, advise, apprise, let someone know, put in the picture; alert, warn. **2** births should be notified to the registrar: **report**, make known, announce, declare, communicate, disclose.

**notion** noun **1** he had a notion that something was wrong: **idea**, belief, conviction, opinion, view, thought, impression, perception; hypothesis, theory; (funny) feeling, (sneaking) suspicion, hunch. **2** Claire had no notion of what he meant: **understanding**, idea, awareness, knowledge, clue, inkling. **3** he got a notion to return: **impulse**, inclination, whim, desire, wish, fancy.

**notional** adjective hypothetical, theoretical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional, putative, conceptual; imaginary, fanciful, unreal, illusory.

– OPPOSITES actual.

**notoriety** noun infamy, disrepute, ill repute, bad name, dishonour, discredit; dated ill fame.

**notorious** adjective infamous, scandalous; well known, famous, famed, legendary.

**notwithstanding** preposition *notwithstanding his workload, he is a dedicated father*: **despite**, in spite of, regardless of, for all.  
• **adverb** she is bright—notwithstanding, she is now jobless: **nevertheless**, nonetheless, even so, all the same, in spite of this, despite this, however, still, yet, that said, just the same, anyway, in any event, at any rate.  
• **conjunction** notwithstanding that there was no space, they played on: **although**, even though, though, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that.

**nought** noun **1** the batsman was out for nought: **nil**, zero, 0; Tennis love; Cricket a duck. **2** (old use) my work has all been for nought. See NAUGHT.

**nourish** verb **1** patients must be well nourished: **feed**, provide for, sustain,

maintain. **2** we nourish the talents of children: **encourage**, promote, foster, nurture, cultivate, stimulate, boost, advance, assist, help, aid, strengthen, enrich. **3** the hopes Ursula nourished: **cherish**, nurture, foster, harbour, nurse, entertain, maintain, hold, have.

**nourishing** adjective nutritious, nutritive, wholesome, good for one, healthy, health-giving, healthful, beneficial, sustaining.  
– OPPOSITES unhealthy.

**nourishment** noun food, sustenance, nutriment, nutrition, subsistence, provisions, provender, fare; informal grub, nosh, chow, eats, scoff; N. Amer. informal chuck; formal comestibles; dated victuals.

**nouveau riche** plural noun the new rich, parvenus, arrivistes, upstarts, social climbers, vulgarians.

**novel**<sup>1</sup> noun curl up with a good novel: **book**, paperback, hardback; **story**, tale, narrative, romance; best-seller; informal blockbuster.

**novel**<sup>2</sup> adjective a novel way of making money: new, original, unusual, unfamiliar, unconventional, unorthodox; different, fresh, imaginative, innovative, innovatory, innovational, inventive, modern, neoteric, avant-garde, pioneering, groundbreaking, revolutionary; rare, unique, singular, unprecedented; experimental, untested, untried; strange, exotic, newfangled.

– OPPOSITES traditional.

**novelist** noun writer, author, fictionist, man/woman of letters; informal penman, scribbler.

**novelty** noun **1** the novelty of our approach: **originality**, newness, freshness, unconventionality, unfamiliarity; difference, imaginativeness, creativity, innovation, modernity. **2** we sell seasonal novelties: **knick-knack**, trinket, bauble, toy, trifle, gewgaw, gimcrack, ornament; N. Amer. kickshaw.

**novice** noun **1** a five-day course for novices: **beginner**, learner, neophyte, newcomer, initiate, tyro, fledgling; apprentice, trainee, probationer, student, pupil; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie, newie, newbie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn. **2** a novice who was never ordained: **neophyte**, novitiate; postulant, proselyte, catechumen.

– OPPOSITES expert, veteran.

**novitiate** noun **1** a three-year novitiate: **probationary period**, probation, trial period, test period, apprenticeship, training period, traineeship, training, initiation. **2** two young novitiates: **novice**, neophyte; postulant, proselyte, catechumen.

**now** adverb **1** I'm extremely busy now: **at the moment**, at present, at the present (time/moment), at this moment in time, currently; N. Amer. presently; Brit. informal at the minute. **2** television is now the main source of news: **nowadays**, today, these days, in this day and age; in the present climate. **3** you must leave now: **at once**, straight away, right away, right now, this minute, this instant, immediately, instantly, directly, without further ado, promptly, without delay, as soon as possible;

informal pronto, straight off, asap

■ **as of now** from this time on, from now on, henceforth, henceforward, from this day forward, in future; formal hereafter.

■ **for now** for the time being, for the moment, for the present, for the meantime; old use for the nonce.

■ **now and again** occasionally, now and then, from time to time, sometimes, every so often, (every) now and again, at times, on occasion(s), (every) once in a while; periodically, once in a blue moon.

**nowadays** *adverb* these days, today, at the present time, in these times, in this day and age, now, currently, at the moment, at present, at this moment in time; in the present climate; N. Amer. presently.

**noxious** *adjective* poisonous, toxic, deadly, harmful, dangerous, pernicious, damaging, destructive; unpleasant, nasty, disgusting, awful, dreadful, horrible, terrible; vile, revolting, foul, nauseating, appalling, offensive; malodorous, fetid, putrid; informal ghastly, horrid; literary noisome; old use disgusting.

– OPPOSITES innocuous.

**nuance** *noun* fine distinction, subtle difference; shade, shading, gradation, variation, degree; subtlety, nicety, overtone.

**nub** *noun* crux, central point, main point, core, heart (of the matter), nucleus, essence, quintessence, kernel, marrow, meat, pith; gist, substance; informal nitty-gritty.

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**nubile** *adjective* sexually mature, marriageable; sexually attractive, desirable, sexy, luscious; informal beddable.

**nucleus** *noun* **1** *the nucleus of the banking world:* core, centre, central part, heart, nub, hub, middle, eye, focus, focal point, pivot, crux. **2** *a nucleus of union men supported him:* small group, caucus, cell, coterie, clique, faction.

**nude** *adjective* (stark) naked, bare, unclothed, undressed, disrobed, stripped, unclad, in a state of nature, au naturel; informal without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the altogether, in the buff, in the nuddy; Brit. informal starkers; Scottish informal in the scud; N. Amer. informal buck naked.

– OPPOSITES clothed.

**nudge** *verb* **1** *he nudged Ben:* poke, elbow, dig, prod, jog, jab. **2** *the canoe nudged a bank:* touch, bump (against), push (against), run into. **3** *we nudged them into action:* prompt, encourage, stimulate, prod, galvanize. **4** *unemployment was nudging 3,000,000:* approach, near, come close to, be verging on, border on.

• *noun* **1** *Maggie gave him a nudge:* poke, dig (in the ribs), prod, jog, jab, push. **2** *after a nudge, she remembered Lilian:* reminder, prompt, prompting, prod, encouragement.

**nugatory** *adjective* **1** *a nugatory observation:* worthless, unimportant, inconsequential, valueless, trifling, trivial, insignificant, meaningless. **2** *the shortages will render*

*nugatory our hopes:* futile, useless, vain, unavailing, null, invalid.

**nugget** *noun* lump, nub, chunk, piece, hunk, wad, gobbet; N. Amer. informal gob.

**nuisance** *noun* annoyance, inconvenience, bore, bother, irritation, problem, trouble, trial, burden; pest, plague, thorn in one's side/flesh; informal pain (in the neck), hassle, bind, drag, aggravation, headache; Scottish informal nyaff, skelf; N. Amer. informal nudnik; Austral./NZ informal nark.

– OPPOSITES blessing.

**null** *adjective* **1** *their marriage was declared null:* invalid, null and void, void; annulled, nullified, cancelled, revoked. **2** *his null life:* characterless, colourless, empty, insipid, vapid, dull, boring.

– OPPOSITES valid, interesting.

**nullify** *verb* **1** *they nullified the legislation:* annul, render null and void, void, invalidate; repeal, reverse, rescind, revoke, cancel, abolish; countermand, do away with, terminate, quash; Law vacate; formal abrogate. **2** *the costs would nullify any tax relief:* cancel out, neutralize, negate, negative.

– OPPOSITES ratify.

**numb** *adjective* *his fingers were numb:* without sensation, without feeling, numbed, benumbed, desensitized, insensible, senseless, unfeeling; anaesthetized; dazed, stunned, stupefied, paralysed, immobilized, frozen.

– OPPOSITES sensitive.

• *verb* *the cold numbed her senses:* deaden, benumb, desensitize, dull; anaesthetize; daze, stupefy, paralyse, immobilize, freeze.

– OPPOSITES sensitize.

**number** *noun* **1** *a whole number:* numeral, integer, figure, digit; character, symbol; decimal, unit; cardinal number, ordinal number. **2** *a large number of complaints:* amount, quantity; total, aggregate, tally; quota. **3** *the wedding of one of their number:* group, company, crowd, circle, party, band, crew, set; informal gang. **4** *the band performed another number:* song, piece (of music), tune, track; routine, sketch, dance, act. • *verb* **1** *visitors numbered more than two million:* add up to, amount to, total, come to. **2** *he numbers the fleet at a thousand:* calculate, count, total, compute, reckon, tally; assess; Brit. tot up; formal enumerate. **3** *each paragraph is numbered:* assign a number to, itemize, enumerate. **4** *he numbers her among his friends:* include, count, reckon, deem. **5** *his days are numbered:* limit, restrict, fix.

■ **a number of** several, various, quite a few, sundry.

■ **without number** countless, innumerable, unlimited, endless, limitless, untold, numberless, uncountable, uncounted; numerous, many, multiple, manifold, legion.

#### WORD LINKS

numerical relating to numbers

numerology the study of the supposed

magical power of numbers

sudoku, kakuro types of number puzzle

**numberless** adjective innumerable, countless, unlimited, endless, limitless, untold, uncountable, uncounted; numerous, many, multiple, manifold, legion; informal more — than one can shake a stick at; literary myriad.

**numbing** adjective **1** *menthol has a numbing action: desensitizing, deadening, benumbing, anaesthetic, anaesthetizing; paralysing.* **2** *numbing cold: freezing, raw, bitter, biting, arctic.* **3** *numbing boredom: stupefying, mind-numbing, stultifying; soporific.*

**numbskull** noun (informal). See **IDIOT**.

**numeral** noun **number**, integer, figure, digit; character, symbol, unit.

**numerous** adjective (very) many, a lot of, scores of, countless, numberless, innumerable; several, quite a few, various; plenty of, copious, a quantity of, an abundance of, a profusion of, a multitude of; frequent; informal umpteen, lots of, loads of, masses of, stacks of, heaps of, bags of, tons of, oodles of, hundreds of, thousands of, millions of, more — than one can shake a stick at; Brit. informal a shedload of; N. Amer. informal gazillions of; Austral./NZ informal a swag of; literary myriad.

— OPPOSITES few.

**numinous** adjective spiritual, religious, divine, holy, sacred; mysterious, otherworldly, unearthly, transcendent.

**nun** noun sister, abbess, prioress, Mother Superior, Reverend Mother; novice; bride of Christ, religious, conventual, contemplative, canoness; literary vestal; historical anchoress.

**nuncio** noun (papal) ambassador, legate, envoy, messenger.

**nnunery** noun convent, priory, abbey, cloister, religious community.

**nuptial** adjective matrimonial, marital, marriage, wedding, conjugal, bridal; married, wedded; Law spousal; literary connubial.

**nuptials** plural noun wedding (ceremony), marriage, union; old use espousal.

**nurse** noun **1** *skilled nurses: carer, caregiver; informal Florence Nightingale, nurse; N. Amer. informal candy-striper.* **2** *she had been his nurse in childhood: nanny, nursemaid, nursery nurse, childminder, governess, au pair, childcarer, babysitter, ayah.*

• **verb** **1** *they nursed smallpox patients: care for, take care of, look after, tend, minister to.* **2** *I nursed my sore finger: treat, medicate, tend; dress, bandage, soothe; informal doctor.*

**3** *Rosa was nursing her baby: breastfeed, suckle, feed.* **4** *they nursed old grievances: harbour, foster, entertain, bear, have, hold (on to), cherish, cling to, retain.* **5** *our unity needs to be nursed: nurture, encourage, promote, boost, assist, help, cultivate; protect, safeguard.*

**nursemaid** noun. See **NURSE** noun sense 2.

**nurture** verb **1** *she nurtured her children into adulthood: bring up, care for, take care of, look after, tend, rear, raise, support, foster;*

*parent, mother.* **2** *we nurtured these plants: cultivate, grow, keep, tend.* **3** *he nurtured my love of art: encourage, promote, stimulate, develop, foster, cultivate, boost, contribute to, assist, help, abet, strengthen, fuel.*

— OPPOSITES neglect, hinder.

• **noun** **1** *we are what nature and nurture have made us: upbringing, rearing, raising, childcare; training, education.* **2** *the nurture of ideas: encouragement, promotion, fostering, development, cultivation.*

— OPPOSITES nature.

**nut** noun **1** *nuts in their shells: kernel.*

**2** (informal) *he smacked her on the nut: head, skull, cranium, crown; informal noodle, noggin, dome; Brit. informal bonce; informal, dated conk, noddle.* **3** (informal) *some nut arrived at the office: maniac, lunatic, madman, madwoman; eccentric; informal loony, nutcase, fruitcake, head case, crank, crackpot, weirdo; Brit. informal nutter, mentalist; N. Amer. informal screwball, crazy; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ informal dingbat.* **4** (informal) *a movie nut: enthusiast, fan, devotee, aficionado; informal freak, fiend, fanatic, addict, buff; N. Amer. informal jock.*

■ **do one's nut** (informal) be very angry, be furious, lose one's temper; informal go mad, go crazy, go wild, go bananas, have a fit, blow one's top, hit the roof, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, lose one's rag; Brit. informal go spare.

■ **off one's nut** (informal). See **MAD** sense 1.

**nutriment** noun nourishment, nutrients, sustenance, goodness, nutrition, food.

**nutrition** noun nourishment, nutriment, nutrients, sustenance, food; informal grub, chow, nosh, scoff; literary viands; dated victuals; old use aliment.

#### WORD LINKS

**alimentary** relating to food and nutrition  
**dietician** an expert on diet and nutrition

**nutritious** adjective nourishing, good for one, nutritive, nutrimental; wholesome, healthy, healthful, beneficial, sustaining.

**nuts** adjective (informal) **1** *they thought we were nuts.* See **MAD** sense 1. **2** *he's nuts about her: infatuated with, keen on, devoted to, in love with, smitten with, enamoured of, hot for; informal mad, crazy, nutty, wild, hooked on, gone on; Brit. informal potty.*

**nuts and bolts** plural noun practical details, fundamentals, basics, practicalities, essentials, mechanics; informal nitty-gritty, ins and outs, brass tacks.

**nutty** adjective (informal) **1** *they're all nutty.* See **MAD** sense 1. **2** *she's nutty about Elvis.* See **NUTS** sense 2.

**nuzzle** verb **1** *the horse nuzzled at her pocket: nudge, nose, prod, push.* **2** *she nuzzled up to her boyfriend: snuggle, cuddle, nestle, burrow, embrace, hug.*

**nymph** noun **1** *a nymph with winged sandals: spirit, sprite.* **2** (literary) *a skinny nymph with brown eyes: girl, belle, nymphet, sylph; young woman, young lady; Scottish & N. English lass; Brit. dated rosebud; literary maid, maiden, damsel.*



# Oo

**oaf** **noun** *lout*, boor, barbarian, Neanderthal, churl, bumpkin, yokel; fool, idiot, imbecile; informal cretin, ass, goon, oik, yahoo, ape, lump, clod, meathead, bonehead, lamebrain; Brit. informal clot, plonker, berk, pillock, yob, yobbo; Scottish informal nyaff, gowk; N. Amer. informal bozo, dumbhead, lummox, klutz, goofus, clunk, turkey; Austral. informal hoon, dingbat, galah, drongo; old use lubber.

**oafish** **adjective** *stupid*, foolish, idiotic; loutish, awkward, gawkish, clumsy, lumbering, ape-like, cloddish, Neanderthal, uncouth, uncultured, boorish, rough, coarse, brutish, ill-mannered, unrefined; informal clodhopping, blockheaded, boneheaded, thickheaded; Brit. informal yobbish; old use lubberly.

**oasis** **noun** **1** *an oasis near Cairo: watering hole*, watering place, water hole, spring. **2** *a cool oasis in a hot summer: refuge*, haven, retreat, sanctuary, sanctum, harbour, asylum.

**oath** **noun** **1** *an oath of allegiance: vow*, pledge, promise, avowal, affirmation, word (of honour), bond, guarantee; formal troth. **2** *he uttered a stream of oaths: swear word*, profanity, expletive, four-letter word, dirty word, obscenity, vulgarity, curse, malediction; informal cuss (word); formal imprecation.

**obdurate** **adjective** *stubborn*, obstinate, intransigent, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, pig-headed, mulish, stiff-necked; headstrong, unshakeable, intractable, unpersuadable, immovable, inexorable, uncompromising, iron-willed, adamant, firm, determined; Brit. informal bloody-minded. – OPPOSITES malleable.

**obedient** **adjective** *compliant*, biddable, acquiescent, tractable, amenable, malleable, pliable, pliant; dutiful, good, law-abiding, deferential, respectful, dutious, well trained, well disciplined, manageable, governable, docile, tame, meek, passive, submissive, unresisting, yielding. – OPPOSITES rebellious.

**obeisance** **noun** **1** *a gesture of obeisance: respect*, homage, worship, adoration, reverence, veneration, honour, submission, deference. **2** *she made a deep obeisance: bow*, curtsy, bob, genuflection, salaam; historical kowtow.

**obelisk** **noun** *column*, pillar, needle, shaft, monolith, monument.

**obese** **adjective** *fat*, overweight, corpulent, gross, stout, fleshy, heavy, portly, paunchy, pot-bellied, beer-bellied, well upholstered, well padded, broad in the beam, bulky, bloated, flabby; informal porky, roly-poly, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; old use pursy. – OPPOSITES thin.

**obey** **verb** **1** *I obeyed him without question: do what someone says*, carry out someone's orders; submit to, defer to, bow to, yield to. **2** *he refused to obey the order: carry out*, perform, act on, execute, discharge, implement, fulfil. **3** *health and safety regulations have to be obeyed: comply with*, adhere to, observe, abide by, act in accordance with, conform to, respect, follow, keep to, stick to; play it by the book, toe the line.

– OPPOSITES defy, ignore.

**obfuscate** **verb** *obscure*, confuse, blur, muddle, complicate, muddy, cloud, befog; muddy the waters.

– OPPOSITES clarify.

**obituary** **noun** *death notice*; informal obit; formal necrology.

**object** **noun** **1** *wooden objects: thing*, article, item, device, gadget; informal doodah, thingamajig, thingamabob, thingummy, whatsit, whatchamacallit, thingy; Brit. informal gubbins; N. Amer. informal doodad, dingus. **2** *he became the object of criticism: target*, butt, focus, recipient, victim. **3** *his object was to resolve the crisis: objective*, aim, goal, target, purpose, end (in view), plan, object of the exercise, point; ambition, design, intent, intention, idea.

• **verb** *teachers objected to the scheme: protest about*, oppose, raise objections to, express disapproval of, take exception to, take issue with, take a stand against, argue against, quarrel with, condemn, draw the line at, demur at, mind, complain about, cavil at, quibble about; beg to differ; informal kick up a fuss/stink about.

– OPPOSITES approve, accept.

**objection** **noun** *protest*, protestation, demur, demurral, complaint, expostulation, grievance, cavil, quibble; opposition, argument, counter-argument, disagreement, disapproval, dissent; informal niggles.

**objectionable** adjective unpleasant, disagreeable, distasteful, displeasing, off-putting, undesirable, obnoxious, offensive, nasty, horrible, horrid, disgusting, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, appalling, insufferable, odious, vile, foul, unsavoury, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, revolting, abhorrent, loathsome, hateful, detestable, reprehensible, deplorable; informal ghastly; Brit. informal beastly; formal exceptionable, rebarbative.

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**objective** adjective **1** *an interviewer must try to be objective:* impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, disinterested, neutral, uninvolved, even-handed, equitable, fair, fair-minded, just, open-minded, dispassionate, detached. **2** *the world of objective knowledge:* factual, actual, real, empirical, verifiable.

– OPPOSITES biased, subjective.

• **noun** *our objective is to build a profitable business:* aim, intention, purpose, target, goal, intent, object, object of the exercise, point, end (in view); idea, design, plan, ambition, aspiration, desire, hope.

**objectively** adverb impartially, without bias, without prejudice, even-handedly, dispassionately, detachedly, equitably, fairly, justly, with an open mind, without fear or favour.

**objectivity** noun impartiality, lack of bias/prejudice, fairness, fair-mindedness, neutrality, even-handedness, justice, open-mindedness, disinterest, detachment, dispassion, dispassionateness.

**oblation** noun religious offering, offering, sacrifice, peace offering, burnt offering, first fruits, libation.

**oblige** verb oblige, compel, commit, bind, require, constrain, force, impel, make.

**obligation** noun **1** *his professional obligations:* duty, commitment, responsibility; function, task, job, assignment, commission, burden, charge, onus, liability, accountability, requirement, debt; old use devoir. **2** *a sense of obligation:* duty, compulsion, indebtedness; duress, necessity, pressure, constraint.

■ **under an obligation** beholden, obliged, in someone's debt, indebted, obligated, duty-bound, honour-bound.

**obligatory** adjective compulsory, mandatory, prescribed, required, demanded, statutory, enforced, binding, incumbent; requisite, necessary, imperative, unavoidable, inescapable, essential.

– OPPOSITES optional.

**oblige** verb **1** *both parties are obliged to accept the decision:* require, compel, bind, constrain, oblige, leave someone no option, force. **2** *I'll be happy to oblige you:* do someone a favour, accommodate, help, assist, serve; gratify someone's wishes, indulge, humour.

**obliged** adjective thankful, grateful, appreciative, much obliged; beholden, indebted, in someone's debt.

**obliging** adjective helpful, accommodating, willing, cooperative, considerate, complaisant, agreeable, amenable, generous, kind, neighbourly, hospitable, pleasant, good-natured, amiable, gracious, unselfish, civil, courteous, polite; Brit. informal decent.

– OPPOSITES unhelpful.

**oblique** adjective **1** *an oblique line:*

slanting, slanted, sloping, at an angle, angled, diagonal, aslant, slant, slantwise, skew, on the skew, askew, squint; N. Amer. cater-cornered. **2** *an oblique reference:* indirect, inexplicit, roundabout, circuitous, circumlocutory, implicit, implied, elliptical, evasive, backhanded. **3** *an oblique glance:* sidelong, sideways, furtive, covert, sly, surreptitious.

– OPPOSITES straight, direct.

• **noun** slash, solidus, backslash, diagonal, virgule.

**obliquely** adverb **1** *the sun shone obliquely across the tower:* diagonally, at an angle, slantwise, sideways, sidelong, aslant. **2** *he referred obliquely to the war:* indirectly, in a roundabout way, not in so many words, circuitously, evasively.

**obliterate** verb **1** *he tried to obliterate the memory:* erase, eradicate, expunge, efface, wipe out, blot out, rub out, remove all traces of. **2** *a nuclear explosion that would obliterate a city:* destroy, wipe out, annihilate, demolish, liquidate, wipe off the face of the earth, wipe off the map; informal zap. **3** *clouds were darkening, obliterating the sun:* hide, obscure, blot out, block, cover, screen.

**oblivion** noun **1** *they drank themselves into oblivion:* unconsciousness, insensibility, stupor, stupefaction; coma, blackout; literary the waters of Lethe. **2** *they rescued him from artistic oblivion:* obscurity, limbo, anonymity, neglect, disregard.

– OPPOSITES consciousness, fame.

**oblivious** adjective unaware, unconscious, heedless, unmindful, insensible, unheeding, ignorant, blind, deaf, unsuspecting, unobservant; unconcerned, impervious, unaffected.

– OPPOSITES conscious.

**obloquy** noun **1** *he endured years of contempt and obloquy:* vilification, opprobrium, vituperation, condemnation, denunciation, abuse, criticism, censure, defamation, denigration, revilement, calumny, insults; informal flak; formal castigation, excoriation; old use contumely. **2** *conduct to which no moral obloquy could reasonably attach:* disgrace, dishonour, shame, discredited, stigma, humiliation, loss of face, ignominy, odium, opprobrium, disfavour, disrepute, ill repute, infamy, stain, notoriety, scandal.

– OPPOSITES praise, honour.

**obnoxious** adjective unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, offensive, objectionable, unsavoury, unpalatable, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, horrible, revolting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, disgusting, odious, vile, foul, abhorrent,

loathsome, nauseating, sickening, hateful, insufferable, intolerable; informal horrid, ghastly, gross, putrid, sick-making, yucky, God-awful; Brit. informal beastly; old use disgusting, loathly.

– OPPOSITES delightful.

**obscene** adjective **1** *obscene literature*: **pornographic**, indecent, smutty, dirty, filthy, X-rated, 'adult', explicit, lewd, rude, vulgar, coarse, crude, immoral, improper, off colour; scatological, profane; informal blue, porn, porno, skin. **2** *an obscene crime*: shocking, scandalous, vile, foul, atrocious, outrageous, heinous, odious, abhorrent, abominable, disgusting, hideous, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, repellent, loathsome, nauseating, sickening, awful, dreadful, terrible, frightful.

**obscenity** noun **1** *the book was banned on the grounds of obscenity*: **indecent**, immorality, impropriety, smuttiness, smut, lewdness, rudeness, vulgarity, dirt, filth, coarseness, crudity; profanity, profaneness. **2** *the men scowled and muttered obscenities*: **expletive**, swear word, oath, profanity, curse, four-letter word, dirty word, blasphemy; informal cuss, cuss word; formal imprecation.

**obscure** adjective **1** *his origins and parentage remain obscure*: **unclear**, uncertain, unknown, in doubt, doubtful, dubious, mysterious, hazy, vague, indeterminate, concealed, hidden. **2** *obscure references to Proust*: **mystifying**, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, Delphic, oracular, oblique, opaque, elliptical, unintelligible, incomprehensible, impenetrable, unfathomable; abstruse, recondite, arcane, esoteric; informal as clear as mud. **3** *an obscure Peruvian painter*: **little known**, unknown, unheard of, undistinguished, unimportant, nameless, minor; unsung, unrecognized, forgotten. **4** *an obscure shape*: **indistinct**, faint, vague, nebulous, ill-defined, unclear, blurred, blurry, misty, hazy.

– OPPOSITES clear, plain, famous, distinct.  
• **verb** **1** *grey clouds obscured the sun*: **hide**, conceal, cover, veil, shroud, screen, mask, cloak, cast a shadow over, shadow, block, obliterate, eclipse, darken. **2** *recent events have obscured the issue*: **confuse**, complicate, obfuscate, cloud, blur, muddy; muddy the waters; literary befog.

– OPPOSITES reveal, clarify.

**obscurity** noun **1** *the discovery rescued him from relative obscurity*: **insignificance**, inconspicuousness, unimportance, anonymity; limbo, twilight, oblivion. **2** *poems of impenetrable obscurity*: **incomprehensibility**, impenetrability, unintelligibility, opacity. **3** *the obscurities in his poems and plays*: **enigma**, puzzle, mystery, difficulty, problem.

– OPPOSITES fame, clarity.

**obsequies** plural noun funeral rites, funeral service, funeral, burial, interment, entombment, inhumation, last offices; formal exequies; old use sepulture.

**obsequious** adjective servile, ingratiating, sycophantic, fawning, unctuous, oily, oleaginous, grovelling, cringing, subservient, submissive, slavish; informal slimy, bootlicking, smarmy.

**observable** adjective noticeable, visible, perceptible, perceivable, detectable, distinguishable, discernible, recognizable, evident, apparent, manifest, obvious, patent, clear, distinct, plain, unmistakable; old use sensible.

**observance** noun **1** *strict observance of the rules*: **compliance**, adherence, accordance, respect, observation, fulfilment, obedience; keeping, obeying. **2** *religious observances*: **rite**, ritual, ceremony, ceremonial, celebration, practice, service, office, festival, tradition, custom, usage, formality, form.

**observant** adjective alert, sharp-eyed, sharp, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, having eyes like a hawk, keen-eyed, watchful, heedful, aware; on the lookout, on the qui vive, on guard, attentive, vigilant, having one's eyes open/peeled; informal beady-eyed, not missing a trick, on the ball.

– OPPOSITES inattentive.

**observation** noun **1** *detailed observation of the animal's behaviour*: **monitoring**, watching, scrutiny, examination, inspection, survey, surveillance, attention, consideration, study. **2** *his observations were concise and to the point*: **remark**, comment, statement, utterance, pronouncement, declaration; opinion, impression, thought, reflection. **3** *the observation of the law*: **observance**, compliance, adherence, respect, obedience; keeping, obeying.

**observe** verb **1** *she observed that all the chairs were occupied*: **notice**, see, note, perceive, discern, spot; literary espy, descry. **2** *she was alarmed to discover he had been observing her*: **watch**, look at, eye, contemplate, view, survey, regard, keep an eye on, scrutinize, keep under observation, keep watch on, keep under surveillance, monitor, keep a weather eye on; informal keep tabs on, keep a beady eye on; literary behold. **3** *'You look tired,' she observed*: **remark**, comment, say, mention, declare, announce, state, pronounce; formal opine. **4** *both countries agreed to observe the ceasefire*: **comply with**, abide by, keep, obey, adhere to, heed, honour, fulfil, respect, follow, consent to, acquiesce in, accept. **5** *townspeople observed the one-year anniversary of the flood*: **commemorate**, mark, keep, memorialize, remember, celebrate.

**observer** noun **1** *a casual observer might not have noticed*: **spectator**, onlooker, watcher, looker-on, fly on the wall, viewer, witness; informal rubberneck; literary beholder. **2** *industry observers expect the deal to be finalized today*: **commentator**, reporter; monitor.

**obsess** verb preoccupy, be uppermost in someone's mind, prey on someone's mind, prey on, possess, haunt, consume, plague,



torment, hound, bedevil, beset, take control of, take over, have a hold on, eat up, grip.

**obsessed** adjective *fixated*, possessed, consumed; *infatuated*, besotted; informal smitten, hung up; N. Amer. informal *hipped*.

**obsession** noun *fixation*, ruling/consuming passion, passion, mania, *idée fixe*, compulsion, preoccupation, *infatuation*, addiction, fetish, craze; hobby horse; phobia, complex, neurosis; informal *bee in one's bonnet*, hang-up, thing.

**obsessive** adjective *all-consuming*, consuming, compulsive, controlling, *obsessional*, fanatical, neurotic, excessive, besetting, tormenting, inescapable; informal *pathological*.

**obsolescent** adjective *dying out*, on the decline, declining, waning, on the wane, disappearing, past its prime, ageing, moribund, on its last legs, out of date, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded; informal on the way out, past it.

**obsolete** adjective *out of date*, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, *démodé*, passé; no longer in use, disused, fallen into disuse, superannuated, outworn, antiquated, antediluvian, anachronistic, discontinued, old, dated, archaic, ancient, fossilized, extinct, defunct, dead, bygone; informal out of the ark, prehistoric; Brit. informal past its sell-by date.

– OPPOSITES *current*, modern.

**obstacle** noun *barrier*, hurdle, stumbling block, obstruction, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, snag, catch, drawback, hitch, handicap, deterrent, complication, difficulty, problem, fly in the ointment, disadvantage, curb, check; Brit. *spanner in the works*; literary *trammel*.

– OPPOSITES *advantage*, aid.

**obstinacy** noun *stubbornness*, inflexibility, intransigence, intractability, obduracy, mulishness, pig-headedness, wilfulness, contrariness, perversity, recalcitrance, inplacability; persistence, tenacity, tenaciousness, doggedness, single-mindedness, determination; Brit. informal *bloody-mindedness*, *bolshiness*; formal *pertinacity*, *refractoriness*.

**obstinate** adjective *stubborn*, unyielding, inflexible, unbending, intransigent, intractable, obdurate, mulish, stubborn as a mule, pig-headed, self-willed, strong-willed, headstrong, wilful, contrary, perverse, recalcitrant, uncooperative, unmanageable, stiff-necked, uncompromising, implacable, unrelenting, immovable, unshakeable; persistent, tenacious, dogged, single-minded, adamant, determined; Brit. informal *bloody-minded*, *bolshie*; N. Amer. informal *balky*; formal *refractory*, *pertinacious*.

– OPPOSITES *compliant*.

**obstreperous** adjective *unruly*, unmanageable, disorderly, undisciplined, uncontrollable, rowdy, disruptive, truculent, difficult, rebellious, mutinous, riotous, out of control, wild, turbulent, uproarious, boisterous; noisy, loud, clamorous,

raucous, vociferous; informal *rumbustious*; Brit. informal *stropky*, *bolshie*; N. Amer. informal *rambunctious*; formal *refractory*.

– OPPOSITES *quiet*, restrained.

**obstruct** verb **1** *ensure that air bricks and vents are not obstructed*: **block (up)**, clog (up), get in the way of, occlude, cut off, shut off, bung up, choke, dam up; *barricade*, bar; Brit. informal *gunge up*. **2** *he was charged with obstructing the traffic*: **hold up**, bring to a standstill, stop, halt, block. **3** *fears that the regime would obstruct the distribution of food*: **impede**, hinder, interfere with, hamper, block, interrupt, hold up, stand in the way of, frustrate, thwart, baulk, inhibit, hamstring, sabotage; slow down, retard, delay, stonewall, stop, halt, restrict, limit, curb, put a brake on, *bridle*; N. Amer. informal *bork*.

– OPPOSITES *clear*, facilitate.

**obstruction** noun *obstacle*, barrier, stumbling block, hurdle, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, snag, fly in the ointment, difficulty, catch, drawback, hitch, handicap, deterrent, curb, check, restriction; blockage, stoppage, congestion, bottleneck, hold-up; Brit. *spanner in the works*; Medicine *occlusion*.

**obstructive** adjective *unhelpful*, uncooperative, awkward, difficult, unaccommodating, disobliging, perverse, contrary; Brit. informal *bloody-minded*, *bolshie*; N. Amer. informal *balky*.

– OPPOSITES *helpful*.

**obtain** verb **1** *the newspaper obtained a copy of the letter*: **get**, acquire, come by, secure, procure, come into the possession of, pick up, be given; gain, earn, achieve, attain; informal *get hold of*, *get/lay one's hands on*, *get one's mitts on*, *land*. **2** (formal) *rules obtaining in other jurisdictions*: **prevail**, be in force, apply, exist, be in use, be in effect, stand, hold, be the case.

– OPPOSITES *lose*.

**obtainable** adjective *available*, to be had, in circulation, on the market, on offer, in season, at one's disposal, at hand, attainable, procurable, accessible; informal up for grabs, on tap, get-at-able.

**obtrusive** adjective *conspicuous*, prominent, noticeable, obvious, unmistakable, intrusive, out of place; informal *sticking out a mile*, *sticking out like a sore thumb*.

– OPPOSITES *inconspicuous*.

**obtuse** adjective *stupid*, foolish, slow-witted, slow, dull-witted, unintelligent, ignorant, simple-minded; insensitive, imperceptive, uncomprehending; informal *dim*, *dim-witted*, *dense*, *dumb*, *slow on the uptake*, *half-witted*, *brain-dead*, *moronic*, *cretinous*, *thick*, *dopey*, *dozy*, *wooden-headed*, *boneheaded*; Brit. informal *divvy*; Scottish & N. English informal *glait*; N. Amer. informal *chowderheaded*.

– OPPOSITES *clever*.

**obviate** verb *preclude*, prevent, remove, get rid of, do away with, get round, rule out, eliminate, make unnecessary.

**obvious** adjective clear, crystal clear, plain, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, conspicuous, pronounced, transparent, palpable, prominent, marked, decided, distinct, noticeable, perceptible, visible, discernible; unmistakable, indisputable, self-evident, incontrovertible, incontestable, undeniable, as plain as a pikestaff, as clear as day, staring someone in the face; overt, open, undisguised, unconcealed, frank, glaring, blatant, written all over someone; informal as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile.

– OPPOSITES imperceptible.

**obviously** adverb clearly, evidently, plainly, patently, visibly, discernibly, manifestly, noticeably; unmistakably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, demonstrably, unquestionably, undoubtedly, without doubt, doubtless; of course, naturally, needless to say, it goes without saying.

– OPPOSITES perhaps.

**occasion** noun **1** a previous occasion: time, instance, juncture, point; event, occurrence, affair, incident, episode, experience; situation, case, circumstance. **2** a family occasion: social event, event, affair, function, celebration, party, get-together, gathering; informal do, bash. **3** I doubt if the occasion will arise: opportunity, right moment, chance, opening, window. **4** it's the first time I've had occasion to complain: reason, cause, call, grounds, justification, need, motive.

● verb her situation occasioned a good deal of sympathy: cause, give rise to, bring about, result in, lead to, prompt, elicit, call forth, produce, create, arouse, generate, engender, precipitate, provoke, stir up, inspire, spark off, trigger; literary beget.

■ on occasion. See OCCASIONALLY.

**occasional** adjective infrequent, intermittent, irregular, periodic, sporadic, odd, random, uncommon, few and far between, isolated, rare; N. Amer. sometime.

– OPPOSITES regular, frequent.

**occasionally** adverb sometimes, from time to time, (every) now and then, (every) now and again, at times, every so often, (every) once in a while, on occasion, periodically, at intervals, irregularly, sporadically, infrequently, intermittently, on and off, off and on.

– OPPOSITES often.

**occlude** verb block (up), stop (up), obstruct, clog (up), close, shut, bung up, choke.

**occult** noun his interest in the occult: the supernatural, supernaturalism, magic, black magic, witchcraft, sorcery, necromancy, wizardry, the black arts, occultism, diabolism, devil worship, devilry, voodoo, hoodoo, white magic, mysticism; NZ makutu.

● adjective **1** occult powers: supernatural, magic, magical, mystical, mystic, psychic, preternatural, transcendental; cabalistic, hermetic. **2** the typically occult language

of the time: esoteric, arcane, recondite, abstruse, secret; obscure, incomprehensible, impenetrable, puzzling, perplexing, mystifying, mysterious, enigmatic.

**occupancy** noun occupation, tenancy, tenure, residence, residency, inhabitation, habitation, living, lease, holding, owner-occupancy; formal dwelling.

**occupant** noun **1** the occupants of the houses: resident, inhabitant, owner, householder, tenant, renter, leaseholder, lessee; addressee; Brit. occupier, owner-occupier; formal dweller. **2** the first occupant of the post: incumbent, holder.

**occupation** noun **1** his father's occupation: job, profession, (line of) work, trade, employment, position, post, situation, business, career, métier, vocation, calling, craft; Austral. informal grip; old use employ. **2** her leisure occupations: pastime, activity, hobby, pursuit, interest, entertainment, recreation, amusement, divertissement. **3** a property suitable for occupation by older people: residence, residency, habitation, inhabitation, occupancy, tenancy, tenure, lease, living in; formal dwelling. **4** the Roman occupation of Britain: conquest, capture, invasion, seizure, takeover, annexation, overrunning, subjugation, subjection, appropriation; colonization, rule, control, suzerainty.

**occupational** adjective job-related, work, professional, vocational, employment, business, career.

**occupied** adjective **1** tasks which kept her occupied all day: busy, engaged, working, at work, active; informal tied up, hard at it, on the go. **2** all the tables were occupied: in use, full, engaged, taken. **3** only two of the flats are occupied: inhabited, lived-in, tenanted, settled.

– OPPOSITES free, vacant.

**occupy** verb **1** Carol occupied the basement flat: live in, inhabit, be the tenant of, lodge in; move into, take up residence in; people, populate, settle; Scottish stay in; formal reside in, dwell in. **2** two windows occupied almost the whole of the end wall: take up, fill, fill up, cover, use up. **3** he occupies a senior post at the Treasury: hold, fill, have; informal hold down. **4** I need something to occupy my mind: engage, busy, employ, distract, absorb, engross, preoccupy, hold, interest, involve, entertain, amuse, divert. **5** the region was occupied by Soviet troops: capture, seize, take possession of, conquer, invade, overrun, take over, colonize, garrison, annex, subjugate.

**occur** verb **1** the accident occurred at about 3.30: happen, take place, come about, transpire, materialize, arise, crop up; N. Amer. informal go down; literary come to pass, befall, betide; old use hap; formal eventuate. **2** the disease occurs chiefly in tropical climates: be found, be present, exist, appear, prevail, present itself, manifest itself, turn up. **3** an idea occurred to her: enter one's head/mind, cross one's mind, come to mind, spring to

mind, strike one, hit one, dawn on one, suggest itself.

**occurrence** noun **1** *vandalism used to be a rare occurrence*: **event**, incident, happening, phenomenon, affair, matter, circumstance. **2** *the occurrence of cancer increases with age*: **existence**, instance, appearance, manifestation, materialization, development; frequency, incidence, rate, prevalence; Statistics distribution.

**ocean** noun *the ocean was calm*: **the sea**; informal the drink; Brit. informal the briny; literary the deep, the waves, the main.

#### WORD LINKS

marine, maritime, oceanic, pelagic, thalassic relating to the ocean.  
See also **SEA**.

**odd** adjective **1** *an odd man*: **strange**, peculiar, weird, queer, funny, bizarre, eccentric, unusual, unconventional, outlandish, quirky, zany; informal wacky, kooky, screwy, oddball, offbeat, off the wall. **2** *quite a few odd things had happened*: **strange**, unusual, peculiar, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, outré, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, different, out of the ordinary, out of the way, exceptional, rare, extraordinary, remarkable, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, uncommon, irregular, singular, deviant, aberrant, freak, freakish. **3** *we have the odd drink together* | *he does odd jobs for friends*: **occasional**, casual, irregular, isolated, random, sporadic, periodic; miscellaneous, various, varied, sundry. **4** *odd shoes*: **mismatched**, unmatched, unpaired; single, lone, solitary, extra, surplus, leftover, remaining.

—**OPPOSITES** normal, ordinary, regular.

■ **odd man out** outsider, exception, oddity, nonconformist, maverick, individualist, misfit, fish out of water, square peg in a round hole.

**oddity** noun **1** *she was regarded as a bit of an oddity*: **eccentric**, crank, misfit, maverick, nonconformist, rare bird; informal character, oddball, weirdo, crackpot, nut, freak; Brit. informal nutter; N. Amer. informal screwball, kook; informal, dated case. **2** *his work remains an oddity in some respects*: **anomaly**, aberration, curiosity, rarity. **3** *the oddities of human nature*: **peculiarity**, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, quirk, irregularity, twist.

**oddment** plural noun **scrap**, remnant, bit, piece, leftover, fragment, snippet, offcut, end, shred, tail end; Brit. informal fag end; (**oddments**) odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs.

**odds** plural noun **1** *the odds are that he is no longer alive*: **likelihood**, probability, chances, chance, balance. **2** *the odds are in our favour*: **advantage**, edge; superiority, supremacy, ascendancy.

■ **at odds 1** *he was at odds with his colleagues*: in conflict, in disagreement, on bad terms, at cross purposes, at loggerheads,

quarrelling, arguing, at daggers drawn, at each other's throats; N. Amer. on the outs.

**2** *behaviour at odds with the interests of the company*: at variance, out of keeping, out of line, in opposition, conflicting, contrary, incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable.

■ **odds and ends** bits and pieces, bits and bobs, bits, pieces, stuff, paraphernalia, things, sundries, miscellanea, bric-a-brac, knick-knacks, oddments; informal junk; Brit. informal odds and sods, clobber, gubbins.

**odious** adjective **revolting**, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, disgusting, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, abhorrent, loathsome, horrible, nauseating, sickening, hateful, detestable, execrable, abominable, monstrous, appalling, reprehensible, deplorable, insufferable, intolerable, despicable, contemptible, unspeakable, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, unsavoury, unpalatable, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful; informal ghastly, horrid, gross, God-awful; Brit. informal beastly; old use disgusting, loathly.

—**OPPOSITES** delightful.

**odium** noun **disgust**, abhorrence, repugnance, revulsion, loathing, detestation, hatred, hate, obloquy, dislike, distaste, disfavour, antipathy, animosity, animus, enmity, hostility, contempt; disgrace, shame, opprobrium, discredit, dishonour.

**odorous** adjective **smelly**, malodorous, pungent, acrid, foul-smelling, evil-smelling, stinking, reeking, fetid, rank; informal stinky; Brit. informal pongy, niffy; literary miasmic, noisome, mephitic.

**odour** noun **1** *an odour of sweat*: **smell**, stench, stink, reek; Brit. informal pong, whiff, niff, hum; N. Amer. informal funk; literary miasma.

**2** *an odour of suspicion*: **atmosphere**, air, aura, quality, flavour, savour, hint, suggestion, impression, whiff.

**odyssey** noun **journey**, voyage, trek, travels, quest, crusade, pilgrimage, wandering, journeying; old use peregrination.

**off** adjective **1** *Kate's off today*: **away**, absent, unavailable, off duty, on holiday, on leave; free, at leisure; N. Amer. on vacation. **2** *the game's off*: **cancelled**, postponed, called off. **3** *strawberries are off*: **unavailable**, finished, sold out. **4** *the fish was a bit off*: **rotten**, bad, stale, mouldy, high, sour, rancid, turned, spoiled, putrid, putrescent. **5** (Brit. informal) *I felt decidedly off*. See **OFF COLOUR** sense 1.

**6** (Brit. informal) *that remark was a bit off*: **unfair**, unjust, uncalled for, below the belt, unjustified, unjustifiable, unreasonable, unwarranted, unnecessary; informal a bit much; Brit. informal out of order. **7** (Brit. informal) *he was really off with me*: **unfriendly**, aloof, cool, cold, distant, frosty; informal stand-offish.

■ **off and on** periodically, at intervals, on and off, (every) once in a while, every so often, (every) now and then/again, from time to time, occasionally, sometimes, intermittently, irregularly.



**offbeat** adjective (informal) **unconventional**, unorthodox, unusual, eccentric, strange, idiosyncratic, outré, bizarre, weird, peculiar, odd, freakish, outlandish, out of the ordinary, Bohemian, alternative, left-field, zany, quirky; informal wacky, freaky, way-out, off the wall, kooky, oddball.

– OPPOSITES conventional.

**off colour** adjective 1 (Brit.) *I'm feeling a bit off colour*: **unwell**, ill, poorly, out of sorts, indisposed, not oneself, sick, queasy, nauseous, peaky, liverish, green about the gills, run down, washed out, below par; informal under the weather, rough; Brit. informal ropy, off; Scottish informal wabbit, peely-wally; Austral./NZ informal crook. 2 **off-colour jokes**: **smutty**, dirty, rude, crude, suggestive, indecent, indelicate, risqué, racy, bawdy, naughty, blue, vulgar, ribald, broad, salacious, coarse; informal raunchy; Brit. informal fruity, saucy; euphemistic adult.

– OPPOSITES well.

**offence** noun 1 *he denied having committed any offence*: **crime**, illegal/unlawful act, misdemeanour, breach of the law, felony, wrongdoing, wrong, misdeed, peccadillo, sin, transgression, infringement; Law malfeasance; old use trespass. 2 *an offence to basic justice*: **affront**, slap in the face, insult, outrage, violation. 3 *I do not want to cause offence*: **annoyance**, anger, resentment, indignation, irritation, exasperation, wrath, displeasure, hard/bad/ill feelings, disgruntlement, pique, vexation, animosity. ■ **take offence** be offended, take exception, take something personally, feel affronted, feel resentful, take something amiss, take umbrage, get upset, get annoyed, get angry, get into a huff; Brit. informal get the hump.

**offend** verb 1 *I'm sorry if I offended him*: **hurt someone's feelings**, give offence to, affront, displease, upset, distress, hurt, wound; annoy, anger, exasperate, irritate, vex, pique, gall, irk, nettle, tread on someone's toes; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal rile, rattle, peeve, needle, put someone's nose out of joint, put someone's back up. 2 *the smell of cigarette smoke offended him*: **displease**, be distasteful to, be disagreeable to, be offensive to, disgust, repel, revolt, sicken, nauseate; informal turn off; N. Amer. informal gross out. 3 *criminals who offend again and again*: **break the law**, commit a crime, do wrong, sin, transgress; old use trespass.

**offended** adjective **affronted**, insulted, aggrieved, displeased, upset, hurt, wounded, disgruntled, put out, annoyed, angry, cross, exasperated, indignant, irritated, piqued, vexed, irked, stung, galled, nettled, resentful, in a huff, huffy, in high dudgeon; informal riled, miffed, peeved, aggravated; Brit. informal narked; N. Amer. informal sore.

– OPPOSITES pleased.

**offender** noun **wrongdoer**, criminal, lawbreaker, miscreant, malefactor, felon, delinquent, culprit, guilty party, sinner, transgressor; Law malfeasant.

**offensive** adjective 1 *offensive remarks*:

**insulting**, rude, impertinent, insolent, derogatory, disrespectful, personal, hurtful, wounding, abusive; annoying, exasperating, irritating, galling, provocative, outrageous; discourteous, uncivil, impolite; formal exceptionable. 2 *an offensive smell*: **unpleasant**, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, displeasing, objectionable, off-putting, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, horrible, abominable, disgusting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, revolting, abhorrent, loathsome, odious, vile, foul, sickening, nauseating; informal ghastly, horrid, gross, God-awful, rank; Brit. informal beastly; old use disgusting. 3 *an offensive air action*: **hostile**, attacking, aggressive, invading, combative, belligerent, on the attack.

– OPPOSITES complimentary, pleasant, defensive.

• **noun** a *military offensive*: **attack**, assault, onslaught, drive, invasion, push, thrust, charge, sortie, sally, foray, raid, incursion, blitz, campaign.

**offer** verb 1 *Frank offered another suggestion*: **put forward**, proffer, give, present, come up with, suggest, recommend, propose, advance, submit, tender, render. 2 *she offered to help*: **volunteer**, volunteer one's services, be at someone's disposal, be at someone's service, step/come forward, show willing. 3 *the product is offered at a competitive price*: **put up for sale**, put on the market, sell, market, put under the hammer; Law vend. 4 *he offered \$200*: **bid**, tender, put in a bid of, put in an offer of. 5 *a job offering good career prospects*: **provide**, afford, supply, give, furnish, present, hold out. 6 *she offered no resistance*: **attempt**, try, give, show, express; formal essay. 7 *birds were offered to the gods*: **sacrifice**, offer up, immolate.

– OPPOSITES withdraw, refuse.

• **noun** 1 *offers of help*: **proposal**, proposition, suggestion, submission, approach, overture. 2 *the highest offer*: **bid**, tender, bidding price. ■ **on offer** on sale, up for sale, on the market; available, obtainable, to be had; N. Amer. on the block.

**offering** noun 1 *you may place offerings in the charity box*: **contribution**, donation, gift, present, handout, widow's mite; charity; formal benefaction; historical alms. 2 *many offerings were made to the goddess*: **sacrifice**, oblation, burnt offering, immolation, libation, first fruits.

**offhand** adjective *an offhand manner*: **casual**, careless, uninterested, unconcerned, indifferent, cool, nonchalant, blasé, insouciant, cavalier, glib, perfunctory, cursory, unceremonious, ungracious, dismissive, discourteous, uncivil, impolite, terse, abrupt, curt; informal off, couldn't-care-less, take-it-or-leave-it.

• **adverb** *I can't think of a better answer offhand*: **on the spur of the moment**, without consideration, extempore, impromptu, ad lib; extemporaneously, spontaneously; informal off the cuff, off the top of one's head.

**office** noun **1** *her office in Aldersgate Street:* place of work, place of business, workplace, workroom. **2** *the newspaper's Paris office:* branch, division, section, bureau, department; agency. **3** *he assumed the office of President:* post, position, appointment, job, occupation, role, situation, function, capacity. **4** *he was saved by the good offices of his uncle:* assistance, help, aid, services, intervention, intercession, mediation, agency. **5** (dated) *the offices of a nurse:* duty, job, task, chore, obligation, assignment, responsibility, charge, commission.

**officer** noun **1** *an officer in the army:* military officer, commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, NCO, commanding officer, CO. **2** *all officers carry warrant cards.* See **POLICE OFFICER**. **3** *the officers of the society:* official, office-holder, committee member, board member; public servant, administrator, executive, functionary, bureaucrat; derogatory apparatchik.

**official** adjective **1** *an official inquiry:* authorized, approved, validated, authenticated, certified, accredited, endorsed, sanctioned, licensed, recognized, accepted, legitimate, legal, lawful, valid, bona fide, proper, ex cathedra; informal kosher. **2** *an official function:* ceremonial, formal, solemn, ceremonious; bureaucratic; informal stuffed-shirt.

— **OPPOSITES** unauthorized, informal.  
 • **noun** *a union official:* officer, office-holder, administrator, executive, appointee, functionary; bureaucrat, mandarin; representative, agent; Brit. jack-in-office; derogatory apparatchik.

**officiate** verb **1** *he officiated in the first two matches:* be in charge of, take charge of, preside over; oversee, superintend, supervise, conduct, run. **2** *Father Buckley officiated at the wedding service:* conduct, perform, celebrate, solemnize.

**officious** adjective **self-important**, bumptious, self-assertive, pushy, overbearing, overzealous, domineering, opinionated, interfering, intrusive, meddlesome, meddling; informal bossy.

— **OPPOSITES** self-effacing.

**offing** noun

■ *in the offing* on the way, coming, (close) at hand, near, imminent, in prospect, on the horizon, in the wings, just around the corner, in the air, in the wind, brewing, upcoming, forthcoming; informal on the cards.

**off-key** adjective **1** *an off-key rendition of 'Amazing Grace':* out of tune, flat, tuneless, discordant, unharmonious. **2** *the cinematic effects are distractingly off-key:* incongruous, inappropriate, unsuitable; out of place, out of keeping, jarring, dissonant, inharmonious.

— **OPPOSITES** harmonious.

**offload** verb **1** *the cargo was being offloaded:* unload, remove, empty (out), tip (out); old use unlade. **2** *he offloaded 5,000 of the shares:* dispose of, dump, jettison, get rid of, transfer, shift; palm off, foist, fob off.

**off-putting** adjective **1** *an off-putting aroma:* unpleasant, unappealing, uninviting, unattractive, disagreeable, offensive, distasteful, unsavoury, unpalatable, unappetizing, objectionable, nasty, horrible, disgusting, repellent; informal horrid. **2** *her manner was off-putting:* discouraging, disheartening, demoralizing, dispiriting, daunting, disconcerting, unnerving, unsettling; formal rebarbative.

**offset** verb **counterbalance**, balance (out), cancel (out), even out/up, counteract, countervail, neutralize, compensate for, make up for, make good, redeem.

**offshoot** noun **1** *the plant's offshoots:* side shoot, shoot, sucker, tendril, runner, scion, slip, offset, stolon; twig, branch, bough, limb. **2** *an offshoot of Cromwell's line:* descendant, scion. **3** *an offshoot of the growth of interest in heritage:* outcome, result, effect, consequence, upshot, product, by-product, spin-off, development, ramification.

**offspring** noun **children**, sons and daughters, progeny, family, youngsters, babies, infants, brood; descendants, heirs, successors; Law issue; informal kids; Brit. informal sprogs, brats; derogatory spawn; old use fruit of one's loins.

**often** adverb **frequently**, many times, many a time, on many/numerous occasions, a lot, as often as not, repeatedly, again and again; regularly, routinely, usually, habitually, commonly, generally, in many cases/instances, ordinarily; N. Amer. oftentimes; literary oft.

— **OPPOSITES** seldom.

**ogle** verb **leer at**, stare at, eye, make eyes at; informal eye up, give someone the glad eye, lech after, undress with one's eyes, give someone the come-on; Austral./NZ informal perv on.

**ogre** noun **1** *an ogre with two heads:* monster, giant, troll. **2** *he is not the ogre he sometimes seems to be:* brute, fiend, monster, beast, barbarian, savage, animal, tyrant; informal bastard, swine, pig.

**ogress** noun **1** *a one-eyed ogress:* monster, giantess. **2** *the French teacher was a real ogress:* harridan, tartar, termagant, gorgon, virago; informal battleaxe.

**oily** adjective **1** *oily substances:* greasy, oleaginous; technical sebaceous; formal pinguid. **2** *oily food:* greasy, fatty, buttery. **3** *an oily man:* unctuous, ingratiating, smooth-talking, fulsome, flattering; obsequious, sycophantic, oleaginous; informal smarmy, slimy.

**ointment** noun **lotion**, cream, salve, liniment, embrocation, rub, gel, balm, emollient, unguent; technical humectant.

**OK, okay** (informal) **exclamation** *OK, I'll go with him:* all right, right, right then, right you are, very well, very good, fine; informal okey-dokey(y); Brit. informal righto, righty-ho.  
 • **adjective** **1** *the film was OK:* satisfactory, all right, acceptable, competent; adequate,

tolerable, passable, reasonable, fair, decent, not bad, average, middling, moderate, unremarkable, unexceptional; informal so-so, fair-to-middling. **2** *Jo's feeling OK now: fine*, all right, well, in good shape, in good health, fit, healthy, as fit as a fiddle/flea. **3** *it is OK for me to come?* permissible, allowable, acceptable, all right, in order, permitted, fitting, suitable, appropriate.

— OPPOSITES unsatisfactory, ill.

• **noun** *he's just given me the OK:*

**authorization**, approval, seal of approval, agreement, consent, assent, permission, endorsement, ratification, sanction, approbation, confirmation, blessing, leave; informal the go-ahead, the green light, the thumbs up, say-so.

— OPPOSITES refusal.

• **verb** *the move must be okayed by the president:* **authorize**, approve, agree to, consent to, sanction, pass, ratify, endorse, allow, give something the nod, rubber-stamp; informal give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the thumbs up; formal accede to.

— OPPOSITES refuse, veto.

**old** **adjective** **1** *old people:* **elderly**, aged, older, senior, advanced in years, venerable; in one's dotage, long in the tooth, grey-haired, grizzled, hoary, past one's prime, not as young as one was, ancient, decrepit, doddering, doddery, not long for this world, senescent, senile, superannuated; informal getting on, past it, over the hill, no spring chicken. **2** *old farm buildings:* **dilapidated**, broken-down, run down, tumbledown, ramshackle, decaying, crumbling, disintegrating. **3** *old clothes:* **worn**, worn out, shabby, threadbare, holey, torn, frayed, patched, tattered, moth-eaten, ragged; old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded; cast-off, hand-me-down; informal tatty. **4** *old cars:* **antique**, veteran, vintage. **5** *she's old for her years:* **mature**, wise, sensible, experienced, worldly-wise, knowledgeable. **6** *in the old days:* **bygone**, past, former, olden, of old, previous, early, earlier, earliest; medieval, ancient, classical, primeval, primordial, prehistoric. **7** *the same old phrases:* **hackneyed**, hack, banal, trite, overused, overworked, tired, worn out, stale, clichéd, platitudinous, unimaginative, stock, conventional; out of date, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded, hoary; informal old hat, corny, played out. **8** *an old girlfriend:* **former**, previous, ex-, one-time, sometime, erstwhile; formal quondam.

— OPPOSITES young, new, modern.

■ **old age** declining years, advanced years, age, oldness, winter/autumn of one's life, senescence, senility, dotage.

■ **old man** **1** senior citizen, pensioner, OAP, elder, grandfather; patriarch; informal greybeard, codger; Brit. informal buffer; old use grandsire, ancient. **2** (informal) *her old man was away.* See **HUSBAND** noun.

■ **old person** senior citizen, senior, (old-age) pensioner, OAP, elder, geriatric, dotard, Methuselah; N. Amer. golden ager; informal

old stager, old-timer, oldie, wrinkly, crock, crumbly; N. Amer. informal oldster, woopie.

■ **old woman** **1** senior citizen, pensioner, OAP, crone; informal old dear; old use beldam, grandam. **2** (informal) *his old woman threw him out.* See **WIFE**.

#### WORD LINKS

**geriatric** relating to old people or old age  
**geriatrics** the branch of medicine concerning old people

**gerontology** the scientific study of old age

**gerontocracy** government by old people

**senescence** deteriorate with old age

**Alzheimer's disease** a disorder affecting older people, causing progressive mental deterioration

**old-fashioned** **adjective** **out of date**, outdated, dated, out of fashion, outmoded, unfashionable, passé, démodé, frumpy; outworn, old, old-time, behind the times, archaic, obsolescent, obsolete, ancient, antiquated, superannuated, defunct; medieval, prehistoric, antediluvian, old-fogeyish, conservative, backward-looking, quaint, anachronistic, fusty, moth-eaten, olde worlde; informal old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky, rinky-dink.

— OPPOSITES modern.

**old-time** **adjective** **former**, past, bygone, old-fashioned; traditional, folk, old-world, quaint.

— OPPOSITES modern.

**Olympian** **adjective** aloof, distant, remote, unfriendly, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, cool; informal stand-offish.

— OPPOSITES friendly.

**omen** **noun** portent, sign, signal, token, forewarning, warning, foreshadowing, prediction, forecast, prophecy, harbinger, augury, auspice, presage; writing on the wall, indication, hint; literary foretoken.

**ominous** **adjective** threatening, menacing, baleful, forbidding, sinister, inauspicious, unpromising, portentous, unfavourable, unpromising; black, dark, gloomy; formal minatory; literary direful.

— OPPOSITES promising.

**omission** **noun** **1** *the omission of recent publications from his biography:* **exclusion**, leaving out; deletion, cut, excision, elimination. **2** *the damage was not caused by any omission on behalf of the carrier:* **negligence**, neglect, neglectfulness, dereliction, forgetfulness, oversight, default, lapse, failure.

**omit** **verb** **1** *they omitted his name from the list:* **leave out**, exclude, leave off, take out, miss out, miss, drop, cut; delete, eliminate, rub out, cross out, strike out. **2** *I omitted to mention our guest lecturer:* **forget**, neglect, fail; leave undone, overlook, skip.

— OPPOSITES add, include, remember.

**omnipotence** **noun** all-powerfulness, supremacy, pre-eminence, supreme power, unlimited power; invincibility.

**omnipotent** **adjective** all-powerful,



almighty, supreme, pre-eminent; invincible, unconquerable.

**omnipresent** adjective ubiquitous, all-pervasive, everywhere; rife, pervasive, prevalent.

**omniscient** adjective all-knowing, all-wise, all-seeing.

**omnivorous** adjective **1** *most duck species are omnivorous: able to eat anything*; rare pantophagous, omnivorant. **2** *an omnivorous reader: indiscriminating, indiscriminate, unselective.*

**on** adjective *the computer's on: functioning*, in operation, working, in use, operating.

– OPPOSITES off.

• **adverb** *she droned on: interminably*, at length, for a long time, continuously, endlessly, ceaselessly, without a pause/break.

■ **on and off.** See **OFF AND ON at OFF.**

■ **on and on** for a long time, for ages, for hours, at (great) length, incessantly, ceaselessly, constantly, continuously, continually, endlessly, unendingly, eternally, forever, interminably, unremittingly, relentlessly, indefatigably, without let-up, without a pause/break, without cease.

**once** adverb **1** *I only met him once: on one occasion*, one time, one single time. **2** *he did not once help: ever*, at any time, on any occasion, at all. **3** *they were friends once: formerly*, previously, in the past, at one time, at one point, once upon a time, in days/times gone by, in times past, in the (good) old days, long ago; old use sometime, erstwhile, whilom; literary in days/times of yore.

– OPPOSITES often, now.

• **conjunction** *he'll be all right once she's gone: as soon as*, when, after.

■ **at once 1** *you must leave at once: immediately*, right away, right now, this moment/instant/second/minute, now, straight away, instantly, directly, forthwith, promptly, without delay/hesitation, without further ado; quickly, as fast as possible, as soon as possible, asap, speedily; informal like a shot, in/like a flash, before you can say Jack Robinson. **2** *all the guests arrived at once: at the same time*, at one and the same time, (all) together, simultaneously; as a group, in unison, in concert, in chorus.

■ **once and for all** conclusively, decisively, finally, positively, definitely, definitively, irrevocably; for good, for always, forever, permanently.

■ **once in a while** occasionally, from time to time, (every) now and then/again, every so often, on occasion, at times, sometimes, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically, intermittently.

**oncoming** adjective approaching, advancing, nearing, forthcoming, on the way, imminent, impending, looming, gathering, (close) at hand, about to happen, to come.

**one** cardinal number **1** unit, item; technical monad. **2** *only one person came: a single*, a solitary, a sole, a lone. **3** *her one concern*

*was her daughter: only*, single, solitary, sole. **4** *they have now become one: united*, a unit, unitary, amalgamated, consolidated, integrated, combined, incorporated, allied, affiliated, linked, joined, unified, in league, in partnership; wedded, married.

**onerous** adjective burdensome, arduous, strenuous, difficult, hard, severe, heavy, back-breaking, oppressive, weighty, uphill, effortful, formidable, laborious, Herculean, exhausting, tiring, taxing, demanding, punishing, gruelling, exacting, wearing, wearisome, fatiguing; old use toilsome.

– OPPOSITES easy.

**oneself** noun

■ **by oneself.** See **BY.**

**one-sided** adjective **1** *a one-sided account: biased*, prejudiced, partisan, partial, preferential, discriminatory, slanted, inequitable, unfair, unjust. **2** *a one-sided game: unequal*, uneven, unbalanced.

– OPPOSITES impartial.

**one-time** adjective former, ex-, old, previous, sometime, erstwhile; lapsed; formal quondam.

**ongoing** adjective **1** *negotiations are ongoing: in progress*, under way, going on, continuing, taking place, proceeding, progressing, advancing; unfinished. **2** *an ongoing struggle: continuous*, continuing, uninterrupted, unbroken, non-stop, constant, ceaseless, unceasing, unending, endless, never-ending, unremitting, relentless, unfaltering.

**onlooker** noun eyewitness, witness, observer, looker-on, fly on the wall, spectator, watcher, viewer, bystander; sightseer; informal rubberneck; literary beholder.

**only** adverb **1** *there was only enough for two: at most*, at best, (only) just, no/not more than; barely, scarcely, hardly. **2** *he only works on one picture at a time: exclusively*, solely. **3** *you're only saying that: merely*, simply, just.

• **adjective** *their only son: sole*, single, one (and only), solitary, lone, unique; exclusive.

**onomatopoeic** adjective imitative, echoic.

**onset** noun start, beginning, commencement, arrival, (first) appearance, inception, day one; outbreak.

– OPPOSITES end.

**onslaught** noun assault, attack, offensive, advance, charge, onrush, rush, storming, sortie, sally, raid, descent, incursion, invasion, foray, push, thrust, drive, blitz, bombardment, barrage, salvo; historical broadside.

**onus** noun burden, responsibility, liability, obligation, duty, weight, load, charge, encumbrance; cross to bear, millstone round one's neck, albatross.

**ooze** verb **1** *blood oozed from the wound: seep*, discharge, flow, exude, trickle, drip, dribble, issue, filter, percolate, escape, leak, drain, empty, bleed, sweat, well; Medicine extravasate. **2** *she was positively oozing*

*charm: exude, gush, drip, pour forth, emanate, radiate.*

• **noun 1** *the ooze of blood: seepage, seeping, discharge, flow, exudation, trickle, drip, dribble, percolation, escape, leak, leakage, drainage; secretion; Medicine extravasation.*

**2** *the ooze on the ocean floor: mud, slime, alluvium, silt, mire, sludge, muck, dirt, deposit.*

**opalescent** adjective *iridescent, prismatic, rainbow-like, kaleidoscopic, multicoloured, many-hued, lustrous, shimmering, glittering, sparkling, variegated, shot, moiré, opaline, milky, pearly, nacreous.*

**opaque** adjective **1** *opaque glass: non-transparent, cloudy, filmy, blurred, smeared, smeary, misty, dirty, muddy, muddied, grimy.* **2** *the technical jargon was opaque to her: obscure, unclear, mysterious, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, mystifying, confusing, unfathomable, incomprehensible, unintelligible, impenetrable, hazy, foggy; informal as clear as mud.*

– OPPOSITES transparent, clear.

**open** adjective **1** *the door's open: not shut, not closed, unlocked, unbolted, unlatched, off the latch, unfastened, unsecured; ajar, gaping, yawning.* **2** *a blue silk shirt, open at the neck: unfastened, not done up, undone, unbuttoned, unzipped, loose.* **3** *the main roads are open: clear, passable, navigable, unblocked, unobstructed.* **4** *open countryside | open spaces: unenclosed, rolling, sweeping, extensive, wide (open), unfenced, exposed, unsheltered; spacious, airy, uncrowded, uncluttered; undeveloped, unbuilt-up.* **5** *a map was open beside him: spread out, unfolded, unfurled, unrolled, extended, stretched out.* **6** *the bank wasn't open: open for business, open to the public, trading.* **7** *the position is still open: available, vacant, free, unfilled; informal up for grabs.* **8** *the system is open to abuse: vulnerable, subject, susceptible, liable, exposed, an easy target for, at risk of.* **9** *she was open about her feelings: frank, candid, honest, forthcoming, communicative, forthright, direct, unreserved, plain-spoken, outspoken, free-spoken, not afraid to call a spade a spade; informal upfront.* **10** *open hostility: overt, obvious, patent, manifest, palpable, conspicuous, plain, undisguised, unconcealed, clear, apparent, evident; blatant, flagrant, barefaced, brazen.* **11** *the case is still open: unresolved, undecided, unsettled, up in the air; open to debate, open for discussion, arguable, debatable, moot.* **12** *an open mind: impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, disinterested, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, neutral, dispassionate, detached.* **13** *I'm open to suggestions: receptive, amenable, willing/ready to listen, responsive.* **14** *what other options are open to us? available, accessible, on hand, obtainable, on offer.* **15** *an open meeting: public, general, unrestricted, non-exclusive, non-restrictive.*

– OPPOSITES shut.

• **verb 1** *she opened the front door: unfasten, unlatch, unlock, unbolt, unbar; throw wide.*

**2** *Katherine opened the parcel: unwrap, undo, untie, unseal.* **3** *shall I open another bottle? uncork, broach, crack (open).* **4** *Adam opened the map: spread out, unfold, unfurl, unroll, straighten out.* **5** *he opened his heart to her: reveal, uncover, expose, lay bare, bare, pour out, disclose, divulge.* **6** *we're hoping to open next month: start trading, open for business, set up shop, put up one's plate; N. Amer. informal hang out one's shingle.* **7** *Sir Bryan opened the meeting: begin, start, commence, initiate, set in motion, launch, get going, get under way, set the ball rolling, get off the ground; inaugurate; informal kick off, get the show on the road.* **8** *the lounge opens on to a terrace: give access, lead, be connected, communicate with.*

– OPPOSITES close, shut, end.

#### WORD LINKS

agoraphobia fear of open spaces

**open-air** adjective *outdoor, out-of-doors, outside, al fresco.*

– OPPOSITES indoor.

**open-handed** adjective *generous, magnanimous, charitable, benevolent, beneficent, munificent, bountiful, altruistic, philanthropic; literary bounteous.*

– OPPOSITES tight-fisted.

**opening** noun **1** *an opening in the centre of the roof: hole, gap, aperture, orifice, vent, crack, slit, chink; spyhole, peephole; Anatomy foramen.* **2** *the opening in the wall: doorway, gateway, entrance, (means of) entry, way in/out, exit.* **3** *United created openings but were unable to score: opportunity, chance, window (of opportunity), possibility.* **4** *an opening with a stockbroker: vacancy, position, job.* **5** *the opening of the session: beginning, start, commencement, outset; introduction, prefatory remarks, opening statement; informal kick-off; formal proem.* **6** *a gallery opening: opening ceremony, official opening, launch, inauguration; opening/first night, premiere.*

**openly** adverb **1** *drugs were openly on sale: publicly, blatantly, flagrantly, overtly.*

**2** *he spoke openly of his problems: frankly, candidly, explicitly, honestly, sincerely, forthrightly, bluntly, without constraint, without holding back, straight from the shoulder.*

– OPPOSITES secretly.

**open-minded** adjective **1** *open-minded attitudes: unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, non-judgemental, non-discriminatory, objective, disinterested; tolerant, liberal, permissive, broad-minded.* **2** *musicians need to be open-minded: receptive, open (to suggestions), amenable, flexible.*

– OPPOSITES prejudiced, narrow-minded.

**open-mouthed** adjective *astounded, amazed, in amazement, surprised, stunned, bowled over, staggered, thunderstruck, aghast, stupefied, taken aback, shocked, speechless, dumbfounded, dumbstruck;*

informal flabbergasted; Brit. informal gob-smacked.

**operate** verb **1** *he can operate the machine:*

work, make go, run, use, utilize; handle, control, manage; drive, steer, manoeuvre.

**2** *the machine ceased to operate:* function, work, go, run, be in working/running order, be operative. **3** *the way the law operates in practice:* take effect, act, apply, be applied, function. **4** *Hechstetter operated the mines until 1634:* direct, control, manage, run, govern, administer, superintend, head (up), supervise, oversee, be in control/charge of.

**operation** noun **1** *the slide bars ensure*

*smooth operation:* functioning, working, running, performance, action. **2** *the operation of the factory:* management,

running, governing, administration, supervision. **3** *a heart bypass operation:* surgery, surgical procedure. **4** *a military operation:* action, activity, exercise, undertaking, enterprise, manoeuvre, campaign. **5** *their mining operations:* business, enterprise, company, firm; informal outfit.

■ **in operation.** See **OPERATIONAL.**

**operational** adjective (up and) running, working, functioning, operative, in operation, in use, in action; in working order, workable, serviceable, functional, usable.

**operative** adjective **1** *the act is not operative at the moment:* in force, in operation, in effect, valid. **2** *the steam railway is operative.* See **OPERATIONAL.** **3** *the operative word:* key, significant, relevant, applicable, pertinent, apposite, germane, crucial, critical, pivotal.

– **OPPOSITES** invalid.

• **noun** **1** *the operatives clean the machines:* machinist, (machine) operator, mechanic, engineer, worker, workman, (factory) hand, blue-collar worker. **2** *an operative of the CIA:* (secret) agent, undercover agent, spy, mole, plant, double agent; N. Amer. informal spook; old use intelligencer. **3** *a private operative:* (private) detective, (private) investigator, sleuth; informal private eye; N. Amer. informal gumshoe.

**operator** noun **1** *a machine operator:*

machinist, mechanic, operative, engineer, worker. **2** *a tour operator:* contractor, entrepreneur, promoter, arranger, fixer.

**3** (informal) *a ruthless operator:* manipulator, manoeuvrer, string-puller, mover and shaker, wheeler-dealer; N. Amer. informal wirepuller.

**opiate** noun drug, narcotic, sedative, tranquillizer, depressant, soporific, anaesthetic, painkiller, analgesic, anodyne; morphine, opium; informal dope; Medicine stupefacient.

**opine** verb (formal) suggest, say, declare, observe, comment, remark; think, believe, consider, maintain, imagine, reckon, guess, assume, presume, take it, suppose; N. Amer. informal allow.

**opinion** noun *she did not share her husband's opinion:* belief, judgement, thought(s),

(way of) thinking, mind, (point of) view, viewpoint, attitude, stance, position, standpoint.

■ **a matter of opinion** open to question, debatable, open to debate, a moot point.

■ **be of the opinion** believe, think, consider, maintain, reckon, estimate, feel, be convinced; N. Amer. informal allow; formal opine.

■ **in my opinion** as I see it, to my mind, (according) to my way of thinking, personally, in my estimation, if you ask me.

**opinionated** adjective dogmatic, of fixed views; inflexible, uncompromising, prejudiced, bigoted.

**opponent** noun **1** *his Republican opponent:*

rival, adversary, opposer, the opposition, fellow contestant, (fellow) competitor, enemy, antagonist, combatant, contender, challenger; literary foe. **2** *an opponent of the reforms:* opposer, objector, dissenter.

– **OPPOSITES** ally, supporter.

**opportune** adjective auspicious, propitious, favourable, advantageous, golden, felicitous; timely, convenient, suitable, appropriate, apt, fitting.

– **OPPOSITES** disadvantageous.

**opportunism** noun expediency, pragmatism, Machiavellianism; striking while the iron is hot, making hay while the sun shines.

**opportunity** noun (lucky) chance, golden opportunity, favourable time/occasion/moment; time, occasion, moment, opening, option, window (of opportunity), possibility, scope, freedom; informal shot, break, look-in.

**oppose** verb **be against**, object to, be hostile to, be in opposition to, disagree with, dislike, disapprove of; resist, take a stand against, put up a fight against, stand up to, fight, challenge; take issue with, dispute, argue with/against, quarrel with; informal be anti; formal gainsay.

– **OPPOSITES** support.

**opposed** adjective **1** *the population is opposed to the nuclear power plants:* against, (dead) set against; in opposition, averse, hostile, antagonistic, antipathetic, resistant; informal anti. **2** *their interests were opposed:* conflicting, contrasting, incompatible, irreconcilable, antithetical, contradictory, clashing, at variance, at odds, divergent, poles apart.

– **OPPOSITES** in favour of.

■ **as opposed to** in contrast with, as against, as contrasted with, rather than, instead of.

**opposing** adjective **1** *the two opposing points of view:* conflicting, contrasting, opposite, incompatible, irreconcilable, contradictory, antithetical, clashing, at variance, at odds, divergent, opposed, poles apart. **2** *opposing sides in the war:* rival, opposite, enemy. **3** *the opposing page:* opposite, facing.

**opposite** adjective **1** *they sat opposite each other:* facing, face to face with, across from; informal eyeball to eyeball with. **2** *the opposite page:* facing, opposing. **3** *opposite views:* conflicting, contrasting, incompatible, irreconcilable, antithetical, contradictory,



clashing, at variance, at odds, different, differing, divergent, dissimilar, unlike, disagreeing, opposed, opposing, poles apart. **4** *opposite sides in a war*: rival, opposing, enemy.

– OPPOSITES same.

• **noun in fact the opposite was true**: reverse, converse, antithesis, contrary, inverse, obverse, antipode; the other side of the coin; informal flip side.

**opposition** **noun** **1** *the proposal met with opposition*: resistance, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, objection, dissent, disapproval; defiance, non-compliance, obstruction.

**2** *they beat the opposition*: **opponents**, opposing side, other side/team, competition, opposers, rivals, adversaries. **3** *the opposition between the public and the private domains*: conflict, clash, disparity, antithesis, polarity.

**oppress** **verb** **1** *the invaders oppressed the people*: persecute, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, tyrannize, crush, repress, suppress, subjugate, subdue, keep down, grind down, rule with a rod of iron, ride roughshod over.

**2** *the gloom oppressed her*: depress, make gloomy/despondent, weigh down, weigh heavily on, cast down, dampen someone's spirits, dispirit, dishearten, discourage, sadden, get down; old use deject.

**oppressed** **adjective** persecuted, downtrodden, abused, maltreated, ill-treated, subjugated, tyrannized, repressed, subdued, crushed; disadvantaged, underprivileged.

**oppression** **noun** persecution, abuse, maltreatment, ill-treatment, tyranny, repression, suppression, subjection, subjugation; cruelty, brutality, injustice, hardship, suffering, misery.

**oppressive** **adjective** **1** *an oppressive dictatorship*: harsh, cruel, brutal, repressive, tyrannical, autocratic, dictatorial, despotic, undemocratic; ruthless, merciless, pitiless. **2** *an oppressive sense of despair*:

overwhelming, overpowering, unbearable, unendurable, intolerable. **3** *it was grey and oppressive*: muggy, close, heavy, hot, humid, sticky, steamy, airless, stuffy, stifling, sultry.

– OPPOSITES lenient.

**oppressor** **noun** persecutor, tyrant, despot, autocrat, dictator, subjugator, tormentor.

**opprobrious** **adjective** abusive, vituperative, derogatory, disparaging, denigratory, pejorative, deprecatory, insulting, offensive; scornful, contemptuous, derisive; informal bitchy; old use contumelious.

**opprobrium** **noun** **1** *the government endured months of opprobrium*: vilification, abuse, vituperation, condemnation, criticism, censure, denunciation, defamation, denigration, disparagement, obloquy, derogation, slander, revilement, calumny, execration, bad press, invective; informal flak, mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; Brit. informal stick; formal castigation, excoriation, calumniation; old use contumely. **2** *the opprobrium of being associated with thugs*:

disgrace, shame, dishonour, stigma, humiliation, loss of face, ignominy, disrepute, infamy, notoriety, scandal.

– OPPOSITES praise, honour.

**opt** **verb** choose, select, pick (out), decide on, go for, settle on, plump for.

**optimism** **noun** hopefulness, hope, confidence, buoyancy, sanguineness, positiveness, positive attitude.

**optimistic** **adjective** **1** *she felt optimistic about the future*: positive, confident, hopeful, sanguine, bullish, buoyant; informal upbeat. **2** *the forecast is optimistic*: encouraging, promising, hopeful, reassuring, favourable, auspicious, propitious.

– OPPOSITES pessimistic.

**optimum** **adjective** best, most favourable, most advantageous, ideal, perfect, prime, optimal.

**option** **noun** choice, alternative, possibility, course of action.

**optional** **adjective** voluntary, discretionary, non-compulsory, non-mandatory; Law permissive.

– OPPOSITES compulsory.

**opulence** **noun** **1** *the opulence of the room*: luxuriousness, sumptuousness, lavishness, richness, luxury, luxuriance, splendour, magnificence, grandeur, splendiness; informal plushness. **2** *a display of opulence*:

wealth, affluence, wealthiness, richness, riches, prosperity, prosperousness, money.

– OPPOSITES poverty.

**opulent** **adjective** **1** *his opulent home*:

luxurious, sumptuous, palatial, lavishly appointed, rich, splendid, magnificent, grand, grandiose, fancy; informal plush, swanky; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank. **2** *an opulent family*: wealthy, rich, affluent, well off, well-to-do, moneyed, prosperous, of substance; informal well heeled, rolling in money, loaded, stinking/filthy rich, made of money. **3** *her opulent red hair*: copious, abundant, profuse, prolific, plentiful, luxuriant.

– OPPOSITES spartan, poor.

**opus** **noun** composition, work (of art), oeuvre.

**oracle** **noun** **1** *the oracle of Apollo*:

prophet, prophetess, sibyl, seer, augur, prognosticator, diviner, soothsayer, fortune teller. **2** *our oracle on Africa*: authority, expert, specialist, pundit, mentor, adviser.

**oracular** **adjective** **1** *his every utterance was given oracular significance*: prophetic, prophetic, sibylline, predictive, prescient, prognostic, divinatory, augural. **2** *oracular responses*: enigmatic, cryptic, abstruse, unclear, obscure, confusing, mystifying, puzzling, mysterious, arcane; ambiguous, equivocal.

**oral** **adjective** *an oral agreement*: spoken, verbal, unwritten, vocal, uttered, said.

– OPPOSITES written.

• **noun** *a French oral*: oral examination; Brit. viva (voce).

**orate** verb **declaim**, make a speech, hold forth, speak, discourse, pontificate, preach, sermonize, sound off, spout off; informal *spiel*; formal *perorate*.

**oration** noun **speech**, address, lecture, talk, homily, sermon, discourse, declamation; informal *spiel*.

**orator** noun (**public**) **speaker**, speech-maker, lecturer, declaimer, rhetorician, rhetor; informal *spieler*.

**oratorical** adjective **rhetorical**, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, turgid, flowery, florid.

**oratory** noun **rhetoric**, eloquence, grandiloquence, magniloquence, public speaking, speech-making, declamation.

**orb** noun **sphere**, globe, ball, circle.

**orbit** noun **1** *the earth's orbit around the sun*: **course**, path, circuit, track, trajectory, rotation, revolution, circle. **2** *the problem comes outside our orbit*: **sphere** (of influence), area of activity, range, scope, ambit, compass, jurisdiction, authority, remit, domain, realm, province, territory; informal *bailliwick*.

• verb *Mercury orbits the sun*: **revolve round**, circle round, go round, travel round.

#### WORD LINKS

**apogee** the point in the moon's orbit when it is furthest from earth

**perigee** the point in the moon's orbit when it is nearest to the earth

**orchestrate** verb **1** *the piece was orchestrated by Mozart*: **arrange**, adapt, score. **2** *orchestrating a campaign of civil disobedience*: **organize**, arrange, plan, set up, bring about, mobilize, mount, stage, stage-manage, mastermind, coordinate, direct, engineer.

**ordain** verb **1** *the Church of England voted to ordain women*: **confer holy orders on**, appoint, anoint, consecrate. **2** *the path ordained by God*: **predetermine**, predestine, preordain, determine, prescribe, designate. **3** *he ordained that anyone hunting in the forest was to pay a fine*: **decree**, rule, order, command, lay down, legislate, prescribe, pronounce.

**ordel** noun **unpleasant experience**, painful experience, trial, tribulation, nightmare, trauma, hell (on earth), trouble, difficulty, torture, torment, agony.

**order** noun **1** *alphabetical order*: **sequence**, arrangement, organization, disposition, system, series, succession; grouping, classification, categorization, codification, systematization. **2** *some semblance of order*: **tidiness**, neatness, orderliness, trimness. **3** *the police were needed to keep order*: **peace**, control, law (and order), lawfulness, discipline, calm, (peace and) quiet, peacefulness, peaceableness. **4** *his sense of order*: **orderliness**, organization, method, system; symmetry, uniformity,

regularity; routine. **5** *the equipment was in good order*: **condition**, state, repair, shape. **6** *I had to obey his orders*: **command**, instruction, directive, direction, decree, edict, injunction, mandate, dictate, commandment, rescript; law, rule, regulation, diktat; demand, bidding, requirement, stipulation; informal *say-so*; formal *ordinance*; literary *behest*. **7** *the company has won the order*: **commission**, purchase order, request, requisition; booking, reservation. **8** *the lower orders of society*: **class**, level, rank, grade, degree, position, category; dated *station*. **9** *the established social order*: (**class**) **system**, hierarchy, pecking order, grading, ranking, scale. **10** *the higher orders of insects*: **taxonomic group**, class, family, species, breed; *taxon*. **11** *a religious order*: **community**, brotherhood, sisterhood. **12** *the Orange Order*: **organization**, association, society, fellowship, fraternity, confraternity, sodality, lodge, guild, league, union, club; sect. **13** *skills of a very high order*: **type**, kind, sort, nature, variety; quality, calibre, standard.

— **OPPOSITES** chaos.

• verb **1** *he ordered me to return*: **instruct**, command, direct, enjoin, tell, require, charge; formal *adjure*; literary *bid*. **2** *he ordered that their assets be confiscated*: **decree**, ordain, rule, legislate, dictate, prescribe.

**3** *you can order your tickets by phone*: **request**, apply for, place an order for; book, reserve; formal *bespeak*. **4** *the messages are ordered chronologically*: **organize**, put in order, arrange, sort out, marshal, dispose, lay out; group, classify, categorize, catalogue, codify, systematize, systemize.

■ **in order 1** *list the dates in order*: in sequence, in alphabetical order, in numerical order, in order of priority.

**2** *he found everything in order*: tidy, neat, orderly, straight, trim, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order; in position, in place. **3** *I think it's in order for me to take the credit*: appropriate, fitting, suitable, acceptable, (all) right, permissible, permitted, allowable; informal *okay*.

■ **order someone about/around** give orders to, dictate to; lay down the law; informal *boss about/around*, push about/around.

■ **out of order 1** *the lift's out of order*: not working, not in working order, not functioning, broken, broken-down, out of service, out of commission, faulty, defective, inoperative; down; informal *conked out*, bust, (gone) kaput; N. Amer. informal *on the fritz*, out of whack. **2** Brit. informal *that's really out of order*: unacceptable, unfair, unjust, unjustified, uncalled for, below the belt, unreasonable, unwarranted, beyond the pale; informal *not on*, a bit much; Brit. informal *a bit thick*, off, not cricket; Austral./NZ informal *over the fence*.

**orderly** adjective **1** *an orderly room*: **neat**, tidy, well ordered, in order, trim, in apple-pie order, spick and span; Brit. informal, dated *shipshape* (and Bristol fashion).

**2** *the orderly presentation of information*:

(well) **organized**, efficient, methodical, systematic, meticulous, punctilious; coherent, structured, logical, well planned, well regulated, systematized. **3** *the crowd was orderly: well behaved*, law-abiding, disciplined, peaceful, peaceable, non-violent.

– **OPPOSITES** untidy, disorganized.

**ordinance** *noun* (formal) **1** *the president issued an ordinance: edict*, decree, law, injunction, fiat, command, order, rule, ruling, dictum, dictate, directive, mandate. **2** *religious ordinances: rite*, ritual, ceremony, sacrament, observance, service.

**ordinarily** *adverb* **usually**, normally, as a (general) rule, generally, in general, for the most part, mainly, mostly, most of the time, typically, habitually, commonly, routinely.

**ordinary** *adjective* **1** *the ordinary course of events: usual*, normal, standard, typical, common, customary, habitual, everyday, regular, routine, day-to-day. **2** *my life seemed very ordinary: average*, normal, run-of-the-mill, standard, typical, middle-of-the-road, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, workaday, undistinguished, nondescript, colourless, commonplace, humdrum, mundane, unmemorable, pedestrian, prosaic, quotidian, uninteresting, uneventful, dull, boring, bland, suburban, hackneyed; N. Amer. garden-variety; informal bog-standard, (plain) vanilla, nothing to write home about, no great shakes; Brit. informal common or garden.

– **OPPOSITES** unusual.

■ **out of the ordinary** unusual, exceptional, remarkable, extraordinary, unexpected, surprising, unaccustomed, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, different, special, exciting, memorable, noteworthy, unique, singular, outstanding; unconventional, unorthodox, strange, peculiar, odd, queer, curious, bizarre, outlandish; informal offbeat.

**ordnance** *noun* guns, cannon, artillery, weapons, arms; munitions.

**ordure** *noun* excrement, excreta, dung, manure, muck, droppings, faeces, stools, night soil, sewage; informal poo; Brit. informal cack, big jobs; N. Amer. informal poop.

**organ** *noun* **1** *the internal organs: body part*, biological structure. **2** *the official organ of the Communist Party: newspaper*, paper, journal, periodical, magazine, newsletter, gazette, publication, mouthpiece; informal rag.

**organic** *adjective* **1** *organic matter: living*, live, animate, biological, biotic. **2** *organic vegetables: pesticide-free*, additive-free, natural. **3** *the love scenes were an organic part of the drama: essential*, fundamental, integral, intrinsic, vital, indispensable, inherent. **4** *a society is an organic whole: structured*, organized, coherent, integrated, coordinated, ordered, harmonious.

**organism** *noun* **1** *fish and other organisms: living thing*, being, creature, animal, plant, life form. **2** *a complex political organism: structure*, system, organization, entity.

**organization** *noun* **1** *the organization*

*of conferences: planning*, arrangement, coordination, administration, organizing, running, management. **2** *the overall organization of the book: structure*, arrangement, plan, pattern, order, form, format, framework, composition, constitution. **3** *his lack of organization: efficiency*, order, orderliness, planning. **4** *a large international organization: company*, firm, corporation, institution, group, consortium, conglomerate, agency, association, society; informal outfit.

**organize** *verb* **1** *organizing and disseminating information: (put in) order*, arrange, sort (out), assemble, marshal, put straight, group, classify, collocate, categorize, catalogue, codify, systematize, systemize; rare methodize. **2** *they organized a search party: make arrangements for*, arrange, coordinate, sort out, put together, fix up, set up, orchestrate, take care of, see to/about, deal with, manage, conduct, administrate, mobilize; schedule, timetable, programme; formal concert.

**organized** *adjective* (well) **ordered**, well run, well regulated, structured; orderly, efficient, neat, tidy, methodical; informal together.

– **OPPOSITES** inefficient.

**orgiastic** *adjective* **debauched**, wild, riotous, wanton, dissolute, depraved.

**orgy** *noun* **1** *a drunken orgy: wild party*, debauch, carousal, carouse, revel, revelry; informal binge, booze-up, bender, love-in; Brit. informal rave-up; N. Amer. informal toot; literary bacchanal; old use wassail. **2** *an orgy of violence: bout*, excess, spree, surfeit; informal binge.

**orient, orientate** *verb* **1** *there were no street names to enable her to orient herself: get/find one's bearings*, establish one's location. **2** *you need to orientate yourself to your new way of life: adapt*, adjust, familiarize, acclimatize, accustom, attune; N. Amer. acclimate. **3** *magazines oriented to the business community: aim*, direct, pitch, design, intend. **4** *the fires are oriented in line with the sunset: align*, place, position, dispose.

**oriental** *adjective* **eastern**, Far Eastern, Asian; literary orient.

**orientation** *noun* **1** *the orientation of the radar station: positioning*, location, position, situation, placement, alignment. **2** *his orientation to his new way of life: adaptation*, adjustment, acclimatization. **3** *broadly Marxist in orientation: attitude*, inclination. **4** *orientation courses: induction*, training, initiation, briefing.

**orifice** *noun* **opening**, hole, aperture, slot, slit, cleft.

**origin** *noun* **1** *the origins of life: beginning*, start, commencement, origination, genesis, birth, dawning, dawn, emergence, creation, birthplace, cradle; source, basis, cause, root(s); formal radix. **2** *the Latin origin of the word: source*, derivation, root(s), provenance, etymology; N. Amer. provenience.



**3** *his Scottish origins*: descent, ancestry, parentage, pedigree, lineage, line (of descent), heritage, birth, extraction, family, stock, blood, bloodline.

**original** adjective **1** *the original inhabitants*:

indigenous, native, aboriginal, autochthonous; first, earliest, early.

**2** *original Rembrandts*: authentic, genuine, actual, true, bona fide; informal pukka, kosher.

**3** *the film is highly original*: innovative, creative, imaginative, innovatory, inventive; new, novel, fresh, refreshing; unusual, unconventional, unorthodox, groundbreaking, pioneering, avant-garde, unique, distinctive.

• **noun 1** *a copy of the original*: archetype, prototype, source, master. **2** *he really is an original*: individualist, individual, eccentric, nonconformist, free spirit, maverick; informal character, oddball; Brit. informal one-off, odd bod; N. Amer. informal screwball, kook.

**originality** noun inventiveness, ingenuity, creativeness, creativity, innovation, novelty, freshness, imagination, imaginativeness, individuality, unconventionality, uniqueness, distinctiveness.

**originally** adverb (at) first, in/at the beginning, to begin with, initially, in the first place, at the outset.

**originate** verb **1** *the disease originates from Africa*: arise, have its origin, begin, start, stem, spring, emerge, emanate. **2** *Bill Levy originated the idea*: invent, create, initiate, devise, think up, dream up, conceive, formulate, form, develop, generate, engender, produce, mastermind, pioneer; literary beget.

**originator** noun inventor, creator, architect, author, father, mother, initiator, innovator, founder, pioneer, mastermind; literary begetter.

**ornament** noun **1** *small tables covered with ornaments*: knick-knack, trinket, bauble, bibelot, gewgaw, gimcrack, furbelow; informal whatnot, doodah; N. Amer. informal tchotchke; old use whim-wham, kickshaw, bijou. **2** *the dress had no ornament at all*: decoration, adornment, embellishment, ornamentation, trimming, accessories.

• **verb** *the room was highly ornamented*: decorate, adorn, embellish, trim, bedeck, deck (out), festoon; literary bedizen, furbelow.

**ornamental** adjective decorative, fancy, ornate, ornamented.

**ornamentation** noun decoration, adornment, embellishment, ornament, trimming, accessories.

**ornate** adjective **1** *an ornate mirror*: elaborate, decorated, embellished, adorned, ornamented, fancy, fussy, ostentatious, showy; informal flash, flashy. **2** *ornate language*: elaborate, flowery, florid; grandiose, pompous, pretentious, high-flown, rotund, magniloquent, grandiloquent, rhetorical, oratorical, bombastic, overwrought, overblown; informal highfalutin, purple.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**rotund** adjective **1** *Halliwell's rotund voice*: deep, sonorous, strong, powerful, full, rich, resonant, loud, booming. **2** *the rotund rhetoric of his prose*: pompous, pretentious, affected, fulsome, grandiose, ornate, overblown, flowery, florid, high-flown, magniloquent, grandiloquent, rhetorical, oratorical; informal highfalutin, purple.

**orthodox** adjective **1** *orthodox views*: conventional, mainstream, conformist, (well) established, traditional, traditionalist, prevalent, popular, conservative, unoriginal. **2** *an orthodox Hindu*: conservative, traditional, observant, devout, strict.

– OPPOSITES unconventional.

**orthodoxy** noun **1** *a pillar of orthodoxy*: conventionality, conventionalism, conformism, conservatism, traditionalism, conformity. **2** *Christian orthodoxies*: doctrine, belief, conviction, creed, dogma, credo, theory, tenet, teaching.

**oscillate** verb **1** *the pendulum started to oscillate*: swing (to and fro), swing back and forth, sway; N. Amer. informal wigwag. **2** *oscillating between fear and bravery*: waver, swing, fluctuate, alternate, see-saw, yo-yo, sway, vacillate, hover; informal wobble.

**oscillation** noun **1** *the oscillation of the pendulum*: swinging (to and fro), swing, swaying. **2** *his oscillation between commerce and art*: wavering, swinging, fluctuation, see-sawing, yo-yoing, vacillation.

**ossify** verb **1** *these cartilages may ossify*: turn into bone, harden, solidify, rigidify, petrify. **2** *ossified political institutions*: become inflexible, become rigid, fossilize, rigidify, stagnate.

**ostensible** adjective apparent, outward, superficial, professed, supposed, alleged, purported.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**ostensibly** adverb apparently, seemingly, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, allegedly, supposedly, purportedly.

**ostentation** noun showiness, show, ostentatiousness, pretentiousness, vulgarity, conspicuousness, display, flamboyance, gaudiness, brashness, extravagance, ornateness, exhibitionism; informal flashiness, glitz, glitziness, ritziness.

**ostentatious** adjective showy, pretentious, conspicuous, flamboyant, gaudy, brash, vulgar, loud, extravagant, fancy, ornate, over-elaborate; informal flash, flashy, bling-bling, over the top, OTT, glitzy, ritzy; N. Amer. informal superfly.

– OPPOSITES restrained.

**ostracism** noun exclusion, rejection, shunning, spurning, the cold shoulder, snubbing, avoidance; blackballing, blacklisting.

**ostracize** verb exclude, shun, spurn, cold-shoulder, reject, shut out, avoid, ignore, snub, cut dead, keep at arm's length, leave out in the cold; blackball, blacklist; Brit. send to Coventry; informal

freeze out; Brit. informal blank.

– OPPOSITES welcome.

**other** adjective **1** *these homes use other fuels:* alternative, different, dissimilar, disparate, distinct, separate, contrasting. **2** *are there any other questions?* more, further, additional, extra, added, supplementary.

**otherwise** adverb **1** *hurry up, otherwise we'll be late:* or (else), if not. **2** *she's exhausted, but otherwise she's fine:* in other respects, apart from that. **3** *he could not have acted otherwise:* in any other way, differently.

**other-worldly** adjective ethereal, dreamy, spiritual, mystic, mystical; unearthly, unworldly, supernatural.

– OPPOSITES realistic.

**ounce** noun particle, scrap, bit, speck, iota, whit, jot, trace, atom, shred, crumb, fragment, grain, drop, spot; informal smidgen.

**oust** verb drive out, expel, force out, throw out, remove (from office/power), eject, get rid of, depose, topple, unseat, overthrow, bring down, overturn, dismiss, dislodge, displace; informal boot out, kick out; Brit. informal turf out; dated out.

**out** adjective & adverb **1** *she's out at the moment:* not here, not at home, not in, (gone) away, elsewhere, absent. **2** *the secret was out:* revealed, (out) in the open, common/public knowledge, known, disclosed, divulged. **3** *the roses are out:* in flower, flowering, in (full) bloom, blooming, in blossom, blossoming, open. **4** *the book should be out soon:* available, obtainable, in the shops, published, in print. **5** *the fire was nearly out:* extinguished. **6** (informal) *grunge is out:* unfashionable, out of fashion, dated, outdated, passé; informal old hat, not with it, not in. **7** *smoking is out:* forbidden, not permitted, not allowed, proscribed, unacceptable; informal not on. **8** *he was slightly out in his calculations:* mistaken, inaccurate, incorrect, wrong, in error.

– OPPOSITES in.

• verb (informal) *it was not our intention to out him:* expose, unmask.

■ **out** cold unconscious, knocked out, out for the count; informal KO'd, kayoed.

**out-and-out** adjective utter, downright, thoroughgoing, absolute, complete, thorough, total, unmitigated, outright, real, perfect, consummate; N. Amer. full-bore; informal deep-dyed; Brit. informal right; Austral./NZ informal fair.

– OPPOSITES partial.

**outbreak** noun **1** *a fresh outbreak of killings:* eruption, flare-up, upsurge, outburst, rash, wave, spate, flood, explosion, burst, flurry; formal boutade. **2** *on the outbreak of war:* start, beginning, commencement, onset, outset.

**outburst** noun eruption, explosion, burst, outbreak, flare-up, access, rush, flood, storm, outpouring, surge, upsurge, outflowing; formal boutade.

**outcast** noun pariah, persona non grata, reject, outsider.

**outclass** verb surpass, be superior to, be better than, outshine, overshadow, eclipse, outdo, outplay, outmanoeuvre, outstrip, get the better of, upstage; top, cap, beat, defeat, exceed; informal be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round; old use outrival.

**outcome** noun (end) result, consequence, net result, upshot, after-effect, aftermath, conclusion, issue, end (product).

**outcry** noun **1** *an outcry of passion:* shout, exclamation, cry, yell, howl, roar, scream; informal holler. **2** *public outcry:* protest(s), protestation(s), complaints, objections, furore, fuss, commotion, uproar, outbursts, opposition, dissent; informal hullabaloo, ballyhoo, ructions, stink.

**outdated** adjective old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded, out of fashion, unfashionable, dated, passé, old, behind the times, behindhand, obsolete, antiquated; informal out, old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky.

– OPPOSITES modern.

**outdistance** verb **1** *the colt outdistanced the train:* outrun, outstrip, outpace, leave behind, get (further) ahead of; overtake, pass. **2** *the mill outdistanced all its rivals:* surpass, outshine, outclass, outdo, exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better, leave behind; informal leave standing; old use outrival.

**outdo** verb surpass, outshine, overshadow, eclipse, outclass, outmanoeuvre, get the better of, put in the shade, upstage; exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better, leave behind, get ahead of; informal be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round; old use outrival.

**outdoor** adjective open-air, out-of-doors, outside, al fresco, not under cover.

– OPPOSITES indoor.

**outer** adjective **1** *the outer layer:* outside, outermost, outward, exterior, external, surface. **2** *outer areas of the city:* outlying, distant, remote, faraway, furthest, peripheral; suburban.

– OPPOSITES inner.

**outface** verb stand up to, face down, cow, overawe, intimidate.

**outfit** noun **1** *a new outfit:* costume, suit, uniform, ensemble, attire, clothes, clothing, dress, garb; informal get-up, gear, togs; Brit. informal kit, rig-out; formal apparel; old use habit, raiment. **2** *a studio lighting outfit:* kit, equipment, tools, implements, tackle, apparatus, paraphernalia, things, stuff. **3** (informal) *a local manufacturing outfit:* organization, enterprise, company, firm, business; group, band, body, team; informal set-up.

• verb *enough swords to outfit an army:* equip, kit out, fit out/up, rig out, supply, arm; dress, attire, clothe, deck out; old use apparel, invest, habit.

**outfitter** noun clothier, tailor, couturier,

costumier, dressmaker, seamstress; dated modiste.

**outflow** noun discharge, outflowing, outpouring, outrush, rush, flood, deluge, issue, spurt, jet, cascade, stream, torrent, gush, outburst; flow, flux; technical efflux.

**outgoing** adjective **1** *outgoing children:* extrovert, uninhibited, unreserved, demonstrative, affectionate, warm, friendly, genial, cordial, affable, easy-going, sociable, convivial, lively, gregarious; communicative, responsive, open, forthcoming, frank. **2** *the outgoing president:* departing, retiring, leaving.

– OPPOSITES introverted, incoming.

**outgoings** plural noun expenses, expenditure, spending, outlay, payments, costs, overheads.

**outgrowth** noun protuberance, swelling, excrescence, growth, lump, bump, bulge; tumour, cancer, boil, carbuncle, pustule.

**outing** noun **1** *family outings:* (pleasure) trip, excursion, jaunt, expedition, day out, (mystery) tour, drive, ride, run; informal junket, spin. **2** (informal) *the outing of public figures:* exposure, unmasking, revelation.

**outlandish** adjective weird, queer, far out, quirky, zany, eccentric, idiosyncratic, unconventional, unorthodox, funny, bizarre, unusual, singular, extraordinary, strange, unfamiliar, peculiar, odd, curious; informal offbeat, off the wall, way-out, wacky, freaky, kooky, kinky, oddball; N. Amer. informal in left field.

– OPPOSITES ordinary.

**outlast** verb outlive, survive, live/last longer than; ride out, weather, withstand.

**outlaw** noun *bands of outlaws:* fugitive, (wanted) criminal, outcast, exile, pariah; bandit, robber; dated desperado.  
• verb **1** *they voted to outlaw fox-hunting:* ban, bar, prohibit, forbid, veto, make illegal, proscribe, interdict. **2** *she feared she would be outlawed:* banish, exile, expel.

– OPPOSITES permit.

**outlay** noun expenditure, expenses, spending, outgoings, cost, price, payment, investment.

– OPPOSITES profit.

**outlet** noun **1** *a central-heating outlet:* vent (hole), way out, egress; outfall, opening, channel, conduit, duct. **2** *an outlet for farm produce:* market, retail outlet, marketplace, shop, store. **3** *an outlet for their energies:* means of expression, (means of) release, vent, avenue, channel.

**outline** noun **1** *the outline of the building:* silhouette, profile, shape, contours, form, line, delineation; diagram, sketch; literary lineaments. **2** *an outline of expenditure for each department:* rough idea, thumbnail sketch, (quick) rundown, summary, synopsis, résumé, précis; essence, main points, gist, (bare) bones, draft, sketch.  
• verb **1** *the plane was outlined against the sky:* silhouette, define, demarcate; sketch, delineate, trace. **2** *she outlined the plan*

*briefly:* rough out, sketch out, draft, give a rough idea of, summarize, précis.

**outlive** verb live on after, live longer than, outlast, survive.

**outlook** noun **1** *the two men were wholly different in outlook:* point of view, viewpoint, views, opinion, (way of) thinking, perspective, attitude, standpoint, stance, frame of mind. **2** *a lovely open outlook:* view, vista, prospect, panorama, scene, aspect. **3** *the outlook for the economy:* prospects, expectations, hopes, future, lookout.

**outlying** adjective distant, remote, outer, out of the way, faraway, far-flung, inaccessible, off the beaten track.

**outmanoeuvre** verb **1** *the English army were outmanoeuvred:* outflank, circumvent, bypass. **2** *he outmanoeuvred his critics:* outwit, outsmart, out-think, outplay, steal a march on, trick, get the better of; informal outfox, put one over on.

**outmoded** adjective out of date, old-fashioned, out of fashion, outdated, dated, behind the times, antiquated, obsolete, passé; informal old hat, out of the ark.

**out of date** adjective **1** *this design is out of date:* old-fashioned, outmoded, out of fashion, unfashionable, frumpish, frumpy, outdated, dated, old, passé, behind the times, behindhand, obsolete, antiquated; informal out, old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky. **2** *many of the facts are out of date:* superseded, obsolete, expired, lapsed, invalid, (null and) void.

– OPPOSITES fashionable, current.

**out of the way** adjective **1** *out-of-the-way places:* outlying, distant, remote, faraway, far-flung, isolated, lonely, godforsaken, inaccessible, off the beaten track. **2** *I find his methods out of the way:* strange, unusual, peculiar, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, queer, unfamiliar, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, remarkable, singular.

– OPPOSITES accessible.

**out of work** adjective unemployed, jobless, out of a job; redundant, laid off; Brit. informal on the dole; Austral. informal on the wallaby track.

**outpouring** noun **1** *a massive outpouring of high-energy gamma rays:* outflow, outflowing, outrush, rush, flood, deluge, discharge, issue, spurt, jet, cascade, stream, torrent, gush, flow, flux; technical efflux. **2** *outpourings of nationalist discontent:* outburst, eruption, explosion, effusion, welling up, surge, upsurge.

**output** noun production, amount/quantity produced, yield, gross domestic product, out-turn; works, writings.

**outrage** noun **1** *widespread public outrage:* indignation, fury, anger, rage, disapproval, wrath, resentment. **2** *it is an outrage:* scandal, offence, insult, injustice, disgrace. **3** *the bomb outrage:* atrocity, act of violence/wickedness, crime, wrong, barbarism,



inhumane act.

• **verb** *his remarks outraged his parishioners*: enrage, infuriate, incense, anger, scandalize, offend, give offence to, affront, shock, horrify, disgust, appal.

**outrageous** adjective **1** *outrageous acts of cruelty*: shocking, disgraceful, scandalous, atrocious, appalling, monstrous, heinous; evil, wicked, abominable, terrible, horrendous, dreadful, foul, nauseating, sickening, vile, nasty, odious, loathsome, unspeakable; Brit. informal beastly. **2** *the politician's outrageous promises*: far-fetched, (highly) unlikely, doubtful, dubious, questionable, implausible, unconvincing, unbelievable, incredible, preposterous, extravagant, excessive. **3** *outrageous clothes*: eye-catching, flamboyant, showy, gaudy, ostentatious; shameless, brazen, shocking; informal saucy, flashy.

**outré** adjective weird, queer, outlandish, far out, freakish, quirky, zany, eccentric, off-centre, unconventional, unorthodox, funny, bizarre, fantastic, unusual, singular, extraordinary, strange, unfamiliar, peculiar, odd, out of the way; informal way-out, wacky, freaky, kooky, oddball, off the wall; N. Amer. informal offbeat, in left field.

**outright** adverb **1** *he rejected the proposal outright*: completely, entirely, wholly, fully, totally, categorically, absolutely, utterly, flatly, unreservedly. **2** *I told her outright*: explicitly, directly, forthrightly, openly, frankly, candidly, honestly, sincerely, bluntly, plainly, in plain language, truthfully, to someone's face, straight from the shoulder; Brit. informal straight up. **3** *they were killed outright*: instantly, instantaneously, immediately, at once, straight away, then and there, on the spot. **4** *paintings have to be bought outright*: all at once, in one go.

• **adjective** **1** *an outright lie*: out-and-out, absolute, complete, downright, utter, sheer, categorical, unqualified, unconditional. **2** *the outright winner*: definite, unequivocal, clear, unqualified, incontestable, unmistakable.

**outrun** verb *run faster than*, outstrip, outdistance, outpace, leave behind, lose; informal leave standing.

**outset** noun *start, starting point, beginning, commencement, dawn, birth, origin, inception, opening, launch, inauguration*; informal the word go.

– OPPOSITES end.

**outshine** verb *surpass, overshadow, eclipse, outclass, put in the shade, upstage, exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better*; informal be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round; old use outrival.

**outside** noun *the outside of the building*: outer/external surface, exterior, outer side/layer, case, skin, shell, covering, facade. • **adjective** **1** *outside lights*: exterior, external, outer, outdoor, out-of-doors. **2** *outside contractors*: independent, hired, temporary, freelance, casual, external, extramural. **3** *an outside chance*: slight, slender, slim, small,

tiny, faint, negligible, remote, vague.

• **adverb** *they went outside | shall we eat outside?* outdoors, out of doors.

– OPPOSITES inside.

**outsider** noun *stranger, visitor, non-member; foreigner, alien, immigrant, emigrant, émigré; incomer, newcomer, parvenu.*

**outsize** adjective **1** *her outsize handbag*: huge, oversized, enormous, gigantic, very big/large, great, giant, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, immense, tremendous, monumental, prodigious, mountainous, king-sized; informal mega, monster, whopping (great), thumping (great), humongous, jumbo, bumper; Brit. informal whacking (great), ginormous. **2** *an outsize actor*: very large, big, massive, fat, corpulent, stout, heavy, plump, portly, ample, bulky; informal pudgy, tubby; Brit. informal podgy; old use porsy.

**outskirts** plural noun *outlying districts, edges, fringes, suburbs, suburbia; purlieus, borders, environs.*

**outsmart** verb *outwit, outmanoeuvre, outplay, steal a march on, trick, get the better of*; informal outfox, pull a fast one on, put one over on.

**outspoken** adjective *forthright, direct, candid, frank, straightforward, honest, open, straight from the shoulder, plain-spoken; blunt, abrupt, bluff, brusque*; old use free-spoken.

**outspread** adjective *fully extended, outstretched, spread out, fanned out, unfolded, unfurled, (wide) open, opened out.*

**outstanding** adjective **1** *an outstanding painter*: excellent, marvellous, magnificent, superb, fine, wonderful, superlative, exceptional, first-class, first-rate, top-tier; informal great, terrific, tremendous, super, amazing, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, ace, crack, A1, mean, awesome, out of this world; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant; N. Amer. informal neat; Austral. informal bonzer. **2** *an outstanding decorative element*:

remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, striking, eye-catching, arresting, impressive, distinctive, unforgettable, memorable, special, momentous, significant, notable, noteworthy; informal out of this world.

**3** *how much work is still outstanding? to be done*, undone, unattended to, unfinished, incomplete, remaining, pending, ongoing.

**4** *outstanding debts*: unpaid, unsettled, owing, owed, to be paid, payable, due, overdue, undischarged; N. Amer. delinquent.

– OPPOSITES inexceptional.

**outstrip** verb **1** *he outstripped the police cars*: go faster than, outrun, outdistance, outpace, leave behind, get (further) ahead of, lose; informal leave standing. **2** *demand far outstrips supply*: surpass, exceed, be more than, top, eclipse.

**outward** adjective *external, outer, outside, exterior; surface, superficial, seeming, apparent, ostensible.*

– OPPOSITES inward.

**outwardly** *adverb* externally, on the surface, superficially, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, apparently, ostensibly, seemingly.

**outweigh** *verb* be greater than, exceed, be superior to, prevail over, have the edge on/over, override, supersede, offset, cancel out, (more than) make up for, outbalance, compensate for.

**outwit** *verb* outsmart, outmanoeuvre, outplay, steal a march on, trick, gull, get the better of; informal outfox, pull a fast one on, put one over on.

**outworn** *adjective* out of date, outdated, old-fashioned, out of fashion, outmoded, dated, behind the times, antiquated, obsolete, defunct, passé; informal old hat, out of the ark.

– OPPOSITES up to date.

**oval** *adjective* egg-shaped, ovoid, ovate, oviform, elliptical; Botany obovate.

**ovation** *noun* (round of) applause, handclapping, clapping, cheering, cheers, bravos, acclaim, acclamation, tribute, standing ovation; informal (big) hand.

**oven** *noun* (kitchen) stove, microwave (oven), (kitchen) range; roaster.

**over** *preposition* **1** *there will be cloud over most of the country: above*, on top of, higher than, atop, covering. **2** *he walked over the grass: across*, around, throughout. **3** *he has three people over him: superior to*, above, higher up than, in charge of, responsible for. **4** *over 200,000 people live in the area: more than*, above, in excess of, upwards of. **5** *a discussion over unemployment: on the subject of*, about, concerning, apropos of, with reference to, regarding, relating to, in connection with.

– OPPOSITES under.

• *adverb* **1** *a flock of geese flew over: overhead*, on high, above, past, by. **2** *the relationship is over: at an end*, finished, concluded, terminated, ended, no more, a thing of the past. **3** *he had some money over: left (over)*, remaining, unused, surplus, in excess, in addition.

■ *over and above* in addition to, on top of, plus, as well as, besides, along with.

■ *over and over* repeatedly, again and again, over and over again, time and (time) again, many times over, frequently, constantly, continually, persistently, ad nauseam.

**overact** *verb* exaggerate, overdo it, overplay it; informal ham it up, camp it up.

**overall** *adjective* *the overall cost: all-inclusive*, general, comprehensive, universal, all-embracing, gross, net, final, inclusive; wholesale, complete, across the board, global, worldwide.

• *adverb* *overall, things have improved: generally (speaking)*, in general, altogether, all in all, on balance, on average, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, by and large, to a large extent.

**overawe** *verb* intimidate, daunt, cow, disconcert, unnerv, subdue, dismay,

frighten, alarm, scare, terrify; informal psych out; N. Amer. informal buffalo.

**overbalance** *verb* fall over, topple over, lose one's balance, tip over, keel over; push over, upend, upset.

**overbearing** *adjective* domineering, dominating, autocratic, tyrannical, despotic, oppressive, high-handed, bullying; informal bossy.

**overblown** *adjective* overwritten, florid, grandiose, pompous, over-elaborate, flowery, overwrought, pretentious, high-flown, turgid, grandiloquent, magniloquent, orotund; informal highfalutin.

**overcast** *adjective* cloudy, clouded (over), sunless, darkened, dark, grey, black, leaden, heavy, dull, murky, dismal, dreary.

– OPPOSITES bright.

**overcharge** *verb* **1** *clients are being overcharged: swindle*, cheat, defraud, fleece, short-change; informal rip off, sting, screw, rob, diddle, do, rook; N. Amer. informal gouge.

**2** *the decoration is overcharged: overstate*, overdo, exaggerate, over-embroider, over-embellish; overwrite, overdraw.

**overcome** *verb* **1** *we overcame the home team: defeat*, beat, conquer, trounce, thrash, rout, vanquish, overwhelm, overpower, get the better of, triumph over, prevail over, win over/against, outdo, outclass, worst, crush; informal drub, slaughter, clobber, hammer, lick, best, crucify, demolish, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, blow out of the water, take to the cleaners; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal shellac, skunk.

**2** *they overcame their fear of flying: get the better of*, prevail over, control, get/bring under control, master, conquer, defeat, beat; get over, get a grip on, curb, subdue; informal lick, best.

• *adjective* *I was overcome: overwhelmed*, emotional, moved, affected, speechless.

**overconfident** *adjective* cocksure, cocky, smug, conceited, self-assured, brash, blustering, overbearing, presumptuous, heading for a fall, riding for a fall; informal too big for one's boots.

**overcritical** *adjective* fault-finding, hypercritical, captious, carping, cavilling, quibbling, hair-splitting, over-particular; fussy, finicky, fastidious, pedantic, overscrupulous, punctilious; informal nit-picking, pernickety; old use overnice.

**overcrowded** *adjective* overfull, overflowing, full to overflowing/bursting, crammed full, congested, overpopulated, overpeopled, crowded, swarming, teeming; informal bursting/bulging at the seams, full to the gunwales, jam-packed.

– OPPOSITES empty.

**overdo** *verb* **1** *she overdoes the cockney scenes: exaggerate*, overstate, overemphasize, overplay, go overboard with, overdramatize; informal ham up, camp up. **2** *don't overdo the drink: eat/drink too much of*, overindulge in, eat/drink to excess. **3** *they overdid the beef: overcook*, burn.

– OPPOSITES understate.

■ **overdo** it work too hard, overwork, burn the candle at both ends, overtax oneself, drive/push oneself too hard, work/run oneself into the ground, wear oneself to a shadow, wear oneself out, bite off more than one can chew, strain oneself; informal kill oneself, knock oneself out.

**overdone** adjective **1** *the flattery was overdone*: excessive, too much, undue, immoderate, inordinate, disproportionate, inflated, overstated, overworked, exaggerated, overemphasized, overenthusiastic, over-effusive; informal a bit much, over the top, OTT. **2** *overdone food*: overcooked, dried out, burnt.

– OPPOSITES understated, underdone.

**overdue** adjective **1** *the ship is overdue*: late, behind schedule, behind time, delayed, unpunctual. **2** *overdue payments*: unpaid, unsettled, owing, owed, payable, due, outstanding, undischarged; N. Amer. delinquent.

– OPPOSITES early, punctual.

**overeat** verb gorge (oneself), overindulge (oneself), feast, gourmandize, gluttonize; informal binge, make a pig of oneself, pig out, have eyes bigger than one's stomach; N. Amer. informal scarf out.

– OPPOSITES starve.

**overemphasize** verb place/lay too much emphasis on, overstress, place/lay too much stress on, exaggerate, make too much of, overplay, overdo, overdramatize; informal make a big thing about/of, blow up out of all proportion.

– OPPOSITES understate, play down.

**overflow** verb *a lot of cream had overflowed the edges of the shallow dish*: spill over, flow over, brim over, well over, pour forth, stream forth, flood.

• noun **1** *an overflow from the tank*: overspill, spill, spillage, flood. **2** *to accommodate the overflow, five more offices were built*: surplus, excess, additional people/things, extra people/things, remainder, overspill.

**overflowing** adjective overfull, full to overflowing/bursting, spilling over, running over, crammed full, overcrowded, overloaded; informal bursting/bulging at the seams, jam-packed.

– OPPOSITES empty.

**overhang** verb stick out (over), stand out (over), extend (over), project (over), protrude (over), jut out (over), bulge out (over), hang over.

**overhaul** verb **1** *I've been overhauling the gearbox*: service, maintain, repair, mend, fix up, rebuild, renovate, recondition, refit, refurbish; informal do up, patch up. **2** *Kenyon overhauled him in the race*: overtake, pass, go past/by, go faster than, get/pull ahead of, outstrip.

**overhead** adverb *a burst of thunder erupted overhead*: (up) above, high up, in the sky, on high.

– OPPOSITES below.

• adjective *overhead lines*: aerial, elevated, raised, suspended.

– OPPOSITES underground.

**overheads** plural noun (running) costs, operating costs, fixed costs, expenses; Brit. oncosts.

– OPPOSITES profit.

**overindulge** verb **1** *we all overindulge at Christmas*: drink/eat too much, overeat, overdrink, be greedy, be intemperate, overindulge oneself, overdo it, drink/eat to excess, gorge (oneself), feast, gourmandize, gluttonize; informal binge, stuff oneself, go overboard, make a pig of oneself, pig oneself; N. Amer. informal scarf out. **2** *his mother had overindulged him*: spoil, give in to, indulge, humour, pander to, pamper, mollycoddle, baby.

– OPPOSITES abstain.

**overindulgence** noun intemperance, immoderation, excess, overeating, overdrinking, gorging; informal binge.

– OPPOSITES abstinence.

**overjoyed** adjective ecstatic, euphoric, thrilled, elated, delighted, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, jubilant, rapturous, jumping for joy, delirious, blissful, in raptures, as pleased as Punch, cock-a-hoop, as happy as a sandboy, as happy as Larry; informal over the moon, on top of the world, tickled pink; N. Amer. informal as happy as a clam; Austral. informal wrapped.

– OPPOSITES unhappy.

**overlay** verb *the area was overlaid with marble*: cover, face, surface, veneer, inlay, laminate, plaster; coat, varnish, glaze.

• noun *an overlay of glass-fibre insulation*: covering, cover, layer, face, surface, veneer, lamination; coat, varnish, glaze, wash.

**overload** verb **1** *avoid overloading the ship*: overburden, overcharge, weigh down.

**2** *don't overload the wiring*: strain, overtax, overwork, overuse, swamp, oversupply, overwhelm.

• noun *there was an overload of demands*: excess, over-abundance, superabundance, profusion, glut, surfeit, surplus, superfluity; avalanche, deluge, flood.

**overlook** verb **1** *he overlooked the mistake*:

**fail to notice**, fail to spot, miss. **2** *his work has been overlooked*: disregard, neglect, ignore, pay no attention/heed to, pass over, forget. **3** *she was willing to overlook his faults*: deliberately ignore, not take into consideration, disregard, take no notice of, make allowances for, turn a blind eye to, excuse, pardon, forgive. **4** *the breakfast room overlooks the garden*: have a view of, look over/across, look on to, look out on/over, give on to, command a view of.

**overly** adverb unduly, excessively, inordinately, too; wildly, absurdly, ridiculously, outrageously, unreasonably, exorbitantly, impossibly.

**overpower** verb **1** *the prisoners might overpower the crew*: gain control over, overwhelm, prevail over, get the better of, gain mastery over, overthrow, overturn, subdue, suppress, subjugate, repress, bring someone to their knees, conquer,



defeat, triumph over, worst, trounce; informal thrash, lick, best, clobber, wipe the floor with. **2** *he was overpowered by grief: overcome*, overwhelm, move, stir, affect, touch, stun, shake, devastate, take aback, leave speechless; informal bowl over, knock sideways; Brit. informal knock/hit for six.

**overpowering** adjective **1** *overpowering grief: overwhelming*, oppressive, unbearable, unendurable, intolerable, shattering. **2** *an overpowering smell: stifling*, suffocating, strong, pungent, powerful; nauseating, offensive, acrid, fetid, mephitic. **3** *overpowering evidence: irrefutable*, undeniable, indisputable, incontestable, incontrovertible, compelling, conclusive.

**overrate** verb *overestimate*, overvalue, think too much of, attach too much importance to, praise too highly.  
– OPPOSITES underestimate.

**overreact** verb *react disproportionately*, act irrationally, lose one's sense of proportion, blow something up out of all proportion; Brit. informal go over the top.

**override** verb **1** *the court could not override her decision: disallow*, overrule, countermand, veto, quash, overturn, overthrow; cancel, reverse, rescind, revoke, repeal, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall. **2** *the government can override all opposition: disregard*, pay no heed to, take no account of, turn a deaf ear to, ignore, ride roughshod over. **3** *a positive attitude will override any negative thoughts: outweigh*, supersede, take precedence over, take priority over, offset, cancel out, (more than) make up for, outbalance, compensate for.

**overriding** adjective *most important*, of greatest importance, of greatest significance, uppermost, top, first (and foremost), highest, pre-eminent, predominant, principal, primary, paramount, chief, main, major, foremost, central, key, focal, pivotal; informal number-one.

**overrule** verb *countermand*, cancel, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, disallow, override, veto, quash, overturn, overthrow, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

**overrun** verb **1** *guerrillas overran the barracks: invade*, storm, occupy, swarm into, surge into, inundate, overwhelm. **2** *the talks overran the deadline: exceed*, go beyond/over, run over.

**oversee** verb *supervise*, superintend, be in charge/control of, be responsible for, look after, keep an eye on, inspect, administer, organize, manage, direct, preside over.

**overseer** noun *supervisor*, foreman, forewoman, team leader, controller, (line) manager, manageress, head (of department), superintendent, captain; Brit. gangmaster; informal boss, chief, governor; Brit. informal gaffer, guv'nor; N. Amer. informal straw boss; Austral. informal pannikin boss; Mining overman.

**overshadow** verb **1** *a massive hill overshadows the town: cast a shadow*

*over*, shade, darken, conceal, obscure, screen; dominate, overlook. **2** *this feeling of tragedy overshadowed his story: cast a pall over*, blight, take the edge off, mar, spoil, ruin. **3** *he was overshadowed by his brilliant elder brother: outshine*, eclipse, surpass, exceed, be superior to, outclass, outstrip, outdo, upstage; informal be head and shoulders above.

**oversight** noun **1** *a stupid oversight: mistake*, error, omission, lapse, slip, blunder; informal slip-up, boo-boo; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal goof. **2** *the omission was due to oversight: carelessness*, inattention, negligence, forgetfulness, laxity. **3** *school governors have oversight of the curriculum: supervision*, surveillance, superintendence, charge, care, administration, management.

**overstate** verb *exaggerate*, overdo, overemphasize, overplay, dramatize, embroider, embellish; informal blow up out of all proportion.  
– OPPOSITES understate.

**overstatement** noun *exaggeration*, overemphasis, dramatization, embroidery, embellishment, enhancement, hyperbole.

**overt** adjective *undisguised*, un concealed, plain (to see), clear, apparent, conspicuous, obvious, noticeable, manifest, patent, open, blatant.  
– OPPOSITES covert.

**overtake** verb **1** *a green car overtook the taxi: pass*, go past/by, get/pull ahead of, leave behind, outdistance, outstrip. **2** *tourism overtook coffee as the main earner of foreign currency: outstrip*, surpass, overshadow, eclipse, outshine, outclass; dwarf, put in the shade, exceed, top, cap; old use outrival. **3** *the calamity which overtook us: befall*, happen to, come upon, hit, strike, overwhelm, overcome, be visited on; literary betide.

**overthrow** verb **1** *the President was overthrown: remove (from office/power)*, bring down, topple, depose, oust, displace, unseat. **2** *an attempt to overthrow Soviet rule: put an end to*, defeat, conquer. • noun **1** *the overthrow of the Shah: removal (from office/power)*, downfall, fall, toppling, deposition, ousting, displacement, supplanting, unseating. **2** *the overthrow of capitalism: ending*, defeat, displacement, fall, collapse, downfall, demise.

**overtone** noun *connotation*, hidden meaning, implication, association, undercurrent, undertone, echo, vibrations, hint, suggestion, insinuation, intimation, suspicion, feeling, nuance.

**overture** noun **1** *the overture to Don Giovanni: prelude*, introduction, opening, introductory movement. **2** *the overture to a long debate: preliminary*, prelude, introduction, lead-in, precursor, start, beginning. **3** *peace overtures: (opening) move*, approach, advances, feeler, signal, proposal, proposition.

**overturn** verb **1** *the boat overturned: capsiz*e, turn turtle, keel over, tip over, topple over, turn over; Nautical pitchpole; old

use overset. **2** *I overturned the stool: upset*, tip over, topple over, turn over, knock over, upend. **3** *the Senate may overturn this ruling: cancel*, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, countermand, disallow, override, overrule, veto, quash, overthrow, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

**overused** adjective **hackneyed**, overworked, worn out, time-worn, tired, played out, clichéd, stale, trite, banal, stock, unoriginal.

**overweening** adjective **overconfident**, conceited, cocksure, cocky, smug, haughty, supercilious, lofty, patronizing, arrogant, proud, vain, self-important, imperious, overbearing; informal high and mighty, uppish.

– OPPOSITES unassuming.

**overweight** adjective **fat**, obese, stout, corpulent, gross, fleshy, plump, portly, chubby, rotund, paunchy, pot-bellied, flabby, well upholstered, well padded, broad in the beam; informal porky, tubby, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy, fubsy; old use porsy.

– OPPOSITES skinny.

**overwhelm** verb **1** *advancing sand dunes could overwhelm the village: swamp*, submerge, engulf, bury, deluge, flood, inundate. **2** *Spain overwhelmed Russia in the hockey: defeat (utterly/heavily)*, trounce, rout, beat (hollow), conquer, vanquish, be victorious over, triumph over, worst, overcome, overthrow, crush; informal thrash, lick, best, clobber, wipe the floor with. **3** *she was overwhelmed by a sense of tragedy: overcome*, move, stir, affect, touch, strike, dumbfound, shake, devastate, leave speechless; informal bowl over, floor, knock sideways; Brit. informal knock/hit for six.

**overwhelming** adjective **1** *an overwhelming number of players were unavailable: very large*, enormous, immense, inordinate, massive, huge. **2** *overwhelming desire to laugh: very strong*, forceful, uncontrollable, irrepressible, irresistible, overpowering, compelling.

**overwork** verb **1** *we should not overwork: work too hard*, work/run oneself into the ground, wear oneself to a shadow, work one's fingers to the bone, burn the candle at both ends, overtax oneself, burn oneself out, overdo it, strain oneself, overload oneself, drive/push oneself too hard; informal kill oneself, knock oneself out. **2** *my colleagues did not overwork me: drive (too hard)*, exploit, drive into the ground, tax, overtax, overburden, put upon, impose on.

**overworked** adjective **1** *overworked staff: stressed (out)*, stress-ridden, overtaxed, overburdened, overloaded, exhausted, worn out. **2** *an overworked phrase: hackneyed*, overused, worn out, tired, played out, clichéd, threadbare, stale, trite, banal, stock, unoriginal.

– OPPOSITES relaxed, original.

**overwrought** adjective **1** *she was too*

*overwrought to listen: tense*, agitated, nervous, on edge, edgy, keyed up, worked up, highly strung, neurotic, overexcited, beside oneself, distracted, distraught, frantic, hysterical; informal in a state, in a tizzy, uptight, wound up, het up; Brit. informal strung up. **2** *the painting is overwrought: over-elaborate*, over-ornate, overblown, overdone, contrived, overworked, strained.

– OPPOSITES calm, understated.

**owe** verb **be in debt (to)**, be indebted (to), be in arrears (to), be under an obligation (to).

**owing** adjective *the rent was owing:*

**unpaid**, to be paid, payable, due, overdue, undischarged, owed, outstanding, in arrears; N. Amer. delinquent.

– OPPOSITES paid.

■ **owing to** because of, as a result of, on account of, due to, as a consequence of, thanks to, in view of; formal by reason of.

**own** adjective *he has his own reasons:*

**personal**, individual, particular, private, personalized, unique.

• verb **1** *I own this house: be the owner of*, possess, have in one's possession, have (to one's name). **2** *she had to own that she agreed: admit*, concede, grant, accept, acknowledge, agree, confess.

■ **get one's own back** (informal) have/get/take one's revenge (on), be revenged (on), hit back, get (back at), get even (with), settle accounts (with), repay, pay someone back, give someone their just deserts, retaliate (against/on), take reprisals (against), exact retribution (on), give someone a taste of their own medicine.

■ **hold one's own** stand firm, stand one's ground, keep one's end up, keep one's head above water, compete, survive, cope, get on/along.

■ **on one's own 1** *I am all on my own:*

(all) alone, (all) by oneself, solitary, unaccompanied, companionless; informal by one's lonesome; Brit. informal on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones. **2** *she works well on her own:* unaided, unassisted, without help, without assistance, (all) by oneself, independently.

■ **own up** confess (to), admit to, admit guilt, plead guilty, accept blame/responsibility, tell the truth (about), make a clean breast of it, tell all; informal come clean (about).

**owner** noun **possessor**, holder, proprietor/ proprietress, homeowner, freeholder, landlord, landlady.

#### WORD LINKS

**proprietary** relating to an owner or ownership

**conveyancing** the legal process of transferring property from one owner to another

**ownership** noun (right of) possession, freehold, proprietorship, proprietary rights, title.

**ox** noun bull, bullock, steer; Farming beef.

# Pp

**pace** noun **1** *he stepped back a pace*: step, stride. **2** *a slow, steady pace*: gait, stride, walk, march. **3** *he drove home at a furious pace*: speed, rate, velocity; informal clip, lick. • **verb** *she paced up and down*: walk, stride, tread, march, pound, patrol.

**pacifist** adjective **1** *a pacific community*: peace-loving, peaceable, pacifist, non-violent, non-aggressive, non-belligerent. **2** *their pacific intentions*: conciliatory, peacemaking, placatory, propitiatory, appeasing, mollifying, mediatory, dovish; formal irenic. **3** *pacific waters*: calm, still, smooth, tranquil, placid, waveless, unruffled, like a millpond.

— OPPOSITES aggressive, stormy.

**pacifism** noun **peacemaking**, conscientious objection(s), passive resistance, peace-mongering, non-violence.

**pacifist** noun **peace-lover**, conscientious objector, passive resister, peacemaker, peace-monger, dove; Brit. informal conchie.

— OPPOSITES warmonger.

**pacify** verb **placate**, appease, calm (down), conciliate, propitiate, assuage, mollify, soothe.

— OPPOSITES enrage.

**pack** noun **1** *a pack of cigarettes*: **packet**, container, package, box, carton, parcel. **2** *a 45lb pack*: **backpack**, rucksack, knapsack, kitbag, bag, load. **3** *a pack of wolves*: **group**, herd, troop. **4** *a pack of youngsters*: **crowd**, mob, group, band, troupe, party, set, clique, gang, rabble, horde, throng, huddle, mass, assembly, gathering, host; informal crew, bunch.

• **verb** **1** *she helped pack the hamper*: **fill** (up), put things in, load. **2** *they packed their belongings*: **stow**, put away, store, box up. **3** *the glasses were packed in straw*: **wrap** (up), package, parcel, swathe, swaddle, encase, enfold, envelop, bundle. **4** *Christmas shoppers packed the store*: **throng**, crowd (into), fill (to overflowing), cram, jam, squash into, squeeze into. **5** *pack the cloth against the wall*: **compress**, press, squash, squeeze, jam, tamp.

■ **pack something in** (informal) **1** *she has packed in her job*: resign from, leave, give up; informal quit, chuck; Brit. informal jack in. **2** *he should pack in smoking*: give up, abstain from, drop, desist from, refrain from, discontinue; informal quit, leave off; formal forswear.

■ **pack someone off** (informal) send off, dispatch, bundle off.

■ **pack up** **1** (Brit. informal) *something is bound to pack up over Christmas*: break (down), stop working, fail, malfunction, go wrong; informal act up, conk out, go kaput. **2** (informal) *it's time to pack up*: stop, call it a day, finish, cease; informal knock off, quit, pack/jack it in.

**package** noun **1** *the delivery of a package*: parcel, packet, container, box. **2** *a complete package of services*: **collection**, bundle, combination.

• **verb** *goods packaged in recyclable materials*: **wrap** (up), gift-wrap; pack (up), parcel (up), box, encase.

**packaging** noun **wrapping**, wrappers, packing, covering.

**packed** adjective **crowded**, full, filled (to capacity), crammed, jammed, solid, overcrowded, overfull, teeming, seething, swarming; informal jam-packed, chock-full, chock-a-block, full to the gunwales, bursting/bulging at the seams.

**packet** noun **1** *a packet of cigarettes*: **pack**, carton, (cardboard) box, container, case, package. **2** (informal) *that must have cost a packet*: **a large sum of money**, a king's ransom, millions, billions; informal a (small) fortune, pots/heaps of money, a mint, a bundle, a pile, a tidy sum, a pretty penny, big money; Brit. informal a bomb, loadsamoney; N. Amer. informal big bucks, gazillions; Austral. informal big bickies, motser.

**pact** noun **agreement**, treaty, entente, protocol, deal, settlement, concordat; armistice, truce; formal concord.

**pad**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a pad over the eye*: **dressing**, pack, padding, wadding, wad. **2** *a seat pad*: **cushion**, squab. **3** *making notes on a pad*: **notebook**, notepad, writing pad, memo pad, jotter, block, sketch pad, sketchbook; N. Amer. scratch pad.

• **verb** *a quilted jacket padded with duck feathers*: **stuff**, fill, pack, wad.

■ **pad something out** expand unnecessarily, fill out, amplify, increase, flesh out, lengthen, spin out, overdo, elaborate.

**pad**<sup>2</sup> verb *he padded along towards the bedroom*: **walk quietly**, tread warily, creep tiptoe, steal, pussyfoot.

**padding** noun **1** *padding around the ankle*: **wadding**, cushioning, stuffing, packing,



filling, lining. **2** *a concise style with no padding*: verbiage, verbosity, wordiness, prolixity; Brit. informal waffle.

**paddle**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *use the paddles to row ashore*: oar, scull, blade.

• **verb** *we paddled around the bay*: row gently, pull, scull.

**paddle**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *children were paddling in the water*: splash about, wade; dabble.

**paddock** **noun** *field, meadow, pasture*; pen, pound; N. Amer. corral.

**paddy** **noun** (Brit. informal) **rage**, (bad) temper, (bad) mood, pet, fit of pique, tantrum; informal grump, stress; Brit. informal strop; N. Amer. informal blowout, hissy fit.

**padlock** **verb** *lock (up)*, fasten, secure.

**padre** **noun** *priest, chaplain, minister (of religion)*, pastor, father, parson, clergyman, cleric, ecclesiastic, man of the cloth, churchman, vicar, rector, curate, preacher; informal reverend, Holy Joe, sky pilot; Austral. informal jossler.

**paean** **noun** *song of praise, hymn, alleluia*; plaudit, glorification, eulogy, tribute, panegyric, accolade, acclamation; formal encomium.

**pagan** **noun** *pagans worshipped the sun*: heathen, infidel, idolater, idolatress; old use paynim.

• **adjective** *the pagan festival*: heathen, ungodly, irreligious, infidel, idolatrous; rare nullifidian.

**page**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *a book of 672 pages*: folio, sheet, side, leaf. **2** *a glorious page in his life*: period, time, stage, phase, epoch, era, chapter.

**page**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a page in a hotel*: errand boy, messenger boy; N. Amer. bellboy, bellhop.

**2** *a page at a wedding*: attendant, pageboy, train-bearer.

• **verb** *could you please page Mr Johnson?* call (for), summon, send for.

**pageant** **noun** *parade, procession, cavalcade, tableau (vivant)*; spectacle, extravaganza, show.

**pageantry** **noun** *spectacle, display, ceremony, magnificence, pomp, splendour, grandeur, show*; informal razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz.

**pain** **noun** **1** *she endured great pain*: suffering, agony, torture, torment, discomfort. **2** *a pain in the stomach*: ache, aching, soreness, throb, throbbing, sting, stinging, twinge, shooting pain, stab, pang; discomfort, irritation, tenderness. **3** *the pain of losing a loved one*: sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak, sadness, unhappiness, distress, desolation, misery, wretchedness, despair; agony, torment, torture. **4** (informal) *that child is a pain*. See NUISANCE. **5** *he took great pains to hide his feelings*: care, effort, bother, trouble.

• **verb** **1** *her foot is still paining her*: hurt, cause pain, be painful, be sore, be tender, ache, throb, sting, twinge, cause discomfort; informal kill. **2** *the memory pains her*: sadden, grieve, distress, trouble, perturb, oppress, cause anguish to.

■ **be at pains** try hard, make a great

effort, take (great) pains, put oneself out; strive, endeavour, try, do one's best, do one's utmost, go all out; informal bend over backwards.

#### WORD LINKS

**analgesic** a drug for reducing pain

**anaesthetic** a drug that makes one unable to feel pain

**embrocation, liniment** a liquid rubbed on the body to relieve pain

**hyperalgesia** a heightened sensitivity to pain

**pained** **adjective** *upset, hurt, wounded, injured, insulted, offended, aggrieved, displeased, disgruntled, annoyed, angered, angry, cross, indignant, irritated, resentful*; informal riled, miffed, aggravated, peeved, hacked off, browned off; Brit. informal narked, cheesed off; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off, sore.

**painful** **adjective** **1** *a painful arm*: sore, hurting, tender, aching, throbbing.

**2** *a painful experience*: disagreeable, unpleasant, nasty, bitter, distressing, upsetting, traumatic, miserable, sad, heartbreaking, agonizing, harrowing.

**painfully** **adverb** *distressingly, disturbingly, unendurably, unbearably, uncomfortably, unpleasantly; dreadfully*; informal terribly, awfully; informal, dated frightfully.

**painkiller** **noun** *analgesic, pain reliever, anodyne, anaesthetic, narcotic; palliative*.

**painless** **adjective** **1** *any killing of animals should be painless*: without pain, pain-free.

**2** *getting rid of him proved painless*: easy, trouble-free, effortless, simple, plain sailing; informal as easy as pie, a piece of cake, child's play, a cinch, a walk in the park.

– **OPPOSITES** painful, difficult.

**painstaking** **adjective** *careful, meticulous, thorough, assiduous, sedulous, attentive, diligent, industrious, conscientious, punctilious, scrupulous, rigorous, particular; pedantic, fussy*.

– **OPPOSITES** slapdash.

**paint** **noun** *colouring, colourant, tint, dye, stain, pigment, colour*.

• **verb** **1** *simply paint the ceiling*: colour, apply paint to, decorate, whitewash, emulsion, gloss, spray-paint, airbrush.

**2** *painting slogans on a wall*: daub, smear, spray-paint, airbrush. **3** *Rembrandt painted his mother*: portray, picture, paint a picture of, depict, represent. **4** *you paint a very stark picture of the suffering*: tell, recount, outline, sketch, describe, depict, evoke, conjure up.

■ **paint the town red** (informal) celebrate, carouse, enjoy oneself, have a good time, have a party; informal go out on the town, whoop it up, make whoopee, live it up, party, have a ball, push the boat out.

**painting** **noun** *picture, illustration, portrayal, depiction, representation, image, artwork, oil, fresco, mural, watercolour, canvas*.

## WORD LINKS

**easel** a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress

**palette** a thin board on which an artist mixes paints

**maulstick** a stick held by a painter to support the brush hand

**chiaroscuro** the treatment of light and shade in painting and drawing

**vernissage** a private view of paintings before public exhibition

**pair** **noun** **1** *a pair of gloves: set (of two), matching set, two of a kind.* **2** *the pair were arrested: two, couple, duo, brace, twosome, duplet; twins; old use twain.* **3** *a pair of lines: couplet; Prosody distich.* **4** *the happy pair: couple, man/husband and wife.*

• **verb** *a cardigan paired with a matching skirt: match, put together, couple, twin.*

**pal** (informal) **noun** *my best pal.* See **FRIEND** sense 1.

■ **pal up** become friendly, make friends, form a friendship; N. Amer. informal buddy up.

**palace** **noun** *royal/official residence, castle, château, schloss, mansion, stately home.*

**palatable** **adjective** **1** *palatable meals: tasty, appetizing, flavourful, flavoursome, delicious, mouth-watering, toothsome, succulent; informal scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, moreish; formal comestible.* **2** *the truth is not always palatable: pleasant, acceptable, pleasing, agreeable, to one's liking.*

– **OPPOSITES** disagreeable.

**palate** **noun** **1** *the tea burned her palate: roof of the mouth, hard/soft palate.* **2** *menus to suit the tourist palate: (sense of) taste, appetite, stomach.* **3** *wine with a peachy palate: flavour, savour, taste.*

**palatial** **adjective** *luxurious, de luxe, magnificent, sumptuous, splendid, grand, opulent, lavish, stately, regal; fancy; Brit. upmarket; informal plush, swanky, posh, ritzy, swish.*

– **OPPOSITES** modest.

**palaver** (informal) **noun** **1** *what was all that palaver about? fuss (and bother), bother, commotion, trouble, rigmarole, folderol; informal song and dance, performance, to-do, carrying-on, kerfuffle, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo.* **2** (dated) *they were having a palaver.* See **PARLEY** noun.

• **verb** *don't stand there palavering.* See **TALK** verb sense 3.

**pale** **noun** **1** *the pales of a fence: stake, post, pole, picket, upright.* **2** *outside the pale of decency: boundary, confines, bounds, limits.*

■ **beyond the pale** unacceptable, unseemly, improper, unsuitable, unreasonable, intolerable, disgraceful, deplorable, outrageous, scandalous, shocking; informal not on, not the done thing, out of order, out of line; Austral./NZ informal over the fence; formal exceptionable.

**pale** **adjective** **1** *she looked pale and drawn: white, pallid, pasty, washed, colourless, anaemic, bloodless, washed out, peaky,*

*ashen, grey, whitish, whey-faced, drained, sickly, sallow, as white as a sheet, deathly pale; milky, creamy, cream, ivory, milk-white, alabaster; informal like death warmed up.* **2** *pale colours: light, light-coloured, pastel, muted, subtle, soft; faded, bleached, washed out.* **3** *the pale light of morning: dim, faint, weak, feeble.* **4** *a pale imitation: feeble, weak, insipid, bland, poor, inadequate; uninspired, unimaginative, lacklustre, spiritless, lifeless; informal pathetic.*

– **OPPOSITES** dark.

• **verb** *his face paled: turn white, turn pale, blanch, lose colour.* **2** *everything else pales by comparison: pale into insignificance, become unimportant.*

**palisade** **noun** *fence, paling, barricade, stockade.*

**pall** **noun** **1** *a rich velvet pall: funeral cloth, coffin covering.* **2** *a pall of black smoke: cloud, covering, cloak, veil, shroud, layer, blanket.*

■ **cast a pall over** spoil, cast a shadow over, overshadow, cloud, put a damper on.

**pall** **verb** *the high life was beginning to pall: grow tedious, grow boring, lose its interest, lose its attraction, wear off; weary, sicken, nauseate; irritate, irk.*

**palliate** **verb** *the treatment works by palliating symptoms: alleviate, ease, relieve, soothe, take the edge off, assuage, moderate, temper, diminish, decrease, blunt, deaden.* **2** *there is no way to palliate his dirty deed: disguise, hide, gloss over, conceal, cover (up), camouflage, mask; excuse, justify, extenuate, mitigate.*

**palliative** **adjective** *palliative medicine: soothing, alleviating, sedative, calmative.* • **noun** *antibiotics and palliatives: painkiller, analgesic, pain reliever, sedative, tranquillizer, anodyne, calmative, opiate, bromide.*

**pallid** **adjective** **1** *a pallid child: pale, white, pasty, wan, colourless, anaemic, washed out, peaky, whey-faced, ashen, grey, whitish, drained, sickly, sallow; informal like death warmed up.* **2** *pallid watercolours: insipid, uninspired, colourless, uninteresting, unexciting, unimaginative, lifeless, spiritless, sterile, bland.*

**pallor** **noun** *paleness, pallidness, lack of colour, wanness, ashen hue, pastiness, peakiness, greyness, sickliness, sallowness.*

**pally** **adjective** (informal) *friendly, on good terms, close, intimate; informal matey, buddy-buddy.*

**palm** **noun**

■ **grease someone's palm** (informal) *bribe, buy (off), corrupt, suborn, give an inducement to; informal give a backhander to, give a sweetener to.*

■ **have someone in the palm of one's hand** *have control over, have influence over, have someone eating out of one's hand, have someone on a string; N. Amer. have someone in one's hip pocket.*

**palm** **noun** *the palm of victory: prize, trophy,*

award, crown, laurel wreath, laurels, bays.

**palmistry** noun fortune telling, palm-reading, clairvoyancy, chiromancy.

**palmy** adjective happy, fortunate, glorious, prosperous, halcyon, golden, rosy.

**palpable** adjective **1** a palpable bump:

tangible, touchable, noticeable, detectable.

**2** *his reluctance was palpable*: perceptible, perceivable, visible, noticeable, discernible, detectable, observable, tangible, unmistakable, transparent, self-evident; obvious, clear, plain (to see), evident, apparent, manifest, staring one in the face, written all over someone.

– OPPOSITES imperceptible.

**palpitate** verb **1** *her heart began to palpitate*: beat rapidly, pound, throb, pulsate, pulse, thud, thump, hammer, race. **2** *palpitating with terror*: tremble, quiver, quake, shake (like a leaf).

**paltry** adjective **1** a paltry sum of money:

small, meagre, trifling, insignificant, negligible, inadequate, insufficient, derisory, pitiful, pathetic, miserable, niggardly, beggarly; informal measly, piddling, poxy; formal exiguous. **2** *naval glory struck him as paltry*: worthless, petty, trivial, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, of little account.

– OPPOSITES considerable.

**pamper** verb spoil, indulge, overindulge, cosset, mollycoddle, coddle, baby, wait on someone hand and foot.

**pamphlet** noun brochure, leaflet, booklet, circular, flyer, handbill; N. Amer. mailer, folder, dodger.

**pan**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** a heavy pan: saucepan, frying pan, wok, skillet. **2** salt pans: hollow, pit, depression, dip, crater, concavity.

• verb **1** (informal) *the movie was panned by the critics*. See CRITICIZE. **2** *prospectors panned for gold*: sift for, search for, look for.

– OPPOSITES praise.

■ **pan out** **1** *Harold's idea hadn't panned out*: succeed, be successful, work (out), turn out well. **2** *the deal panned out badly*: turn out, work out, end (up), come out, fall out, evolve; formal eventuate.

**pan**<sup>2</sup> verb *the camera panned to the building*: swing (round), sweep, move, turn, circle.

**panacea** noun universal cure, cure-all, cure for all ills, universal remedy, elixir, wonder drug; informal magic bullet.

**panache** noun flamboyance, confidence, self-assurance, style, flair, élan, dash, verve, zest, spirit, brio, éclat, vivacity, gusto, liveliness, vitality, energy; informal pizzazz, oomph, zip, zing.

**pancake** noun crêpe, galette; blin, tortilla, tostada, chapatti, dosa, latke, blintze; N. Amer. flapjack, slapjack.

**pandemic** adjective widespread, prevalent, pervasive, rife, rampant.

**pandemonium** noun bedlam, chaos, mayhem, uproar, turmoil, tumult, commotion, confusion, anarchy, furore, hubbub, rumpus; informal hullabaloo.

– OPPOSITES peace.

**pander** verb

■ **pander to** indulge, gratify, satisfy, cater to, give in to, accommodate, comply with.

**pane** noun sheet of glass, windowpane.

**panegyric** noun eulogy, paean, accolade, tribute; formal encomium.

**panel** noun **1** a control panel: console, instrument panel, dashboard; instruments, controls, dials. **2** a panel of judges: group, team, body, committee, board.

**pang** noun **1** hunger pangs: (sharp) pain, shooting pain, twinge, stab, spasm. **2** a pang of remorse: qualm, twinge, prick.

**panic** noun a wave of panic: alarm, anxiety, nervousness, fear, fright, trepidation, dread, terror, agitation, hysteria, consternation, perturbation, dismay, apprehension; informal flap, fluster, cold sweat, funk, tizzy; N. Amer. informal swivet.

– OPPOSITES calm.

• verb **1** *there's no need to panic*: be alarmed, be scared, be nervous, be afraid, take fright, be agitated, be hysterical, lose one's nerve, get overwrought, get worked up; informal flap, get in a flap, lose one's cool, get into a tizzy, run around like a headless chicken, freak out, get in a stew; Brit. informal get the wind up, go into a (flat) spin, have kittens. **2** *talk of love panicked her*: frighten, alarm, scare, unnerve; informal freak out; Brit. informal put the wind up.

**panic-stricken** adjective alarmed, frightened, scared (stiff), terrified, terror-stricken, petrified, horrified, horror-stricken, fearful, afraid, panicky, frantic, in a frenzy, nervous, agitated, hysterical, beside oneself, worked up, overwrought; informal in a cold sweat, in a (blue) funk, in a flap, in a fluster, in a tizzy; Brit. informal in a flat spin.

**panoply** noun **1** the full panoply of America's military might: array, range, collection.

**2** all the panoply of religious liturgy: trappings, regalia; splendour, spectacle, ceremony, ritual.

**panorama** noun **1** he surveyed the panorama: (scenic) view, vista, prospect, scene, scenery, landscape, seascape. **2** a panorama of the art scene: overview, survey, review, presentation, appraisal.

**panoramic** adjective **1** a panoramic view: sweeping, wide, extensive, scenic, commanding. **2** a panoramic look at the 20th century: wide-ranging, extensive, broad, far-reaching, comprehensive, all-embracing.

**pant** verb **1** he was panting as they reached the top: breathe heavily, breathe hard, puff (and blow), huff and puff, gasp, wheeze. **2** it makes you pant for more: yearn for, long for, crave, hanker after/for, ache for, hunger for, thirst for, be hungry for, be thirsty for, wish for, desire, want; informal itch for, be dying for; old use be athirst for.

• noun breathing in shallow pants: gasp, puff, wheeze, breath.



**panting** adjective out of breath, breathless, short of breath, puffed out, puffing (and blowing), huffing and puffing, gasping (for breath), wheezing, wheezy.

**pantry** noun **larder**, store, storeroom; Brit. historical still room; old use spence.

**pants** plural noun **1** (Brit.) **underpants**, briefs, Y-fronts, boxer shorts, boxers, long johns, (French) knickers, bikini briefs; Brit. camiknickers; N. Amer. shorts, undershorts; informal panties; Brit. informal kecks, knicks, smalls, trolleys; dated drawers, bloomers, unmentionables; N. Amer. dated step-ins.

**2** (N. Amer.). See **TROUSERS**.

**pap** noun **1** *tasteless pap*: soft food, mush, slop, pulp, purée, mash; informal goo, gloop, gook; N. Amer. informal glop. **2** *commercial pap*: trivia, pulp (fiction), rubbish, nonsense, froth; Brit. candyfloss; informal dreck, drivel, trash, twaddle.

**paper** noun **1** *a sheet of paper*: writing paper, notepaper; parchment, vellum.

**2** *the local paper*: newspaper, journal, gazette, periodical; tabloid, broadsheet, quality paper, daily, weekly, evening paper, Sunday paper; informal rag; N. Amer. informal tab. **3** *the paper was peeling off the walls*: wallpaper, wallcovering; Brit. woodchip; trademark Anaglypta. **4** *toffee papers*: wrapper, wrapping. **5** *a three-hour paper*: exam, examination, test. **6** *he has just published a paper*: essay, article, monograph, thesis, work, dissertation, treatise, study, report, analysis, tract, critique, exegesis, review; N. Amer. theme. **7** *personal papers*: documents, certificates, letters, files, deeds, records, archives, paperwork, documentation; law muniments. **8** *they asked us for our papers*: identification papers/documents, identity card, ID, credentials.

• verb *we papered the walls*: wallpaper, hang wallpaper on.

■ **paper something over** cover up, hide, conceal, disguise, camouflage, gloss over.

■ **on paper 1** *he put his thoughts down on paper*: in writing, in black and white, in print. **2** *the combatants were evenly matched on paper*: in theory, theoretically, supposedly.

#### WORD LINKS

ream 500 sheets of paper

quire 25 sheets of paper

esparto a type of grass used to make paper  
foolscap a size of paper, about 330 x 200 (or 400) mm

watermark a faint design made in some paper to identify the maker

foxed referring to paper in old books that is discoloured with brown spots

origami the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes

**papery** adjective thin, paper-thin, flimsy, delicate, insubstantial, light, lightweight.

**par** noun

■ **below par 1** *their performances have been below par*: substandard, inferior, not up to scratch, under par, below average, second-

rate, mediocre, poor, undistinguished; informal not up to snuff; N. Amer. informal bush-league. **2** *I'm feeling below par*: slightly unwell, not (very) well, not oneself, out of sorts; ill, unwell, poorly, washed out, run down, peaky; Brit. off (colour); informal under the weather, not up to snuff, lousy, rough; Brit. informal ropy, grotty; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated queer.

■ **on a par with** as good as, comparable with, in the same class/league as, equivalent to, equal to, on a level with, of the same standard as.

■ **par for the course** normal, typical, standard, usual, what one would expect.

■ **up to par** good enough, up to the mark, satisfactory, acceptable, adequate, up to scratch; informal up to snuff.

**parable** noun **allegory**, moral story/tale, fable, exemplum, apologue.

**parade** noun **1** *a St George's Day parade*:

procession, march, cavalcade, motorcade, spectacle, display, pageant; review, dress parade, tattoo; Brit. march past. **2** *she made a great parade of doing the housework*: exhibition, show, display, performance, spectacle, fuss; informal hoo-ha, to-do. **3** *she walked along the parade*: promenade, walkway, esplanade, mall; N. Amer. boardwalk; Brit. informal prom.

• verb **1** *the teams paraded through the city*: march, process, file, troop. **2** *she paraded up and down*: strut, swagger, stride. **3** *he was keen to parade his knowledge*: display, exhibit, make a show of, flaunt, show (off), demonstrate.

**paradigm** noun model, pattern, example, exemplar, standard, prototype, archetype.

**paradisal** adjective heavenly, idyllic, blissful, divine, sublime, perfect.

**paradise** noun **1** *the souls in paradise*: (the kingdom of) heaven, the heavenly kingdom, Elysium, the Elysian Fields, Valhalla, Avalon.

**2** *Adam and Eve's expulsion from Paradise*:

the Garden of Eden, Eden. **3** *a tropical paradise*: Utopia, Shangri-La, heaven, idyll, nirvana. **4** *this is sheer paradise!* bliss, heaven, ecstasy, delight, joy, happiness, nirvana, heaven on earth.

– OPPOSITES hell.

**paradox** noun contradiction (in terms), self-contradiction, inconsistency, incongruity, conflict, anomaly; enigma, puzzle, mystery, conundrum.

**paradoxical** adjective contradictory, self-contradictory, inconsistent, incongruous, anomalous; illogical, puzzling, baffling, incomprehensible, inexplicable.

**paragon** noun perfect example, shining example, model, epitome, archetype, ideal, exemplar, nonpareil, embodiment, personification, quintessence, apotheosis, acme; jewel, gem, angel, treasure; informal one in a million, the tops; old use a nonsuch.

**paragraph** noun **1** *the concluding paragraph*: section, subdivision, part, subsection, division, portion, segment, passage.

**2** a paragraph in the newspaper: report, article, item, piece, write-up, mention.

**parallel** adjective **1** *parallel lines*: side by side, aligned, collateral, equidistant.

**2** *parallel careers*: similar, analogous, comparable, corresponding, like, of a kind, akin, related, equivalent, matching.

**3** *a parallel universe*: coexisting, coexistent, concurrent; contemporaneous, simultaneous, synchronous.

– OPPOSITES divergent.

• **noun 1** *an exact parallel*: counterpart, analogue, equivalent, likeness, match, twin, duplicate, mirror. **2** *there is an interesting parallel between these figures*: similarity, likeness, resemblance, analogy, correspondence, equivalence, correlation, relation, symmetry, parity.

• **verb 1** *his experiences parallel mine*: resemble, be similar to, be like, bear a resemblance to; correspond to, be analogous to, be comparable/equivalent to, equate with/to, correlate with, imitate, echo, remind one of, duplicate, mirror, follow, match. **2** *her performance has never been paralleled*: equal, match, rival, emulate.

**paralyse** verb **1** *both of his legs were paralysed*: disable, cripple, immobilize, incapacitate, debilitate; formal torpefy. **2** *Maisie was paralysed by the sight of him*: immobilize, transfix, freeze, stun, render motionless. **3** *the capital was paralysed by a general strike*: bring to a standstill, immobilize, bring to a (grinding) halt, freeze, cripple, disable.

**paralysed** adjective **disabled**, crippled, handicapped, incapacitated, paralytic, powerless, immobilized, useless; Medicine paraplegic, quadriplegic, tetraplegic, monoplegic, hemiplegic, paretic, paraparetic.

**p paralysis** noun **1** *the disease can cause paralysis*: immobility, powerlessness, incapacity, debilitation; Medicine paraplegia, quadriplegia, tetraplegia, monoplegia, hemiplegia, diplegia, paresis, paraparesis. **2** *complete paralysis of the ports*: shutdown, immobilization, stoppage.

**paralytic** adjective **1** *her hands became paralytic*: paralysed, crippled, disabled, incapacitated, powerless, immobilized, useless. **2** (Brit. informal) *everyone was paralytic*. See **DRUNK** adjective.

**parameter** noun **framework**, variable, limit, boundary, limitation, restriction, criterion, guideline.

**paramount** adjective **most important**, of greatest/prime importance; uppermost, supreme, chief, overriding, predominant, foremost, prime, primary, principal, highest, main, key, central, leading, major, top; informal number-one.

**paramour** noun (old use) **lover**, significant other; mistress, girlfriend, kept woman, other woman, innamorata; boyfriend, other man, innamorato; informal fancy woman/man, toy boy, sugar daddy, bit on the side, bit of fluff; old use concubine, courtesan.

**paranoia** noun **persecution complex**,

delusions, obsession, psychosis.

**paranoid** adjective **over-suspicious**, paranoiac, suspicious, mistrustful, fearful, insecure; Brit. informal para.

**parapet** noun **1** *Marian leaned over the parapet*: balustrade, barrier, wall. **2** *the sandbags making up the parapet*: barricade, rampart, bulwark, bank, embankment, fortification, defence, earthwork, bastion.

**paraphernalia** plural noun **equipment**, stuff, things, apparatus, kit, implements, tools, utensils, material(s), appliances, accoutrements, appurtenances, odds and ends, bits and pieces; informal gear; Brit. informal clobber; old use equipage.

**paraphrase** verb *paraphrasing literary texts*: reword, rephrase, put/express in other words, rewrite, gloss.

• **noun** *this paraphrase of St Paul's words*: rewording, rephrasing, rewriting, rewrite, rendition, rendering, gloss.

**parasite** noun **hanger-on**, cadger, leech, passenger; informal bloodsucker, sponger, scrounger, freeloader; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludger.

**parcel** noun **1** *a parcel of clothes*: package, packet; pack, bundle, box, case, bale.

**2** *a parcel of land*: plot, piece, patch, tract; Brit. allotment; N. Amer. lot, plat.

• **verb 1** *she parcelled up the papers*: pack (up), package, wrap (up), gift-wrap, tie up, bundle up. **2** *parcelling out commercial farmland*: divide up, portion out, distribute, share out, allocate, allot, apportion, hand out, dole out, dish out; informal divvy up.

**parched** adjective **1** *the parched earth*: (bone) dry, dried up/out, arid, desiccated, dehydrated, baked, burned, scorched; withered, shrivelled. **2** (informal) *I'm parched*. See **THIRSTY** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES soaking.

**pardon** noun **1** *pardon for your sins*: forgiveness, absolution, clemency, mercy, lenience, leniency. **2** *he offered them a full pardon*: reprieve, free pardon, amnesty, exoneration, release, acquittal, discharge; formal exculpation.

• **verb 1** *I know she will pardon me*: forgive, absolve, have mercy on; excuse, condone, overlook. **2** *they were subsequently pardoned*: exonerate, acquit, amnesty; reprieve, release, free; informal let off; formal exculpate.

– OPPOSITES blame, punish.

• **exclamation** *Pardon? what (did you say)*, eh, pardon me, I beg your pardon, sorry, excuse me; informal come again.

**pardonable** adjective **excusable**, forgivable, condonable, understandable, minor, venial, slight.

– OPPOSITES inexcusable.

**pare** verb **1** *pare the peel from the lemon*: cut (off), trim (off), peel (off), strip (off), skin; technical decorticate. **2** *domestic operations have been pared down*: reduce, diminish, decrease, cut (back/down), trim, slim down, prune, curtail.

**parent** noun **1** *her parents have divorced*:

**mother, father, birth/biological parent, progenitor; adoptive parent, foster-parent, step-parent, guardian; literary begetter. 2 the parent of rock and roll: source, origin, genesis, root, author, architect; precursor, forerunner, predecessor, antecedent; formal radix.**

• **verb** *those who parent young children: bring up, look after, take care of, rear, raise.*

#### WORD LINKS

**parricide** the killing of a parent

**parentage** **noun** **origins, extraction, birth, family, ancestry, lineage, heritage, pedigree, descent, blood, stock, roots.**

**parenthetical** **adjective** **incidental, supplementary, in brackets, in parentheses, parenthetic; explanatory, qualifying.**

**parenthetically** **adverb** **incidentally, by the way, by the by(e), in passing, in parenthesis.**

**parenthood** **noun** **childcare, child-rearing, motherhood, fatherhood, parenting.**

**pariah** **noun** **outcast, persona non grata, leper, undesirable, unperson.**

**parings** **plural noun** **peelings, clippings, peel, rind, cuttings, trimmings, shavings.**

**parish** **noun** **1 the parish of Poplar: district, community. 2 the vicar scandalized the parish: parishioners, churchgoers, congregation, fold, flock, community.**

#### WORD LINKS

**parochial** relating to a parish

**beat the bounds** (in the past) mark parish boundaries by walking round them and striking certain points

**parity** **noun** **equality, equivalence, uniformity, consistency, correspondence, congruity, levelness, unity, coequality.**

**park** **noun** **1 we were playing in the park: public garden, recreation ground, playground, play area. 2 fifty acres of park: parkland, grassland, woodland, garden(s), lawns, grounds, estate. 3 the liveliest player on the park: (playing) field, football field, pitch.**

• **verb** **1 he parked his car: leave, position; stop, pull up. 2 (informal) park your bag by the door: put (down), place, deposit, leave, stick, shove, dump; informal plonk; Brit. informal bung.**

■ **park oneself** (informal) sit down, seat oneself, settle (oneself), install oneself; informal plonk oneself.

**parlance** **noun** **jargon, language, phraseology, talk, speech, argot, patois, cant; informal lingo, -ese, -speak.**

**parley** **noun** **a peace parley: negotiation, talk(s), conference, summit, discussion, powwow; informal confab; formal colloquy, confabulation; dated palaver.**

• **verb** *the two parties were willing to parley: discuss terms, talk, hold talks, negotiate, deliberate; informal powwow.*

**parliament** **noun** **1 the Queen's speech to Parliament: the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, the (House of) Commons, the (House of) Lords. 2 the Russian parliament:**

**legislature, legislative assembly, congress, senate, (upper/lower) house, (upper/lower) chamber, diet, assembly.**

#### WORD LINKS

**Hansard** the official word-for-word record of debates in Parliament

**statute** a written law passed by a parliament

**filibuster** prolonged speaking which

obstructs progress in a parliament

**recess** a break between sessions of a

parliament

**prorogue** discontinue a session of a

parliament

**bicameral** referring to a parliament with two chambers

**Woolsack** (in the UK) the Lord Chancellor's wool-stuffed seat in the House of Lords

**Black Rod** (in the UK) the chief usher of the House of Lords

**parliamentary** **adjective** **legislative, law-making, governmental, congressional, senatorial, democratic, elected, representative.**

**parlour** **noun** **1 (dated) tea in the parlour: sitting room, living room, lounge, front room, drawing room; Brit. reception room. 2 a beauty parlour: salon, shop, establishment, store.**

**parlous** **adjective** **bad, dire, dreadful, awful, terrible, grave, serious, desperate, precarious; sorry, poor, lamentable, hopeless; unsafe, perilous, dangerous, risky; informal dicey, hairy, chronic, woeful.**

**parochial** **adjective** **narrow-minded, small-minded, provincial, narrow, small-town, conservative, illiberal, intolerant; Brit. parish-pump; N. Amer. informal jerkwater.**

– **OPPOSITES** broad-minded.

**parochialism** **noun** **narrow-mindedness, provincialism, small-mindedness.**

**parody** **noun** **1 a parody of the gothic novel: satire, burlesque, lampoon, pastiche, pasquinade, caricature, imitation, mockery; informal spoof, take-off, send-up. 2 a parody of the truth: distortion, travesty, caricature, misrepresentation, perversion, corruption, debasement.**

• **verb** *parodying schoolgirl fiction: satirize, burlesque, lampoon, caricature, mimic, imitate, ape, copy, make fun of, travesty, take off; informal send up.*

**paroxysm** **noun** **spasm, attack, fit, burst, bout, convulsion, seizure, outburst, eruption, explosion, access; formal boutade.**

**parrot** **verb** *they parroted slogans without appreciating their significance: repeat (mindlessly), repeat mechanically, echo.*

#### WORD LINKS

**psittacine** relating to parrots

**psittacosis** a contagious disease which can be passed from parrots to humans as a form of pneumonia

**parrot-fashion** **adverb** **mechanically, by rote, mindlessly, automatically.**

**parry** **verb** **1 Sharpe parried the blow: ward**



off, fend off; deflect, hold off, block, counter, repel, repulse. **2** *I parried her constant questions: evade, sidestep, avoid, dodge, answer evasively, field, fend off.*

**parsimonious** adjective **mean,**

miserly, niggardly, close-fisted, close, penny-pinching, ungenerous, Scrooge-like; informal tight-fisted, tight, stingy, stingy; N. Amer. informal cheap; formal penurious; old use near.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**parsimony** noun **meanness,** miserliness,

parsimoniousness, niggardliness, close-fistedness, closeness, penny-pinching; informal stinginess, minginess, tightness, tight-fistedness; N. Amer. cheapness; formal penuriousness; old use nearness.

**parson** noun **vicar,** rector, clergyman, cleric, chaplain, pastor, curate, man of the cloth, ecclesiastic, minister, priest, preacher; informal reverend, padre; Austral. informal jossler.

**part** noun **1** *the last part of the cake* | *a large*

*part of their life:* bit, slice, chunk, lump, hunk, wedge, fragment, scrap, piece; portion, proportion, percentage, fraction.

**2** *car parts:* component, bit, constituent, element, module. **3** *body parts:* part of the body, organ, limb, member. **4** *the third part of the book:* section, division, volume, chapter, act, scene, instalment. **5** *another part of the country:* district, neighbourhood, quarter, section, area, region. **6** *the part of Juliet: (theatrical) role, character, persona.* **7** *he's learning his part:* lines, words, script, speech; libretto, lyrics, score. **8** *he was jailed for his part in the affair:* involvement, role, function, hand, work, responsibility, capacity, position, participation, contribution; informal bit.

– OPPOSITES whole.

• **verb 1** *the curtains parted:* separate, divide (in two), split (in two), move apart. **2** *we parted on bad terms:* leave, take one's leave, say goodbye/farewell, say one's goodbyes/farewells, go one's (separate) ways, go away, depart.

– OPPOSITES join, meet.

• **adjective** *a part payment:* incomplete, partial, half, semi-, limited, inadequate, insufficient, unfinished.

– OPPOSITES complete.

• **adverb** *it is part finished:* to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, partly, partially, in part, half, relatively, comparatively, (up) to a point, somewhat; not totally, not entirely, (very) nearly, almost, just about, all but.

– OPPOSITES completely.

■ **for the most part.** See **most.**

■ **in good part.** See **good.**

■ **in part** to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, partly, partially, slightly, in some measure, (up) to a point.

■ **on the part of** (made/done) by, carried out by, caused by, from.

■ **part with** give up/away, relinquish, forgo, surrender, hand over, deliver up, dispose of.

■ **take part** participate, join in, get involved, enter, play a part/role, be a participant,

contribute, have a hand, help, assist, lend a hand; informal get in on the act.

■ **take part** in participate in, engage in, join in, get involved in, share in, play a part/role in, be a participant in, contribute to, be associated with, have a hand in.

■ **take someone's part** support, give one's support to, take the side of, side with, stand by, stick up for, be supportive of, back (up), give one's backing to, be loyal to, defend, come to the defence of, champion.

**partake** verb **1** (formal) *visitors can partake in*

*golf:* participate in, take part in, engage in, join in, get involved in. **2** *she had partaken of lunch:* consume, have, eat, drink, devour, wolf down; informal polish off. **3** *Bohemia partakes of both East and West:* have the qualities/attributes of, suggest, evoke, be characterized by.

**partial** adjective **1** *a partial recovery:*

incomplete, limited, qualified, imperfect, fragmentary, unfinished. **2** *a very partial view of the situation:* biased, prejudiced, partisan, one-sided, slanted, skewed, coloured, unbalanced.

– OPPOSITES complete, unbiased.

■ **be partial to** like, love, enjoy, have a liking for, be fond of, be keen on, have a soft spot for, have a taste for, have a penchant for; informal adore, be mad about/on, have a thing about, be crazy about, be nutty about; Brit. informal be potty about; N. Amer. informal cotton to; Austral./NZ informal be shook on.

**partiality** noun **1** *his partiality towards*

*cause:* bias, prejudice, favouritism, favour, partisanship. **2** *her partiality for brandy:* liking, love, fondness, taste, soft spot, predilection, penchant, passion.

**partially** adverb **to a limited extent/degree,**

to a certain extent/degree, partly, in part, not totally, not entirely, relatively, moderately, (up) to a point, somewhat, comparatively, slightly.

**participant** noun **participator,** contributor,

party, member; entrant, competitor, player, contestant, candidate.

**participate** verb **take part,** engage, join,

get involved, share, play a part/role, be a participant, partake, have a hand in, be associated with; cooperate, help, assist, lend a hand.

**participation** noun **involvement,** part,

contribution, association.

**particle** noun **1** *minute particles of rock:*

(tiny) bit, (tiny) piece, speck, spot, fleck; fragment, sliver, splinter. **2** *he never showed a particle of sympathy:* iota, jot, whit, bit, scrap, shred, crumb, drop, hint, touch, trace, suggestion, whisper, suspicion, scintilla; informal smidgen.

**particular** adjective **1** *a particular group*

*of companies:* specific, certain, distinct, separate, discrete, definite, precise; single, individual. **2** *an issue of particular importance:* (extra) special, especial, exceptional, unusual, singular, uncommon, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, unique; formal peculiar. **3** *he was particular about*

*what he ate: fussy, fastidious, finicky, meticulous, punctilious, discriminating, selective, painstaking, exacting, demanding; informal pernickety, choosy, picky; Brit. informal faddy.*

– **OPPOSITES** general, careless.

• **noun** *the same in every particular: detail, item, point, specific, element, aspect, respect, regard, particularity, fact, feature.*

■ **in particular 1** *nothing in particular:*

*specific, special. 2 the poor, in particular, were hit by rising prices: particularly, specifically, especially, specially.*

**particularity** **noun 1** *the particularity of each human being: individuality, distinctiveness, uniqueness, singularity, originality. 2 a great degree of particularity: detail, precision, accuracy, thoroughness, scrupulousness, meticulousness.*

**particularize** **verb** *specify, detail, itemize, list, enumerate, spell out, cite, stipulate, instance.*

**particularly** **adverb 1** *the acoustics are particularly good: especially, specially, very, extremely, exceptionally, singularly, peculiarly, unusually, extraordinarily, remarkably, outstandingly, amazingly, incredibly, really; informal seriously, majorly, awfully, terribly; Brit. informal jolly, dead, well; informal, dated devilish, frightfully.*

**2** *he particularly asked that I should help you: specifically, explicitly, expressly, in particular, especially, specially.*

**parting** **noun 1** *an emotional parting: farewell, leave-taking, goodbye, adieu, departure; valediction. 2 they kept their parting quiet: separation, break-up, split, divorce, rift, estrangement; Brit. informal bust-up. 3 the parting of the Red Sea: division, dividing, separation, separating, splitting, breaking up/apart, partition, partitioning.*

• **adjective a parting kiss: farewell, goodbye, last, final, valedictory.**

**partisan** **noun 1** *Conservative partisans: supporter, follower, adherent, devotee, champion; fanatic, fan, enthusiast, stalwart, zealot; N. Amer. booster. 2 the partisans opened fire from the woods: guerrilla, freedom fighter, resistance fighter, underground fighter, irregular (soldier).*

• **adjective partisan attitudes: biased, prejudiced, one-sided, discriminatory, coloured, partial, interested, sectarian, factional.**

– **OPPOSITES** unbiased.

**partisanship** **noun** *bias, prejudice, one-sidedness, discrimination, favour, favouritism, partiality, sectarianism, factionalism.*

**partition** **noun 1** *the partition of Palestine: dividing up, partitioning, separation, division, dividing, subdivision, splitting (up), breaking up, break-up. 2 room partitions: screen, (room) divider, (dividing) wall, barrier, panel, separator.*

• **verb 1** *the resolution partitioned Poland:*

**divide (up)**, subdivide, separate, split (up), break up; share (out), parcel out. **2** *the huge*

*hall was partitioned: subdivide, divide (up); separate (off), section off, screen off.*

**partly** **adverb** *to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, in part, partially, a little, somewhat, not totally, not entirely, relatively, moderately, (up) to a point, in some measure, slightly.*

– **OPPOSITES** completely.

**partner** **noun 1** *business partners: colleague, associate, co-worker, fellow worker, collaborator, comrade, teammate; Brit. informal oppo; Austral./NZ informal offside; old use compeer. 2 his partner in crime: accomplice, confederate, accessory, collaborator, fellow conspirator, helper; informal sidekick. 3 your relationship with your partner: spouse, husband, wife, consort; lover, girlfriend, boyfriend, fiancé, fiancée, significant other, live-in lover, common-law husband/wife, man, woman, mate; informal hubby, missus, old man, old lady/woman, better half, intended, POSSLQ; Brit. informal other half.*

**partnership** **noun 1** *close partnership: cooperation, association, collaboration, coalition, alliance, union, affiliation, relationship, connection. 2 thriving partnerships: company, firm, business, corporation, organization, association, consortium, syndicate.*

**parturition** **noun** (formal) *childbirth, birth, delivery, labour; dated confinement; literary travail; old use childbed, accouchement.*

**party** **noun 1** *150 people attended the party: (social) gathering, (social) function, get-together, celebration, reunion, festivity, jamboree, reception, at-home, soirée, social; dance, ball, ceilidh, frolic, carousal, carouse; N. Amer. fete, hoedown, shower, bake, cookout, levee; Austral./NZ corroboree; informal bash, shindig, rave, disco, do, shebang, bop, hop; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, beano, bunfight; N. Amer. informal blast, wingding, kegger; Austral./NZ informal shivoo, rage, ding, jollo, rort. 2 a party of British tourists: group, company, body, gang, band, crowd, pack, contingent; informal bunch, crew, load. 3 the left-wing parties: faction, political party, group, grouping, cabal, junta, bloc, camp, caucus. 4 don't mention a certain party: person, individual, somebody, someone.*

• **verb** (informal) *let's party! celebrate, have fun, enjoy oneself, have a party, have a good time, rave it up, carouse, make merry; informal go out on the town, paint the town red, whoop it up, let one's hair down, make whoopee, live it up, have a ball.*

■ **be a party** *to get involved in/with, be associated with, be a participant in.*

**parvenu** **noun** *upstart, social climber, arriviste.*

**pass**<sup>1</sup> **verb 1** *the traffic passing through the village: go, proceed, move, progress, make one's way, travel. 2 a car passed him: overtake, go past/by, pull ahead of, overhail, leave behind. 3 time passed: elapse, go by/past, advance, wear on, roll by, tick by. 4 he passed the time writing letters:*

occupy, spend, fill, use (up), employ, while away. **5** *pass me the salt: hand (over)*, let someone have, give, reach. **6** *he passed the ball back: kick, hit, throw, lob*. **7** *her estate passed to her grandson: be transferred*, go, be left, be bequeathed, be handed down/on, be passed on; Law devolve. **8** *his death passed almost unnoticed: happen*, occur, take place, come about, transpire; literary befall. **9** *the storm passed: come to an end*, fade (away), blow over, run its course, die out, finish, end, cease. **10** *God's peace passes all human understanding: surpass*, exceed, transcend. **11** *he passed the exam: be successful in*, succeed in, gain a pass in, get through; informal sail through, scrape through. **12** *the Senate passed the bill: approve*, vote for, accept, ratify, adopt, agree to, authorize, endorse, legalize, enact; informal OK. **13** *she could not let that comment pass: go (unnoticed)*, stand, go unremarked, go undisputed. **14** *we should not pass judgement: declare*, pronounce, utter, express, deliver, issue. **15** *passing urine: discharge*, excrete, evacuate, expel, emit, release.

– OPPOSITES stop, fail, reject.

- **noun 1** *you must show your pass: permit*, warrant, authorization, licence. **2** *a cross-field pass: kick, hit, throw, shot*.
- **come to pass** (literary) happen, come about, occur, transpire, arise; literary befall.
- **make a pass at** make (sexual) advances to, proposition; informal come on to, make a play for; N. Amer. informal hit on, make time with, put the make on.
- **pass away/on**. See **DIE** sense 1.
- **pass as/for** be mistaken for, be taken for, be accepted as.
- **pass off 1** *the rally passed off peacefully*: take place, go off, happen, occur, be completed, turn out. **2** *when the dizziness passed off he sat up*: wear off, fade (away), pass, die down.
- **pass someone off** misrepresent, falsely represent; disguise.
- **pass out** faint, lose consciousness, black out.
- **pass something over** disregard, overlook, ignore, pay no attention to, let pass, gloss over, take no notice of, pay no heed to, turn a blind eye to.
- **pass something up** turn down, reject, refuse, decline, give up, forgo, let pass, miss (out on); informal give something a miss.

**pass<sup>2</sup> noun** *a pass through the mountains: route*, way, road, passage, cut, gap; N. Amer. notch.

**passable adjective 1** *the beer was passable: adequate*, all right, fairly good, acceptable, satisfactory, moderately good, not (too) bad, average, tolerable, fair; mediocre, middling, ordinary, indifferent, unremarkable, unexceptional; informal OK, so-so, nothing to write home about, no great shakes, not up to much; NZ informal half-pie. **2** *the road is still passable: navigable*, traversable, negotiable, unblocked, unobstructed, open, clear.

**passably adverb** quite, rather, somewhat,

fairly, reasonably, moderately, comparatively, relatively, tolerably; informal pretty.

**passage noun 1** *their passage through the country: transit*, progress, passing, movement, motion, travelling. **2** *the passage of time: passing*, advance, course, march. **3** *a passage from the embassy: safe conduct*, warrant, visa; admission, access. **4** *the overnight passage: voyage*, crossing, trip, journey. **5** *clearing a passage to the front door: way (through)*, route, path. **6** *a passage to the kitchen*. See **PASSAGEWAY** sense 1. **7** *a passage between the buildings*. See **PASSAGEWAY** sense 2. **8** *the nasal passages: duct*, orifice, opening, channel; inlet, outlet. **9** *the passage to democracy: transition*, development, progress, move, change, shift. **10** *the passage of the bill: enactment*, passing, ratification, approval, adoption, authorization, legalization. **11** *a passage from 'Macbeth': extract*, excerpt, quotation, quote, citation, reading, piece, selection.

**passageway noun 1** *secret passageways: corridor*, hall, passage, hallway, walkway, aisle. **2** *a narrow passageway off the main street: alley*, alleyway, passage, lane, path, pathway, footpath, track, thoroughfare; N. Amer. areaway.

**passé adjective**. See **OLD-FASHIONED**.

**passenger noun 1** *rail passengers: traveller*, commuter, fare payer. **2** *we can't afford passengers: hanger-on*, idler, parasite; informal freeloader.

**passing adjective 1** *of passing interest: fleeting*, transient, transitory, ephemeral, brief, short-lived, temporary, momentary; literary evanescent. **2** *a passing glance: hasty*, rapid, hurried, brief, quick; cursory, superficial, casual, perfunctory.

• **noun 1** *the passing of time: passage*, course, progress, advance. **2** *Jack's passing: death*, demise, passing away/on, end, loss, quietus; formal decease. **3** *the passing of the new bill: enactment*, ratification, approval, adoption, authorization, legalization, endorsement.

■ **in passing** incidentally, by the by/way, en passant.

**passion noun 1** *the passion of activists: fervour*, ardour, enthusiasm, eagerness, zeal, zealousness, vigour, fire, fieriness, energy, fervency, animation, spirit, spiritedness, fanaticism. **2** *he worked himself up into a passion: (blind) rage*, fit of anger/temper, temper, towering rage, tantrum, fury, frenzy; Brit. informal paddy. **3** *hot with passion: love*, (sexual) desire, lust, ardour, infatuation, lasciviousness, lustfulness. **4** *his passion for football: enthusiasm*, love, mania, fascination, obsession, fanaticism, fixation, compulsion, appetite, addiction; informal thing. **5** *English literature is a passion with me: obsession*, preoccupation, craze, mania, hobby horse. **6** *the Passion of Christ: crucifixion*, suffering, agony, martyrdom.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**passionate adjective 1** *a passionate entreaty: intense*, impassioned, ardent,



fervent, vehement, fiery, heated, emotional, heartfelt, eager, excited, animated, spirited, energetic, fervid, frenzied, wild, consuming, violent; literary perfervid. **2** *McGregor is passionate about sport: very keen, very enthusiastic, addicted; informal mad, crazy, hooked, nuts; N. Amer. informal nutso; Austral./NZ informal shook.* **3** *a passionate kiss: amorous, ardent, hot-blooded, aroused, loving, sexy, sensual, erotic, lustful; informal steamy, hot, turned on.* **4** *a passionate woman: excitable, emotional, fiery, volatile, mercurial, quick-tempered, highly strung, impulsive, temperamental.*

— OPPOSITES apathetic.

**passionless** adjective unemotional, cold, cold-blooded, emotionless, frigid, cool, unfeeling, unloving, unresponsive, undemonstrative, impassive.

**passive** adjective **1** *a passive role: inactive, non-active, non-participative, uninvolved.* **2** *passive victims: submissive, acquiescent, unresisting, unassertive, compliant, pliant, obedient, docile, tractable, malleable, pliable.* **3** *the woman's face was passive: emotionless, impassive, unemotional, unmoved, dispassionate, passionless, detached, unresponsive, undemonstrative, apathetic, phlegmatic.*

— OPPOSITES active.

**passport** noun **1** *travel permit, (travel) papers, visa, laissez-passer.* **2** *qualifications are the passport to success: key, path, way, route, avenue, door, doorway.*

**past** adjective **1** *memories of times past: gone (by), over (and done with), no more, done, bygone, former, (of) old, olden, long-ago; literary of yore.* **2** *the past few months: last, recent, preceding.* **3** *a past chairman: previous, former, foregoing, erstwhile, one-time, sometime, ex-; formal quondam.*

— OPPOSITES present, future.

• *noun details about her past: history, background, life (story).*

• *preposition 1 she walked past the cafe: in front of, by.* **2** *he's past retirement age: beyond, in excess of.*

• *adverb they hurried past: along, by, on.*

■ *in the past* formerly, previously, in days/years/times gone by, in former times, in the (good) old days, in days of old, in olden times, once (upon a time); literary in days of yore, in yesteryear.

**paste** noun **1** *blend the ingredients to a paste: purée, pulp, mush, blend.* **2** *wallpaper paste: adhesive, glue, gum, fixative; N. Amer. mucilage.* **3** *fish paste: spread, pâté.* • *verb a notice was pasted on the door: glue, stick, gum, fix, affix.*

**pastel** adjective pale, soft, light, light-coloured, muted, subtle, subdued, soft-hued.

— OPPOSITES dark, bright.

**pastiche** noun **1** *a pastiche of literary models: mixture, blend, medley, melange, miscellany, mixed bag, potpourri, mix, compound, composite, collection, assortment, conglomeration, hotchpotch, jumble, ragbag; N. Amer. hodgepodge.*

**2** *a pastiche of 18th-century style: imitation, parody; informal take-off.*

**pastille** noun lozenge, sweet, drop; tablet, pill.

**pastime** noun hobby, leisure activity/pursuit, sport, game, recreation, amusement, diversion, entertainment, interest, sideline.

**past master** noun expert, master, wizard, genius, old hand, veteran, maestro, connoisseur, authority, grandmaster; informal ace, pro, star, hotshot; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack.

**pastor** noun priest, minister (of religion), parson, clergyman, cleric, chaplain, padre, ecclesiastic, man of the cloth, churchman, vicar, rector, curate, preacher; informal reverend; Austral. informal jossler.

**pastoral** adjective **1** *a pastoral scene: rural, country, countryside, rustic, agricultural, bucolic; literary sylvan, Arcadian.* **2** *his pastoral duties: priestly, clerical, ecclesiastical, ministerial.*

— OPPOSITES urban.

**pastry** noun **1** *pastries for tea: tart, tartlet, pie, pastry, patty.* **2** *two layers of pastry: crust, piecrust, croute.*

**pasture** noun grazing (land), grassland, grass, pastureland, pasturage, ley; meadow, field; Austral./NZ run; literary lea, mead, greensward.

**pasty** adjective pale, pallid, wan, colourless, anaemic, ashen, white, grey, pasty-faced, washed out, sallow.

**pat**<sup>1</sup> verb *Brian patted her on the shoulder: tap, slap lightly, clap, touch.*

• *noun 1 a pat on the cheek: tap, light blow, clap, touch.* **2** *a pat of butter: piece, dab, lump, portion, knob, mass, gobbet, ball, curl.*

■ *pat someone on the back* congratulate, praise, take one's hat off to; commend, compliment, applaud, acclaim.

**pat**<sup>2</sup> adjective *pat answers: glib, simplistic, facile, unconvincing.*

• *adverb his reply came rather pat:*

**opportunistically**, conveniently, at just/exactly the right moment, expediently, favourably, appropriately, fittingly, auspiciously, providentially, felicitously, propitiously.

■ *off pat* word-perfect, by heart, by rote, by memory, parrot-fashion.

■ *get something off pat* memorize, commit to memory, remember, learn by heart, learn (by rote).

**patch** noun **1** *a patch over one eye: cover, eyepatch, covering, pad.* **2** *a reddish patch on her wrist: blotch, mark, spot, smudge, speckle, smear, stain, streak, blemish; informal splodge, splotch.* **3** *a patch of ground: plot, area, piece, strip, tract, parcel; bed; Brit. allotment; N. Amer. lot.* **4** (Brit. informal) *they are going through a difficult patch: period, time, spell, phase, stretch; Brit. informal spot.*

• *verb her jeans were neatly patched: mend, repair, sew (up), stitch (up).*

■ *patch something up* (informal) **1** *the houses were being patched up: repair, mend, fix hastily.* **2** *he's trying to patch things up with*

*his wife:* reconcile, make up, settle, remedy, put to rights, rectify, clear up, set right, make good, resolve, square.

**patchwork** noun assortment, miscellany, mixture, melange, medley, blend, mixed bag, mix, collection, selection, assemblage, combination, potpourri, jumble, mishmash, ragbag, hotchpotch; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**patchy** adjective **1** *their teaching has been patchy:* uneven, bitty, varying, variable, intermittent, fitful, sporadic, erratic, irregular. **2** *patchy evidence:* fragmentary, inadequate, insufficient, rudimentary, limited, sketchy.

– OPPOSITES uniform, comprehensive.

**patent** noun *there is a patent on the chemical:* copyright, licence, legal protection, registered trademark.

• adjective **1** *patent nonsense:* obvious, clear, plain, evident, manifest, self-evident, transparent, overt, conspicuous, blatant, downright, barefaced, flagrant, undisguised, unconcealed, unmistakable. **2** *patent medicines:* proprietary, patented, licensed, branded.

**paternal** adjective **1** *his face showed paternal concern:* fatherly, fatherlike, patriarchal; protective, solicitous, compassionate, sympathetic. **2** *his paternal grandfather:* on one's father's side, patrilineal.

– OPPOSITES maternal.

**paternity** noun fatherhood.

**path** noun **1** *a path down to the beach:* footpath, pathway, footway, pavement, track, trail, trackway, bridleway, bridle path, lane, alley, alleyway, passage, passageway; cycle path/track; N. Amer. sidewalk, bikeway. **2** *journalists blocked his path:* route, way, course; direction, bearing, line; orbit, trajectory. **3** *the best path towards a settlement:* course of action, route, road, avenue, line, approach, tack, strategy, tactic.

**pathetic** adjective **1** *a pathetic groan:* pitiful, pitiable, piteous, moving, touching, poignant, plaintive, distressing, upsetting, heartbreaking, heart-rending, harrowing, wretched, forlorn. **2** (informal) *a pathetic excuse:* feeble, woeful, sorry, poor, pitiful, lamentable, deplorable, contemptible, inadequate, paltry, insufficient, insubstantial, unsatisfactory.

**pathfinder** noun pioneer, groundbreaker, trailblazer, trendsetter, leader, torch-bearer, pacemaker.

**pathological** adjective **1** *a pathological condition:* morbid, diseased. **2** (informal) *a pathological liar:* compulsive, obsessive, inveterate, habitual, persistent, chronic, hardened, confirmed.

**pathos** noun poignancy, tragedy, sadness, pitifulness, piteousness, pitiableness.

**patience** noun **1** *she tried everyone's patience:* forbearance, tolerance, restraint, self-restraint, stoicism; calmness, composure, equanimity, serenity, tranquillity, imperturbability, understanding, indulgence. **2** *a task*

*requiring patience:* perseverance, persistence, endurance, tenacity, assiduity, application, staying power, doggedness, determination, resolve, resolution, resoluteness; formal pertinacity.

**patient** adjective **1** *I must ask you to be patient:* forbearing, uncomplaining, tolerant, resigned, stoical; calm, composed, even-tempered, imperturbable, unexcitable, accommodating, understanding, indulgent; informal unflappable, cool. **2** *a good deal of patient work:* persevering, persistent, tenacious, indefatigable, dogged, determined, resolved, resolute, single-minded; formal pertinacious.

• noun *a doctor's patient:* sick person, case; invalid, convalescent, outpatient, inpatient.

**patio** noun terrace; courtyard, quadrangle, quad; N. Amer. sun deck.

**patois** noun vernacular, (local) dialect, regional language; jargon, argot, cant; informal (local) lingo.

**patriarch** noun senior figure, father, paterfamilias, leader, elder.

**patrician** noun *the great patricians:* aristocrat, grandee, noble, nobleman, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer, peeress. • adjective *patrician families:* aristocratic, noble, titled, blue-blooded, high-born, upper-class, landowning; informal upper-crust; old use gentle.

**patrimony** noun heritage, inheritance, birthright; legacy, bequest, endowment, bequeathal; Law, dated hereditament.

**patriot** noun nationalist, loyalist; chauvinist, jingoist, flag-waver.

**patriotic** adjective nationalist, nationalistic, loyalist, loyal; chauvinistic, jingoistic, flag-waving.

– OPPOSITES traitorous.

**patriotism** noun nationalism, patriotic sentiment, allegiance/loyalty to one's country; chauvinism, jingoism, flag-waving.

**patrol** noun **1** *anti-poaching patrols:* vigil, guard, watch, monitoring, policing, beat-pounding, patrolling; reconnoitre, surveillance; informal recce. **2** *the patrol stopped a suspect:* patrolman, patrolwoman, sentinel, sentry, scout, scouting party, task force.

• verb *a security guard was patrolling a housing estate:* keep guard (on), guard, keep watch (on); police, pound the beat (of), make the rounds (of); stand guard (over), keep a vigil (on), defend, safeguard.

**patron** noun **1** *a patron of the arts:* sponsor, backer, financier, benefactor, benefactress, contributor, subscriber, donor; philanthropist, promoter, friend, supporter; informal angel. **2** *club patrons:* customer, client, frequenter, consumer, user, visitor, guest; informal regular.

**patronage** noun **1** *art patronage:* sponsorship, backing, funding, financing, promotion, assistance, support. **2** *political patronage:* power of appointment, favouritism, nepotism, preferential

treatment. **3** a slight note of patronage: condescension, patronizing, patronization, disdain, disrespect, scorn, contempt. **4** thank you for your patronage: custom, trade, business.

**patronize** verb **1** *don't patronize me!* treat condescendingly, condescend to, look down on, talk down to, put down, treat like a child, treat with disdain. **2** *they patronized local tradesmen: do business with*, buy from, shop at, be a customer of, be a client of, deal with, trade with, frequent, support. **3** *he patronized a national museum: sponsor*, back, fund, finance, be a patron of, support, champion.

**patronizing** adjective condescending, disdainful, supercilious, superior, imperious, scornful, contemptuous; informal uppity, high and mighty.

**patter**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *raindrops pattered against the window: go pitter-patter*, tap, drum, beat, pound, rat-a-tat, go pit-a-pat, thrum. **2** *she pattered across the floor: scurry*, scuttle, skip, trip.

• **noun** *the patter of rain: pitter-patter*, tapping, patterning, drumming, beat, beating, pounding, rat-a-tat, pit-a-pat, clack, thrum, thrumming.

**patter**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *this witty patter: prattle*, prating, blather, blither, drivel, chatter, jabber, babble; informal yabbering, yatter; old use twaddle. **2** *the salesmen's patter: (sales) pitch*, sales talk; informal line. **3** *the local patter: speech*, language, parlance, dialect; informal lingo.

• **verb** *she pattered on incessantly: prattle*, prate, blather, blither, drivel, chatter, jabber, babble; informal yabber, yatter; Brit. informal rabbit, witter.

**pattern** noun **1** *the pattern on the wallpaper: design*, decoration, motif, marking, ornament, ornamentation. **2** *a change in working patterns: system*, order, arrangement, form, method, structure, scheme, plan, format, framework. **3** *this would set the pattern for a generation: model*, example, criterion, standard, basis, point of reference, gauge, norm, yardstick, touchstone, benchmark; blueprint, archetype, prototype. **4** *textile patterns: sample*, specimen, swatch.

• **verb** *someone else is patterning my life: shape*, influence, model, fashion, mould, style, determine, control.

**pattered** adjective decorated, ornamented, fancy, adorned, embellished.  
– OPPOSITES plain.

**paucity** noun scarcity, sparseness, sparsity, dearth, shortage, poverty, insufficiency, deficiency, lack, want; formal exiguity.  
– OPPOSITES abundance.

**paunch** noun pot belly, beer belly; informal beer gut, pot; dated corporation.

**pauper** noun poor person, indigent, down-and-out; informal have-not.

**pause** noun *a pause in the conversation: stop*, cessation, break, halt, interruption, check, lull, respite, breathing space,

discontinuation, hiatus, gap, interlude; adjournment, suspension, rest, wait, hesitation; informal let-up, breather.

• **verb** *Hannah paused for a moment: stop*, cease, halt, discontinue, break off, take a break; adjourn, rest, wait, hesitate, falter, waver; informal take a breather.

**pave** verb *the yard was paved: tile*, surface, flag.

■ **pave the way for** prepare (the way) for, make preparations for, get ready for, lay the foundations for, herald, precede.

**pavement** noun footpath, walkway, footway; N. Amer. sidewalk.

**paw** noun foot, forepaw, hind paw.

• **verb** **1** *their offspring were pawing each other: handle roughly*, pull, grab, maul, manhandle. **2** *some Casanova tried to paw her: fondle*, feel, maul, molest; informal grope, feel up, touch up, goose.

**pawn**<sup>1</sup> verb *he pawned his watch: pledge*, give as security; informal hock, put in hock.

**pawn**<sup>2</sup> noun *a pawn in the battle for the throne: puppet*, dupe, hostage, tool, cat's paw, instrument.

**pay** verb **1** *I must pay him for his work:*

**reward**, reimburse, recompense, give payment to, remunerate. **2** *you must pay a few more pounds: spend*, expend, pay out, dish out, disburse; informal lay out, shell out, fork out, cough up; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up. **3** *he paid his debts: discharge*, settle, pay off, clear, liquidate. **4** *hard work will pay dividends: yield*, return, produce. **5** *he made the buses pay: be profitable*, make money, make a profit. **6** *it may pay you to be early: be advantageous to*, benefit, be of advantage to, be beneficial to. **7** *paying compliments: bestow*, grant, give, offer. **8** *he will pay for his mistakes: suffer (the consequences)*, be punished, atone, pay the penalty/price.

• **noun** *equal pay for women: salary*, wages, payment; earnings, remuneration, reimbursement, income, revenue; formal emolument(s).

■ **pay someone back/out** get one's revenge on, be revenged on, avenge oneself on, get back at, put even with, settle accounts with, pay someone out, exact retribution on.

■ **pay something back** repay, pay off, give back, return, reimburse, refund.

■ **pay for** defray the cost of, settle up for, finance, fund; treat someone to; informal foot the bill for, shell out for, fork out for, cough up for; N. Amer. informal ante up for, pony up for.

■ **pay something off** pay (in full), settle, discharge, clear, liquidate.

■ **pay off** (informal) meet with success, be successful, be effective, get results.

■ **pay something out** spend, expend, pay, dish out, put up, part with, hand over; informal shell out, fork out/up, lay out, cough up.

■ **pay up** make payment, settle up, pay (in full); informal cough up.

**payable** adjective due, owed, owing, outstanding, unpaid, overdue, in arrears;



N. Amer. delinquent.

**payment** noun **1** *discounts for early payment: remittance, settlement, discharge, clearance, liquidation.* **2** *monthly payments: instalment, premium.* **3** *extra payment for good performance: salary, wages, pay, earnings, fee(s), remuneration, reimbursement, income; honorarium; formal emolument(s).*

**pay-off** noun (informal) **1** *the lure of enormous pay-offs: payment, payout, reward; bribe, inducement, 'incentive'; N. Amer. payola; informal kickback, sweetener, backhander; Austral. informal sling.* **2** *a pay-off of £160,000: return (on investment), yield, payback, profit, gain, dividend.* **3** *a dramatic pay-off: outcome, denouement, culmination, conclusion, development, result.*

**peace** noun **1** *can't a man get any peace around here? tranquillity, calm, restfulness, peace and quiet, peacefulness, quiet, quietness; privacy, solitude.* **2** *peace of mind: serenity, peacefulness, tranquillity, equanimity, calm, calmness, composure, ease, contentment, contentedness.* **3** *we pray for peace: law and order, lawfulness, order, peacefulness, peaceableness, harmony, non-violence; formal concord.* **4** *a lasting peace: treaty, truce, ceasefire, armistice, cessation/suspension of hostilities.*

– OPPOSITES noise, war.

**WORD LINKS**

irenic intended to bring about peace  
pacifist the belief that disputes should be settled by peaceful means

**peaceable** adjective **1** *a peaceable man: peace-loving, non-violent, non-aggressive, easy-going, placid, gentle, inoffensive, good-natured, even-tempered, amiable, amicable, friendly, affable, genial, pacific, dovelike, dovish; formal irenic.* **2** *a peaceable society: peaceful, strife-free, harmonious; law-abiding, disciplined, orderly, civilized.*

– OPPOSITES aggressive.

**peaceful** adjective **1** *everything was quiet and peaceful: tranquil, calm, restful, quiet, still, relaxing, soothing, undisturbed, untroubled, private, secluded.* **2** *his peaceful mood: serene, calm, tranquil, composed, placid, at ease, untroubled, unworried, content.* **3** *peaceful relations: harmonious, at peace, peaceable, on good terms, amicable, friendly, cordial, non-violent.*

– OPPOSITES noisy, agitated, hostile.

**peacemaker** noun arbitrator, arbiter, mediator, negotiator, conciliator, go-between, intermediary, pacifier, appeaser, peace-monger, pacifist, peace-lover, dove; informal peacenik.

**peak** noun **1** *the peaks of the mountains: summit, top, crest, pinnacle, apex, crown, cap.* **2** *the highest peak: mountain, hill, height, mount, alp; Scottish ben, Munro.* **3** *the peak of a cap: brim, visor.* **4** *the peak of his career: height, high point/spot, pinnacle, summit, top, climax, culmination, apex,*

*zenith, crowning point, acme, apogee, prime, heyday.*

• verb *Labour support has peaked: reach its height, climax, reach a climax, come to a head.*

• adjective *peak loads: maximum, top, greatest, highest; ultimate, best, optimum.*

**peaky** adjective *pale, pasty, wan, drained, washed out, drawn, pallid, anaemic, ashen, grey, pinched, sickly, sallow; ill, unwell, poorly, indisposed, run down; Brit. off (colour); informal under the weather, rough, lousy, seedy; Brit. informal grotty, ropy.*

**peal** noun **1** *a peal of bells: chime, carillon, ring, ringing, tintinnabulation.* **2** *peals of laughter: shriek, shout, scream, howl, gale, fit, roar, hoot.* **3** *a peal of thunder: rumble, roar, boom, crash, clap, crack.*

• verb **1** *the bell pealed: ring (out), chime (out), clang, sound, ding, jingle.* **2** *the thunder pealed: rumble, roar, boom, crash, resound.*

**peasant** noun **1** *peasants working the land: agricultural worker, small farmer, rustic, swain, villein, serf.* **2** (informal) *you peasants!* See BOOR.

**peccadillo** noun *misdeemeanour, petty offence, indiscretion, lapse, misdeed.*

**peck** verb **1** *the cockerel pecked my heel: bite, nip, strike, hit, tap, rap, jab.* **2** *he pecked her on the cheek: kiss, give someone a peck.*

**3** (informal) *the old lady pecked at her food: nibble, pick at, take very small bites from, toy with, play with.*

**peculiar** adjective **1** *something peculiar began to happen: strange, unusual, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, out of the ordinary; exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable; puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling; suspicious, eerie, unnatural; informal fishy, creepy, spooky.* **2** *peculiar behaviour: bizarre, eccentric, strange, odd, weird, queer, funny, unusual, abnormal, idiosyncratic, unconventional, outlandish, quirky; informal wacky, freaky, oddball, offbeat, off the wall; N. Amer. informal wacko.*

**3** (informal) *I feel a bit peculiar.* See UNWELL.

**4** *mannerisms peculiar to the islanders: characteristic of, typical of, representative of, indicative of, suggestive of, exclusive to.* **5** *their own peculiar contribution: distinctive, characteristic, distinct, individual, special, unique, personal.*

– OPPOSITES ordinary.

**peculiarity** noun **1** *a legal peculiarity: oddity, anomaly, abnormality.* **2** *a physical peculiarity: idiosyncrasy, mannerism, quirk, foible.* **3** *one of the peculiarities of the city: characteristic, feature, (essential) quality, property, trait, attribute, hallmark, trademark.* **4** *the peculiarity of this notion: strangeness, oddness, bizarreness, weirdness, queerness, unexpectedness, unfamiliarity, anomalousness, incongruity.* **5** *there is a certain peculiarity about her appearance: outlandishness, bizarreness,*

unconventionality, idiosyncrasy, weirdness, oddness, eccentricity, unusualness, abnormality, queerness, strangeness, quirkiness; informal wackiness, freakiness.

**pecuniary** adjective **financial**, monetary, money, fiscal, economic.

**pedagogic** adjective **educational**, educative, pedagogical, teaching, instructional, instructive, didactic; academic, scholastic.

**pedagogue** (formal) **noun** **teacher**, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, master, mistress, tutor; lecturer, academic, don, professor, instructor, educator, educationalist, educationist; Austral./NZ informal chalkie.

**pedant** **noun** **dogmatist**, purist, literalist, formalist, doctrinaire, perfectionist; quibbler, hair-splitter, casuist, sophist; informal nit-picker.

**pedantic** adjective **overscrupulous**, scrupulous, precise, exact, perfectionist, punctilious, meticulous, fussy, fastidious, finical, finicky; dogmatic, purist, literalist, literalistic, formalist; casuistic, casuistical, sophistic, sophisticated; captious, hair-splitting, quibbling; informal nit-picking, pernickety; old use overnice.

**pedantry** **noun** **dogmatism**, purism, literalism, formalism; overscrupulousness, scrupulousness, perfectionism, fastidiousness, punctiliousness, meticulousness; captiousness, quibbling, hair-splitting, casuistry, sophistry; informal nit-picking.

**peddle** verb **1** *they are peddling water filters: sell (from door to door)*, hawk, tout, vend; trade (in), deal in, traffic in. **2** *peddling unorthodox views: advocate*, champion, preach, put forward, proclaim, propound, promote.

**pedestal** **noun** *a bust on a pedestal: plinth*, base, support, mounting, stand, foundation, pillar, column, pier; Architecture socle.

■ **put someone on a pedestal** idealize, lionize, look up to, respect, hold in high regard, think highly of, admire, esteem, revere, worship.

**pedestrian** **noun** *accidents involving pedestrians: walker*, person on foot.

— **OPPOSITES** driver.

● **adjective** *pedestrian lives: dull*, boring, tedious, monotonous, uneventful, unremarkable, tiresome, wearisome, uninspired, unimaginative, unexciting, uninteresting; unvarying, unvaried, repetitive, routine, commonplace, workaday; ordinary, everyday, run-of-the-mill, mundane, humdrum; informal bog-standard, (plain) vanilla; Brit. informal common or garden.

— **OPPOSITES** exciting.

**pedigree** **noun** *a long pedigree: ancestry*, descent, lineage, line (of descent), genealogy, family tree, extraction, derivation, origin(s), heritage, parentage, bloodline, background, roots.

● **adjective** *a pedigree cat: pure-bred*, thoroughbred, pure-blooded.

**pedlar** **noun** **1** *pedlars of watches: travelling salesman*, door-to-door salesman, huckster; street trader, hawker; Brit. informal fly-pitcher; old use chapman, packman. **2** *a drug pedlar: trafficker*, dealer; informal pusher.

**peek** verb **1** *they peeked from behind the curtains: (have a) peep*, have a peek, spy, take a sly/stealthy look, sneak a look; informal take a gander, have a squint; Brit. informal have a dekho, have/take a butcher's, take a shufti. **2** *the deer's antlers peeked out from the trees: appear (slowly/partly)*, show, come into view/sight, become visible, emerge, peep (out).

● **noun** *a peek at the map: secret look*, sly look, stealthy look, sneaky look, peep, glance, glimpse, hurried/quick look; informal gander, squint; Brit. informal dekho, butcher's, shufti.

**peel** verb **1** *peel and core the fruit: pare*, skin, take the skin/rind off; hull, shell, husk, shuck; technical decorticate. **2** *use a long knife to peel the veneer: trim (off)*, peel off, pare, strip (off), shave (off), remove. **3** *the wallpaper was peeling: flake (off)*, peel off, come off in layers/strips.

● **noun** *orange peel: rind*, skin, covering, zest; hull, pod, integument, shuck.

■ **keep one's eyes peeled** keep a (sharp) lookout, look out, keep one's eyes open, keep watch, be watchful, be alert, be on the alert, be on the qui vive, be on guard; Brit. keep one's eyes skinned.

■ **peel something off** (Brit. informal) take off, strip off, remove.

**peep**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I peeped through the keyhole: look quickly*, take a quick look, sneak a look, (have a) peek, glance; informal take a gander, have a squint; Brit. informal have a dekho, have/take a butcher's, take a shufti. **2** *the moon peeped through the clouds: appear (slowly/partly)*, show, come into view/sight, become visible, emerge, peek, peer out.

● **noun** *I'll just take a peep at it: quick look*, brief look, sneaky look, peek, glance; informal gander, squint; Brit. informal dekho, butcher's, shufti.

**peep**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *I heard a quiet peep: cheep*, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, chirr, warble. **2** *there's been not a peep out of the children: sound*, noise, cry, word. **3** *the painting was sold without a peep: complaint*, grumble, mutter, murmur, grouse, objection, protest, protestation; informal moan, gripe, grouch. ● **verb** *the fax peeped: cheep*, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, chirr.

**peephole** **noun** **opening**, gap, cleft, spyhole, slit, crack, chink, keyhole, squint, judas (hole).

**peer**<sup>1</sup> verb *he peered at the manuscript: look closely*, try to see, narrow one's eyes, screw up one's eyes, squint.

**peer**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *hereditary peers: aristocrat*, lord, lady, peer of the realm, peeress, noble, nobleman, noblewoman, titled man/woman, patrician. **2** *his academic peers: equal*, coequal, fellow, confrère; contemporary; formal compeer.

**peerage** noun aristocracy, nobility, peers and peeresses, lords and ladies, patriciate; the House of Lords, the Lords.

**peerless** adjective incomparable, matchless, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/ comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil; unique, consummate, perfect, rare, transcendent, surpassing; formal unexampled.

**peeve** verb (informal) irritate, annoy, vex, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, nettles, put out, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, rile, needle, get to, bug, hack off, get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump; Brit. informal wind up, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off.

**peevish** adjective (informal) irritated, annoyed, cross, angry, vexed, displeased, disgruntled, indignant, exasperated, galled, irked, put out, aggrieved, offended, affronted, piqued, nettled, in high dudgeon; informal aggravated, miffed, riled, hacked off, browned off; Brit. informal marked, cheesed off, brassed off; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off, sore.

**peevish** adjective irritable, fractious, fretful, cross, petulant, querulous, peevish, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, sullen, grumpy, bad-tempered, short-tempered, testy, touchy, tetchy, snappish, irascible, waspish, prickly, crusty, dyspeptic, splenetic, choleric; N. English mardy; Brit. informal ratty, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery.

– OPPOSITES good-humoured.

**peg** noun pin, nail, dowel, skewer, spike, rivet, brad, screw, bolt, hook, spigot; Mountaineering piton; Golf tee.

• verb 1 *the flysheet is pegged to the ground:* fix, pin, attach, fasten, secure, make fast.

2 *we decided to peg our prices:* hold down, keep down, fix, set, hold, freeze.

■ **peg away** (informal) work hard, slog away, plod away, hammer away, grind away, slave away, exert oneself; persevere, persist, keep at it; informal beaver away, plug away, stick at it, soldier on; Brit. informal graft away.

■ **take someone down a peg or two** humble, humiliate, mortify, bring down, shame, embarrass, abash, put someone in their place, chasten, subdue, squash, deflate, make someone eat humble pie; informal show up, settle someone's hash, cut down to size; N. Amer. informal make someone eat crow.

**pejorative** adjective disparaging, derogatory, denigratory, deprecatory, defamatory, slanderous, libellous, abusive, insulting, slighting; informal bitchy.

– OPPOSITES complimentary.

**pellet** noun 1 *a pellet of mud:* little ball, little piece. 2 *pellet wounds:* bullet, shot, lead shot, buckshot. 3 *rabbit pellets:* excrement, excreta, droppings, faeces, dung.

**pell-mell** adverb 1 *men streamed pell-mell from the building:* helter-skelter,

headlong, (at) full tilt, hotfoot, post-haste, hurriedly, hastily, recklessly, precipitately; old use hurry-scurry. 2 *the sacks' contents were thrown pell-mell to the ground:* untidily, anyhow, in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle; informal all over the place, every which way, any old how; Brit. informal all over the shop; N. Amer. informal all over the map, all over the lot.

**pellucid** adjective 1 *the pellucid waters:* translucent, transparent, clear, crystal clear, crystalline, glassy, limpid, unclouded. 2 *pellucid prose:* lucid, limpid, clear, crystal clear, articulate; coherent, comprehensible, understandable, intelligible, straightforward, simple, well constructed; formal perspicuous.

**pelt**<sup>1</sup> verb 1 *they pelted him with snowballs:* bombard, shower, attack, assail, pepper. 2 *rain was pelting down:* pour down, teem down, stream down, tip down, rain cats and dogs, rain hard; Brit. informal bucket down, come down in stair rods. 3 (informal) *they pelted into the factory:* dash, run, race, rush, sprint, bolt, dart, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak; hasten, hurry; informal tear, belt, hotfoot it, scoot, leg it, go like a bat out of hell; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it.

**pelt**<sup>2</sup> noun *an animal's pelt:* skin, hide, fleece, coat, fur; old use fell.

**pen**<sup>1</sup> noun *you'll need a pen and paper:* fountain pen, ballpoint (pen), rollerball; fibre tip (pen), felt tip (pen), highlighter, marker pen; Brit. trademark biro.

• verb *he penned a number of articles:* write, compose, draft, dash off; write down, jot down, set down, take down, scribble.

**pen**<sup>2</sup> noun *a sheep pen:* enclosure, fold, sheepfold, pound, compound, stockade; sty, coop; N. Amer. corral.

• verb *the hostages had been penned up in a basement:* confine, coop (up), cage, shut in, box up/in, lock up/in, trap, imprison, incarcerate, immure.

**penal** adjective 1 *a penal institution:* disciplinary, punitive, corrective, correctional. 2 *penal rates of interest:* exorbitant, extortionate, excessive, outrageous, preposterous, unreasonable, inflated, sky-high.

**penalize** verb 1 *if you break the rules you will be penalized:* punish, discipline. 2 *people with certain medical positions would be penalized:* handicap, disadvantage, put at a disadvantage, cause to suffer.

– OPPOSITES reward.

**penalty** noun 1 *increased penalties for dumping oil at sea:* punishment, sanction, punitive action, retribution; fine, forfeit, sentence; penance; formal mulct. 2 *the penalties of old age:* disadvantage, difficulty, drawback, handicap, downside, minus; trial, tribulation, bane, affliction, burden, trouble.

– OPPOSITES reward.

**penance** noun atonement, expiation, self-punishment, self-mortification, self-abasement, amends; punishment, penalty.



**penchant** noun liking, fondness, preference, taste, relish, appetite, partiality, soft spot, love, passion, desire, fancy, whim, weakness, inclination, bent, bias, proclivity, predilection, predisposition.

**pencil** noun **1** a sharpened pencil: lead pencil, propelling pencil. **2** a pencil of light: beam, ray, shaft, finger, gleam.

• verb **1** he pencilled his name inside the cover: write, write down, jot down, scribble, note, take down. **2** pencil a line along the top of the moulding: draw, trace, sketch.

**pendant** noun necklace, locket, medallion.

**pendent** adjective hanging, suspended, dangling, pendulous, pensile, pendant, drooping, droopy, trailing.

**pending** adjective **1** nine cases were still pending: unresolved, undecided, unsettled, awaiting decision/action, undetermined, open, hanging fire, (up) in the air, ongoing, outstanding, not done, unfinished, incomplete; informal on the back burner. **2** with a general election pending: imminent, impending, about to happen, forthcoming, upcoming, on the way, coming, approaching, looming, gathering, near, nearing, close, close at hand, in the offing, to come. • preposition they were released on bail pending an appeal: awaiting, until, till, until there is/are.

**pendulous** adjective drooping, dangling, trailing, droopy, sagging, saggy, floppy; hanging, pendent, pensile.

**penetrable** adjective **1** a penetrable subsoil: permeable, pervious, porous. **2** books which are barely penetrable to anyone under 50: understandable, fathomable, comprehensible, intelligible.

**penetrate** verb **1** the knife penetrated his lungs: pierce, puncture, make a hole in, perforate, stab, prick, gore, spike. **2** they penetrated the enemy territory: infiltrate, slip into, sneak into, insinuate oneself into. **3** fear penetrated her bones: permeate, pervade, fill, spread throughout, suffuse, seep through. **4** he seemed to have penetrated the mysteries of nature: understand, comprehend, apprehend, fathom, grasp, perceive, discern, get to the bottom of, solve, resolve, make sense of, interpret, puzzle out, work out, unravel, decipher, make head or tail of; informal crack, get, figure out; Brit. informal suss out. **5** his words finally penetrated: register, sink in, be understood, be comprehended, become clear, fall into place; informal click.

**penetrating** adjective **1** a penetrating wind: piercing, cutting, biting, stinging, keen, sharp, harsh, raw, freezing, chill, wintry, cold. **2** a penetrating voice: shrill, strident, piercing, carrying, loud, high, high-pitched, piping, ear-splitting, screechy, intrusive. **3** a penetrating smell: pungent, pervasive, strong, powerful, sharp, acrid; heady, aromatic. **4** her penetrating gaze: observant, searching, intent, alert, shrewd, perceptive, probing, piercing, sharp, keen. **5** a penetrating analysis: perceptive, insightful,

keen, sharp, sharp-witted, intelligent, clever, smart, incisive, piercing, razor-edged, trenchant, astute, shrewd, clear, acute, percipient, perspicacious, discerning, sensitive, thoughtful, deep, profound. – OPPOSITES mild, soft.

**penetration** noun **1** skin penetration by infective larvae: perforation, piercing, puncturing, puncture, stabbing, pricking. **2** remarks of great penetration: insight, discernment, perception, perceptiveness, intelligence, sharp-wittedness, cleverness, incisiveness, keenness, sharpness, trenchancy, astuteness, shrewdness, acuteness, clarity, acuity, percipience, perspicacity, discrimination, sensitivity, thoughtfulness, profundity; formal perspicuity.

**peninsula** noun cape, promontory, point, head, headland, foreland, ness, horn, bill, bluff, mull.

**penitence** noun repentance, contrition, regret, remorse, remorsefulness, ruefulness, sorrow, sorrowfulness, pangs of conscience, self-reproach, shame, guilt, compunction; old use rue.

**penitent** adjective repentant, contrite, remorseful, sorry, apologetic, regretful, conscience-stricken, rueful, ashamed, shamefaced, abject, in sackcloth and ashes. – OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**pen name** noun pseudonym, nom de plume, assumed name, alias, professional name.

**penann** noun flag, standard, ensign, colour(s), banner, banderole, guidon; Brit. pendant; Nautical burgee.

**penniless** adjective destitute, poverty-stricken, impoverished, poor, indigent, impecunious, in penury, moneyless, without a sou, necessitous, needy, on one's beam-ends; bankrupt, insolvent; Brit. on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name); informal (flat) broke, cleaned out, cash-strapped, on one's uppers, without a brass farthing, bust; Brit. informal stony broke, skint; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious. – OPPOSITES wealthy.

**penny** noun

■ a pretty penny (informal) a lot of money, millions, billions, a king's ransom; informal a (small) fortune, lots/pots/heaps of money, a mint, a killing, a bundle, a packet, a tidy sum, big money, telephone numbers, an arm and a leg; Brit. informal a bomb, loadsamoney; N. Amer. informal big bucks; Austral. informal big bickies, motser, motza.

■ two/ten a penny (informal) numerous, abundant, thick on the ground, plentiful; in large numbers, by the yard; very common, ubiquitous; N. Amer. informal a dime a dozen.

**penny-pincher** noun miser, Scrooge, niggard; informal skinflint, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate; N. Amer. informal tightwad. – OPPOSITES spendthrift.

**penny-pinching** adjective mean, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, close-fisted, cheese-paring, grasping, Scrooge-like; informal stingy, mingy, tight, tight-fisted,

money-grubbing; formal penurious; old use near.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**pension** noun **old-age pension**, retirement pension, regular payment, superannuation; allowance, benefit, support, welfare.

**pensioner** noun **retired person**, old-age pensioner, OAP, senior citizen; N. Amer. senior, retiree.

**pensive** adjective **thoughtful**, reflective, contemplative, musing, meditative, introspective, ruminative, absorbed, preoccupied, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study, brooding; formal cogitative.

**pent-up** adjective **repressed**, suppressed, stifled, smothered, restrained, confined, bottled up, held in/back, kept in check, curbed, bridled.

**penurious** adjective (formal) **1 a penurious student**: poor, as poor as a church mouse, poverty-stricken, destitute, necessitous, impecunious, impoverished, indigent, needy, in need/want, badly off, in reduced/strained circumstances, hard up, on one's beam-ends, unable to make ends meet, penniless, without a sou; Brit. on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name); informal (flat) broke, strapped for cash, on one's uppers; Brit. informal stony broke, skint, without a brass farthing, in Queer Street; N. Amer. informal stone broke. **2 a penurious old skinflint**: mean, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, penny-pinching, close-fisted, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like; informal stingy, minging, tight, tight-fisted, money-grubbing; old use near.

– OPPOSITES wealthy, generous.

**penury** noun **extreme poverty**, destitution, pennilessness, impecuniousness, impoverishment, indigence, pauperism, privation, beggary.

**people** plural noun **1 crowds of people**: human beings, persons, individuals, humans, mortals, (living) souls, personages, (men, women, and children); informal folk, peeps. **2 the British people**: citizens, subjects, electors, voters, taxpayers, residents, inhabitants, (general) public, citizenry, nation, population, populace. **3 a man of the people**: the common people, the proletariat, the masses, the populace, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians; derogatory the hoi polloi, the common herd, the great unwashed, the proles, the plebs. **4 her people don't live far away**: family, parents, relatives, relations, folk, kinsmen, kinswomen, kin, kith and kin, kinsfolk, flesh and blood, nearest and dearest; informal folks.

• noun **the peoples of Africa**: race, (ethnic) group, tribe, clan.

• verb **the Indians who once peopled Newfoundland**: populate, settle (in), colonize, inhabit, live in, occupy; formal reside in, be domiciled in, dwell in.

# WORD LINKS

**anthropology** the study of peoples and human origins

**ethnology** the study of the differences and relationships between different peoples  
**ethnic** relating a group of people with a common national or cultural tradition

**pep** (informal) noun **a performance full of pep**: dynamism, life, energy, spirit, liveliness, animation, bounce, sparkle, effervescence, verve, spiritedness, ebullience, high spirits, enthusiasm, vitality, vivacity, fire, dash, panache, elan, zest, exuberance, vigour, gusto, brio; informal feistiness, get-up-and-go, oomph, pizzazz, vim.

■ **pep something up** enliven, animate, liven up, put some/new life into, invigorate, vitalize, revitalize, vivify, ginger up, energize, galvanize, stimulate, get something going, perk up; brighten up, cheer up; informal buck up.

**pepper** verb **1 salt and pepper the potatoes**: add pepper to, season, flavour. **2 stars peppered the desert skies**: sprinkle, fleck, dot, spot, stipple; cover, fill. **3 another burst of bullets peppered the tank**: bombard, pelt, shower, rain down on, attack, assail, batter, strafe, rake, blitz, hit.

**peppery** adjective **1 a peppery sauce**: spicy, spiced, peppered, hot, highly seasoned, piquant, pungent, sharp. **2 a peppery old man**: irritable, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, crusty, crabby, curmudgeonly, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, prickly, waspish; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery.

– OPPOSITES mild, bland, affable.

**perceive** verb **1 I immediately perceived the flaws in her story**: discern, recognize, become aware of, see, distinguish, realize, grasp, understand, take in, make out, find, identify, hit on, comprehend, apprehend, appreciate, sense, divine; informal figure out; Brit. informal twig; formal become cognizant of. **2 he perceived a flush creeping up her neck**: see, discern, detect, catch sight of, spot, observe, notice. **3 he was perceived as too negative**: regard, look on, view, consider, think of, judge, deem, adjudge.

**perceptible** adjective **noticeable**, perceivable, detectable, discernible, visible, observable, recognizable, appreciable; obvious, apparent, evident, manifest, patent, clear, distinct, plain, conspicuous.

**perception** noun **1 our perception of our own limitations**: recognition, awareness, consciousness, appreciation, realization, knowledge, grasp, understanding, comprehension, apprehension; formal cognizance. **2 popular perceptions of old age**: impression, idea, conception, notion, thought, belief, judgement, estimation. **3 he talks with great perception**: insight, perceptiveness, percipience, perspicacity, understanding, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, intelligence, intuition, cleverness, incisiveness, trenchancy, astuteness, shrewdness, acuteness, acuity, discernment, sensitivity, penetration, thoughtfulness,

profundity; formal perspicuity.

**perceptive** adjective insightful, discerning, sensitive, intuitive, observant; piercing, penetrating, percipient, perspicacious, penetrative, clear-sighted, far-sighted, intelligent, clever, canny, keen, sharp, sharp-witted, astute, shrewd, quick, smart, acute, discriminating; informal on the ball; N. Amer. informal heads-up.

– OPPOSITES obtuse.

**perch** noun *the budgerigar's perch*: pole, rod, branch, roost, rest, resting place.

• **verb** **1** *three swallows perched on the telegraph wire*: roost, sit, rest; alight, settle, land, come to rest. **2** *she perched her glasses on her nose*: put, place, set, rest, balance. **3** *the church is perched on a hill*: be located, be situated, be positioned, be sited, stand.

**perchance** adverb (literary) maybe, perhaps, possibly, for all one knows, it could be, it's possible, conceivably; N. English happen; literary peradventure.

**percipient** adjective. See **PERCEPTIVE**.

**percolate** verb **1** *water percolated through the soil*: filter, drain, drip, ooze, seep, trickle, dribble, leak, leach. **2** *these views began to percolate through society as a whole*: spread, be disseminated, filter, pass; permeate, pervade. **3** *he put some coffee on to percolate*: brew; informal perk.

**perdition** noun damnation, eternal punishment; hell, hellfire, doom.

**peregrinations** plural noun (old use) travels, wanderings, journeys, globetrotting, voyages, expeditions, odysseys, trips, treks, excursions; formal perambulations.

**peremptory** adjective **1** *a peremptory reply*: brusque, imperious, high-handed, brisk, abrupt, summary, commanding, dictatorial, autocratic, overbearing, dogmatic, arrogant, overweening, lordly, magisterial, authoritarian; emphatic, firm, insistent; informal bossy. **2** *a peremptory order of the court*: irreversible, binding, absolute, final, conclusive, decisive, definitive, categorical, irrefutable, incontrovertible; law unappealable.

**perennial** adjective abiding, enduring, lasting, everlasting, perpetual, eternal, continuing, unending, unceasing, never-ending, endless, undying, ceaseless, persisting, permanent, constant, continual, unfailing, unchanging, never-changing.

**perfect** adjective **1** *she strove to be the perfect wife*: ideal, model, without fault, faultless, flawless, consummate, quintessential, exemplary, best, ultimate, copybook; unrivalled, unequalled, matchless, unparalleled, beyond compare, without equal, second to none, too good to be true, Utopian, incomparable, nonpareil, peerless, inimitable, unexcelled, unsurpassed, unsurpassable. **2** *An E-type Jaguar in perfect condition*: flawless, mint, as good as new, pristine, impeccable, immaculate, superb, superlative, optimum, prime, optimal, peak, excellent, faultless, as sound as a bell, unspoiled, unblemished, undamaged,

spotless, unmarred; informal tip-top, A1.

**3** *a perfect copy*: exact, precise, accurate, faithful, correct, unerring, right, true, strict; Brit. informal spot on; N. Amer. informal on the money. **4** *the perfect Christmas present for golfers everywhere*: ideal, just right, right, appropriate, fitting, fit, suitable, apt, made to order, tailor-made; very; Brit. informal spot on, just the job. **5** *she felt a perfect idiot*: absolute, complete, total, real, out-and-out, thorough, thoroughgoing, downright, utter, sheer, arrant, unmitigated, unqualified, veritable, in every respect, unalloyed; Brit. informal right; Austral./NZ informal fair.

• **verb** *he's busy perfecting his bowling technique*: improve, better, polish (up), hone, refine, put the finishing/final touches to, brush up, fine-tune.

**perfection** noun **1** *the perfection of his technique*: improvement, betterment, refinement, refining, honing. **2** *for her, he was still perfection*: the ideal, a paragon, the ne plus ultra, the beau idéal, a nonpareil, the crème de la crème, the last word, the ultimate; informal one in a million, the tops, the best/greatest thing since sliced bread, the bee's knees; old use a nonsuch.

**perfectionist** noun purist, stickler for perfection, idealist; pedant; old use precisian.

**perfectly** adverb **1** *a perfectly cooked meal*: superbly, superlatively, excellently, flawlessly, faultlessly, to perfection, without fault, ideally, inimitably, incomparably, impeccably, immaculately, exquisitely, consummately; N. Amer. to a fare-thee-well; informal like a dream, to a T. **2** *I think we understand each other perfectly*: absolutely, utterly, completely, altogether, entirely, wholly, totally, thoroughly, fully, in every respect. **3** *you know perfectly well that is not what I meant*: very, quite, full; informal damn, damned; Brit. informal jolly, bloody; N. Amer. informal darned; N. English right.

**perfidious** adjective (literary) treacherous, duplicitous, deceitful, disloyal, faithless, unfaithful, traitorous, treasonous, false, false-hearted, double-dealing, two-faced, untrustworthy.

– OPPOSITES faithful.

**perfidy** noun (literary) treachery, duplicity, deceit, deceitfulness, disloyalty, infidelity, faithlessness, unfaithfulness, betrayal, treason, double-dealing, untrustworthiness, breach of trust; literary perfidiousness.

**perforate** verb pierce, penetrate, enter, puncture, prick, bore through, riddle.

**perforce** adverb (formal) necessarily, of necessity, inevitably, unavoidably, by force of circumstances, needs must; informal like it or not; formal no less volens.

**perform** verb **1** *I have my duties to perform*: carry out, do, execute, discharge, bring about, bring off, accomplish, achieve, fulfil, complete, conduct, effect, dispatch, work, implement; informal pull off; formal effectuate; old use acquit oneself of. **2** *a car which performs well at low speeds*: function, work, operate, run, go, respond, behave, act, acquit



oneself/itself. **3** *the play has been performed in Britain: stage, put on, present, mount, enact, act, produce.* **4** *the band performed live in Hyde Park: appear, play, be on stage.*  
 – OPPOSITES neglect.

**performance** noun **1** *the evening performance: show, production, showing, presentation, staging; concert, recital; Brit. house; informal gig.* **2** *their performance of Mozart's concerto in E flat: rendition, rendering, interpretation, playing, acting, representation.* **3** *the continual performance of a single task: carrying out, execution, discharge, accomplishment, completion, fulfilment, dispatch, implementation; formal effectuation.* **4** *the performance of the processor: functioning, working, operation, running, behaviour, capabilities, capability, capacity, power, potential.* **5** (informal) *he made a great performance of telling her about it: fuss, production, palaver, scene; NZ bobsydie; informal song and dance, to-do, hoo-ha, business, pantomime.*

**performer** noun **entertainer, actor, actress, thespian, artiste, artist, trouper, player, musician, singer, dancer, comic, comedian, comedienne.**

**perfume** noun **1** *a bottle of perfume: scent, fragrance, eau de toilette, toilet water, eau de cologne, cologne, aftershave.* **2** *the heady perfume of lilacs: smell, scent, fragrance, aroma, bouquet, redolence.*

**perfumed** adjective **sweet-smelling, scented, fragrant, fragranced, perfumy, aromatic.**

**perfunctory** adjective **cursory, desultory, quick, brief, hasty, hurried, rapid, fleeting, token, casual, superficial, careless, half-hearted, sketchy, mechanical, automatic, routine, offhand, inattentive.**

– OPPOSITES careful, thorough.

**perhaps** adverb **maybe, for all one knows, it could be, it may be, it's possible, possibly, conceivably; N. English happen; literary peradventure, perchance.**

**peril** noun **danger, jeopardy, risk, hazard, insecurity, uncertainty, menace, threat, perilousness; pitfall, problem.**

**perilous** adjective **dangerous, fraught with danger, hazardous, risky, unsafe, treacherous; precarious, vulnerable, uncertain, insecure, exposed, at risk, in jeopardy, in danger, touch-and-go; informal dicey.**

– OPPOSITES safe.

**perimeter** noun **1** *the perimeter of a circle: circumference, outside, outer edge.* **2** *the perimeter of the vast estate: boundary, border, limits, bounds, confines, edge, margin, fringe(s), periphery, borderline, verge; literary bourn, marge.*

**period** noun **1** *a six-week period: time, spell, interval, stretch, term, span, phase, bout, run, duration, chapter, stage; while; Brit. informal patch.* **2** *the post-war period: era, age, epoch, time, days, years; Geology aeon.* **3** *a double maths period: lesson, class, session.* **4** *women who suffer from painful periods:*

*menstruation, menstrual flow; informal the curse, monthlies, time of the month; technical menses.* **5** (N. Amer.) *a comma instead of a period: full stop, full point, point, stop.*

**periodic** adjective **regular, periodical, at fixed intervals, recurrent, recurring, repeated, cyclical, cyclic, seasonal; occasional, infrequent, intermittent, sporadic, spasmodic, odd.**

**periodical** noun *he wrote for two periodicals: journal, publication, magazine, newspaper, paper, review, digest, gazette, newsletter, organ, quarterly; informal mag, book, glossy.*

• adjective *the island has periodical earthquakes.* See **PERIODIC.**

**peripatetic** adjective **nomadic, itinerant, travelling, wandering, roving, roaming, migrant, migratory, unsettled.**

**peripheral** adjective **1** *the city's peripheral housing estates: outlying, outer, on the edge/outskirts, surrounding.* **2** *peripheral issues: secondary, subsidiary, incidental, tangential, marginal, minor, unimportant, lesser, inessential, non-essential, immaterial, ancillary.*

– OPPOSITES central.

**periphery** noun **edge, outer edge, margin, fringe, boundary, border, perimeter, rim, verge, borderline; outskirts, outer limits/ reaches, bounds; literary bourn, marge.**

– OPPOSITES centre.

**periphrastic** adjective **circumlocutory, circuitous, roundabout, indirect, tautological, pleonastic, prolix, verbose, wordy, long-winded, rambling, wandering, tortuous, diffuse.**

**perish** verb **1** *millions of soldiers perished: die, lose one's life, be killed, fall, expire, meet one's death, be lost, lay down one's life, breathe one's last, pass away, go the way of all flesh, give up the ghost, go to glory, meet one's maker, go to one's last resting place, cross the great divide; informal kick the bucket, turn up one's toes, shuffle off this mortal coil, buy it, croak; Brit. informal snuff it, pop one's clogs; N. Amer. informal bite the big one, buy the farm; old use de cease, depart this life.* **2** *must these hopes perish so soon? come to an end, die (away), disappear, vanish, fade, dissolve, evaporate, melt away, wither.* **3** *the wood had perished: go bad, go off, spoil, rot, go mouldy, moulder, putrefy, decay, decompose.*

**perjure** verb

■ **perjure oneself** lie under oath, lie, commit perjury, give false evidence/testimony; formal forswear oneself, be forsworn.

**perjury** noun **lying under oath, making false statements, wilful falsehood.**

**perk**<sup>1</sup> verb

■ **perk up** **1** *you seem to have perked up: cheer up, brighten up, liven up, take heart; informal buck up.* **2** *the economy has been slow to perk up: recover, rally, improve, revive, take a turn for the better, look up, pick up, bounce back.*

■ **perk someone/something up** *you could do with something to perk you up: cheer*

up, liven up, brighten up, raise someone's spirits, give someone a boost/lift, revitalize, invigorate, energize, enliven, ginger up, put new life/heart into, rejuvenate, refresh, vitalize; informal buck up, pep up.

**perk**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *a job with a lot of perks: fringe benefit, additional benefit, benefit, advantage, bonus, extra, plus*; informal freebie; Brit. informal golden hello; formal perquisite.

**perky** **adjective** cheerful, lively, vivacious, animated, bubbly, effervescent, bouncy, spirited, high-spirited, in high spirits, cheery, merry, buoyant, ebullient, exuberant, jaunty, frisky, sprightly, spry, bright, sunny, jolly, full of the joys of spring, sparkly, pert; informal full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper; N. Amer. informal peppy; dated gay.

**permanence** **noun** stability, durability, permanency, fixity, fixedness, changelessness, immutability, endurance, constancy, continuity, immortality, indestructibility, perpetuity, endlessness.

**permanent** **adjective** **1** *permanent brain damage: lasting, enduring, indefinite, continuing, perpetual, everlasting, eternal, abiding, constant, irreparable, irreversible, lifelong, indissoluble, indelible, standing, perennial, unending, endless, never-ending, immutable, undying, imperishable, indestructible, ineradicable; literary sempiternal, perdurable.* **2** *a permanent job: long-term, stable, secure, durable.*

– OPPOSITES temporary.

**permanently** **adverb** **1** *the attack left her permanently disabled: for all time, forever, for good, for always, for ever and ever, (for) evermore, until hell freezes over, in perpetuity, indelibly, immutably, until the end of time*; N. Amer. forevermore; informal for keeps, until the cows come home, until doomsday, until kingdom come; old use for aye. **2** *I was permanently hungry: continually, constantly, perpetually, always.*

**permeable** **adjective** porous, pervious, penetrable, absorbent, absorptive.

**permeate** **verb** **1** *the delicious smell permeated the entire flat: pervade, spread through, fill, filter through, diffuse through, imbue, penetrate, pass through, percolate through, perfuse, charge, suffuse, steep, impregnate, inform.* **2** *these resins are able to permeate the timber: soak through, penetrate, seep through, saturate, percolate through, leach through.*

**permissible** **adjective** permitted, allowable, allowed, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, admissible, licit, authorized, sanctioned, tolerated; informal legit, OK.

– OPPOSITES forbidden.

**permission** **noun** authorization, consent, leave, authority, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, seal of approval, approbation, endorsement, blessing, imprimatur, clearance, allowance, tolerance, sufferance, empowerment; informal the go-

ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light, say-so.

**permissive** **adjective** liberal, broad-minded, open-minded, free, free and easy, easy-going, live-and-let-live, latitudinarian, laissez-faire, libertarian, unprescriptive, tolerant, forbearing, indulgent, lenient; overindulgent, lax, soft.

– OPPOSITES intolerant, strict.

**permit** **verb** *I cannot permit you to leave: allow, let, authorize, give someone permission, sanction, grant, give someone the right, license, empower, enable, entitle, qualify; consent to, assent to, give one's blessing to, give the nod to, acquiesce in, agree to, tolerate, countenance, admit of; legalize, legitimize, legitimate; informal give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, OK, give the OK to, give the green light to, say the word; formal accede to; old use suffer.*

– OPPOSITES ban, forbid.

• **noun** *I need to see your permit:*

authorization, licence, pass, ticket, warrant, document, certification; passport, visa.

**permutation** **noun** variation, alteration, modification, change, shift, transformation, transmutation, mutation; humorous transmogrification.

**pernicious** **adjective** harmful, damaging, destructive, injurious, hurtful, detrimental, deleterious, dangerous, adverse, inimical, unhealthy, unfavourable, bad, evil, baleful, wicked, malign, malevolent, malignant, noxious, poisonous, corrupting; literary maleficent.

– OPPOSITES beneficial.

**pernickety** **adjective** (informal) fussy, difficult to please, difficult, finicky, over-fastidious, fastidious, over-particular, particular, faddish, punctilious, hair-splitting, critical, overcritical; informal nit-picking, choosy, picky; Brit. informal faddy; N. Amer. informal persnickety.

– OPPOSITES easy-going.

**peroration** **noun** **1** *the peroration of his speech: conclusion, ending, close, closing remarks; summation, summing-up.* **2** *an hour-long peroration: speech, lecture, talk, address, oration, sermon, disquisition, discourse, declamation, harangue, diatribe; informal spiel.*

**perpendicular** **adjective** **1** *the perpendicular stones: upright, vertical, erect, plumb, straight (up and down), on end, standing, upended.* **2** *lines perpendicular to each other: at right angles, at 90 degrees.*

**3** *the perpendicular hillside: steep, sheer, precipitous, abrupt, bluff, vertiginous.*

– OPPOSITES horizontal.

**perpetrate** **verb** commit, carry out, perform, execute, do, effect, bring about, accomplish; be guilty of, be to blame for, be responsible for, inflict, wreak; informal pull off; formal effectuate.

**perpetual** **adjective** **1** *deep caves in perpetual darkness: everlasting, never-ending, eternal, permanent, unending, endless, without end, lasting, long-lasting, constant,*

abiding, enduring, perennial, timeless, ageless, deathless, undying, immortal; unfailing, unchanging, never-changing, changeless, unfading; literary sempiternal, perdurable. **2** *a perpetual state of fear*: **constant**, permanent, uninterrupted, continuous, unremitting, unending, unceasing, persistent, unbroken. **3** *her mother's perpetual nagging*: **interminable**, incessant, ceaseless, endless, without respite, relentless, unrelenting, persistent, continual, continuous, non-stop, never-ending, recurrent, repeated, unremitting, sustained, round-the-clock, unabating; informal eternal.

– **OPPOSITES** temporary, intermittent.

**perpetuate** **verb** *keep alive, keep going, preserve, conserve, sustain, maintain, continue, extend, carry on, keep up, prolong; immortalize, commemorate, memorialize, eternalize.*

**perpetuity** **noun**

■ **in perpetuity** forever, permanently, for always, for good, for good and all, perpetually, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for all time, until the end of time, until hell freezes over, eternally, for eternity, everlastingly; N. Amer. forevermore; informal for keeps, until doomsday; old use for aye.

**perplex** **verb** *puzzle, baffle, mystify, bemuse, bewilder, confound, confuse, nonplus, disconcert, dumbfound, throw, throw/catch off balance, exercise, worry; informal flummox, be all Greek to, stump, bamboozle, floor, beat, faze, fox; N. Amer. informal discombobulate; old use wilder, maze.*

**perplexing** **adjective** *puzzling, baffling, mystifying, mysterious, bewildering, confusing, disconcerting, worrying, unaccountable, difficult to understand, beyond one, paradoxical, peculiar, funny, strange, weird, odd.*

**perplexity** **noun** **1** *he scratched his head in perplexity*: **confusion**, bewilderment, puzzlement, bafflement, incomprehension, mystification, bemusement; informal bamboozlement; N. Amer. informal discombobulation. **2** *the perplexities of international relations*: **complexity**, complication, intricacy, problem, difficulty, mystery, puzzle, enigma, paradox.

**perquisite** **noun** (formal). See **PERK**².

**per se** **adverb** *in itself, of itself, by itself, as such, intrinsically; by its very nature, in essence, by definition, essentially.*

**persecute** **verb** **1** *they were persecuted for their religious beliefs*: **oppress**, abuse, victimize, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, tyrannize, torment, torture; martyr. **2** *she was persecuted by the press*: **harass**, hound, plague, badger, harry, intimidate, pick on, pester, bother, bedevil, bully, victimize, terrorize; N. Amer. devil; informal hassle, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back; Austral. informal heavy.

**persecution** **noun** **1** *victims of religious persecution*: **oppression**, victimization, maltreatment, ill-treatment, mistreatment,

abuse, ill-usage, discrimination, tyranny; informal witch hunt. **2** *the persecution I endured at school*: **harassment**, hounding, intimidation, bullying.

**perseverance** **noun** *persistence, tenacity, determination, staying power, indefatigability, steadfastness, purposefulness; patience, endurance, application, diligence, dedication, commitment, doggedness, assiduity, tirelessness, stamina; intransigence, obstinacy; informal stickability; N. Amer. informal stick-to-it-iveness; formal pertinacity.*

**persevere** **verb** *persist, continue, carry on, go on, keep on, keep going, struggle on, hammer away, be persistent, be determined, see/follow something through, keep at it, press on/ahead, not take no for an answer, be tenacious, stand one's ground, stand fast/firm, hold on, go the distance, stay the course, plod on, plough on, stop at nothing, leave no stone unturned; informal soldier on, hang on, plug away, peg away, stick to one's guns, stick it out, hang in there.*

– **OPPOSITES** give up.

**persist** **verb** **1** *Corbett persisted with his questioning*. See **PERSEVERE**. **2** *if dry weather persists, water the lawn thoroughly*: **continue**, hold, carry on, last, keep on, keep up, remain, linger, stay, endure.

**persistence** **noun**. See **PERSEVERANCE**.

**persistent** **adjective** **1** *a very persistent man*: **tenacious**, persevering, determined, resolute, purposeful, dogged, single-minded, tireless, indefatigable, patient, unflagging, untiring, insistent, importunate, relentless, unrelenting; stubborn, intransigent, obstinate, obdurate; formal pertinacious. **2** *persistent rain*: **constant**, continuous, continuing, continual, non-stop, never-ending, steady, uninterrupted, unbroken, interminable, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, perpetual, unremitting, unrelenting, relentless, unrelieved, sustained. **3** *a persistent cough*: **chronic**, permanent, nagging, frequent; repeated, habitual.

– **OPPOSITES** irresolute, intermittent.

**person** **noun** *human being, individual, man/woman, human, being, (living) soul, mortal, creature; personage, figure, character, customer; informal type, sort, beggar, cookie; Brit. informal bod; informal, dated body, dog, cove; old use wight.*

■ **in person** physically, in the flesh, in propria persona, personally; oneself; informal as large as life.

**persona** **noun** *image, face, public face, character, personality, identity, self; front, facade, guise, exterior, role, part.*

**personable** **adjective** *pleasant, agreeable, likeable, nice, amiable, affable, charming, congenial, genial, engaging, pleasing; attractive, presentable, good-looking, nice-looking, pretty, appealing; Scottish couthy; Scottish & N. English bonny, canny; dated taking.*

– **OPPOSITES** disagreeable, unattractive.

**personage** **noun** *important person, VIP,*



luminary, celebrity, personality, name, famous name, household name, public figure, star, leading light, dignitary, notable, notability, worthy, panjandrum; person; informal celeb, somebody, big shot, big noise; Brit. informal nob; N. Amer. informal big wheel, big kahuna.

**personal adjective** **1** *a highly personal style*: distinctive, characteristic, unique, individual, one's own, particular, peculiar, idiosyncratic, individualized, personalized. **2** *a personal appearance*: in person, in the flesh, actual, live, physical. **3** *his personal life*: private, intimate; confidential, secret. **4** *a personal friend*: intimate, close, dear, great, bosom. **5** *I have personal knowledge of the family*: direct, empirical, first-hand, immediate, experiential. **6** *personal remarks*: derogatory, disparaging, belittling, insulting, critical, rude, slighting, disrespectful, offensive, pejorative.

– OPPOSITES public, general.

**personality noun** **1** *her cheerful personality*: character, nature, disposition, temperament, make-up, persona, psyche. **2** *she had loads of personality*: charisma, magnetism, strength/force of personality, character, charm, presence. **3** *a famous personality*: celebrity, VIP, star, superstar, name, famous name, household name, big name, somebody, leading light, luminary, notable, personage, notability; informal celeb.

**personalize verb** **1** *products which can be personalized to your requirements*: customize, individualize. **2** *attempts to personalize God*: personify, humanize, anthropomorphize.

**personally adverb** **1** *I'd like to thank him personally*: in person, oneself. **2** *personally, I think it's a good idea*: for my part, for myself, to my way of thinking, to my mind, in my estimation, as far as I am concerned, in my view/opinion, from my point of view, from where I stand, as I see it, if you ask me, for my money, in my book; privately.

■ **take something personally** take offence, take something amiss, be offended, be upset, be affronted, take umbrage, take exception, feel insulted, feel hurt.

**personification noun** embodiment, incarnation, epitome, quintessence, essence, type, symbol, soul, model, exemplification, exemplar, image, representation.

**personify verb** epitomize, embody, be the incarnation of, typify, exemplify, represent, symbolize, stand for, body forth.

**personnel noun** staff, employees, workforce, workers, labour force, manpower, human resources; informal liveware.

**perspective noun** **1** *her perspective on things had changed*: outlook, view, viewpoint, point of view, standpoint, position, stand, stance, angle, slant, attitude, frame of mind, frame of reference, approach, way of looking, interpretation. **2** *a perspective of the whole valley*: view, vista, panorama, prospect, bird's-eye view, outlook, aspect.

**perspicacious adjective** discerning, shrewd,

perceptive, astute, penetrating, observant, percipient, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, alert, clear-sighted, far-sighted, acute, clever, canny, intelligent, insightful, wise, sage, sensitive, intuitive, understanding, aware, discriminating; informal on the ball; N. Amer. informal heads-up.

– OPPOSITES stupid.

**perspicuous adjective** (formal). See CLEAR adjective sense 1.

**perspiration noun** sweat, moisture; a lather; informal a muck sweat; Medicine diaphoresis, hidrosis.

**perspire verb** sweat, be dripping/pouring with sweat, glow; informal be in a muck sweat.

**persuadable adjective** malleable, tractable, pliable, compliant, amenable, adaptable, accommodating, cooperative, flexible, acquiescent, yielding, biddable, complaisant, like putty in one's hands, suggestible.

**persuade verb** **1** *he tried to persuade her to come with him*: prevail on, talk into, coax, convince, make, get, induce, win over, bring round, coerce, influence, sway, inveigle, entice, tempt, lure, cajole, wheedle; Law procure; informal sweet-talk, twist someone's arm. **2** *shortage of money persuaded them to abandon the scheme*: cause, lead, move, dispose, incline.

– OPPOSITES dissuade, deter.

**persuasion noun** **1** *Monica needed plenty of persuasion*: coaxing, persuading, coercion, inducement, convincing, blandishment, encouragement, urging, inveiglement, cajolery, enticement, wheedling; informal sweet-talking, arm-twisting; formal suasion. **2** *various political and religious persuasions*: group, grouping, sect, denomination, party, camp, side, faction, affiliation, school of thought, belief, creed, credo, faith, philosophy.

**persuasive adjective** convincing, cogent, compelling, potent, forceful, powerful, eloquent, impressive, influential, sound, valid, strong, effective, winning, telling; plausible, credible.

– OPPOSITES unconvincing.

**pert adjective** **1** *a pert little hat*: jaunty, neat, trim, stylish, smart, perky, rakish; informal natty; N. Amer. informal saucy. **2** *a young girl with a pert manner*: impudent, impertinent, cheeky, irreverent, forward, insolent, disrespectful, flippant, familiar, presumptuous, bold, as bold as brass, brazen; informal fresh, lippy, saucy; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use malapert.

**pertain verb** **1** *developments pertaining to the economy*: concern, relate to, be related to, be connected with, be relevant to, apply to, be pertinent to, refer to, have a bearing on, appertain to, bear on, affect, involve, touch; old use regard. **2** *the stock and assets pertaining to the business*: belong to, be a part of, be included in. **3** *the economic situation which pertained in Britain at that time*: exist, be the order of the day, be the case, prevail; formal obtain.

**pertinacious adjective** (formal) determined,

tenacious, persistent, persevering, purposeful, resolute, dogged, indefatigable, insistent, single-minded, unrelenting, relentless, tireless, unshakeable; stubborn, obstinate, inflexible, unbending.

– OPPOSITES irresolute, tentative.

**pertinent** adjective *relevant, to the point, apposite, appropriate, suitable, fitting, fit, apt, applicable, material, germane, to the purpose, apropos; formal ad rem.*

– OPPOSITES irrelevant.

**perturb** verb *worry, upset, unsettle, disturb, concern, trouble, disquiet; disconcert, discomfit, unnerve, alarm, bother, distress, dismay, gnaw at, agitate, fluster, ruffle, discountenance, exercise; informal rattle.*

– OPPOSITES reassure.

**perturbed** adjective *upset, worried, unsettled, disturbed, concerned, troubled, anxious, ill at ease, uneasy, disquieted, fretful; disconcerted, discomposed, distressed, unnerved, alarmed, bothered, dismayed, agitated, flustered, ruffled, shaken, discountenanced; informal twitchy, rattled, fazed; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.*

– OPPOSITES calm.

**peruse** verb *read, study, scrutinize, inspect, examine, wade through, look through; browse through, leaf through, scan, run one's eye over, glance through, flick through, skim through, thumb through, dip into; old use con.*

**pervade** verb *permeate, spread through, fill, suffuse, be diffused through, imbue, penetrate, filter through, percolate through, infuse, perfuse, flow through; charge, steep, saturate, impregnate, inform.*

**pervasive** adjective *prevalent, pervading, permeating, extensive, ubiquitous, omnipresent, universal, rife, widespread, general.*

**perverse** adjective *1 he is being deliberately perverse: awkward, contrary, difficult, unreasonable, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, recalcitrant, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, mulish, pig-headed, bullheaded; informal cussed; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie; N. Amer. informal balky; formal refractory; old use froward, contumacious. 2 a verdict that is manifestly perverse: illogical, irrational, unreasonable, wrong, wrong-headed. 3 an evil life dedicated to perverse pleasure: perverted, depraved, unnatural, abnormal, deviant, degenerate, immoral, warped, twisted, corrupt; wicked, base, evil; informal kinky, sick, pervy.*

– OPPOSITES accommodating, reasonable.

**perversion** noun *1 a twisted perversion of the truth: distortion, misrepresentation, falsification, travesty, misinterpretation, misconstruction, twisting, corruption, subversion, misuse, misapplication, debasement. 2 sexual perversion: deviance, abnormality; depravity, degeneracy, debauchery, corruption, vice, wickedness, immorality.*

**perversity** noun *1 out of sheer perversity, he refused: contrariness, awkwardness, recalcitrance, stubbornness, obstinacy, obduracy, mulishness, pig-headedness; informal cussedness; Brit. informal bloody-mindedness; formal refractoriness. 2 the perversity of the decision: unreasonable, irrationality, illogicality, wrong-headedness.*

**pervert** verb *1 people who attempt to pervert the rules: distort, corrupt, subvert, twist, bend, abuse, misapply, misuse, misrepresent, misinterpret, falsify. 2 men can be perverted by power: corrupt, lead astray, debase, warp, pollute, poison, deprave, debauch.*

• noun *a sexual pervert: deviant, degenerate; informal perv, dirty old man, sicko.*

**perverted** adjective *unnatural, deviant, warped, corrupt, twisted, abnormal, unhealthy, depraved, perverse, aberrant, immoral, debauched, debased, degenerate, evil, wicked, vile, amoral, wrong, bad; informal sick, sicko, kinky, pervy.*

**pessimism** noun *defeatism, negativity, doom and gloom, gloominess, cynicism, fatalism; hopelessness, depression, despair, despondency, angst; informal looking on the black side.*

**pessimist** noun *defeatist, fatalist, prophet of doom, cynic, doomsayer, doomster, Cassandra; sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas; misery, killjoy, Job's comforter; informal doom (and gloom) merchant, wet blanket; N. Amer. informal gloomy Gus.*

– OPPOSITES optimist.

**pessimistic** adjective *gloomy, negative, defeatist, downbeat, cynical, bleak, fatalistic, dark, black, despairing, despondent, depressed, hopeless; suspicious, distrustful, doubting.*

– OPPOSITES optimistic.

**pest** noun *nuisance, annoyance, irritation, irritant, thorn in one's flesh/side, vexation, trial, the bane of one's life, menace, trouble, problem, worry, bother; informal pain (in the neck), aggravation, headache; Scottish informal skelf; N. Amer. informal nudnik; Austral./NZ informal nark.*

**pester** verb *badger, hound, harass, plague, annoy, bother, trouble, keep after, persecute, torment, bedevil, harry, worry, beleague, chivvy, nag; informal hassle, bug, get on someone's back; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal devil.*

**pestilence** noun (old use). See **PLAGUE** noun sense 1.

**pestilential** adjective *1 pestilential fever: plague-like, infectious, contagious, communicable, epidemic, virulent; informal catching; literary pestiferous. 2 (informal) a pestilential man! annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, tiresome, irksome, vexing, vexatious; informal aggravating, pesky, infernal.*

**pet**<sup>1</sup> noun *the teacher's pet: favourite, darling, the apple of one's eye; Brit. informal blue-eyed boy/girl; N. Amer. informal fair-haired boy/girl.*

• adjective *1 a pet lamb: tame, domesticated,*

domestic; Brit. house-trained; N. Amer. housebroken. **2** *his pet theory*: favourite, favoured, cherished, dear to one's heart; particular, special, personal.

• **verb 1** *the cats came to be petted*: stroke, caress, fondle, pat. **2** *she had always been petted by her parents*: pamper, spoil, mollycoddle, coddle, cosset, baby, indulge, overindulge, wrap in cotton wool. **3** *couples were petting in their cars*: kiss and cuddle, kiss, cuddle, embrace, caress; informal canoodle, neck, smooch; Brit. informal snog; N. Amer. informal make out, get it on; informal, dated spoon.

■ **pet name** affectionate name, term of endearment, endearment, nickname, diminutive, hypocoristic.

**pet**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *Mum's in a pet*: bad mood, mood, bad temper, temper, sulk, fit of pique, huff; Brit. informal paddy, strop.

**peter** **verb**

■ **peter out** fizzle out, fade (away), die away/out, dwindle, diminish, taper off, tail off, trail away/off, wane, ebb, melt away, evaporate, disappear, come to an end, subside.

**petite** **adjective** small, dainty, diminutive, slight, little, tiny, elfin, delicate, small-boned; Scottish wee; informal pint-sized.

**petition** **noun 1** *over 1,000 people signed the petition*: appeal, round robin. **2** *petitions to Allah*: entreaty, supplication, plea, prayer, appeal, request, invocation, suit; old use orison.

• **verb** *they petitioned the king to revoke the decision*: appeal to, request, ask, call on, entreat, beg, implore, plead with, apply to, press, urge; formal adjure; literary beseech.

**petrified** **adjective 1** *she looked petrified*:

terrified, terror-stricken, horrified, scared/frightened out of one's wits, scared/frightened to death. **2** *petrified remains of prehistoric animals*: ossified, fossilized, calcified.

**petrify** **verb** terrify, horrify, frighten, scare, scare/frighten to death, scare/frighten the living daylights out of, scare/frighten the life out of, strike terror into, put the fear of God into; paralyse, transfix; informal scare the pants off; Irish informal scare the bejesus out of.

**petrol** **noun** fuel, unleaded, superunleaded, diesel; N. Amer. gasoline, gas; informal juice.

**petticoat** **noun** slip, underskirt, half-slip, underslip, undergarment; historical crinoline; old use kirtle.

**petty** **adjective 1** *petty regulations*: trivial, trifling, minor, small, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, negligible, paltry, footling, pettifogging; informal piffing, piddling, fiddling. **2** *a petty form of revenge*: small-minded, mean, ungenerous, shabby, spiteful.

– **OPPOSITES** important, magnanimous.

**petulant** **adjective** peevish, bad-tempered, querulous, pettish, fretful, cross, irritable, sulky, snappish, crotchety, touchy, tetchy, testy, fractious, grumpy, disgruntled,

crabbed, crabby; informal grouchy; Brit. informal ratty; N. English informal mardy; N. Amer. informal cranky.

– **OPPOSITES** good-humoured.

**phantasmagorical** **adjective** dreamlike, psychedelic, kaleidoscopic, surreal, unreal, hallucinatory, fantastic, fantastical, chimerical.

**phantom** **noun 1** *a phantom who haunts lonely roads*: ghost, apparition, spirit, spectre, wraith; informal spook; literary phantasm, shade. **2** *the phantoms of an overactive imagination*: delusion, figment of the imagination, hallucination, illusion, chimera, vision, mirage.

**phase** **noun 1** *the final phase of the campaign*: stage, period, chapter, episode, part, step, point, time, juncture. **2** *he's going through a difficult phase*: period, stage, time, spell; Brit. informal patch. **3** *the phases of the moon*: aspect, shape, form, appearance, state, condition.

■ **phase something in** introduce gradually, begin to use, ease in.

■ **phase something out** withdraw gradually, discontinue, stop using, run down, wind down.

**phenomenal** **adjective** remarkable, exceptional, extraordinary, amazing, astonishing, astounding, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable; marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, outstanding, singular, out of the ordinary, unusual, unprecedented; informal fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome, out of this world; literary wondrous.

– **OPPOSITES** ordinary.

**phenomenon** **noun 1** *a rare phenomenon*: occurrence, event, happening, fact, situation, circumstance, experience, case, incident, episode. **2** *the band was a pop phenomenon*: marvel, sensation, wonder, prodigy, miracle, rarity, nonpareil.

**philander** **verb** womanize, have affairs, flirt; informal play around, carry on, play the field, play away, sleep around; N. Amer. informal fool around.

**philanderer** **noun** womanizer, Casanova, Don Juan, Lothario, flirt, ladies' man, playboy, rake, roué; informal stud, skirt-chaser, ladykiller, wolf; informal, dated gay dog.

**philanthropic** **adjective** charitable, generous, benevolent, humanitarian, public-spirited, altruistic, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, bountiful, liberal, beneficent, caring, compassionate, unselfish, kind, kind-hearted, big-hearted; formal eleemosynary.

– **OPPOSITES** selfish, mean.

**philanthropist** **noun** benefactor, benefactress, patron, patroness, donor, contributor, sponsor, backer, helper, good Samaritan; do-gooder, Lady Bountiful; historical almsgiver.

**philanthropy** **noun** benevolence, generosity, humanitarianism, public-spiritedness, altruism, social conscience, charity, charitableness, brotherly love,



fellow feeling, magnanimity, munificence, liberality, largesse, open-handedness, bountifulness, beneficence, unselfishness, humanity, kindness, kind-heartedness, compassion; historical almsgiving.

**philippic** *noun* (literary) **tirade**, diatribe, harangue, lecture, attack, onslaught, denunciation, rant, polemic, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, criticism, censure; informal blast.

**philistine** *adjective* **uncultured**, lowbrow, anti-intellectual, uncultivated, uncivilized, uneducated, unenlightened, commercial, materialist, bourgeois; ignorant, crass, boorish, barbarian.

**philosopher** *noun* **thinker**, theorist, theorizer, theoretician, metaphysicist, metaphysician; scholar, intellectual, sage, wise man.

**philosophical** *adjective* **1** *a philosophical question: theoretical*, metaphysical. **2** *a philosophical mood: thoughtful*, reflective, pensive, meditative, contemplative, introspective, ruminative; formal cogitative. **3** *he was philosophical about losing the contract: calm*, composed, cool, collected, {cool, calm, and collected}, self-possessed, serene, tranquil, stoical, impassive, dispassionate, phlegmatic, unperturbed, imperturbable, unruffled, patient, forbearing, long-suffering, resigned, rational, realistic.

**philosophize** *verb* **theorize**, speculate; pontificate, preach, sermonize, moralize.

**philosophy** *noun* **1** *the philosophy of Aristotle: thinking*, thought, reasoning. **2** *her political philosophy: beliefs*, credo, convictions, ideology, ideas, thinking, notions, theories, doctrine, tenets, principles, views, school of thought.

**P** **phlegm** *noun* **1** *mucus*, catarrh. **2** *British phlegm and perseverance: calmness*, coolness, composure, equanimity, tranquillity, placidity, placidness, impassivity, stolidity, imperturbability, impassiveness, dispassionateness; informal cool, unflappability.

**phlegmatic** *adjective* **calm**, cool, composed, {cool, calm, and collected}, controlled, serene, tranquil, placid, impassive, stolid, imperturbable, unruffled, dispassionate, philosophical; informal unflappable.

– OPPOSITES excitable.

**phobia** *noun* **abnormal fear**, irrational fear, obsessive fear, dread, horror, terror, hatred, loathing, detestation, aversion, antipathy, revulsion; complex, neurosis; informal thing, hang-up.

**phone** *noun* **1** *she spent hours on the phone: telephone*, mobile (phone), cellphone, car phone, cordless phone, speakerphone; extension; Brit. informal blower; Brit. rhyming slang dog and bone. **2** *give me a phone sometime: call*, telephone call, phone call; Brit. ring; informal buzz; Brit. informal tinkle, bell. • *verb* *I'll phone you later: telephone*, call, give someone a call; Brit. ring, ring up, give someone a ring; informal call up, give someone

a buzz; Brit. informal give someone a bell/tinkle, get on the blower to; N. Amer. informal get someone on the horn.

**phoney** (informal) *adjective* *a phoney address: bogus*, false, fake, fraudulent, spurious; counterfeit, forged, feigned; pseudo, imitation, sham, man-made, mock, ersatz, synthetic, artificial, faux; simulated, pretended, contrived, affected, insincere; informal pretend, put-on; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES authentic.

• *noun* **1** *he's nothing but a phoney: impostor*, sham, fake, fraud, charlatan; informal con artist. **2** *the diamond's a phoney: fake*, imitation, counterfeit, forgery.

**photocopy** *noun* **copy**, facsimile, duplicate; trademark Xerox, photostat, Ozalid.

**photograph** *noun* *a photograph of her father: picture*, photo, snap, snapshot, shot, likeness, print, slide, transparency, still, enlargement; Brit. enprint; informal tranny, mugshot.

• *verb* *she was photographed leaving the castle: take someone's picture/photo*, snap, shoot, film.

**photographer** *noun* **lensman**, paparazzo; cameraman; informal snapper; N. Amer. informal shutterbug.

**photographic** *adjective* **1** *a photographic record: pictorial*, in photographs; cinematic, filmic. **2** *a photographic memory: detailed*, graphic, exact, precise, accurate, vivid.

**phrase** *noun* **familiar words and phrases: expression**, group of words, construction, locution, term, turn of phrase; idiom, idiomatic expression; saying, tag.

• *verb* *how could I phrase the question? express*, put into words, put, word, style, formulate, couch, frame, articulate, verbalize.

**phraseology** *noun* **wording**, choice of words, phrasing, way of speaking/writing, usage, idiom, diction, parlance, words, language, vocabulary, terminology; jargon; informal lingo, -speak, -ese.

**physical** *adjective* **1** *physical pleasure: bodily*, corporeal, corporal, somatic; carnal, fleshly, non-spiritual. **2** *hard physical work: manual*, labouring, blue-collar. **3** *the physical universe: material*, concrete, tangible, palpable, solid, substantial, real, actual, visible.

– OPPOSITES mental, spiritual.

**physician** *noun* **doctor**, doctor of medicine, MD, medical practitioner, consultant; informal doc, medic; Brit. informal quack; informal, dated sawbones.

**physiognomy** *noun* **face**, features, countenance, expression, look, mien; informal mug; Brit. informal phizog, phiz; Brit. rhyming slang boat race; N. Amer. informal puss; literary visage, lineaments.

**physique** *noun* **body**, build, figure, frame, anatomy, shape, form, proportions; muscles, musculature; informal vital statistics, bod.

**pick** *verb* **1** *I got a job picking apples: harvest*, gather (in), collect, pluck; literary cull. **2** *pick*

*the time that suits you best:* choose, select, pick out, single out, take, opt for, plump for, elect, decide on, settle on, fix on, sift out, sort out; name, nominate. **3** *Beth picked at her food:* nibble, toy with, play with, eat like a bird. **4** *people were singing and picking guitars:* strum, twang, thrum, pluck. **5** *he tried to pick a fight:* provoke, start, cause, incite, stir up, whip up, instigate, prompt, bring about.

• **noun** **1** *take your pick:* choice, selection, option, decision; preference, favourite. **2** *the pick of the crop:* best, finest, top, choice, choicest, prime, cream, flower, prize, pearl, gem, jewel, jewel in the crown, crème de la crème, elite.

■ **pick on** bully, victimize, tyrannize, torment, persecute, criticize, harass, hound, taunt, tease; informal get at, have it in for, have a down on, be down on, needle.

■ **pick something out** **1** *one painting was picked out for special mention:* choose, select, pick, single out, opt for, plump for, decide on, elect, settle on, fix on, sift out, sort out; name, nominate. **2** *she picked out Jessica in the crowd:* see, make out, distinguish, discern, spot, perceive, detect, notice, recognize, identify, catch sight of, glimpse; literary spy, behold, descry.

■ **pick up** improve, recover, be on the road to recovery, rally, make a comeback, bounce back, perk up, look up, take a turn for the better, turn the/a corner, be on the mend, make headway, make progress.

■ **pick someone/something up** lift, take up, raise, hoist, scoop up, gather up, snatch up.

■ **pick someone up** **1** *I'll pick you up after lunch:* fetch, collect, call for. **2** (informal) *he was picked up by the police:* arrest, apprehend, detain, take into custody, seize; informal nab, run in, bust; Brit. informal nick.

**3** (informal) *he picked her up in a club:* take up with; informal get off with, pull, cop off with.

■ **pick something up** **1** *we picked it up at a flea market:* find, discover, come across, stumble across, happen on, chance on; acquire, obtain, come by, get, procure; purchase, buy; informal get hold of, get/lay one's hands on, get one's mitts on, bag, land.

**2** *he picked up the story in the 1950s:* resume, take up, start again, recommence, continue, carry on with, go on with. **3** *she picked up a virus:* catch, contract, get, go/come down with. **4** *he told us the bits of gossip he'd picked up:* hear, hear tell, get wind of, be told, learn; glean, garner. **5** *we're picking up a distress signal:* receive, detect, get, hear.

**picket** **noun** **1** *forty pickets were arrested:* striker, demonstrator, protester, objector, picketer; flying picket. **2** *fences made of cedar pickets:* stake, post, paling; upright, stanchion, pier, piling.

• **verb** *over 200 people picketed the factory:* demonstrate at, form a picket at, man the picket line at; blockade, shut off.

**pickle** **noun** **1** *a jar of pickle:* relish, chutney, piccalilli. **2** *steep the vegetables in pickle:* marinade, brine, vinegar. **3** (informal) *they got into an awful pickle:* plight, predicament,

mess, difficulty, trouble, dire/desperate straits, problem; informal tight corner, tight spot, jam, fix, scrape, bind, hole, hot water, fine kettle of fish; Brit. informal spot of bother. • **verb** *fish pickled in brine:* preserve, souse, marinate, conserve; bottle, can, tin.

**pick-me-up** **noun** (informal) **1** *a drink that's a very good pick-me-up:* tonic, restorative, energizer, stimulant, refresher, reviver; informal bracer; Medicine analeptic. **2** *his winning goal was a perfect pick-me-up:* boost, boost to the spirits, fillip, stimulant, stimulus; informal shot in the arm.

**pickpocket** **noun** thief, petty thief, sneak thief; informal dipper; old use cutpurse.

**pickup** **noun** improvement, recovery, revival, upturn, upswing, rally, comeback, resurgence, renewal, turn for the better.

– **OPPOSITES** slump.

**picnic** **noun** **1** *a picnic on the beach:* outdoor meal, alfresco meal; N. Amer. cookout.

**2** (informal) *working for him was no picnic:* easy task/job, child's play, five-finger exercise, gift, walkover; informal doddle, piece of cake, walk in the park, money for old rope, money for jam, cinch, breeze, kids' stuff, cakewalk, pushover; N. Amer. informal duck soup; Austral./NZ informal bludge.

**pictorial** **adjective** illustrated, in pictures, in picture form, in photographs, photographic, graphic.

**picture** **noun** **1** *pictures in an art gallery:* painting, drawing, sketch, oil painting, watercolour, print, canvas, portrait, portrayal, illustration, artwork, depiction, likeness, representation, image, icon, miniature; fresco, mural, wall painting; informal oil. **2** *we were told not to take pictures:* photograph, photo, snap, snapshot, shot, print, slide, transparency, exposure, still, enlargement; Brit. enprint. **3** *a picture of the sort of person the child should be:* concept, idea, impression, view, (mental) image, vision, visualization, notion. **4** *the picture of health:* personification, embodiment, epitome, essence, quintessence, perfect example, soul, model. **5** *a picture starring Robert de Niro:* film, movie, feature film, motion picture; informal flick; dated moving picture. **6** *we went to the pictures:* the cinema, the movies, the silver screen, the big screen; informal the flicks.

• **verb** **1** *he was pictured with his guests:* photograph, snap, shoot, film. **2** *in the drawing they were pictured against a snowy background:* paint, draw, sketch, depict, delineate, portray, show, illustrate. **3** *Anne still pictured Richard as he had been:* visualize, see in one's mind's eye, conjure up a picture/image of, imagine, see, evoke.

■ **put someone in the picture** inform, fill in, explain the situation to, bring up to date, update, brief, keep posted; informal clue in, bring up to speed.

**picturesque** **adjective** **1** *a picturesque village:* attractive, pretty, beautiful, lovely, scenic, charming, quaint, pleasing, delightful. **2** *a picturesque description:* vivid,

graphic, colourful, impressive, striking.  
– OPPOSITES ugly, dull.

**piddling** adjective (informal) **trivial**, trifling, petty, footling, slight, small, insignificant, unimportant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, negligible; meagre, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, scant, scanty, derisory, pitiful, miserable, puny, niggardly, beggarly, mere; informal measly, pathetic, piffling, mingy, poxy; N. Amer. informal nickel-and-dime.

**pie** noun **pastry**, tart, tartlet, quiche, pasty, patty, turnover, strudel.

**piebald** adjective. See **PIED**.

**piece** noun **1** *a piece of cheese* | *a piece of wood*: **bit**, slice, chunk, segment, section, lump, hunk, wedge, slab, block, cake, bar, cube, stick, length; offcut, sample, fragment, sliver, splinter, wafer, chip, crumb, scrap, remnant, shred, shard, snippet; mouthful, morsel; Brit. informal wodge. **2** *the pieces of a clock*: **component**, part, bit, section, segment, constituent, element; unit, module. **3** *a piece of furniture*: **item**, article, specimen. **4** *a piece of the profit*: **share**, portion, slice, quota, part, bit, percentage, amount, quantity, ration, fraction, division; informal cut, rake-off; Brit. informal whack. **5** *pieces from his private collection*: **work** (of art), creation, production; composition, opus. **6** *the reporter who wrote the piece*: **article**, item, story, report, essay, study, review, composition, column. **7** *the pieces on a chess board*: **token**, counter, man, disc, chip, marker.

■ **in one piece** **1** *the camera was still in one piece*: unbroken, entire, whole, intact, undamaged, unharmed. **2** *I'll bring her back in one piece*: unhurt, uninjured, unscathed, safe, safe and sound.

■ **in pieces** broken, in bits, shattered, smashed, in smithereens; informal bust.

■ **go/fall to pieces** have a breakdown, break down, go out of one's mind, lose control, lose one's head, fall apart; informal crack up, lose it, come/fall apart at the seams, freak, freak out.

**pièce de résistance** noun **masterpiece**, magnum opus, chef-d'œuvre, masterwork, tour de force, showpiece, prize, jewel in the crown.

**piecemeal** adverb **a little at a time**, piece by piece, bit by bit, gradually, slowly, in stages, in steps, step by step, little by little, by degrees, in/by fits and starts.

**pie** adjective **particoloured**, multicoloured, variegated, black and white, brown and white, piebald, skewbald, dappled, brindle, spotted, mottled, speckled, flecked; N. Amer. pinto.

**pier** noun **1** *a boat was tied to the pier*: **jetty**, quay, wharf, dock, landing, landing stage. **2** *the piers of the bridge*: **support**, cutwater, pile, piling, abutment, buttress, stanchion, prop, stay, upright, pillar, post, column.

**pierce** verb **1** *the metal pierced his flesh*: **penetrate**, puncture, perforate, prick, lance; stab, spike, stick, impale, transfix, bore

through, drill through. **2** *his anguish pierced her to the quick*: **hurt**, wound, pain, sting, sear, grieve, distress, upset, trouble, harrow, afflict; affect, move.

**piercing** adjective **1** *a piercing shriek*: **shrill**, ear-splitting, high-pitched, penetrating, strident, loud. **2** *the piercing wind*: **bitter**, biting, cutting, penetrating, sharp, keen, stinging, raw; freezing, frigid, glacial, arctic, chill. **3** *a piercing pain*: **intense**, excruciating, agonizing, sharp, stabbing, shooting, stinging, severe, extreme, fierce, searing, racking. **4** *his piercing gaze*: **searching**, probing, penetrating, penetrative, shrewd, sharp, keen. **5** *his piercing intelligence*: **perceptive**, percipient, perspicacious, penetrating, discerning, discriminating, intelligent, quick-witted, sharp, sharp-witted, shrewd, insightful, keen, acute, astute, clever, smart, incisive, razor-edged, trenchant.

**piety** noun **devoutness**, devotion, piousness, religion, holiness, godliness, saintliness; veneration, reverence, faith, religious duty, spirituality, religious zeal, fervour; pietism, religiosity.

**piffle** noun (informal). See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

**piffling** adjective (informal) **inadequate**, insufficient, tiny, small, minimal, trifling, paltry, pitiful, negligible; miserly, miserable; informal measly, stingy, lousy, pathetic, piddling, mingy, poxy.

**pig** noun **1** *a herd of pigs*: **hog**, boar, sow, porker, swine, piglet; children's word piggy. **2** (informal) *he's eaten the lot*, *the pig*: **glutton**, guzzler; informal hog, greedy guts; Brit. informal gannet. **3** (informal) *he's been an absolute pig lately*: informal **bastard**, beast, louse, swine; Brit. informal toerag; informal, dated rotter, heel, stinker.

#### WORD LINKS

**porcine** relating to pigs

**farrow** (of a sow) give birth to piglets

**swineherd** a person who tends pigs

**mast** the fruit of forest trees, as food for pigs

**pannage** (in the past) the right of feeding pigs in a wood

**pigeonhole** noun **journalistic pigeonholes**: **category**, categorization, class, classification, group, grouping, designation, slot.

• **verb** **1** *they were pigeonholed as an indie guitar band*: **categorize**, compartmentalize, classify, characterize, label, brand, tag, designate. **2** *the plan was pigeonholed last year*: **postpone**, put off, put back, defer, shelve, hold over, put to one side, put on ice, mothball, put in cold storage; N. Amer. table; informal put on the back burner.

**pig-headed** adjective **obstinate**, stubborn (as a mule), mulish, bullheaded, obdurate, headstrong, self-willed, wilful, perverse, contrary, recalcitrant, stiff-necked; uncooperative, inflexible, uncompromising, intractable, intransigent, unyielding; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie; formal refractory.



**pigment** *noun* colouring matter, colouring, colourant, colour, tint, dye, dyestuff.

**pile**<sup>1</sup> *noun* **1** *a pile of stones:* heap, stack, mound, pyramid, mass, quantity; collection, accumulation, assemblage, store, stockpile, hoard. **2** (informal) *I've a pile of work to do:* great deal, lot, large quantity/amount, quantities, reams, mountain; abundance, cornucopia, plethora; informal load, heap, mass, slew, ocean, stack, ton; Brit. informal shedload; Austral./NZ informal swag. **3** (informal) *he'd made his pile in the fur trade:* fortune, millions, billions; informal small fortune, bomb, packet, bundle, wad; Brit. informal loadsamoney. **4** *a huge Victorian pile:* mansion, stately home, manor, manor house, country house; formal edifice.

• **verb** **1** *he piled up the plates:* heap (up), stack (up), put on top of each other. **2** *he piled his plate with fried eggs:* load, heap, fill (up), lade, stack, charge, stock. **3** *his debts were piling up:* increase, grow, mount up, escalate, soar, spiral, leap up, shoot up, rocket, climb, accumulate, accrue, build up, multiply. **4** *we piled into the car:* crowd, climb, pack, squeeze, push, shove.

■ **pile it on** (informal) exaggerate, overstate the case, make a mountain out of a molehill, overdo it, overplay it, overdramatize; informal lay it on thick, lay it on with a trowel.

**pile**<sup>2</sup> *noun* *a wall supported by timber piles:* post, stake, pillar, column, support, foundation, piling, abutment, pier, cutwater, buttress, stanchion, upright.

**pile**<sup>3</sup> *noun* *a carpet with a short pile:* nap, fibres, threads.

**pile-up** *noun* crash, multiple crash, collision, multiple collision, smash, accident, road accident; Brit. RTA (road traffic accident); N. Amer. wreck; informal smash-up; Brit. informal shunt.

**pilfer** *verb* steal, thief, take, snatch, purloin, loot; informal swipe, rob, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle; Brit. informal pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off, noggle; N. Amer. informal heist.

**pilgrim** *noun* worshipper, devotee, believer; traveller, crusader, haji; literary wayfarer; historical palmer.

**pilgrimage** *noun* religious journey, religious expedition, hajj, crusade, mission.

**pill** *noun* tablet, capsule, caplet, pellet, lozenge, pastille; Veterinary Medicine bolus.

**pillage** *verb* **1** *the abbey was pillaged:* ransack, rob, plunder, despoil, raid, loot; sack, devastate, lay waste, ravage, rape. **2** *columns pillaged from an ancient town:* steal, pilfer, thief, take, snatch, purloin, loot; informal swipe, rob, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle; Brit. informal pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off, noggle; N. Amer. informal heist.

• **noun** *the rebels were intent on pillage:* robbery, robbing, raiding, plunder, looting, sacking, rape, marauding; literary rapine.

**pillar** *noun* **1** *stone pillars:* column, post, support, upright, baluster, pier, pile,

pilaster, stanchion, prop, newel; obelisk, monolith. **2** *a pillar of the community:* stalwart, mainstay, bastion, rock; leading light, worthy, backbone, support, upholder, champion.

**pillory** *noun* offenders were put in the pillory: stocks.

• **verb** **1** *he was pilloried by the press:* attack, criticize, censure, condemn, denigrate, lambaste, savage, stigmatize, denounce; informal knock, slam, pan, bash, crucify, hammer; Brit. informal slate, rubbish, slag off; N. Amer. informal pummel; Austral./NZ informal bag, monster; formal excoriate. **2** *they were pilloried at school:* ridicule, jeer at, sneer at, deride, mock, scorn, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, scoff at, tease, taunt, rag.

**pillow** *noun* *his head rested on the pillow:* cushion, bolster, pad; headrest.

• **verb** *she pillowed her head on folded arms:* cushion, cradle, rest, lay, support.

**pilot** *noun* **1** *a fighter pilot:* airman/airwoman, flyer; captain, commander, co-pilot, wingman; informal skipper; N. Amer. informal jock; dated aviator, aeronaut. **2** *a harbour pilot:* navigator, helmsman, steersman, coxswain. **3** *a pilot for a TV series:* trial episode; sample, experiment.

• **adjective** *a pilot project:* experimental, exploratory, trial, test, sample, speculative; preliminary.

• **verb** **1** *he piloted the jet to safety:* navigate, guide, manoeuvre, steer, control, direct, captain, shepherd; fly, aviate; drive; sail; informal skipper. **2** *the questionnaire has been piloted:* test, trial, try out; assess, investigate, examine, appraise, evaluate.

**pimp** *noun* procurer, procuress; brothel-keeper, madam; Brit. informal ponce; old use bawd.

**pimple** *noun* spot, pustule, bleb, boil, swelling, eruption, blackhead, carbuncle, blister; (pimples) acne; informal whitehead, zit; Scottish informal plook; technical comedo, papule.

**pin** *noun* **1** *fasten the hem with a pin:* tack, safety pin, nail, staple, fastener. **2** *a broken pin in the machine:* bolt, peg, rivet, dowel, screw. **3** *they wore name pins:* badge, brooch.

• **verb** **1** *she pinned the brooch to her dress:* attach, fasten, affix, fix, tack, clip; join, secure. **2** *they pinned him to the ground:* hold, press, hold fast, hold down; restrain, pinion, immobilize. **3** *they pinned the crime on him:* blame for, hold responsible for, attribute to, impute to, ascribe to; lay something at someone's door; informal stick on.

■ **pin someone/something down** **1** *our troops can pin down the enemy:* confine, trap, hem in, corner, close in, shut in, hedge in, pen in, restrain, entangle, enmesh, immobilize. **2** *she tried to pin him down to a plan:* constrain, make someone commit themselves, pressure, pressurize, tie down, nail down. **3** *it evoked a memory but he couldn't pin it down:* define, put one's finger on, put into words, express, name, specify,

identify, pinpoint, place.

**pinch** verb **1** *he pinched my arm:* **nip**, tweak, squeeze, grasp. **2** *my new shoes pinch my toes:* **hurt**, pain; squeeze, crush, cramp; be uncomfortable. **3** *I scraped and pinched to afford it:* **economize**, scrimp (and save), be sparing, be frugal, cut back, tighten one's belt, retrench, cut one's coat according to one's cloth; informal be stingy, be tight.

**4** (informal) *he was pinched for drink-driving:* **arrest**, apprehend, take into custody, detain, seize, catch, take in, haul in; informal collar, nab, pick up, run in, nick, bust, nail, do. **5** (Brit. informal) *you pinched his biscuits:* **steal**, thief, take, snatch, pilfer, purloin, loot; informal swipe, rob, nab, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch; Brit. informal nick, half-inch, whip, knock off, noggle; N. Amer. informal heist.

• **noun** **1** *he gave her arm a pinch:* **nip**, tweak, squeeze. **2** *a pinch of salt:* **bit**, touch, dash, spot, trace, soupçon, speck, taste; informal smidgen, tad.

■ **at a pinch** if necessary, if need be, in an emergency, just possibly, with difficulty; N. Amer. in a pinch; Brit. informal at a push.

■ **feel the pinch** suffer hardship, be short of money, be poor, be impoverished.

**pinched** adjective *their pinched faces:* **strained**, stressed, fraught, tense, taut; tired, worn, drained, sapped; wan, peaky, pale, grey, blanched; thin, drawn, haggard, gaunt.

– **OPPOSITES** healthy.

**pine** verb **1** *I am pining away from love:* languish, decline, weaken, waste away, wilt, wither, fade, sicken, droop; brood, mope, moon. **2** *he was pining for his son:* **yearn**, long, ache, sigh, hunger, languish; miss, mourn, lament, grieve over, shed tears for, bemoan, rue, eat one's heart out over; informal itch.

**p**

**pinion** verb **hold down**, pin down, restrain, hold fast, immobilize; tie, bind, truss (up), shackle, fetter, hobble, manacle, handcuff; informal cuff.

**pink** adjective **rose**, rosy, rosé, pale red, salmon, coral; flushed, blushing.

• **noun** (informal) *she's in the pink of condition:* **prime**, perfection, best, finest, height; utmost, greatest, apex, zenith, acme, bloom.

■ **in the pink** (informal) in good health, very healthy, in rude health, very well, hale and hearty; blooming, flourishing, thriving, vigorous, strong, lusty, robust, in fine fettle, (as) fit as a fiddle, in excellent shape.

**pinnacle** noun **1** *pinnacles of rock:* **peak**, needle, aiguille, hoodoo, crag, tor; summit, crest, apex, tip; Geology inselberg. **2** *the pinnacles of the clock tower:* **turret**, minaret, spire, finial, shikara, mirador. **3** *the pinnacle of the sport:* **highest level**, peak, height, high point, top, apex, zenith, apogee, acme.

– **OPPOSITES** nadir.

**pinpoint** noun *a pinpoint of light:* **point**, spot, speck, dot, speckle.

• **adjective** *pinpoint accuracy:* **precise**, strict, exact, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, accurate, careful.

• **verb** *pinpoint the cause of the trouble:* **identify**, determine, distinguish, discover, find, locate, detect, track down, spot, diagnose, recognize, pin down, home in on, put one's finger on.

**pioneer** noun **1** *the pioneers of the Wild West:* **settler**, colonist, colonizer, frontiersman/woman, explorer, trailblazer. **2** *a pioneer of motoring:* **developer**, innovator, trailblazer, groundbreaker, spearhead; founder, founding father, architect, creator.

• **verb** *he pioneered the sale of insurance:* **introduce**, develop, evolve, launch, instigate, initiate, spearhead, institute, establish, found, be the father/mother of, originate, set in motion, create; lay the groundwork, prepare the way, blaze a trail, break new ground.

**pious** adjective **1** *a pious family:* **religious**, devout, God-fearing, churchgoing, spiritual, prayerful, holy, godly, saintly, dedicated, reverent, dutiful, righteous. **2** *a pious platitude:* **sanctimonious**, hypocritical, insincere, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, pietistic, churchy; informal goody-goody; Brit. informal pi. **3** *a pious hope:* **forlorn**, vain, doomed, hopeless, desperate; unlikely, unrealistic.

– **OPPOSITES** irreligious, sincere.

**pip** noun seed, stone, pit.

**pipe** noun **1** *a central-heating pipe:* **tube**, conduit, hose, main, duct, line, channel, pipeline, drain; tubing, piping, siphon. **2** *he smokes a pipe:* **briar** (pipe), meerschaum, chibouk; hookah, narghile, hubble-bubble, bong; Brit. churchwarden; Scottish & N. English cutty. **3** *she was playing a pipe:* **whistle**, penny whistle, flute, recorder, fife; chanter. **4** *regimental pipes and drums:* **bagpipes**, uilleann pipes; pan pipes.

• **verb** **1** *the beer is piped into barrels:* **siphon**, feed, channel, run, convey. **2** *programmes piped in from London:* **transmit**, feed, patch. **3** *he heard a tune being piped:* **whistle**, whistle; literary flute. **4** *a curlew piped:* **chirp**, cheep, chirrup, twitter, warble, trill, peep, sing, shrill.

■ **pipe down** (informal) be quiet, be silent, hush, stop talking, hold one's tongue; informal shut up, shut one's mouth, button it, button one's lip, belt up, put a sock in it.

**pipe dream** noun **fantasy**, false hope, illusion, delusion, daydream, chimera; castle in the air, castle in Spain; informal pie in the sky.

**pipeline** noun *a gas pipeline:* **pipe**, conduit, main, line, duct, tube.

■ **in the pipeline** on the way, coming, forthcoming, upcoming, imminent, about to happen, near, close, brewing, in the offing, in the wind.

**pipsqueak** noun (informal) **nobody**, nonentity, insignificant person, non-person, cipher, small fry; upstart, stripling; informal squirt, whippersnapper; N. Amer. informal picayune; old use dandiprat.

**piquant** adjective **1** *a piquant sauce:* **spicy**, tangy, peppery, hot; tasty, flavoursome,

flavourful, appetizing, savoury; pungent, sharp, tart, zesty, strong, salty. **2** *a piquant story*: intriguing, stimulating, interesting, fascinating, colourful, exciting, lively; spicy, provocative, racy; informal juicy.

— **OPPOSITES** bland, dull.

**pique** noun *a fit of pique*: irritation, annoyance, resentment, anger, displeasure, indignation, petulance, ill humour, vexation, exasperation, disgruntlement, discontent; offence, umbrage.

• **verb 1** *his curiosity was piqued*: stimulate, arouse, rouse, provoke, whet, awaken, excite, kindle, stir, galvanize. **2** *she was piqued by his neglect*: irritate, annoy, bother, vex, displease, upset, offend, affront, anger, exasperate, infuriate, gall, irk, nettles; informal peeve, aggravate, miff, rile, bug, needle, get someone's back up, hack off, get someone's goat; Brit. informal nark, give someone the hump; N. Amer. informal tick off, tee off.

**piracy** noun **1** *piracy on the high seas*: robbery at sea, freebooting; old use buccaneering.

**2** *software piracy*: illegal copying, plagiarism, copyright infringement, bootlegging.

**pirate** noun **1** *pirates boarded the ship*: freebooter, marauder, raider; historical privateer; old use buccaneer, corsair.

**2** *software pirates*: copyright infringer, plagiarist, plagiarizer.

• **verb** *designers may pirate good ideas*: reproduce illegally, copy illegally, plagiarize, poach, steal, appropriate, bootleg; informal crib, lift, rip off; Brit. informal nick, pinch.

**pirouette** noun *she did a little pirouette*: spin, twirl, whirl, turn.

• **verb** *she pirouetted before the mirror*: spin round, twirl, whirl, turn round, revolve, pivot.

**pistol** noun revolver, gun, handgun, side arm; automatic, six-shooter, thirty-eight, derringer; informal gat; N. Amer. informal piece, shooting iron; trademark Colt, Luger.

**pit<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *a pit in the ground*: hole, ditch, trench, trough, hollow, excavation, cavity, crater, pothole; shaft, mineshaft. **2** *pit closures*: coal mine, colliery, quarry. **3** *the pits in her skin*: pockmark, pock, hollow, indentation, depression, dent, dint, dimple.

• **verb 1** *his skin had been pitted by acne*: mark, pockmark, scar, blemish, disfigure. **2** *raindrops pitted the bare earth*: make holes in, make hollows in, dent, indent, dint.

■ **pit someone/something against** set against, match against, put in opposition to, put in competition with; compete with, contend with, vie with, wrestle with.

■ **the pits** (informal) the worst, the lowest of the low; rock bottom, awful, abysmal, appalling, terrible, dreadful, deplorable; informal lousy, dire; Brit. informal chronic.

**pit<sup>2</sup>** noun *cherry pits*: stone, pip, seed.

**pitch<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *the pitch was unfit for cricket*: playing field, field, ground, sports field; stadium, arena; Brit. park. **2** *her voice rose in pitch*: tone, timbre, key, modulation,

frequency. **3** *the pitch of the roof*: gradient, slope, slant, angle, steepness, tilt, incline, inclination. **4** *her anger reached such a pitch that she screamed*: level, intensity, point, degree, height, extent. **5** *a pitch of the ball*: throw, fling, hurl, toss, lob; delivery; informal chuck, heave. **6** *his sales pitch*: patter, talk; informal spiel, line. **7** *street traders reserved their pitches*: site, place, spot, station; Scottish stance; Brit. informal patch.

• **verb 1** *he pitched the note into the fire*: throw, toss, fling, hurl, cast, lob, flip, propel, bowl; informal chuck, sling, heave, bung; N. Amer. informal peg; Austral. informal hoy; NZ informal bish; dated shy. **2** *he pitched overboard*: fall, tumble, topple, plunge, plummet. **3** *they pitched their tents*: put up, set up, erect, raise. **4** *the boat pitched*: lurch, toss (about), plunge, roll, reel, sway, rock, keel, list, wallow, labour.

■ **make a pitch for** try to obtain, try to acquire, try to get, bid for, make a bid for.

■ **pitch in** help (out), assist, lend a hand, join in, participate, contribute, do one's bit, chip in, cooperate, collaborate; Brit. informal muck in.

■ **pitch into** attack, turn on, lash out at, set upon, assault, fly at, tear into, weigh into, belabour; informal lay into, let someone have it, take a pop at; N. Amer. informal light into.

**pitch<sup>2</sup>** noun *cement coated with pitch*: bitumen, asphalt, tar.

**pitch-black** adjective black, dark, pitch-dark, inky, jet-black, coal-black, jet, ebony; starless, moonless; literary Stygian.

**pitcher** noun jug, ewer, jar; N. Amer. creamer; historical jorum.

**piteous** adjective sad, pitiful, pitiable, pathetic, heart-rending, heartbreaking, moving, touching; plaintive, poignant, forlorn; poor, wretched, miserable.

**pitfall** noun hazard, danger, risk, peril, difficulty, catch, snag, stumbling block, drawback.

**pith** noun **1** *the pith of the argument*: essence, main point, fundamentals, heart, substance, nub, core, quintessence, crux, gist, meat, kernel, marrow, burden; informal nitty-gritty. **2** *he writes with pith and exactitude*: succinctness, conciseness, concision, pithiness, brevity; cogency, weight, depth, force.

**pithy** adjective succinct, terse, concise, compact, short (and sweet), brief, condensed, to the point, epigrammatic, crisp, thumbnail; significant, meaningful, expressive, telling; formal compendious.

— **OPPOSITES** verbose.

**pitiful** adjective **1** *a child in a pitiful state*: distressing, sad, piteous, pitiable, pathetic, heart-rending, heartbreaking, moving, touching, tear-jerking; plaintive, poignant, forlorn; poor, sorry, wretched, abject, miserable. **2** *a pitiful £50 a month*: paltry, miserable, meagre, insufficient, trifling, negligible, pitiable, derisory; informal pathetic, measly, piddling, mingy; Brit. informal poxy. **3** *his performance was*



**pitiful:** dreadful, awful, terrible, appalling, abysmal, lamentable, hopeless, poor, bad, feeble, pitiable, woeful, inadequate, below par, deplorable, laughable; informal pathetic, useless, lousy, dire.

**pitiless** adjective **merciless**, unmerciful, un pitying, ruthless, cruel, heartless, remorseless, hard-hearted, cold-hearted, harsh, callous, severe, unsparing, unforgiving, unfeeling, uncaring, unsympathetic, uncharitable, brutal, inhuman, inhumane, barbaric, sadistic.

– OPPOSITES merciful.

**piteance** noun **a tiny amount**, next to nothing, very little; informal peanuts, chicken feed, slave wages; N. Amer. informal chump change.

**pitted** adjective **1** *his skin was pitted:* pockmarked, pocked, scarred, marked, blemished. **2** *the pitted lane:* potholed, rutted, rutty, holey, bumpy, rough, uneven.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**pity** noun **1** *a voice full of pity:* compassion, commiseration, condolence, sympathy, fellow feeling, understanding; sorrow, regret, sadness. **2** *it's a pity he never had children:* shame, sad thing, bad luck, misfortune; informal crime, bummer, sin.

– OPPOSITES indifference, cruelty.

• **verb** *they pitied me:* feel sorry for, feel for, sympathize with, empathize with, commiserate with, take pity on, be moved by, condole with, grieve for.

■ **take pity on** feel sorry for, relent, be compassionate towards, be sympathetic towards, have mercy on, help (out), put someone out of their misery.

**pivot** noun **1** *the machine turns on a pivot:* fulcrum, axis, axle, swivel; pin, shaft, hub, spindle, hinge, kingpin, gudgeon. **2** *the pivot of government policy:* centre, focus, hub, heart, nucleus, crux, keystone, cornerstone, linchpin, kingpin.

• **verb** **1** *the panel pivots inwards:* rotate, turn, swivel, revolve, spin. **2** *it all pivoted on his response:* depend, hinge, turn, centre, hang, rely, rest; revolve around.

**pivotal** adjective **central**, crucial, vital, critical, focal, essential, key, decisive.

**pixie** noun elf, fairy, sprite, imp, brownie, puck, leprechaun; literary faerie, fay.

**placard** noun **notice**, poster, sign, bill, advertisement; banner; informal ad; Brit. informal advert.

**placate** verb **pacify**, calm, appease, mollify, soothe, win over, conciliate, propitiate, make peace with, humour; Austral./NZ square someone off.

– OPPOSITES provoke.

**place** noun **1** *an ideal place for dinner:* location, site, spot, setting, position, situation, area, region, locale; venue; technical locus. **2** *foreign places:* country, state, area, region, town, city; locality, district; literary clime. **3** *a place of her own:* home, house, flat, apartment; accommodation, property, pied-à-terre; rooms, quarters; informal pad, digs; Brit. informal gaff; formal residence, abode,

dwelling (place), domicile, habitation. **4** *if I were in your place, I'd agree:* situation, position, circumstances; informal shoes. **5** *a place was reserved for her:* seat, chair, space. **6** *I offered him a place in the company:* job, position, post, appointment, situation, office; employment. **7** *I know my place:* status, position, standing, rank, niche; dated estate, station. **8** *it was not her place to sort it out:* responsibility, duty, job, task, role, function, concern, affair, charge; right, privilege, prerogative.

• **verb** **1** *books were placed on the table:* put (down), set (down), lay, deposit, position, plant, rest, stand, station, situate, leave; informal stick, dump, bung, park, plonk, pop; N. Amer. informal plunk. **2** *the trust you placed in me:* put, lay, set, invest. **3** *a survey placed the company sixth:* rank, order, grade, class, classify, categorize; put, set, assign. **4** *Joe couldn't quite place her:* identify, recognize, remember, put a name to, pin down; locate, pinpoint. **5** *we were placed with foster-parents:* accommodate, house; allocate, assign, appoint.

■ **in place** **1** *the veil was held in place by pearls:* in position, in situ. **2** *the plans are in place:* ready, set up, all set, established, arranged, in order.

■ **in place of** instead of, rather than, as a substitute for, as a replacement for, in exchange for, in lieu of; in someone's stead.

■ **out of place** **1** *she never had a hair out of place:* out of position, out of order, in disarray, disarranged, in a mess, messy, topsy-turvy, muddled. **2** *he said something out of place:* inappropriate, unsuitable, unseemly, improper, untoward, out of keeping, unbecoming, wrong. **3** *she seemed out of place in a launderette:* incongruous, like a fish out of water; uncomfortable, uneasy.

■ **put someone in their place** humiliate, take down a peg or two, deflate, crush, squash, humble; informal cut down to size, settle someone's hash; N. Amer. informal make someone eat crow.

■ **take place** happen, occur, come about, transpire, crop up, materialize, arise; N. Amer. informal go down; literary come to pass, befall, betide.

■ **take the place of** replace, stand in for, substitute for, act for, fill in for, cover for, relieve.

**placement** noun **1** *the placement of the chairs:* positioning, placing, arrangement, position, deployment, location, disposition. **2** *teaching placements:* job, post, assignment, posting, position, appointment, engagement.

**placid** adjective **1** *she's normally very placid:* even-tempered, calm, tranquil, equable, equanimous, unexcitable, serene, mild, {cool, calm, and collected}, composed, self-possessed, poised, easy-going, level-headed, steady, unruffled, unperturbed, phlegmatic; informal unflappable. **2** *a placid village:* quiet, calm, tranquil, still, peaceful, undisturbed, restful, sleepy.

– OPPOSITES excitable, bustling.

**plagiarism** noun **copying**, infringement of copyright, piracy, theft, stealing; informal cribbing.

**plagiarize** verb **copy**, infringe the copyright of, pirate, steal, poach, appropriate; informal rip off, crib, 'borrow'; Brit. informal pinch, nick.

**plague** noun **1** *they died of the plague*: **bubonic plague**, pneumonic plague, the Black Death; disease, sickness, epidemic; dated contagion; old use pestilence. **2** *a plague of cat fleas*: **infestation**, epidemic, invasion, swarm, multitude, host. **3** *theft is the plague of restaurants*: **bane**, curse, scourge, affliction, blight.

• **verb 1** *he was plagued by poor health*: **afflict**, bedevil, torment, trouble, beset, dog, curse. **2** *he plagued her with questions*: **pester**, harass, badger, bother, torment, persecute, bedevil, harry, hound, trouble, irritate, nag, annoy, vex, molest; informal hassle, bug, aggravate; N. English informal mither; N. Amer. informal devil.

**plain** adjective **1** *it was plain that something was wrong*: **obvious**, (crystal) clear, evident, apparent, manifest, patent; discernible, perceptible, noticeable, recognizable, unmistakable, transparent; pronounced, marked, striking, conspicuous, self-evident, indisputable; as plain as a pikestaff, writ large; informal standing/sticking out like a sore thumb, standing/sticking out a mile. **2** *plain English*: **intelligible**, comprehensible, understandable, clear, coherent, uncomplicated, lucid, unambiguous, simple, straightforward, user-friendly; formal perspicuous. **3** *plain speaking*: **candid**, frank, outspoken, forthright, direct, honest, truthful, blunt, bald, explicit, unequivocal; informal upfront. **4** *a plain dress*: **simple**, ordinary, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, unostentatious, unfussy, homely, basic, modest, unsophisticated, without frills; restrained, muted; everyday, workaday. **5** *a plain girl*: **unattractive**, unprepossessing, ugly, ill-favoured, unlovely, ordinary; N. Amer. homely; informal not much to look at; Brit. informal no oil painting. **6** *it was plain bad luck*: **sheer**, pure, downright, out-and-out, unmitigated.

– **OPPOSITES** obscure, fancy, attractive, pretentious.

• **adverb** *this is just plain stupid*: **downright**, utterly, absolutely, completely, totally, really, thoroughly, positively, simply, unquestionably, undeniably; informal plumb.

• **noun** *the plains of North America*:

**grassland**, flatland, lowland, pasture, meadowland, prairie, savannah, steppe; tableland, tundra, pampas, veld.

**plain-spoken** adjective **candid**, frank, outspoken, forthright, direct, honest, truthful, open, blunt, straightforward, explicit, unequivocal, unambiguous, not afraid to call a spade a spade; informal upfront.

– **OPPOSITES** evasive.

**plaintive** adjective **mournful**, sad, wistful, doleful, pathetic, pitiful, piteous,

melancholy, sorrowful, unhappy, wretched, woeful, forlorn, weebegone; literary dolorous.

**plan** noun **1** *a plan for raising money*: **scheme**, idea, proposal, proposition, suggestion; project, programme, system, method, procedure, strategy, stratagem, formula, recipe; way, means, measure, tactic. **2** *her plan was to win a medal*: **intention**, aim, idea, intent, objective, object, goal, target, ambition. **3** *plans for the clubhouse*:

**blueprint**, drawing, diagram, sketch, layout; illustration, representation; N. Amer. plat.

• **verb 1** *plan your route in advance*: **organize**, arrange, work out, design, outline, map out, prepare, schedule, formulate, frame, develop, devise, concoct; plot, scheme, hatch, brew; N. Amer. slate. **2** *he plans to buy a house*: **intend**, aim, propose, mean, hope, want, wish, desire, envisage; formal purpose. **3** *I'm planning a new garden*: **design**, draw up, sketch out, map out; N. Amer. plat.

**plane**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a horizontal plane*: **flat surface**, level surface; the flat, horizontal.

**2** *a higher plane of achievement*: **level**, degree, standard, stratum; position, rung, echelon.

• **adjective** *a plane surface*: **flat**, level, horizontal, even; smooth, regular, uniform; technical planar.

• **verb 1** *seagulls planed overhead*: **soar**, glide, float, drift, wheel. **2** *boats planed across the water*: **skim**, glide.

**plane**<sup>2</sup> noun *the plane took off*: **aircraft**, airliner, jet, jetliner; flying machine; Brit. aeroplane; N. Amer. airplane, ship.

**planet** noun **celestial body**, heavenly body, satellite, moon, earth, asteroid, planetoid; literary orb.

**plangent** adjective (literary) **melancholy**, mournful, plaintive; sonorous, resonant, loud.

**plank** noun **board**, floorboard, timber, stave.

**planning** noun **preparation(s)**, organization, arrangement, design; forethought, groundwork.

**plant** noun **1** *garden plants*: flower, vegetable, herb, shrub, weed; (**plants**) vegetation, greenery, flora, herbage, verdure. **2** *a CIA plant*: **spy**, informant, informer, (secret) agent, mole, infiltrator, operative; N. Amer. informal spook. **3** *the plant commenced production*: **factory**, works, foundry, mill, workshop, yard; old use manufactory.

• **verb 1** *plant the seeds this autumn*: **sow**, scatter, seed; bed out, transplant. **2** *he planted his feet on the ground*: **place**, put, set, position, situate, settle; informal plonk. **3** *she planted the idea in his mind*: **instil**, implant, impress, imprint, put, place, introduce, fix, establish, lodge. **4** *letters were planted to embarrass them*: **hide**, conceal, secrete.

#### WORD LINKS

**botany** the scientific study of plants

**herbivore** an animal that feeds on plants

**herbicide** a substance used to kill plants

**photosynthesis** the process by which green plants use sunlight to form nutrients  
**chlorophyll** the green pigment in plants which enables photosynthesis

**plaque** noun **plate**, tablet, panel, sign, plaquette, cartouche; Brit. brass.

**plaster** noun **1** *the plaster covering the bricks: plasterwork*, stucco, partering; trademark Artex. **2** *a statuette made of plaster: plaster of Paris*, gypsum. **3** *waterproof plasters: sticking plaster*, (adhesive) dressing, bandage; trademark Elastoplast, Band-Aid. • **verb 1** *bread plastered with butter: cover thickly*, smother, spread, smear, cake, coat. **2** *his hair was plastered down with sweat: flatten (down)*, smooth down, slick down.

**plastic** adjective **1** *at high temperatures the rocks become plastic: malleable*, mouldable, pliable, pliant, ductile, flexible, soft, workable, bendable; informal bendy. **2** *the plastic minds of children: impressionable*, malleable, receptive, pliable, pliant, flexible; compliant, tractable, biddable, persuadable, susceptible, manipulable. **3** *a plastic smile: artificial*, false, fake, superficial, pseudo, bogus, unnatural, insincere; informal phoney, pretend.

– OPPOSITES rigid, intractable, genuine.

**plate** noun **1** *a dinner plate: dish*, platter, salver, paten; historical trencher; old use charger. **2** *a plate of spaghetti: plateful*, helping, portion, serving. **3** *steel plates: panel*, sheet, layer, pane, slab. **4** *a brass plate on the door: plaque*, sign, tablet, plaquette, cartouche; Brit. brass. **5** *the book has colour plates: picture*, print, illustration, photograph, photo. • **verb** *the roof was plated with steel: cover*, coat, overlay, laminate, veneer; electroplate, galvanize, gild.

**plateau** noun **1** *a windswept plateau: upland*, tableland, plain, mesa, highland. **2** *prices reached a plateau: quiescent period; let-up*, respite, lull.

**platform** noun **1** *he made a speech from the platform: stage*, dais, rostrum, podium, soapbox. **2** *the Democratic Party's platform: policy*, programme, party line, manifesto, plan, principles, objectives, aims.

**platitudinous** noun cliché, truism, commonplace, banality, old chestnut, bromide.

**platitudinous** adjective hackneyed, overworked, overused, clichéd, banal, trite, commonplace, well worn, stale, tired, unoriginal; informal corny, old hat.

– OPPOSITES original.

**platonic** adjective non-sexual, non-physical, chaste; intellectual, friendly.

– OPPOSITES sexual.

**platoon** noun unit, patrol, troop, squad, squadron, team, company, corps, outfit, detachment, contingent.

**platter** noun **plate**, dish, salver, paten, tray; historical trencher; old use charger.

**plaudits** plural noun praise, acclaim, commendation, congratulations, accolades, compliments, cheers, applause, tributes,

bouquets; a pat on the back; informal a (big) hand.

– OPPOSITES criticism.

**plausible** adjective credible, reasonable, believable, likely, feasible, tenable, possible, conceivable, imaginable; convincing, persuasive, cogent, sound, rational, logical, thinkable.

– OPPOSITES unlikely.

**play** verb **1** *the children played with toys: amuse oneself*, entertain oneself, enjoy oneself, have fun; relax, occupy oneself, divert oneself; frolic, frisk, romp, caper; informal mess about/around, lark (about/around); dated sport. **2** *I used to play football: take part in*, participate in, be involved in, compete in, do. **3** *Liverpool play Oxford on Sunday: compete against*, take on, challenge, vie with. **4** *he was to play Macbeth: act (the part of)*, take the role of, appear as, portray, depict, impersonate, represent, render, perform; formal personate. **5** *he learned to play the flute: perform on*, make music on; blow, sound. **6** *the sunlight played on the water: dance*, flit, ripple, touch; sparkle, glint.

• **noun 1** *a balance between work and play: amusement*, entertainment, relaxation, recreation, diversion, distraction, leisure; enjoyment, pleasure, fun, games, fun and games; horseplay, merrymaking, revelry; informal living it up; dated sport. **2** *a Shakespeare play: drama*, comedy, tragedy; production, performance, show, sketch. **3** *she knew the play of the real world: action*, activity, operation, working, function; interaction, interplay. **4** *there was a little play in the rope: movement*, slack, give; room to manoeuvre, scope, latitude.

■ **play around** (informal) womanize, philander, have affairs, flirt; informal carry on, mess about/around, play the field, sleep around; Brit. informal play away; N. Amer. informal fool around.

■ **play at** pretend to be, pass oneself off as, masquerade as, profess to be, pose as, impersonate; fake, feign, simulate, affect; N. Amer. informal make like.

■ **play ball** (informal) cooperate, collaborate, play the game, show willing, help, lend a hand, assist, contribute; informal pitch in.

■ **play something down** make light of, make little of, gloss over, de-emphasize, downplay, understate; soft-pedal, tone down, diminish, trivialize, understate, underestimate, undervalue; disparage, belittle, scoff at, sneer at, shrug off; informal pooch-pooch.

■ **play for time** stall, temporize, delay, hold back, hang fire, procrastinate, drag one's feet.

■ **play it by ear** improvise, extemporize, ad lib; make it up as one goes along, think on one's feet; informal busk it, wing it.

■ **play on their fears** exploit, take advantage of, use, turn to (one's) account, profit by, capitalize on, trade on, milk, abuse.

■ **play the fool** clown about/around, fool about/around, mess about/around, lark about/around, monkey about/around, joke;



informal horse about/around, act the goat; Brit. informal muck about/around.

■ **play the game** play fair, be fair, play by the rules, conform, be a good sport, toe the line.

■ **play up** (Brit. informal) **1** *the boys really did play up*: misbehave, be bad, be naughty, get up to mischief, be disobedient, cause trouble. **2** *the boiler's playing up*: malfunction, not work, be defective, be faulty; informal go on the blink, act up. **3** *his leg was playing up*: be painful, hurt, ache, be sore, cause discomfort; informal kill someone, give someone gyp.

■ **play something up** emphasize, accentuate, call attention to, point up, underline, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, stress, accent.

■ **play up to** ingratiate oneself with, curry favour with, court, fawn over, make up to, keep someone sweet, toady to, crawl to, pander to, flatter; informal soft-soap, suck up to, butter up, lick someone's boots.

**playboy** noun socialite, pleasure-seeker, sybarite; ladies' man, womanizer, philanderer, rake, roué; informal ladykiller.

**player** noun **1** *a tournament for young players*: participant, contestant, competitor, contender; sportsman/woman, athlete. **2** *the players in the orchestra*: musician, performer, instrumentalist, soloist, virtuoso. **3** *the players of the Royal Shakespeare Company*: actor, actress, performer, thespian, entertainer, artist(e), trouper.

**playful** adjective **1** *a playful mood*: frisky, jolly, lively, full of fun, sportive, high-spirited, exuberant, perky; mischievous, impish, rascally, tricky; informal full of beans; literary frolicsome; dated gay; formal ludic. **2** *a playful remark*: light-hearted, in jest, joking, jokey, teasing, humorous, jocular, good-natured, tongue-in-cheek, facetious, frivolous, flippant, arch; informal waggish.

– OPPOSITES serious.

**playground** noun play area, park, playing field, recreation ground; Brit. informal rec.

**playmate** noun friend, playfellow, companion; informal chum, pal; Brit. informal mate; N. Amer. informal buddy.

**plaything** noun toy, game.

**playwright** noun dramatist, dramaturge, scriptwriter, screenwriter, writer, scenarist; tragedian.

**plea** noun **1** *a plea for aid*: appeal, entreaty, supplication, petition, request, call, suit, solicitation. **2** *her plea of a headache was unconvincing*: claim, explanation, defence, justification; excuse, pretext.

**plead** verb **1** *he pleaded with her to stay*: beg, implore, entreat, appeal to, supplicate, petition, request, ask, call on; literary beseech. **2** *she pleaded ignorance*: claim, use as an excuse, assert, allege, argue, state.

**pleasant** adjective **1** *a pleasant evening*: enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, agreeable, pleasing, satisfying, gratifying, good; entertaining, amusing, delightful, charming;

fine, balmy; informal lovely, great. **2** *the staff are pleasant*: friendly, agreeable, amiable, nice, genial, cordial, likeable, amicable, good-humoured, good-natured, personable; hospitable, approachable, gracious, courteous, polite, obliging, helpful, considerate; charming, lovely, delightful, sweet, sympathetic; N. English & Scottish canny; Scottish couthy.

– OPPOSITES disagreeable.

**pleasantry** noun **1** *we exchanged pleasantries*: banter, badinage; polite remark, casual remark; N. Amer. informal josh. **2** *he laughed at his own pleasantry*: joke, witticism, quip, jest, gag, bon mot; informal wisecrack, crack.

**please** verb **1** *he'd do anything to please her*: make happy, give pleasure to, make someone feel good; delight, charm, amuse, entertain; satisfy, gratify, humour, oblige, content, suit; informal tickle someone pink. **2** *do as you please*: like, want, wish, desire, see fit, think fit, choose, will, prefer.

– OPPOSITES annoy.

• adverb *please sit down*: if you please, if you wouldn't mind, if you would be so good; kindly, pray; old use prithee.

**pleased** adjective happy, glad, delighted, gratified, grateful, thankful, content, contented, satisfied; thrilled, elated, overjoyed, cock-a-hoop; informal over the moon, tickled pink, on cloud nine; Brit. informal chuffed; N. English informal made up; Austral. informal wrapped; humorous grunted.

– OPPOSITES unhappy.

**pleasing** adjective **1** *a pleasing day*: nice, agreeable, pleasant, pleasurable, satisfying, gratifying, good, enjoyable, entertaining, amusing, delightful; informal lovely, great. **2** *her pleasing manner*: friendly, amiable, pleasant, agreeable, affable, nice, genial, likeable, good-humoured, charming, engaging, delightful; informal lovely.

**pleasurable** adjective pleasant, enjoyable, delightful, nice, pleasing, agreeable, gratifying; fun, entertaining, amusing, diverting; informal lovely, great.

**pleasure** noun **1** *she smiled with pleasure*: happiness, delight, joy, gladness, glee, satisfaction, gratification, contentment, enjoyment, amusement. **2** *his greatest pleasures in life*: joy, amusement, diversion, recreation, pastime; treat, thrill. **3** *don't mix business and pleasure*: enjoyment, fun, entertainment; recreation, leisure, relaxation; informal jollies. **4** *a life of pleasure*: hedonism, indulgence, self-indulgence, self-gratification, lotus-eating. **5** *what's your pleasure?* wish, desire, preference, will, inclination, choice.

■ **take pleasure** in enjoy, delight in, love, like, adore, appreciate, relish, savour, revel in, glory in; informal get a kick out of, get a thrill out of.

■ **with pleasure** gladly, willingly, happily, readily; by all means, of course; old use fain.

## WORD LINKS

**sybarite, hedonist, voluptuary** a person who is very fond of pleasure

**pleat** noun *a curtain pleat*: fold, crease, gather, tuck, crimp; pucker.

• **verb** *the dress is pleated at the front*: fold, crease, gather, tuck, crimp; pucker.

**plebeian** noun *plebeians and gentry lived together*: proletarian, commoner, working-class person, worker; peasant; informal **pleb**, **prole**.

– **OPPOSITES** aristocrat.

• **adjective** **1** *people of plebeian descent*:

**lower class**, working-class, proletarian, common, peasant; mean, humble, lowly.

**2** *plebeian tastes*: **uncultured**, uncultivated, unrefined, lowbrow, philistine, uneducated; coarse, uncouth, common, vulgar; informal **plebby**; Brit. informal non-U.

– **OPPOSITES** noble, refined.

**plebiscite** noun *vote, referendum, ballot, poll*.

**pledge** noun **1** *his election pledge*: promise, undertaking, vow, word (of honour), commitment, assurance, oath, guarantee.

**2** *he gave it as a pledge to a creditor*: **surety**, bond, security, collateral, guarantee, deposit.

**3** *a pledge of my sincerity*: **token**, symbol, sign, earnest, mark, testimony, proof, evidence.

• **verb** **1** *he pledged to root out corruption*:

**promise**, vow, swear, undertake, engage, commit oneself, declare, affirm, avow.

**2** *they pledged £100 million*: **promise** (to give), donate, contribute, give, put up; Brit. covenant. **3** *his home is pledged as security against the loan*: **mortgage**, put up as collateral, guarantee, pawn.

**plenary** adjective **1** *the council has plenary powers*: **unconditional**, unlimited, unrestricted, unqualified, absolute, sweeping, comprehensive; plenipotentiary. **2** *a plenary session of the parliament*: **full**, complete, entire.

**plenipotentiary** noun *a plenipotentiary in Paris*: **diplomat**, dignitary, ambassador, minister, emissary, chargé d'affaires, envoy.

• **adjective** *plenipotentiary powers*. See **PLENARY** sense 1.

**plenitude** noun (formal) *abundance, lot, wealth, profusion, cornucopia, plethora, superabundance*; informal load, slew, heap, ton; Brit. informal shedload.

**plenteous** adjective (literary). See **PLENTIFUL**.

**plentiful** adjective *abundant, copious, ample, profuse, rich, lavish, generous, bountiful, large, great, bumper, superabundant, inexhaustible, prolific*; informal a gogo, galore; literary plenteous.

– **OPPOSITES** scarce.

**plenty** noun *times of plenty*: prosperity, affluence, wealth, opulence, comfort, luxury; plentifulness, abundance; literary plenteousness.

• **pronoun** *there are plenty of books*: a lot of, many, a great deal of, a plethora of, enough (and to spare), no lack of, sufficient, a

wealth of; informal loads of, lots of, heaps of, stacks of, masses of, tons of, oodles of, scads of, a slew of.

**plethora** noun *excess, abundance, superabundance, surplus, glut, superfluity, surfeit, profusion, too many, too much, enough and to spare*; informal more — than one can shake a stick at.

– **OPPOSITES** dearth.

**pliable** adjective **1** *leather is pliable*: **flexible**, pliant, bendable, elastic, supple, malleable, workable, plastic, springy, ductile; informal bendy. **2** *pliable teenage minds*: **malleable**, impressionable, flexible, adaptable, pliant, compliant, biddable, tractable, yielding, amenable, susceptible, suggestible, persuadable, manipulable, receptive.

– **OPPOSITES** rigid, obdurate.

**pliant** adjective. See **PLIABLE** senses 1, 2.

**plight** noun *predicament, difficult situation, dire straits, trouble, difficulty, extremity, bind*; informal dilemma, tight corner, tight spot, hole, pickle, jam, fix.

**plod** verb **1** *Mum plodded wearily upstairs*: trudge, walk heavily, clump, stomp, tramp, lumber, slog; Brit. informal trog. **2** *I have to plod through the whole book*: wade, plough, trawl, toil, labour; informal slog.

**plot** noun **1** *a plot to overthrow him*:

**conspiracy**, intrigue, secret plan; machinations. **2** *the plot of her novel*: **storyline**, story, scenario, action, thread; formal diegesis. **3** *a three-acre plot*: **piece of ground**, patch, area, tract, acreage; Brit. allotment; N. Amer. lot, plat; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ homesite.

• **verb** **1** *he plotted their downfall*: **plan**, scheme, arrange, organize, hatch, concoct, devise, dream up; informal cook up. **2** *his brother was plotting against him*: **conspire**, scheme, intrigue, collude, connive, machinate. **3** *the fifty-three sites were plotted*: **mark**, chart, map, represent, graph.

**plotter** noun *conspirator, schemer, intriguer, machinator; planner*.

**plough** verb **1** *the fields were ploughed*: till, furrow, harrow, cultivate, work, break up.

**2** *the car ploughed into a lamp post*: crash, smash, career, plunge, bulldoze, hurtle, cannon, run, drive; N. Amer. informal barrel.

**3** *they ploughed through deep snow*: trudge, plod, toil, wade; informal slog; Brit. informal trog.

**ploy** noun *ruse, tactic, move, device, stratagem, scheme, trick, gambit, plan, manoeuvre, dodge, subterfuge, wile*; Brit. informal wheeze.

**pluck** verb **1** *he plucked a thread from his lapel*: **remove**, pick (off), pull (off/out), extract, take (off). **2** *she plucked at his T-shirt*: **pull** (at), tug (at), clutch (at), snatch (at), grab, catch (at), tweak, jerk; informal yank. **3** *she plucked the guitar strings*: **strum**, pick, thrum, twang; play pizzicato. **4** *the turkeys are plucked by machine*: **deplume**, remove the feathers from.

• **noun** *the task took a lot of pluck*: **courage**, bravery, nerve, backbone, spine, daring, spirit, intrepidity, fearlessness, mettle, grit,

determination, fortitude, resolve, stout-heartedness, dauntlessness, valour, heroism, audacity; informal guts, spunk, gymption; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

**plucky** adjective **brave**, courageous, bold, daring, fearless, intrepid, spirited, game, valiant, valorous, stout-hearted, dauntless, resolute, determined, undaunted, unflinching, audacious, unafraid, doughty, mettlesome; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES timid.

**plug** noun **1** *she pulled out the plug*: stopper, bung, cork, seal, spigot, spile; N. Amer. stopple. **2** *a plug of tobacco*: wad, quid, twist, chew. **3** (informal) *a plug for his new book*: advertisement, promotion, commercial, recommendation, mention, good word; informal hype, push, puff, ad, boost, ballyhoo; Brit. informal advert.

• **verb 1** *plug the holes*: stop (up), seal (up/off), close (up/off), cork, stopper, bung, block (up/off), fill (up); N. Amer. stopple. **2** (informal) *she plugged her new film*: publicize, promote, advertise, mention, bang the drum for, draw attention to; informal hype (up), push, puff. **3** (informal) *don't move or I'll plug you*: shoot, gun down; informal blast, pump full of lead.

■ **plug away** (informal) toil, labour, slave away, soldier on, persevere, persist, keep on, plough on; informal slog away, beaver away, peg away.

**plum** adjective (informal) *a plum job*: excellent, very good, wonderful, marvellous, choice, first-class; informal great, terrific, cushy.

**plumb**<sup>1</sup> verb *an attempt to plumb her psyche*: explore, probe, delve into, search, examine, investigate, fathom, penetrate, understand.

• **adverb 1** (informal) *it went plumb through the screen*: right, exactly, precisely, directly, dead, straight; informal (slap) bang. **2** (N. Amer. informal) *he's plumb crazy*: utterly, absolutely, completely, downright, totally, quite, thoroughly. **3** (old use) *the bell hangs plumb*: vertically, perpendicularly, straight down.

• **adjective a plumb drop**: vertical, perpendicular, straight.

■ **plumb the depths** experience the extremes, reach the lowest point; reach rock bottom.

**plumb**<sup>2</sup> verb *he plumbed in the washing machine*: install, put in, fit.

**plume** noun *ostrich plumes*: feather, quill; Ornithology plumule, covert.

■ **plume oneself** congratulate oneself, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back, pride oneself, boast about.

**plummet** verb **1** *the plane plummeted to the ground*: plunge, nosedive, dive, drop, fall, descend, hurtle. **2** *share prices plummeted*: fall steeply, plunge, tumble, drop rapidly, go down, slump; informal crash, nosedive.

**plummy** adjective (Brit. informal) *a plummy voice*: upper-class, refined, aristocratic, grand; Brit. Home Counties; Scottish Kelvinside, Morningside; Brit. informal posh, Sloaney.

**plump**<sup>1</sup> adjective *a plump child*: chubby, fat,

stout, rotund, well padded, ample, round, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent; informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy, fubby; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed.

– OPPOSITES thin.

**plump**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *Jack plumped down on to a chair*: flop, collapse, sink, fall, drop, slump; informal plonk oneself; N. Amer. informal plank oneself. **2** *she plumped her bag on the table*: put (down), set (down), place, deposit, dump, stick; informal plonk; Brit. informal bung; N. Amer. informal plunk. **3** *I plumped for a cream cake*: choose, decide on, go for, opt for, pick, settle on, select, take, elect.

**plunder** verb **1** *they plundered the countryside*: pillage, loot, rob, raid, ransack, despoil, strip, ravage, lay waste, devastate, sack, rape. **2** *money plundered from pension funds*: steal, purloin, thieve, seize, pillage; embezzle.

• **noun 1** *the plunder of the villages*: looting, pillaging, plundering, raiding, ransacking, devastation, sacking; literary rapine. **2** *the army took huge quantities of plunder*: booty, loot, stolen goods, spoils, ill-gotten gains; informal swag.

**plunge** verb **1** *Joy plunged into the sea*: dive, jump, throw oneself, launch oneself. **2** *the aircraft plunged to the ground*: plummet, nosedive, drop, fall, pitch, tumble, descend.

**3** *the car plunged down an alley*: charge, hurtle, career, plough, cannon, tear; N. Amer. informal barrel. **4** *oil prices plunged*: fall sharply, plummet, drop, go down, tumble, slump; informal crash, nosedive. **5** *he plunged the dagger into her back*: thrust, jab, stab, sink, stick, ram, drive, push, shove, force.

**6** *plunge the pearls into water*: immerse, submerge, dip, dunk. **7** *the room was plunged into darkness*: throw, cast, pitch.

• **noun 1** *a plunge into the deep end*: dive, jump, nosedive, fall, pitch, drop, plummet, descent. **2** *a plunge in profits*: fall, drop, slump; informal nosedive, crash.

■ **take the plunge** commit oneself, go for it, throw caution to the wind(s), risk it; informal jump in at the deep end, go for broke.

**plurality** noun *a plurality of theories*: wide variety, diversity, range, lot, multitude, multiplicity, galaxy, wealth, profusion, abundance, plethora, host; informal load, stack, heap, mass.

**plus** preposition **1** *three plus three makes six*: and, added to. **2** *he wrote four novels plus various poems*: as well as, together with, along with, in addition to, and, not to mention, besides.

– OPPOSITES minus.

• **noun one of the pluses of the job**: advantage, good point, asset, pro, (fringe) benefit, bonus, extra, attraction; informal perk; formal perquisite.

– OPPOSITES disadvantage.

**plush** adjective (informal) *luxurious*, luxury, de luxe, sumptuous, palatial, lavish, opulent, magnificent, lush, rich, expensive, fancy, grand; Brit. upmarket; informal posh, ritzy,



swanky, classy; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank.

– OPPOSITES austere.

**plutocrat** noun rich person, magnate, millionaire, billionaire, multimillionaire; nouveau riche; informal fat cat, moneybags.

**ply**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *the gondolier plied his oar: use, wield, work, manipulate, handle, operate, utilize, employ.* **2** *he plied a profitable trade: engage in, carry on, pursue, conduct, practise; old use prosecute.* **3** *ferries ply between all lake resorts: go regularly, travel, shuttle, go back and forth.* **4** *she plied me with scones: provide, supply, lavish, shower, regale.* **5** *he plied her with questions: bombard, assail, beset, pester, plague, harass, importune; informal hassle.*

**ply**<sup>2</sup> noun *a three-ply tissue: layer, thickness, strand, sheet, leaf.*

**poach** verb **1** *he's been poaching salmon: hunt illegally, catch illegally; steal.* **2** *workers were poached by other firms: steal, appropriate, purloin, take; informal nab, swipe; Brit. informal nick, pinch.*

**pocket** noun **1** *a bag with two pockets: pouch, compartment.* **2** *the jewellery was beyond her pocket: means, budget, resources, finances, funds, money, wherewithal; N. Amer. pocketbook.* **3** *pockets of disaffection: (isolated) area, patch, region, island, cluster, centre.*

• **adjective** *a pocket dictionary: small, little, miniature, mini, compact, concise, abridged, potted, portable; N. Amer. vest-pocket.*

• **verb** *he pocketed \$900,000 of their money: steal, take, appropriate, thief, purloin, misappropriate, embezzle; informal filch, swipe, snaffle; Brit. informal pinch, nick, whip.*

**pockmark** noun scar, pit, pock, mark, blemish.

**P** **pod** noun shell, husk, hull, case; N. Amer. shuck; Botany pericarp, capsule.

**podgy** (adjective (Brit. informal) **chubby**, plump, fat, stout, rotund, well padded, ample, round, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent; informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed.

– OPPOSITES thin.

**podium** noun platform, stage, dais, rostrum, stand, soapbox.

**poem** noun verse, rhyme, ode, sonnet, ballad, lyric, song, limerick, ditty.

**poet** noun versifier, rhymester, rhymist, sonneteer, lyricist, lyrical; laureate; literary bard; derogatory poetaster; historical troubadour, balladeer; old use rhymist.

**poetic** adjective **1** *poetic compositions: poetical, verse, metrical, lyrical, lyric, elegiac.* **2** *poetic language: expressive, figurative, symbolic, flowery, artistic, elegant, fine, beautiful; sensitive, imaginative, creative.*

**poetry** noun poems, verse, versification, metrical composition, rhymes, balladry; old use poesy.

**pogrom** noun massacre, slaughter, mass

murder, annihilation, extermination, decimation, carnage, bloodbath, bloodletting, butchery, genocide, holocaust, ethnic cleansing.

**poignancy** noun pathos, pitifulness, piteousness, sadness, sorrow, mournfulness, wretchedness, misery, tragedy.

**poignant** adjective touching, moving, sad, affecting, pitiful, piteous, pathetic, sorrowful, mournful, wretched, miserable, distressing, heart-rending, tear-jerking, plaintive, tragic.

**point**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the point of a needle: tip, (sharp) end, extremity; prong, spike, tine, nib, barb.* **2** *points of light: pinpoint, dot, spot, speck, fleck.* **3** *a meeting point: place, position, location, site, spot, area.* **4** *this point in her life: time, stage, juncture, period, phase.* **5** *the tension had reached such a high point: level, degree, stage, pitch, extent.* **6** *an important point: detail, item, fact, thing, argument, consideration, factor, element; subject, issue, topic, question, matter.* **7** *get to the point: heart of the matter, most important part, essence, nub, keynote, core, pith, crux; meaning, significance, gist, substance, thrust, burden, relevance; informal brass tacks, nitty-gritty.* **8** *what's the point of this? purpose, aim, object, objective, goal, intention; use, sense, value, advantage.* **9** *he had his good points: attribute, characteristic, feature, trait, quality, property, aspect, side.*

• **verb** **1** *she pointed the gun at him: aim, direct, level, train.* **2** *the evidence pointed to his guilt: indicate, suggest, evidence, signal, signify, denote, bespeak, reveal, manifest.*

■ **beside the point** irrelevant, immaterial, unimportant, neither here nor there, inconsequential, incidental, out of place, unconnected, peripheral, tangential, extraneous.

■ **in point of fact** in fact, as a matter of fact, actually, in actual fact, really, in reality, as it happens, in truth.

■ **make a point of** make an effort to, go out of one's way to, put emphasis on.

■ **on the point of** (just) about to, on the verge of, on the brink of, going to, all set to.

■ **point of view** opinion, view, belief, attitude, feeling, sentiment, thoughts; position, perspective, viewpoint, standpoint, outlook.

■ **point something out** identify, show, designate, draw attention to, indicate, specify, detail, mention.

■ **point something up** emphasize, highlight, draw attention to, accentuate, underline, spotlight, foreground, put emphasis on, stress, play up, accent, bring to the fore.

■ **to the point** relevant, pertinent, apposite, germane, applicable, apropos, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable, material; formal ad rem.

■ **up to a point** partly, to some extent, to a certain degree, in part, somewhat, partially.

**point**<sup>2</sup> noun *the ship rounded the point: promontory, headland, foreland, cape, peninsula, bluff, ness, horn.*

**point-blank** adverb **1** *he fired the pistol*

**point-blank:** at close range, close up, close to. **2** *she couldn't say it point-blank:* bluntly, directly, straight, frankly, candidly, openly, explicitly, unequivocally, unambiguously, plainly, flatly, categorically, outright.

• **adjective** a *point-blank refusal:* blunt, direct, straight, straightforward, frank, candid, forthright, explicit, unequivocal, plain, clear, flat, decisive, unqualified, categorical, outright.

**pointed adjective 1** a *pointed stick:* sharp, tapering, tapered, conical, jagged, spiky, spiked, barbed; informal **pointy**. **2** a *pointed remark:* cutting, trenchant, biting, incisive, acerbic, caustic, scathing, venomous, sarcastic; informal sarky; N. Amer. informal snarky.

**pointer noun 1** *the pointer moved to 100rpm:* indicator, needle, arrow, hand. **2** *he used a pointer on the chart:* stick, rod, cane; cursor. **3** a *pointer to the outcome of the election:* indication, indicator, clue, hint, sign, signal, evidence, intimation, inkling, suggestion.

**4** *I can give you a few pointers:* tip, hint, suggestion, guideline, recommendation.

**pointless adjective** senseless, futile, hopeless, fruitless, useless, needless, in vain, unavailing, aimless, idle, worthless, valueless; absurd, insane, stupid, silly, foolish.

– OPPOSITES valuable.

**poise noun 1** *poise and good deportment:* grace, gracefulness, elegance, balance, control. **2** *in spite of the setback she retained her poise:* composure, equanimity, self-possession, aplomb, presence of mind, self-assurance, self-control, nerve, calm, sangfroid, dignity; informal cool, unflappability.

• **verb 1** *she was poised on one foot:* balance, hold (oneself) steady, be suspended, remain motionless, hang, hover. **2** *he was poised for action:* prepare oneself, ready oneself, brace oneself, gear oneself up, stand by.

**poison noun 1** a *deadly poison:* toxin, toxicant, venom; old use bane. **2** *Marianne would spread her poison:* malice, ill will, hate, malevolence, bitterness, spite, spitefulness, venom, acrimony, rancour; bad influence, cancer, corruption, pollution.

• **verb 1** *her mother poisoned her:* give poison to; murder. **2** a *blackmailer poisoning baby foods:* contaminate, put poison in, adulterate, spike, lace, doctor. **3** *the Amazon is being poisoned:* pollute, contaminate, taint, blight, spoil; literary befoul. **4** *they poisoned his mind:* prejudice, bias, jaundice, embitter, sour, envenom, warp, corrupt, subvert.

#### WORD LINKS

**toxicology** the branch of science concerned with poisons

**antidote, antivenin** a substance taken to counteract a poison

**antitoxin** an antibody that counteracts a toxin

**poisonous adjective 1** a *poisonous snake:* venomous, deadly. **2** a *poisonous chemical:*

toxic, noxious, deadly, fatal, lethal, mortal, death-dealing. **3** a *poisonous glance:* malicious, malevolent, hostile, vicious, spiteful, bitter, venomous, vindictive, vitriolic, rancorous, malign, pernicious, mean, nasty; informal bitchy, catty.

– OPPOSITES harmless, non-toxic, benevolent.

**poke verb 1** *she poked him in the ribs:* prod, jab, dig, nudge, butt, shove, jolt, stab, stick. **2** *leave the cable poking out:* stick out, jut out, protrude, project, extend.

• **noun 1** *Carrie gave him a poke:* prod, jab, dig, elbow, nudge. **2** a *poke in the arm:* jab, dig, nudge, shove, stab.

■ **poke about/around** search, hunt, rummage (around), forage, grub, root about/around, scavenge, nose around, ferret (about/around); sift through, rifle through, scour, comb, probe; Brit. informal rootle (around).

■ **poke fun at** mock, make fun of, ridicule, laugh at, jeer at, sneer at, deride, scorn, scoff at, pillory, lampoon, tease, taunt, rag, chaff, jibe at; informal send up, take the mickey out of, kid, rib; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal goof on, rag on; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at.

■ **poke one's nose into** pry into, interfere in, intrude on, butt into, meddle with; informal snoop into.

**poky adjective** small, little, tiny, cramped, confined, restricted, boxy; euphemistic compact, bijoux.

– OPPOSITES spacious.

**polar adjective 1** *polar weather:* Arctic, cold, freezing, icy, glacial, chilly, gelid.

**2** *two polar types of interview:* opposite, opposed, dichotomous, extreme, contrary, contradictory, antithetical.

**polarity noun** difference, dichotomy, separation, opposition, contradiction, antithesis, antagonism.

**pole<sup>1</sup> noun** post, pillar, stanchion, paling, stake, stick, support, prop, batten, bar, rail, rod, beam; staff, stave, cane, baton.

**pole<sup>2</sup> noun** *points of view at opposite poles:* extremity, extreme, limit, antipode.

■ **poles apart** completely different, directly opposed, antithetical, incompatible, irreconcilable, worlds apart, at opposite extremes; Brit. like chalk and cheese.

**polemic noun 1** a *polemic against injustice:* diatribe, invective, rant, tirade, broadside, attack, harangue, condemnation, criticism, stricture, admonition, rebuke; abuse; informal blast; formal castigation; literary philippic.

**2** *he is skilled in polemics:* argumentation, argument, debate, contention, disputation, discussion, altercation; formal contestation.

• **adjective** *his famous polemic book.* See POLEMICAL.

**polemical adjective** critical, hostile, bitter, polemic, virulent, vitriolic, venomous, caustic, trenchant, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, sharp, incisive, devastating.

**police noun** the police force, police officers, policemen, policewomen, officers of the law, the forces of law and order; Brit.

constabulary; informal the cops, the fuzz, (the long arm of) the law, the boys in blue; Brit. informal the (Old) Bill, coppers, bobbies, busies, the force; N. Amer. informal the heat; informal, derogatory pigs, the filth.

• **verb 1** *we must police the area:* guard, watch over, protect, defend, patrol; control, regulate. **2** *the regulations will be policed by the ministry:* enforce, regulate, oversee, supervise, monitor, observe, check.

**police officer** noun **policeman**, **policewoman**, officer (of the law); Brit. constable; N. Amer. patrolman, trooper, roundsman; informal cop; Brit. informal copper, bobby, rozzer, busy, (PC) plod; N. Amer. informal uniform; informal, derogatory pig; old use peeler.

**policy** noun **1** *government policy:* plans, strategy, stratagem, approach, code, system, guidelines, theory; line, position, stance, attitude. **2** (old use) *it's good policy to listen:* practice, custom, procedure, conduct, convention.

**polish** verb **1** *I polished his shoes:* shine, wax, buff, rub up/down; gloss, burnish; varnish, oil, glaze, lacquer, japan, shellac. **2** *polish up your essay:* perfect, refine, improve, hone, enhance; brush up, revise, edit, correct, rewrite, go over, touch up; informal clean up. • **noun 1** *furniture polish:* wax, glaze, varnish; lacquer, japan, shellac. **2** *a good surface polish:* shine, gloss, lustre, sheen, sparkle, patina, finish. **3** *his polish made him stand out:* sophistication, refinement, urbanity, suaveness, elegance, style, grace, finesse, cultivation, civility, gentility, breeding, courtesies, (good) manners; informal class.

■ **polish something off** (informal) **1** *he polished off an apple pie:* eat, finish, consume, devour, guzzle, wolf down, down, bolt; drink up, drain, quaff, gulp (down); informal binge on, stuff oneself with, Hoover up, get outside of, murder, put away, scoff, shovel down, pig out on, sink, swill, knock back; Brit. informal shift, gollop; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up). **2** *the enemy tried to polish him off:* destroy, finish off, dispatch, do away with, eliminate, kill, liquidate; informal bump off, knock off, do in, take out, dispose of; N. Amer. informal rub out. **3** *I'll polish off the last few pages:* complete, finish, deal with, accomplish, discharge, do; end, conclude, close, finalize, round off, wind up; informal wrap up, sew up.

**polished** adjective **1** *a polished table:* shiny, glossy, gleaming, lustrous, glassy; waxed, buffed, burnished; varnished, glazed, lacquered, japanned, shellacked. **2** *a polished performance:* expert, accomplished, masterly, masterful, skilful, adept, adroit, dexterous; impeccable, flawless, perfect, consummate, exquisite, outstanding, excellent, superb, superlative, first-rate, fine; informal ace. **3** *polished manners:* refined, cultivated, civilized, well bred, polite, courteous, genteel, decorous, respectable, urbane, suave, sophisticated.

– OPPOSITES dull, inept, gauche.

**polite** adjective **1** *a very polite girl:* well mannered, civil, courteous, mannerly,

respectful, deferential, well behaved, well bred, gentlemanly, ladylike, genteel, gracious, urbane; tactful, diplomatic.

**2** *polite society:* civilized, refined, cultured, sophisticated, genteel, courtly.

– OPPOSITES rude, uncivilized.

**politic** adjective wise, prudent, sensible, judicious, canny, sagacious, shrewd, astute; recommended, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, desirable, advisable; appropriate, suitable, fitting, apt.

– OPPOSITES unwise.

**political** adjective **1** *the political affairs of the nation:* governmental, government, constitutional, ministerial, parliamentary, diplomatic, legislative, administrative, bureaucratic; public, civic, state. **2** *he's a political man:* politically active, party (political); militant, factional, partisan.

**politician** noun legislator, elected official, Member of Parliament, MP, minister, statesman, congresswoman, public servant; senator, congressman/woman; informal politico, pol.

**politics** noun **1** *a career in politics:* government, affairs of state, public affairs; diplomacy. **2** *he studies politics:* political science, civics, statecraft. **3** *what are his politics?* political views, political leanings, party politics. **4** *office politics:* power struggle, machinations, manoeuvring, opportunism, realpolitik.

**poll** noun **1** *a second-round poll:* vote, ballot, show of hands, referendum, plebiscite; election. **2** *the poll was unduly low:* voting figures, vote, returns, count, tally. **3** *a poll to investigate holiday choices:* survey, opinion poll, straw poll, canvass, market research, census.

• **verb 1** *most of those polled supported him:* canvass, survey, ask, question, interview, ballot. **2** *she polled 119 votes:* get, gain, register, record, return.

**pollute** verb **1** *fish farms will pollute the lake:* contaminate, adulterate, taint, poison, foul, dirty, soil, infect; literary defoul. **2** *propaganda polluted this nation:* corrupt, poison, warp, pervert, deprave, defile, blight, sully; literary besmirch.

– OPPOSITES purify.

**pollution** noun **1** *pollution in the rivers:* contamination, adulteration, impurity; dirt, filth, infection. **2** *the pollution of young minds:* corruption, defilement, poisoning, warping, depravation, sully, violation.

**pomp** noun ceremony, ceremonial, solemnity, ritual, display, spectacle, pageantry; show, showiness, ostentation, splendour, grandeur, magnificence, majesty, stateliness, glory, opulence, brilliance, drama, resplendence, splendidness; informal razzmatazz.

**pompous** adjective self-important, imperious, overbearing, domineering, magisterial, pontifical, sententious, grandiose, affected, pretentious, puffed up, arrogant, vain, haughty, proud, conceited, egotistic, supercilious, condescending,



patronizing; informal snooty, uppity, uppish.  
– OPPOSITES modest.

**pond** **noun** *pool*, waterhole, lake, tarn, reservoir, swim; Brit. stew; Scottish lochan; N. Amer. pothole; Austral./NZ tank.

**ponder** **verb** *think about*, contemplate, consider, review, reflect on, mull over, meditate on, muse on, deliberate about, cogitate on, dwell on, brood on, ruminate on, chew over, puzzle over, turn over in one's mind.

**ponderous** **adjective** **1** *a ponderous dance*: clumsy, heavy, awkward, lumbering, slow, cumbersome, ungainly, graceless, uncoordinated, blundering; informal clodhopping, clunky. **2** *his ponderous sentences*: laboured, laborious, awkward, clumsy, forced, stilted, unnatural, artificial; stodgy, lifeless, plodding, pedestrian, boring, dull, tedious, monotonous; over-elaborate, convoluted, windy.  
– OPPOSITES light, lively.

**pontifical** **adjective** *pompous*, cocksure, self-important, arrogant, superior; opinionated, dogmatic, doctrinaire, authoritarian, domineering, adamant, obstinate, stubborn, single-minded, inflexible.  
– OPPOSITES humble.

**pontificate** **verb** *hold forth*, expound, declaim, preach, lay down the law, sound off, dogmatize, sermonize, moralize, lecture; informal preachify, mouth off.

**pooh-pooh** **verb** (informal) *dismiss*, reject, spurn, rebuff, wave aside, disregard, discount; play down, make light of, belittle, deride, mock, scorn, scoff at, sneer at; Austral./NZ informal wipe.

**pool** **<sup>1</sup> noun** **1** *pools of water*: puddle, pond; literary plash. **2** *the hotel has a pool*: swimming pool, baths, lido; Brit. swimming bath(s); N. Amer. natatorium.

**pool** **<sup>2</sup> noun** **1** *a pool of skilled labour*: supply, reserve(s), reservoir, fund; store, stock, accumulation, cache. **2** *a pool of money for emergencies*: fund, reserve, kitty, pot, bank, purse.

• *verb* *they pooled their skills*: combine, amalgamate, group, join, unite, merge; fuse, conglomerate, integrate; share.

**poor** **adjective** **1** *a poor family*: poverty-stricken, penniless, moneyless, impoverished, necessitous, impecunious, indigent, needy, destitute, pauperized, on one's beam-ends, unable to make ends meet, without a sou; insolvent, in debt; Brit. on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name); informal (flat) broke, hard up, cleaned out, strapped, on one's uppers, without two pennies to rub together; Brit. informal skint, in Queer Street; formal penurious. **2** *poor workmanship*: substandard, below par, bad, deficient, defective, faulty, imperfect, inferior; appalling, abysmal, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, unsatisfactory, second-rate, third-rate, shoddy, crude, lamentable, deplorable, inadequate, unacceptable; informal crummy, rubbishy,

dire, dismal, bum, rotten, tenth-rate; Brit. informal ropy, duff, rubbish, pants. **3** *a poor crop*: meagre, scanty, scant, paltry, disappointing, limited, reduced, modest, insufficient, inadequate, sparse, spare, deficient, insubstantial, skimpy, short, small, lean, slender; informal measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling; formal exiguous. **4** *poor soil*: unproductive, barren, unyielding, unfruitful, uncultivable; arid, sterile. **5** *the waters are poor in nutrients*: deficient, lacking, wanting; short of, low on. **6** *you poor thing!* unfortunate, unlucky, luckless, unhappy, hapless, ill-fated, ill-starred, pitiable, pitiful, wretched.  
– OPPOSITES rich, superior, good, fertile, lucky.

**poorly** **adverb** *the text is poorly written*: badly, deficiently, defectively, imperfectly, incompetently; appallingly, abysmally, atrociously, awfully, dreadfully; crudely, shoddily, inadequately.

• **adjective** *she felt poorly*: ill, unwell, not (very) well, ailing, indisposed, out of sorts, under/below par, peaky; sick, queasy, nauseous; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, funny, peculiar, lousy, rough; Brit. informal ropy, grotty; Scottish informal wabbit; Austral./NZ informal crook; Brit. informal, dated queer; dated seedy.

**pop** **verb** **1** *champagne corks popped*: go bang, go off; crack, snap, burst, explode. **2** *I'm just popping home*: go; drop in, stop by, visit; informal tootle, whip; Brit. informal nip. **3** *pop a bag over the pot*: put, place, slip, slide, stick, set, lay, install, position, arrange.

• **noun** **1** *the balloons burst with a pop*: bang, crack, snap; explosion, report. **2** (informal) *a bottle of pop*: fizzy drink, soft drink, carbonated drink; N. Amer. soda; Scottish informal scoosh.

■ **pop** **up** appear (suddenly), occur (suddenly), arrive, materialize, come along, happen, emerge, arise, crop up, turn up, present itself, come to light; informal show up.

**pope** **noun** *pontiff*, Bishop of Rome, Holy Father, Vicar of Christ, His Holiness.

#### WORD LINKS

**papal**, **pontifical** relating to a pope  
**papacy** the position or period of office of a pope

**bull** an announcement by the pope  
**encyclical** a letter sent by the pope to all Roman Catholic bishops

**nuncio** an official representative of the pope in a foreign country

**legate** a member of the clergy who represents the pope

**Vatican** the official residence of the pope in Rome

**Curia** the papal court at the Vatican

**poppycock** **noun** (informal) *nonsense*, rubbish, claptrap, balderdash, blather, moonshine, garbage; informal rot, tripe, hogwash, baloney, drivel, bilge, bosh, bunk, eyewash, piffle, phooey, twaddle; Brit. informal cobbler's, codswallop, tosh; N. Amer. informal applesauce, bushwa; informal, dated bunkum, tommyrot.

**populace** noun **population**, inhabitants, residents, natives; community, country, (general) public, people, nation; common people, man/woman in the street, masses, multitude, rank and file, commonality, commonalty, third estate, plebeians, proletariat; informal proles, plebs; Brit. informal Joe Public; formal denizens; derogatory the hoi polloi, common herd, rabble, riff-raff.

**popular** adjective **1** *the restaurant is very popular*: well liked, favoured, sought-after, in demand, desired, wanted; commercial, marketable, fashionable, in vogue, all the rage, hot; informal in, cool, big; Brit. informal, dated all the go. **2** *popular science*: non-specialist, non-technical, amateur, lay person's, general, middle-of-the-road; accessible, simplified, plain, simple, easy, straightforward, understandable; mass-market, middlebrow, lowbrow, pop. **3** *popular opinion*: widespread, general, common, current, prevalent, prevailing, standard, stock; ordinary, usual, accepted, established, acknowledged, conventional, orthodox. **4** *a popular movement for independence*: mass, general, communal, collective, social, collaborative, group, civil, public.

– OPPOSITES highbrow.

**popularize** verb **1** *tobacco was popularized by Sir Walter Raleigh*: make popular, make fashionable; market, publicize; informal hype. **2** *he popularized the subject*: simplify, make accessible; informal dumb down. **3** *the report popularized the unfounded notion*: give currency to, spread, propagate, give credence to.

**popularly** adverb **1** *old age is popularly associated with illness*: widely, generally, universally, commonly, usually, customarily, habitually, conventionally, traditionally, as a rule. **2** *the rock was popularly known as 'Arthur's Seat'*: informally, unofficially.

**populate** verb **1** *the state is populated by 40,000 people*: inhabit, occupy, people; live in, reside in. **2** *an attempt to populate the island*: settle, colonize, people, occupy, move into, make one's home in.

**population** noun inhabitants, residents, people, citizens, citizenry, public, community, populace, society, natives, occupants; formal denizens.

#### WORD LINKS

**census** an official count of a population  
**demography** the statistical study of populations  
**eugenics** the science of improving a population by controlled breeding

**populous** adjective densely populated, heavily populated, congested, crowded, packed, jammed, crammed, teeming, swarming, seething, crawling; informal jam-packed.

– OPPOSITES deserted.

**porch** noun vestibule, foyer, entrance (hall), entry, portico, lobby; N. Amer. ramada, stoop; Architecture lanai, tambour, narthex.

**pore**<sup>1</sup> noun *pores in the skin*: opening, orifice, aperture, hole, outlet, inlet, vent; Biology stoma, foramen.

**pore**<sup>2</sup> verb *they pored over the map*: study, read intently, peruse, scrutinize, scan, examine, go over.

**pornographic** adjective obscene, indecent, crude, lewd, dirty, vulgar, smutty, filthy; erotic, titillating, arousing, suggestive, sexy, risqué; off colour, adult, X-rated, hard-core, soft-core; informal porn, porno, blue, skin.  
 – OPPOSITES wholesome.

**pornography** noun erotica, pornographic material, dirty books; smut, filth, vice; informal (hard/soft) porn, porno, girlie magazines, skin flicks.

**porous** adjective permeable, penetrable, pervious, cellular, holey; absorbent, absorptive, spongy.

– OPPOSITES impermeable.

**port**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the German port of Kiel*: seaport, entrepôt. **2** *shells exploded down by the port*: harbour, dock(s), haven, marina; anchorage, moorage, harbourage, roads.

**port**<sup>2</sup> noun *push the supply pipes into the ports*: aperture, opening, outlet, inlet, socket, vent.

**portable** adjective transportable, movable, mobile, travel; lightweight, compact, handy, convenient.

**portal** noun doorway, gateway, entrance, exit, opening; door, gate; N. Amer. entryway; formal egress.

**portend** verb presage, augur, foreshadow, foretell, prophesy; be a sign, warn, be an omen, indicate, herald, signal, bode, promise, threaten, signify, spell, denote; literary betoken, foretoken, forebode.

**portent** noun **1** *a portent of things to come*: omen, sign, signal, token, forewarning, warning, foreshadowing, prediction, forecast, prophecy, harbinger, augury, auspice, presage; writing on the wall, indication, hint; literary foretoken. **2** *the word carries terrifying portent*: significance, importance, import, consequence, meaning, weight; formal moment.

**portentous** adjective **1** *portentous signs*: ominous, warning, premonitory, prognosticatory; threatening, menacing, ill-omened, foreboding, inauspicious, unfavourable. **2** *portentous dialogue*: pompous, bombastic, self-important, pontifical, solemn, sonorous, grandiloquent.

**porter**<sup>1</sup> noun *a porter helped with the bags*: carrier, bearer; N. Amer. redcap, skycap.

**porter**<sup>2</sup> noun (Brit.) *the college porter*: doorman, doorkeeper, commissionaire, gatekeeper.

**portion** noun **1** *the upper portion of the chimney*: part, piece, bit, section, segment. **2** *her portion of the allowance*: share, slice, quota, quantum, part, percentage, amount, quantity, ration, fraction, division, allocation, measure; informal cut, rake-off; Brit. informal whack. **3** *a portion of cake*: helping, serving, amount, quantity; plateful, bowlful;

slice, piece, chunk, wedge, slab, hunk; Brit. informal wodge. **4** (old use) *poverty was certain to be his portion*. See **DESTINY** sense 1.

• **verb** *she portioned out the food*: share out, allocate, allot, apportion; distribute, hand out, deal out, dole out, give out, dispense, mete out; informal divvy up.

**portly** **adjective** stout, plump, fat, overweight, heavy, corpulent, fleshy, paunchy, pot-bellied, well padded, rotund, stocky, bulky; informal tubby, roly-poly, beefy, porky, pudgy; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal corn-fed.

– **OPPOSITES** slim.

**portrait** **noun** **1** *a portrait of the King*: painting, picture, drawing, sketch, likeness, image, study, miniature; informal oil; formal portraiture. **2** *a vivid portrait of Italy*: description, portrayal, representation, depiction, impression, account; sketch, vignette, profile.

**portray** **verb** **1** *he portrays Windermere in sunny weather*: paint, draw, sketch, picture, depict, represent, illustrate, render. **2** *the dons portrayed by Waugh*: describe, depict, characterize, represent, delineate, evoke. **3** *he portrays her as a doormat*: represent, depict, characterize, describe, present. **4** *the actor portrays a spy*: play, act the part of, take the role of, represent, appear as; formal personate.

**portrayal** **noun** **1** *a portrayal of a parrot*: painting, picture, portrait, drawing, sketch, representation, depiction, study. **2** *her portrayal of adolescence*: description, representation, characterization, depiction, evocation. **3** *Brando's portrayal of Corleone*: performance as, representation, interpretation, rendering; formal personation.

**pose** **verb** **1** *pollution poses a threat to health*: constitute, present, create, cause, produce, be. **2** *the question posed earlier*: raise, ask, put, set, submit, advance, propose, suggest, moot. **3** *she posed for the artist*: be a model, model, sit. **4** *he posed her on the sofa*: position, place, put, arrange, dispose, locate, situate. **5** *fashion victims were posing at the bar*: behave affectedly, strike a pose, posture, attitudinize, put on airs; informal show off.

• **noun** **1** *a sexy pose*: posture, position, stance, attitude, bearing. **2** *her pose of aggrieved innocence*: pretence, act, affectation, facade, show, front, display, masquerade, posture.

■ **pose** as pretend to be, impersonate, pass oneself off as, masquerade as, profess to be, represent oneself as; formal personate.

**poser**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *this situation's a bit of a poser*: difficult question, vexed question, awkward problem, tough one, puzzle, mystery, conundrum, puzzler, enigma, riddle; informal dilemma, facer, toughie, stumper.

**poser**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *he's such a poser*: exhibitionist, poseur, poseuse, posturer; informal show-off, pseud.

**poseur** **noun**. See **POSER**<sup>2</sup>.

**posh** **adjective** **1** (informal) *a posh hotel*: smart, stylish, fancy, high-class, fashionable,

chic, luxurious, luxury, de luxe, exclusive, opulent, lavish, grand, showy; Brit. upmarket; informal classy, swanky, snazzy, plush, ritzy, flash, la-di-da; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank, tony. **2** (Brit. informal) *a posh accent*: upper-class, aristocratic; Brit. upmarket, Home Counties; informal upper-crust, top-drawer; Brit. informal plummy, Sloaney, U.

**posit** **verb** *postulate*, put forward, advance, propound, submit, hypothesize, propose, assert.

**position** **noun** **1** *the aircraft's position*: location, place, situation, spot, site, locality, setting, area; whereabouts, bearings, orientation; technical locus. **2** *a standing position*: posture, stance, attitude, pose. **3** *our financial position*: situation, state, condition, circumstances; predicament, plight, strait(s). **4** *the two parties jockeyed for position*: advantage, the upper hand, the edge, the whip hand, primacy; Austral./NZ the box seat; N. Amer. informal the catbird seat. **5** *their position in society*: status, place, level, rank, standing; stature, prestige, influence, reputation, importance, consequence, class; dated station. **6** *a secretarial position*: job, post, situation, appointment, role, occupation, employment; office, capacity, duty, function; opening, vacancy, placement. **7** *the government's position on the matter*: viewpoint, opinion, outlook, attitude, stand, standpoint, stance, perspective, approach, slant, thinking, policy, feelings.

• **verb** *he positioned a chair between them*: put, place, locate, situate, set, site, stand, station; plant, stick, install; arrange, dispose; informal plonk, park.

**positive** **adjective** **1** *a positive response*: affirmative, favourable, good, approving, enthusiastic, supportive, encouraging. **2** *do something positive*: constructive, practical, useful, productive, helpful, worthwhile, beneficial, effective. **3** *she seems a lot more positive*: optimistic, hopeful, confident, cheerful, sanguine, buoyant; informal upbeat. **4** *positive economic signs*: favourable, good, promising, encouraging, heartening, propitious, auspicious. **5** *positive proof*: definite, conclusive, certain, categorical, unequivocal, incontrovertible, indisputable, undeniable, unmistakable, irrefutable, reliable, concrete, tangible, clear-cut, explicit, firm, decisive, real, actual. **6** *I'm positive he's coming back*: certain, sure, convinced, confident, satisfied, assured; as sure as eggs is eggs.

– **OPPOSITES** negative, pessimistic, doubtful, unsure.

**positively** **adverb** **1** *I could not positively identify the voice*: confidently, definitely, emphatically, categorically, with certainty, conclusively, unquestionably, undoubtedly, indisputably, unmistakably, assuredly. **2** *he was positively livid*: absolutely, really, downright, thoroughly, completely, utterly, totally, extremely, fairly; informal plain.

**possess** **verb** **1** *the only hat she possessed*: own, have (to one's name), hold. **2** *he did*



*not possess a sense of humour: have*, be blessed with, be endowed with; enjoy, boast.

**3** *a supernatural force possessed him: take control of*, take over, control, dominate, influence; bewitch, enchant, enthrall. **4** *she was possessed by a need to talk to him: obsess*, haunt, preoccupy, consume; eat someone up, prey on one's mind.

■ **possess oneself of** acquire, obtain, get (hold of), procure, get one's hands on; take, seize; informal get one's mitts on.

**possessed** adjective **mad**, demented, insane, crazed, berserk, out of one's mind; bewitched, enchanted, haunted, under a spell.

**possession** noun **1** *the estate came into their possession: ownership*, control, hands, keeping, care, custody, charge, hold, title, guardianship. **2** *her possession of the premises: occupancy*, occupation, tenure, holding, tenancy. **3** *she packed her possessions: belongings*, things, property, (worldly) goods, (personal) effects, assets, chattels, movables, valuables; stuff, bits and pieces; luggage, baggage; informal gear, junk; Brit. informal clobber. **4** *colonial possessions: colony*, dependency, territory, holding, protectorate.

■ **take possession of** seize, appropriate, impound, expropriate, sequester, sequester, confiscate; take, get, acquire, obtain, procure, possess oneself of, get hold of, get one's hands on; capture, commandeer, requisition; Law distrain; Scottish Law poind; informal get one's mitts on.

**possessive** adjective **1** *he was very possessive: proprietorial*, overprotective, controlling, dominating, jealous, clingy. **2** *kids are possessive of their own property: covetous*, selfish, unwilling to share; grasping, greedy, acquisitive; N. Amer. informal grabby.

**possibility** noun **1** *there is a possibility that he might be alive: chance*, likelihood, probability, hope; risk, hazard, danger, fear. **2** *they discussed the possibility of launching a new project: feasibility*, practicability, chances, odds, achievability, probability. **3** *buying a smaller house is one possibility: option*, alternative, choice, course of action, solution. **4** *the idea has distinct possibilities: potential*, promise, prospects.

**possible** adjective **1** *it's not possible to check the figures: feasible*, practicable, viable, within the bounds/realms of possibility, attainable, achievable, workable; informal on, doable. **2** *a possible reason for his disappearance: conceivable*, plausible, imaginable, believable, likely, potential, probable, credible. **3** *a possible future leader: potential*, prospective, likely, probable.

– OPPOSITES unlikely.

**possibly** adverb **1** *possibly he took the boy with him: perhaps*, maybe, it is possible, for all one knows, very likely; literary peradventure, perchance, mayhap. **2** *you can't possibly refuse: conceivably*, under any circumstances, by any means. **3** *could*

*you possibly help me? please*, kindly, be so good as to.

**post**<sup>1</sup> noun **wooden posts: pole**, stake, upright, shaft, prop, support, picket, strut, pillar, pale, paling, stanchion, puncheon.

• **verb 1** *the notice posted on the wall: affix*, attach, fasten, display, pin (up), put up, stick (up), tack (up). **2** *the group posted a net profit: announce*, report, make known, publish.

**post**<sup>2</sup> noun (Brit.) **1** *the winners will be notified by post: mail*, the postal service; airmail, surface mail, registered mail; informal snail mail. **2** *did we get any post? letters*, correspondence, mail.

• **verb 1** (Brit.) *post the order form today: send* (off), mail, put in the post/mail, get off. **2** *post the transaction in the second column: record*, write in, enter, register.

■ **keep someone posted** keep informed, keep up to date, keep in the picture, keep briefed, update, fill in; informal keep up to speed.

**post**<sup>3</sup> noun **1** *there were seventy candidates for the post: job*, position, appointment, situation, place; vacancy, opening; Austral. informal grip. **2** *Back to your posts! (assigned) position*, station, observation post.

• **verb 1** *he'd been posted to Berlin: send*, assign to a post, dispatch. **2** *armed guards were posted beside the exit: put on duty*, station, position, situate, locate.

**poster** noun **notice**, placard, bill, sign, advertisement, affiche, playbill; Brit. fly-poster.

**posterior** adjective **1** *the posterior part of the skull: rear*, hind, back, hinder; technical dorsal, caudal. **2** (formal) *a date posterior to the Reform Bill: later than*, subsequent to, following, after.

– OPPOSITES anterior, previous.

• **noun** (humorous) *her plump posterior*. See **BOTTOM** noun sense 6.

**posterity** noun **1** *their names are recorded for posterity: future generations*, the future. **2** (old use) *the posterity of Abraham: descendants*, heirs, successors, offspring, children, progeny; Law issue; old use seed.

**post-haste** adverb as quickly as possible, without delay, (very) quickly, speedily, without further/more ado, with all speed, promptly, immediately, at once, straight away, right away; informal pronto, straight off.

**postman, postwoman** noun **postal worker**; N. Amer. mailman; Brit. informal postie.

**post-mortem** noun **1** *the hospital carried out a post-mortem: autopsy*, PM, necropsy. **2** *a post-mortem of her failed relationship: analysis*, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, examination, review.

**postpone** verb **put off/back**, delay, defer, reschedule, adjourn, shelve; N. Amer. put over, take a rain check on; informal put on ice, put on the back burner; rare remit, respite.

– OPPOSITES bring forward.

**postponement** noun **deferral**, deferment,

delay, putting off/back, rescheduling, adjournment, shelving.

**postscript** noun **1** *a handwritten postscript: afterthought, PS, additional remark.* **2** *he added postscripts of his own: addendum, supplement, appendix, codicil, afterword, addition.*

**postulate** verb **put forward**, suggest, advance, posit, hypothesize, propose; assume, presuppose, presume.

**posture** noun **1** *a kneeling posture: position, pose, attitude, stance.* **2** *good posture: bearing, carriage, stance, comportment; Brit. deportment.* **3** *trade unions adopted a militant posture: attitude, stance, standpoint, point of view, opinion, position, frame of mind.*

•verb *Keith postured, flexing his biceps: pose, strike an attitude, strut.*

**posy** noun bouquet, bunch (of flowers), spray, nosegay, corsage; buttonhole, boutonniere.

**pot** noun **1** *pots and pans: cooking utensil, pan, saucepan, casserole, stewpot, stockpot, dixie.* **2** *earthenware pots: flowerpot, planter, jardinière.* **3** *Jim raked in half the pot: bank, kitty, pool, purse, jackpot.*  
■ *go to pot* (informal) deteriorate, decline, degenerate, go to (rack and) ruin, go downhill, go to seed, become run down; informal go to the dogs, go down the tubes; Austral./NZ informal go to the pack.

**pot-bellied** adjective paunchy, beer-bellied, portly, rotund; informal tubby, roly-poly.

**pot belly** noun paunch, (beer) belly; informal beer gut, pot, tummy.

**potency** noun **1** *the potency of his words: forcefulness, force, effectiveness, persuasiveness, cogency, influence, strength, authoritativeness, authority, power, powerfulness; literary puissance.* **2** *the potency of the drugs: strength, powerfulness, power, effectiveness; formal efficacy; efficaciousness.*

**potent** adjective **1** *a potent political force: powerful, strong, mighty, formidable, influential, dominant, forceful; literary puissant.* **2** *a potent argument: forceful, convincing, cogent, compelling, persuasive, powerful, strong.* **3** *a potent drug: strong, powerful, effective; formal efficacious.*

—OPPOSITES weak.

**potentate** noun ruler, monarch, sovereign, king, queen, emperor, empress.

**potential** adjective *a potential source of conflict: possible, likely, prospective, future, probable; latent, inherent, undeveloped.*  
•noun *economic potential: possibilities, potentiality, prospects; promise, capability, capacity.*

**potion** noun concoction, mixture, brew, elixir, philtre, drink, decoction; medicine, tonic; literary draught.

**potpourri** noun mixture, assortment, collection, selection, assemblage, medley, miscellany, mix, variety, mixed bag, patchwork; ragbag, hotchpotch, mishmash, jumble, farrago; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**potter** verb *we potted down to the library: amble, wander, meander, stroll, saunter, maunder; informal mosey, tootle, toddle; N. Amer. informal putter.*

■ **potter about/around** pass the time, fiddle about/around, footle about/around; informal mess about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around; N. Amer. informal putter about/around, lollygag.

**pottery** noun china, crockery, ceramics.

**potty** adjective (Brit. informal) **1** *I'm going potty.* See **CRAZY** sense 1. **2** *she's potty about you.* See **CRAZY** sense 3.

**pouch** noun **1** *a leather pouch: bag, purse, sack, sac, pocket; Scottish sporran.* **2** *a kangaroo's pouch: Zoology marsupium.*

**pounce** verb **two men pounced on him: jump on, spring, leap, dive, lunge, fall on, set on, attack suddenly; informal jump, mug.**

•noun *a sudden pounce: leap, spring, jump, dive, lunge, bound.*

**pound<sup>1</sup>** verb **1** *the two men pounded him with their fists: beat, strike, hit, batter, thump, pummel, punch, rain blows on, belabour, hammer, thrash, set on, tear into; informal bash, clobber, wallop, beat the living daylight out of, whack, thwack, lay into, pitch into; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal light into, whale.* **2** *waves pounded the seafront: beat against, crash against, batter, dash against, lash, buffet.* **3** *gunships pounded the capital: bombard, bomb, shell, fire on; old use cannonade.* **4** *pound the cloves with salt: crush, grind, pulverize, mill, mash, pulp; technical triturate; old use levigate.* **5** *I heard him pounding along the gangway: walk/run heavily, stomp, lumber, clomp, clump, tramp, trudge.* **6** *her heart was pounding: throb, thump, thud, hammer, pulse, race, go pit-a-pat; literary pant, thrill.*

**pound<sup>2</sup>** noun **1** *a pound of apples: pound weight, lb.* **2** *ten pounds: pound sterling, £; Brit. informal quid, smacker, nicker.*

**pound<sup>3</sup>** noun *a dog pound: enclosure, compound, pen, yard.*

**pour** verb **1** *blood was pouring from his nose: stream, flow, run, gush, course, jet, spurt, surge, spill.* **2** *Amy poured wine into his glass: tip, let flow, splash, spill, decant; informal slosh, slop.* **3** *it was pouring with rain: rain heavily/hard, teem down, pelt down, tip down, come down in torrents/sheets, rain cats and dogs; informal be chucking it down; Brit. informal bucket down, come down in stair rods; N. Amer. informal rain pitchforks.* **4** *people poured off the train: throng, crowd, swarm, stream, flood.*

**pout** verb *Crystal pouted sullenly: look petulant, pull a face, look sulky.*

•noun *a childish pout: petulant expression, sulky expression, moue.*

**poverty** noun **1** *abject poverty: penury, destitution, pauperism, pauperdom, indigence, pennilessness, impoverishment, neediness, need, hardship, impecuniousness.* **2** *the poverty of choice: scarcity, deficiency, dearth, shortage, paucity, insufficiency,*

absence, lack. **3** *the poverty of her imagination: inferiority, mediocrity, poorness, sterility.*

– OPPOSITES wealth, abundance.

**poverty-stricken** adjective extremely poor, impoverished, destitute, penniless, on one's beam-ends, as poor as a church mouse, in penury, impecunious, indigent, needy, in need/want; Brit. on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name); informal on one's uppers, without two pennies/farthings to rub together; Brit. informal in Queer Street; formal penniless.

**powder** noun dust, fine particles; talcum powder, talc; historical pounce.

• verb **1** *the floor was powdered with broken glass: sprinkle, cover.* **2** *the grains are powdered: crush, grind, pulverize, pound, mill; technical comminute; old use levigate.*

**powdered** adjective dried, freeze-dried; technical lyophilized.

**powdery** adjective fine, dry, fine-grained, powder-like, dusty, chalky, floury, sandy, crumbly, friable.

**power** noun **1** *the power of speech: ability, capacity, capability, potential, faculty, competence.* **2** *the unions wield enormous power: control, authority, influence, dominance, mastery, domination, dominion, sway, weight, leverage; informal clout, teeth; N. Amer. informal drag; literary puissance.* **3** *police have the power to stop and search: authority, right, authorization, warrant, licence.* **4** *a major European power: state, country, nation.* **5** *he hit the ball with as much power as he could: strength, powerfulness, might, force, forcefulness, vigour, energy; brawn, muscle; informal punch; Brit. informal welly; literary thew.* **6** *the power of his arguments: forcefulness, powerfulness, potency, strength, force, cogency, persuasiveness.* **7** *the new engine has more power: driving force, horsepower, hp, acceleration; informal oomph, grunt.* **8** *generating power from waste: energy, electrical power.* **9** (informal) *the holiday did him a power of good: a great deal of, a lot of, much; informal lots of, loads of.*

– OPPOSITES inability, weakness.

■ **have someone in/under one's power** have control over, have influence over, have under one's thumb, have at one's mercy, have in one's clutches, have in the palm of one's hand; N. Amer. have in one's hip pocket; informal have over a barrel.

■ **the powers that be** the authorities, the people in charge, the government.

#### WORD LINKS

**megalomania** an obsession with power  
**omnipotent** having unlimited power

**powerful** adjective **1** *powerful shoulders: strong, muscular, muscly, sturdy, strapping, robust, brawny, burly, athletic, manly, well built, solid; informal beefy, hunky; dated stalwart; literary stark, thewy.* **2** *a powerful drink: intoxicating, hard, strong, stiff; formal spirituous.* **3** *a powerful blow:*

*violent, forceful, hard, mighty.* **4** *he felt a powerful desire to kiss her: intense, keen, fierce, passionate, ardent, burning, strong, irresistible, overpowering, overwhelming.*

**5** *a powerful nation: influential, strong, important, dominant, commanding, potent, forceful, formidable; literary puissant.* **6** *a powerful critique: cogent, compelling, convincing, persuasive, forceful; dramatic, graphic, vivid, moving.*

– OPPOSITES weak, gentle.

**powerless** adjective impotent, helpless, ineffectual, ineffective, useless, defenceless, vulnerable; literary impuissant.

**practicable** adjective realistic, feasible, possible, within the bounds/realms of possibility, viable, reasonable, sensible, workable, achievable; informal doable.

**practical** adjective **1** *practical experience: empirical, hands-on, actual, active, applied, heuristic, experiential.* **2** *there are no practical alternatives: feasible, practicable, realistic, viable, workable, possible, reasonable, sensible; informal doable.* **3** *practical clothes: functional, sensible, utilitarian, workaday.* **4** *try to be more practical: realistic, sensible, down-to-earth, businesslike, commonsensical, hard-headed, no-nonsense; informal hard-nosed.* **5** *a practical certainty: virtual, effective, near.*

– OPPOSITES theoretical.

**practicality** noun **1** *the practicality of the proposal: feasibility, practicability, viability, workability.* **2** *practicality of design: functionalism, functionality, serviceability, utility.* **3** *his calm practicality: (common) sense, realism, pragmatism.* **4** *the practicalities of army life: practical details; informal nitty gritty, nuts and bolts.*

**practical joke** noun trick, joke, prank, jape, hoax; informal leg-pull.

**practically** adverb **1** *the cinema was practically empty: almost, (very) nearly, virtually, just about, all but, more or less, as good as, well-nigh, to all intents and purposes, verging on, bordering on; informal pretty nearly, pretty well.* **2** *'You can't afford it,' he pointed out practically: realistically, sensibly, reasonably.*

**practice** noun **1** *the practice of radiotherapy: application, exercise, use, operation, implementation, execution.* **2** *common practice: custom, procedure, policy, convention, tradition; formal praxis.* **3** *it takes lots of practice | the team's final practice: training, rehearsal, repetition, preparation; practice session, dummy run, run-through; informal dry run.* **4** *the practice of medicine: profession, career, business, work.* **5** *a small legal practice: business, firm, office, company; informal outfit.*

■ **in practice** in reality, realistically, practically.

■ **out of practice** rusty, unpractised.

■ **put something into practice** use, make use of, put to use, utilize, apply.

**practise** verb **1** *he practised the songs every day: rehearse, go over/through, run through,*



work on/at; polish, perfect. **2** *the performers were practising*: train, rehearse, prepare, go through one's paces. **3** *we still practise these rituals today*: carry out, perform, observe. **4** *she practises medicine*: work at, pursue a career in.

**practised** adjective expert, experienced, seasoned, skilled, skilful, accomplished, proficient, talented, able, adept, consummate, master, masterly; informal crack, ace, mean; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

**pragmatic** adjective practical, matter-of-fact, sensible, down-to-earth, commonsensical, businesslike, having both/one's feet on the ground, hard-headed, no-nonsense; informal hard-nosed.  
– OPPOSITES impractical.

**praise** verb **1** *the police praised Pauline for her courage*: commend, express admiration for, applaud, pay tribute to, speak highly of, eulogize, compliment, congratulate, sing the praises of, rave about, go into raptures about, wax lyrical about, make much of, pat on the back, take one's hat off to, lionize, admire, hail; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo; formal laud. **2** *we praise God*: worship, glorify, honour, exalt, adore, pay tribute to, give thanks to, venerate, reverence; formal laud; old use magnify.

– OPPOSITES criticize.

• **noun** **1** *James was full of praise for the medical teams*: approval, acclaim, admiration, approbation, acclamation, plaudits, congratulations, commendation; tribute, accolade, compliment, a pat on the back, eulogy, panegyric; formal laudation, encomium. **2** *give praise to God*: honour, thanks, glory, worship, devotion, adoration, reverence.

**praiseworthy** adjective commendable, admirable, laudable, worthy (of admiration), meritorious, estimable, exemplary.

**pram** noun (Brit.) pushchair; N. Amer. baby carriage, stroller; formal perambulator.

**prance** verb cavort, dance, jig, trip, caper, jump, leap, spring, bound, skip, hop, frisk, romp, frolic.

**prank** noun (practical) joke, trick, piece of mischief, escapade, stunt, caper, jape, game, hoax, antic; informal lark, leg-pull.

**prattle** verb *he prattled on for ages*.  
See CHAT verb.

• **noun** *childish prattle*. See CHATTER noun.

**pray** verb **1** *let us pray*: say one's prayers, make one's devotions. **2** *she prayed God to forgive her*: invoke, call on, implore, appeal to, entreat, beg, petition, supplicate; literary beseech.

**prayer** noun **1** *the priest's murmured prayers*: invocation, intercession, devotion; old use orison. **2** *a quick prayer that she wouldn't bump into him*: appeal, plea, entreaty, petition, supplication, invocation; rare obscuration.

**preach** verb **1** *he preached to a large congregation*: give a sermon, sermonize, address, speak; evangelize. **2** *preaching*

*the good news of Jesus*: proclaim, teach, spread, propagate, expound. **3** *they preach toleration*: advocate, recommend, advise, urge, teach, counsel. **4** *who are you to preach at me?* moralize, sermonize, pontificate, lecture, harangue; informal preachify.

#### WORD LINKS

homiletics the art of preaching or writing sermons

**preacher** noun minister (of religion), parson, clergyman, clergywoman, member of the clergy, priest, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, cleric, churchman, churchwoman, evangelist; informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot; N. Amer. informal preacher man; Austral. informal jossler.

**preaching** noun religious teaching, message, sermons.

**preachy** adjective (informal) moralistic, moralizing, sanctimonious, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, sententious.

**preamble** noun introduction, preface, prologue; foreword, prelude, front matter; informal intro, prelims; formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon.

**prearranged** adjective arranged beforehand, agreed in advance, predetermined, pre-established, pre-planned.

**precarious** adjective uncertain, insecure, unpredictable, risky, parlous, hazardous, dangerous, unsafe; unsettled, unstable, unsteady, shaky; informal dicey, chancy, iffy; Brit. informal dodgy.

– OPPOSITES safe.

**precaution** noun safeguard, preventative/preventive measure, safety measure, insurance; informal backstop.

**precautionary** adjective preventative, preventive, safety.

**precede** verb **1** *adverts preceded the film*: go/come before, lead (up) to, pave/prepare the way for, herald, introduce, usher in; old use forego. **2** *Catherine preceded him into the studio*: go ahead of, go in front of, go before, go first, lead the way. **3** *he preceded the book with a poem*: preface, introduce, begin, open.

– OPPOSITES follow.

**precedence** noun quarrels over precedence: priority, rank, seniority, superiority, primacy, pre-eminence, eminence.

■ **take precedence over** take priority over, outweigh, prevail over, come before.

**precedent** noun model, exemplar, example, pattern, previous case, prior instance/example; paradigm, criterion, yardstick, standard.

**preceding** adjective foregoing, previous, prior, former, precedent, earlier, above, aforementioned, antecedent; formal anterior, prevenient.

**precept** noun **1** *the precepts of Orthodox Judaism*: principle, rule, tenet, canon, doctrine, command, order, decree, dictate,

dictum, injunction, commandment; Judaism mitzvah; formal prescript. **2** *precepts that her grandmother used to quote*: maxim, saying, adage, axiom, aphorism, apophthegm.

**precinct** noun **1** *a pedestrian precinct*: area, zone, sector. **2** *within the precincts of the City*: bounds, boundaries, limits, confines. **3** *the cathedral precinct*: enclosure, close, court.

**precious** adjective **1** *precious works of art*: valuable, costly, expensive; invaluable, priceless, beyond price. **2** *her most precious possession*: valued, cherished, treasured, prized, favourite, dear, dearest, beloved, darling, adored, loved, special. **3** *his precious manners*: affected, over-refined, pretentious; informal la-di-da; Brit. informal poncey.

**precipice** noun cliff (face), steep cliff, rock face, sheer drop, crag, bluff, escarpment, scarp; literary steep.

**precipitate** verb **1** *the incident precipitated a crisis*: bring about/on, cause, lead to, give rise to, instigate, trigger, spark, touch off, provoke, hasten, accelerate, expedite. **2** *they were precipitated down the mountain*: hurl, catapult, throw, plunge, launch, fling, propel.

• adjective **1** *their actions were precipitate*: hasty, overhasty, rash, hurried, rushed; impetuous, impulsive, spur-of-the-moment, precipitous, incautious, imprudent, injudicious, ill-advised, reckless, harum-scarum; informal previous; literary temerarious. **2** *a precipitate decline*. See **PRECIPITOUS** sense 2.

**precipitous** adjective **1** *a precipitous drop*: steep, sheer, perpendicular, abrupt, sharp, vertical. **2** *his fall from power was precipitous*: sudden, rapid, swift, abrupt, headlong, speedy, quick, fast. **3** *he was too precipitous*. See **PRECIPITATE** adjective sense 1.

**precis** noun *a precis of the report*: summary, synopsis, résumé, abstract, outline, summarization, summation; abridgement, digest, overview, epitome; N. Amer. wrap-up; rare conspectus.

• verb *precising a passage*: summarize, sum up, give a summary/precis of, give the main points of; abridge, condense, shorten, synopsise, abstract, outline, abbreviate; old use epitomize.

**precise** adjective **1** *precise measurements*: exact, accurate, correct, specific, detailed, explicit, unambiguous, definite. **2** *at that precise moment the car stopped*: exact, particular, very, specific. **3** *the attention to detail is very precise*: meticulous, careful, exact, scrupulous, punctilious, conscientious, particular, methodical, strict, rigorous.

— OPPOSITES inaccurate.

**precisely** adverb **1** *at 2 o'clock precisely*: exactly, sharp, on the dot; promptly, prompt, dead (on), on the stroke of —, on the dot of —; informal bang (on); Brit. informal spot on; N. Amer. informal on the button/nose. **2** *precisely the kind of man I am looking for*: exactly,

absolutely, just, in all respects; informal to a T. **3** *fertilization can be timed precisely*: accurately, exactly; clearly, distinctly, strictly. **4** *'So it's all done?'* 'Precisely': yes, exactly, absolutely, (that's) right, quite so, indubitably, definitely; informal you bet, I'll say.

**precision** noun exactness, exactitude, accuracy, correctness, preciseness; care, carefulness, meticulousness, scrupulousness, punctiliousness, methodicalness, rigour, rigorousness.

**preclude** verb prevent, make it impossible for, rule out, stop, prohibit, debar, bar, hinder, impede, inhibit, exclude.

**precocious** adjective advanced for one's age, forward, mature, gifted, talented, clever, intelligent, quick; informal smart. — OPPOSITES backward.

**preconceived** adjective predetermined, prejudged; prejudiced, biased.

**preconception** noun preconceived idea/notion, presupposition, assumption, presumption, prejudgement; prejudice.

**precondition** noun prerequisite, (necessary/essential) condition, requirement, necessity, essential, imperative, sine qua non; informal must.

**precursor** noun **1** *a three-stringed precursor of the guitar*: forerunner, predecessor, forefather, father, antecedent, ancestor, forebear. **2** *a precursor of disasters to come*: harbinger, herald, sign, informant, portent, omen.

**precursory** adjective preliminary, prior, previous, introductory, preparatory, prefatory; formal anterior, prevenient.

**predatory** adjective **1** *predatory birds*: predacious, carnivorous, hunting, raptorial; of prey. **2** *a predatory gleam in his eyes*: exploitative, wolfish, rapacious, vulturine, vulturous.

**predecessor** noun **1** *the Prime Minister's predecessor*: forerunner, precursor, antecedent. **2** *our Victorian predecessors*: ancestor, forefather, forebear, antecedent. — OPPOSITES successor, descendant.

**predestined** adjective preordained, ordained, predetermined, destined, fated.

**predetermined** adjective **1** *a predetermined budget*: prearranged, established in advance, preset, set, fixed, agreed. **2** *our predetermined fate*: predestined, preordained.

**predicament** noun difficult situation, mess, difficulty, plight, quandary, muddle, mare's nest; informal hole, fix, jam, pickle, scrape, bind, tight spot/corner, dilemma.

**predicate** verb base, be dependent, found, establish, rest, ground, premise.

**predict** verb forecast, foretell, foresee, prophesy, anticipate, tell in advance, envision, envisage; literary prewise; old use augur, presage.

**predictable** adjective foreseeable, (only) to be expected, anticipated, foreseen,

unsurprising; informal inevitable.

**prediction** noun forecast, prophecy, prognosis, prognostication, augury; projection, conjecture, guess.

**predilection** noun liking, fondness, preference, partiality, taste, penchant, weakness, soft spot, fancy, inclination, leaning, bias, propensity, bent, proclivity, predisposition, appetite.

– OPPOSITES dislike.

**predispose** verb **1** *lack of exercise may predispose an individual to high blood pressure: make susceptible*, make liable, make prone, make vulnerable, put at risk of. **2** *attitudes which predispose people to behave badly: lead*, influence, sway, induce, prompt, dispose; bias, prejudice.

**predisposed** adjective inclined, prepared, ready, of a mind, disposed, minded, willing.

**predisposition** noun **1** *a predisposition to heart disease: susceptibility*, proneness, tendency, liability, inclination, disposition, vulnerability. **2** *their political predispositions: preference*, predilection, inclination, leaning.

**predominance** noun **1** *the predominance of women carers: prevalence*, dominance, preponderance. **2** *Soviet military predominance: supremacy*, mastery, control, power, ascendancy, dominance, pre-eminence, superiority.

**predominant** adjective **1** *our predominant objectives: main*, chief, principal, most important, primary, prime, central, leading, foremost, key, paramount; informal number-one. **2** *the predominant political forces: controlling*, dominant, predominating, more/most powerful, pre-eminent, ascendant, superior, in the ascendancy.

– OPPOSITES subsidiary.

**predominantly** adverb mainly, mostly, for the most part, chiefly, principally, primarily, predominantly, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, typically, generally, usually.

**predominate** verb **1** *small-scale producers predominate: be in the majority*, preponderate, be predominant, prevail, be most prominent. **2** *private interest predominates over the public good: prevail*, dominate, be dominant; override, outweigh.

**pre-eminence** noun superiority, supremacy, greatness, excellence, distinction, prominence, predominance, eminence, importance, prestige, stature, fame, renown, celebrity.

**pre-eminent** adjective greatest, leading, foremost, best, finest, chief, outstanding, excellent, distinguished, prominent, eminent, important, top, famous, renowned, celebrated, illustrious, supreme; N. Amer. marquee.

– OPPOSITES undistinguished.

**pre-eminently** adverb primarily, principally, above all, chiefly, mostly, mainly, in particular.

**pre-empt** verb **1** *his action may have*

*pre-empted war: forestall*, prevent. **2** *many tables were already pre-empted by family parties: commandeering*, occupy, seize, arrogate, appropriate, take over, secure, reserve.

**preen** verb **1** *the robin preened its feathers: clean*, tidy, groom, smooth, arrange; old use plume. **2** *she preened before the mirror: admire oneself*, primp oneself, prink oneself, groom oneself, spruce oneself up; informal titivate oneself, doll oneself up; Brit. informal tart oneself up; N. Amer. informal gussy oneself up.

■ **preen oneself** congratulate oneself, be pleased with oneself, be proud of oneself, pat oneself on the back, feel self-satisfied.

**preface** noun *the preface to the novel: introduction*, foreword, preamble, prologue, prelude; front matter; informal prelims, intro; formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon. • verb *the chapter is prefaced by a poem: precede*, introduce, begin, open, start.

**prefatory** adjective introductory, preliminary, opening, initial, preparatory, initiatory, precursory.

– OPPOSITES closing.

**prefect** noun (Brit.) monitor; Brit. praepostor.

**prefer** verb **1** *I prefer white wine to red: like better*, would rather (have), would sooner (have), favour, be more partial to; choose, select, pick, opt for, go for, plump for. **2** (formal) *do you want to prefer charges?* bring, press, file, lodge, lay. **3** (old use) *he was preferred to the post: promote*, upgrade, raise, elevate.

**preferable** adjective better, best, more desirable, more suitable, advantageous, superior, preferred, recommended.

**preferably** adverb ideally, if possible, for preference, from choice.

**preference** noun **1** *her preference for boys' games: liking*, partiality, predilection, proclivity, fondness, taste, inclination, leaning, bias, bent, penchant, predisposition. **2** *my preference is rock: favourite*, (first) choice, selection; informal cup of tea, thing; N. Amer. informal druthers. **3** *preference will be given to applicants speaking Japanese: priority*, favour, precedence, preferential treatment.

■ **in preference to** rather than, instead of, in place of, sooner than.

**preferential** adjective special, better, privileged, superior, favourable; partial, discriminatory, partisan, biased.

**preferment** noun promotion, advancement, elevation, being upgraded, a step up (the ladder); informal a kick upstairs.

– OPPOSITES demotion.

**prefigure** verb foreshadow, presage, be a harbinger of, herald; literary foretoken.

**pregnant** adjective **1** *she is heavily pregnant: expecting a baby*, expectant, carrying a child; informal expecting, in the family way, preggers, with a bun in the oven; Brit. informal up the duff, in the (pudding) club, up the spout; N. Amer. informal knocked up, having



swallowed a watermelon seed; Austral. informal with a joey in the pouch; informal, dated in trouble; old use with child, in a delicate condition, in an interesting condition; technical gravid, parturient. **2** a ceremony pregnant with religious significance: **filled**, charged, heavy; full of. **3** a pregnant pause: **meaningful**, significant, suggestive, expressive, charged.

**WORD LINKS**

**gestation** the process of developing in the womb.

See also **BIRTH**.

**prehistoric** adjective **1** *prehistoric times*: **primitive**, primeval, primordial, primal, ancient, early, antediluvian. **2** (informal) *the special effects look prehistoric*: **out of date**, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, démodé, passé, antiquated, superannuated, archaic, behind the times, primitive, antediluvian; informal out of the ark; Brit. informal past its sell-by date; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky.

– **OPPOSITES** modern.

**prejudice** noun **1** *male prejudices about women*: **preconceived idea**, preconception, prejudgement. **2** *they are motivated by prejudice*: **bigotry**, bias, partisanship, partiality, intolerance, discrimination, unfairness, inequality. **3** *without prejudice to the interests of others*: **detriment**, harm, damage, injury, hurt, loss. **• verb 1** *the article could prejudice the jury*: **bias**, influence, sway, predispose, make biased, make partial, colour. **2** *this could prejudice his chances of victory*: **damage**, be detrimental to, be prejudicial to, injure, harm, hurt, spoil, impair, undermine, hinder, compromise.

**p prejudiced** adjective **biased**, bigoted, discriminatory, partisan, intolerant, narrow-minded, unfair, unjust, inequitable, coloured.

– **OPPOSITES** impartial.

**prejudicial** adjective **detrimental**, damaging, injurious, harmful, disadvantageous, hurtful, deleterious.

– **OPPOSITES** beneficial.

**preliminary** adjective *the discussions are still at a preliminary stage*: **preparatory**, introductory, initial, opening, prefatory, precursor; early, exploratory.

– **OPPOSITES** final.

**• noun 1** *he began without any preliminaries*: **introduction**, preamble, opening/prefatory remarks, formalities. **2** *a preliminary to the resumption of war*: **prelude**, preparation, preparatory measure, preliminary action. **■ preliminary** to in preparation for, before, in advance of, prior to, preparatory to.

**prelims** plural noun (informal) **front matter**, preliminary material, introduction, foreword, preface, preamble; informal intro; formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon.

**prelude** noun **1** *a ceasefire was a prelude to peace negotiations*: **preliminary**, overture, opening, preparation, introduction, start, commencement, beginning, lead-in,

precursor. **2** *an orchestral prelude*: **overture**, introductory movement, introduction, opening. **3** *the passage forms a prelude to Part III*: **introduction**, preface, prologue, foreword, preamble; informal intro; formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon.

**premature** adjective **1** *his premature death*: **untimely**, (too) early, unseasonable, before time. **2** *a premature baby*: **preterm**; informal prem. **3** *such a step would be premature*: **rash**, overhasty, hasty, precipitate, precipitous, impulsive, impetuous; informal previous.

– **OPPOSITES** overdue.

**prematurely** adverb **1** *Sam was born prematurely*: **too soon**, too early, ahead of time; preterm. **2** *don't act prematurely*: **rashly**, overhastily, hastily, precipitately, precipitously.

**premeditated** adjective **planned**, intentional, deliberate, pre-planned, calculated, cold-blooded, conscious, prearranged.

– **OPPOSITES** spontaneous.

**premeditation** noun (advance) **planning**, forethought, pre-planning, (criminal) intent; Law malice aforethought.

**premier** adjective *a premier chef*: **leading**, foremost, chief, principal, head, top-ranking, top, prime, primary, first, highest, pre-eminent, senior, outstanding, master; N. Amer. ranking; informal top-notch.

**• noun** *the Italian premier*: **head of government**, prime minister, PM, president, chancellor.

**premiere** noun **first performance**, first night, opening night.

**premise** noun *the premise that human life consists of a series of choices*: **proposition**, assumption, hypothesis, thesis, presupposition, postulation, postulate, supposition, presumption, surmise, conjecture, speculation, assertion, belief.

**• verb** *they premised that the cosmos is indestructible*: **postulate**, hypothesize, conjecture, posit, theorize, suppose, presuppose, surmise, assume.

**premises** plural noun **building(s)**, property, site, office.

**premium** noun **1** *monthly premiums of £30*: (regular) **payment**, instalment. **2** *you must pay a premium for organic fruit*: **surcharge**, additional payment, extra amount. **3** *a foreign service premium*: **bonus**, extra; incentive, inducement; informal perk; formal perquisite.

**■ at a premium** scarce, in great demand, hard to come by, in short supply, thin on the ground.

**■ put/place a premium on 1** *I place a high premium on our relationship*: value greatly, attach great/special importance to, set great store by, put a high value on. **2** *the high price of oil put a premium on the coal industry*: make valuable, make invaluable, make important.

**premonition** noun **foreboding**, presentiment, intuition, (funny) feeling,

hunch, suspicion, feeling in one's bones; misgiving, apprehension, fear; old use presage.

**preoccupation** noun **1** *she had an air of preoccupation: pensiveness, concentration, engrossment, absorption, self-absorption, musing, thinking, deep thought, brown study, brooding; abstraction, absent-mindedness, distraction, forgetfulness, inattentiveness, wool-gathering, daydreaming.* **2** *their main preoccupation was feeding their family: obsession, concern; passion, enthusiasm, hobby horse.*

**preoccupied** adjective **1** *officials preoccupied with their careers: obsessed, concerned, absorbed, engrossed, intent, involved, wrapped up.* **2** *she looked preoccupied: lost/deep in thought, in a brown study, pensive, absent-minded, distracted, abstracted.*

**preoccupy** verb engross, concern, absorb, take up someone's attention, distract, obsess, occupy, prey on someone's mind.

**preordain** verb predestine, destiny, foreordain, ordain, fate, predetermine, determine.

**preparation** noun **1** *the preparation of contingency plans: devising, putting together, drawing up, construction, composition, production, getting ready, development.* **2** *preparations for the party: arrangements, planning, plans, preparatory measures.* **3** *preparation for exams: instruction, teaching, coaching, training, tutoring, drilling, priming.* **4** *a preparation to kill off mites: mixture, compound, concoction, solution, tincture, medicine, potion, cream, ointment, lotion.*

**preparatory** adjective *preparatory work: preliminary, initial, introductory, prefatory, opening, preparative, precursory.*  
 ■ **preparatory** to in preparation for, before, prior to, preliminary to.

**prepare** verb **1** *I want you to prepare a report: make/get ready, put together, draw up, produce, arrange, assemble, construct, compose, formulate.* **2** *the meal was easy to prepare: cook, make, get, put together, concoct; informal fix, rustle up; Brit. informal knock up.* **3** *they are preparing for war: get ready, make preparations, arrange things, make provision.* **4** *athletes preparing for the Olympics: train, get into shape, practise, get ready.* **5** *I must prepare for my exams: study, revise; Brit. informal swot.* **6** *this course prepares students for their exams: instruct, coach, train, tutor, drill, prime.* **7** *prepare yourself for a shock: brace, make ready, tense, steel, steady.*

**prepared** adjective **1** *he needs to be well prepared: ready, (all) set, equipped, primed; waiting, on hand, poised, in position.* **2** *I'm not prepared to cut the price: willing, ready, disposed, predisposed, (favourably) inclined, of a mind, minded.*

**preponderance** noun **1** *the preponderance of women among older people: prevalence, predominance, dominance.* **2** *the*

*preponderance of the evidence: bulk, majority, greater quantity, larger part, best/better part, most; almost all.* **3** *the preponderance of the trade unions: predominance, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, power.*

**preponderant** adjective dominant, predominant, pre-eminent, in control, more/most powerful, superior, supreme, ascendant, in the ascendancy.

**preponderate** verb *be in the majority, predominate, be predominant; be more/most important, prevail, dominate.*

**prepossessing** adjective attractive, beautiful, pretty, handsome, good-looking, fetching, charming, delightful, enchanting, captivating; old use fair.

– OPPOSITES ugly.

**preposterous** adjective absurd, ridiculous, foolish, stupid, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, comical, risible, nonsensical, senseless, insane; outrageous, monstrous; informal crazy.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**prerequisite** noun *a prerequisite for the course: (necessary) condition, precondition, essential, requirement, requisite, necessity, sine qua non; informal must.*

• adjective *the prerequisite qualifications: necessary, required, called for, essential, requisite, obligatory, compulsory.*

– OPPOSITES unnecessary.

**prerogative** noun entitlement, right, privilege, advantage, due, birthright.

**presage** verb *the owl's hooting presages death: portend, augur, foreshadow, foretell, prophesy, be an omen of, herald, be a sign of, be the harbinger of, warn of, be a presage of, signal, bode, promise, threaten; literary betoken, foretoken, forebode.*

• noun *a sombre presage of his final illness: omen, sign, indication, portent, warning, forewarning, harbinger, augury, prophecy, foretoken.*

**prescience** noun far-sightedness, foresight, foreknowledge; psychic powers, clairvoyance; prediction, prognostication, divination, prophecy, augury; insight, intuition, perception, percipience.

**prescient** adjective prophetic, predictive, visionary; psychic, clairvoyant; far-sighted, prognostic, divinatory; insightful, intuitive, perceptive, percipient.

**prescribe** verb **1** *the doctor prescribed antibiotics: write a prescription for.* **2** *marriage is often prescribed as a universal remedy: advise, recommend, advocate, suggest, endorse, champion, promote.* **3** *rules prescribing five acts for a play are purely arbitrary: stipulate, lay down, dictate, specify, determine, establish, fix.*

**prescription** noun **1** *the doctor wrote a prescription: instruction, authorization; informal script; old use recipe.* **2** *he fetched the prescription from the chemist: medicine, drug, medication.* **3** *a painless prescription for improvement: method, measure;*

recommendation, suggestion, recipe, formula.

**prescriptive** adjective dictatorial, narrow, rigid, authoritarian, arbitrary, repressive, dogmatic.

**presence** noun **1** *presence of a train was indicated electrically*: existence, being there. **2** *I requested the presence of an adjudicator*: attendance, appearance; company, companionship. **3** *a woman of great presence*: aura, charisma, (strength/force of) personality; poise, self-assurance, self-confidence. **4** *she felt a presence in the castle*: ghost, spirit, spectre, phantom, apparition, supernatural being; informal spook; literary shade.

– OPPOSITES absence.

■ **presence of mind** composure, equanimity, self-possession, level-headedness, self-assurance, calmness, sangfroid, imperturbability; alertness, quick-wittedness; informal cool, unflappability.

**present**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *a doctor must be present at the ringside*: in attendance, here, there, near, nearby, (close/near) at hand, available. **2** *organic compounds are present in the waste*: in existence, existing, existent. **3** *the present economic climate*: current, present-day, existing; old use instant.

– OPPOSITES absent.

■ **noun** *forget the past and think about the present*: now, today, the present time/moment, the here and now.

– OPPOSITES past, future.

■ **at present** at the moment, just now, right now, at the present time, currently, at this moment in time.

■ **for the present** for the time being, for now, for the moment, for a while, temporarily, pro tem.

■ **the present day** modern times, nowadays.

**present**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *Eddy presented a cheque to the winner*: hand over/out, give (out), confer, bestow, award, grant, accord. **2** *the committee presented its report*: submit, set forth, put forward, proffer, offer, tender, table. **3** *may I present my wife?* introduce, make known, acquaint someone with. **4** *I called to present my warmest compliments*: offer, give, express. **5** *they presented their new product last month*: demonstrate, show, put on show/display, exhibit, display, launch, unveil. **6** *presenting good quality opera*: stage, put on, produce, perform. **7** *she presents a TV show*: host, introduce, compère, be the presenter of; N. Amer. informal emcee. **8** *the authorities present him as a common criminal*: represent, describe, portray, depict.

■ **present oneself** **1** *he presented himself at ten*: be present, make an appearance, appear, turn up, arrive. **2** *an opportunity that presented itself*: occur, arise, happen, come about/up, appear, crop up, turn up.

**present**<sup>3</sup> noun *a birthday present*: gift, donation, offering, contribution; informal prezzie, freebie; formal benefaction.

**presentable** adjective **1** *I'm making the place*

*look presentable*: tidy, neat, straight, clean, spick and span, in good order, shipshape (and Bristol fashion). **2** *make yourself presentable*: smartly dressed, tidily dressed, tidy, well groomed, trim, spruce; informal natty. **3** *presentable videos*: fairly good, passable, all right, satisfactory, moderately good, not (too) bad, average, fair; informal OK.

**presentation** noun **1** *the presentation of his certificate*: awarding, presenting, giving, handing over/out, bestowal, granting, award. **2** *the presentation of food*: appearance, arrangement, packaging, disposition, display, layout. **3** *her presentation to the Queen*: introduction, making known. **4** *the presentation of new proposals*: submission, proffering, offering, tendering, advancing, proposal, suggestion, mooted, tabling. **5** *a sales presentation*: demonstration, talk, lecture, address, speech, show, exhibition, display, introduction, launch, launching, unveiling. **6** *a presentation of his latest play*: staging, production, performance, mounting, showing.

**present-day** adjective current, present, contemporary, latter-day, present-time, modern, twenty-first-century; up to date, up to the minute, fashionable, trendsetting, the latest, new, newest, newfangled; informal trendy, now.

**presentiment** noun premonition, foreboding, intuition, (funny) feeling, hunch, feeling in one's bones, sixth sense; old use presage.

**presently** adverb **1** *I shall see you presently*: soon, shortly, directly, quite soon, in a short time, in a little while, at any moment/minute/second, in next to no time, before long; N. Amer. momentarily; informal pretty soon, any moment now, in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson, in two shakes of a lamb's tail; Brit. informal in a mo; literary ere long. **2** *he is presently abroad*: at present, currently, at the/this moment, at the present moment/time, now, nowadays, these days; Brit. informal at the minute.

**preservation** noun **1** *wood preservation*: conservation, protection, care. **2** *the preservation of the status quo*: continuation, conservation, maintenance, upholding, sustaining, perpetuation. **3** *the preservation of food*: conserving, bottling, canning, freezing, drying; curing, smoking, pickling.

**preserve** verb **1** *oil helps preserve wood*: conserve, protect, maintain, care for, look after. **2** *they wish to preserve the status quo*: continue (with), conserve, keep going, maintain, uphold, sustain, perpetuate. **3** *preserving him from harassment*: guard, protect, keep, defend, safeguard, shelter, shield. **4** *spices enable us to preserve food*: conserve, bottle, can, freeze, dry; cure, smoke, pickle.

• **noun** **1** *strawberry preserve*: jam, jelly, marmalade, conserve. **2** *the preserve of an educated middle-class*: domain, area, field, sphere, orbit, realm, province, territory; informal turf, bailiwick. **3** *a game preserve*:



sanctuary, (game) reserve, reservation.

**preside** verb *the chairman presides at the meeting*: chair, be chairman/chairwoman/chairperson, officiate (at), conduct, lead.

■ **preside over** be in charge of, be responsible for, be at the head/helm of, head, be head of, manage, administer, be in control of, control, direct, lead, govern, rule, command, supervise, oversee; informal head up, be boss of, be in the driving/driver's seat, be in the saddle.

**president** noun **1** *the president of the society*: head, chief, director, leader, governor, principal, master; N. Amer. informal prexy.

**2** *the president of the company*: chairman, chairwoman; managing director, MD, chief executive (officer), CEO.

**press** verb **1** *press the paper down firmly*: push (down), press down, depress, hold down, force, thrust, squeeze, compress. **2** *his shirt was pressed*: smooth (out), iron. **3** *we pressed the grapes*: crush, squeeze, squash, mash, pulp, pound, pulverize, macerate. **4** *she pressed the child to her bosom*: clasp, hold close, hug, cuddle, squeeze, clutch, grasp, embrace. **5** *Winnie pressed his hand*: squeeze, grip, clutch. **6** *the crowd pressed round*: cluster, gather, converge, congregate, flock, swarm, throng, crowd. **7** *the government pressed its claim*: plead, urge, advance insistently, present, submit, put forward. **8** *they pressed him to agree*: urge, put pressure on, pressurize, force, push, coerce, dragoon, steamroller, browbeat; informal lean on, put the screws on, twist someone's arm, railroad, bulldoze. **9** *they pressed for a ban on the ivory trade*: call, ask, clamour, push, campaign, demand.

• noun **1** *a private press*: publishing house, printing company; printing press. **2** *the freedom of the press*: the media, the newspapers, the papers, the news media, the fourth estate; journalists, reporters, newspapermen, newsmen, newspaper women, pressmen, presswomen; informal journos, news hounds; N. Amer. informal newswies; Brit. dated Fleet Street. **3** *the company had some bad press*: (press) reports, press coverage, press articles, press reviews.

■ **be pressed for** have too little, be short of, have insufficient, lack, be lacking (in), be deficient in, need, be/stand in need of; informal be strapped for.

■ **press on** proceed, keep going, continue, carry on, make progress, make headway, press ahead, forge on/ahead, push on, keep on, struggle on, persevere, keep at it, stay with it, plod on, plough on; informal soldier on, plug away, peg away, stick at it.

**pressing** adjective **1** *a pressing problem*: urgent, critical, crucial, acute, desperate, serious, grave, life-and-death. **2** *a pressing engagement*: important, high-priority, critical, crucial, compelling, inescapable.

**pressure** noun **1** *a confined gas exerts a constant pressure*: physical force, load, stress, thrust; compression, weight.

**2** *they put pressure on us to borrow money*: coercion, force, compulsion, constraint,

duress; pestering, harassment, nagging, badgering, intimidation, arm-twisting, pressurization, persuasion. **3** *she had a lot of pressure from work*: strain, stress, tension, trouble, difficulty; informal hassle.

• verb *they pressured him into resigning*.

See PRESSURIZE.

#### WORD LINKS

**barometer** an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure

**manometer, piezometer** an instrument for measuring the pressure of fluids

**pressurize** verb *he tried to pressurize*

*Buffy into selling*: coerce, pressure, put pressure on, press, push, persuade, force, bulldoze, hound, harass, nag, harry, badger, goad, pester, browbeat, bully, bludgeon, intimidate, dragoon, twist someone's arm; informal railroad, lean on; N. Amer. informal hustle.

**prestige** noun status, standing, stature, prestigiousness, reputation, repute, regard, fame, note, renown, honour, esteem, celebrity, importance, prominence, influence, eminence; kudos, cachet; informal clout.

**prestigious** adjective **1** *prestigious journals*: reputable, distinguished, respected, esteemed, eminent, august, highly regarded, well thought of, acclaimed, authoritative, celebrated, illustrious, leading, renowned.

**2** *a prestigious job*: impressive, important, prominent, high-ranking, influential, powerful, glamorous; well paid, expensive; Brit. upmarket.

– OPPOSITES obscure, minor.

**presumably** adverb I presume, I expect, I assume, I take it, I suppose, I imagine, I dare say, I guess, in all probability, probably, in all likelihood, as likely as not, doubtless, undoubtedly, no doubt.

**presume** verb **1** *I presumed that it had once been an attic*: assume, suppose, dare say, imagine, take it, expect, believe, think, surmise, guess, judge, conjecture, speculate, postulate, presuppose. **2** *let me presume to give you some advice*: venture, dare, have the audacity/effrontery, be so bold as, take the liberty of.

■ **presume on** take (unfair) advantage of, exploit, take liberties with; count on, bank on.

**presumption** noun **1** *this presumption may be easily rebutted*: assumption, supposition, presupposition, belief, guess, judgement, surmise, conjecture, speculation, hypothesis, postulation, inference, deduction, conclusion. **2** *he apologized for his presumption*: brazenness, audacity, boldness, audaciousness, temerity, arrogance, presumptuousness, forwardness; cockiness, insolence, impudence, bumptiousness, impertinence, effrontery, cheek, cheekiness; rudeness, impoliteness, disrespect, familiarity; informal nerve, brass neck, chutzpah; N. Amer. informal sass, sassiness; old use assumption.

**presumptive** adjective **1** a *presumptive diagnosis*: conjectural, speculative, tentative; theoretical, unproven, unconfirmed. **2** *the heir presumptive*: probable, likely, prospective, assumed, supposed, expected.

**presumptuous** adjective brazen, overconfident, arrogant, bold, audacious, forward, familiar, impertinent, insolent, impudent, cocky; cheeky, rude, impolite, uncivil, bumptious; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use assumption.

**presuppose** verb **1** *this presupposes the existence of a policy-making group*: require, necessitate, imply, entail, mean, involve, assume. **2** *I had presupposed that theme parks make people happy*: presume, assume, take it for granted, take it as read, suppose, surmise, think, accept, consider.

**presupposition** noun presumption, assumption, preconception, supposition, hypothesis, surmise, thesis, theory, premise, belief, postulation.

**pretence** noun **1** *cease this pretence*: make-believe, acting, dissembling, shamming, faking, feigning, simulation, dissimulation, play-acting, posturing; deception, deceit, deceitfulness, fraud, fraudulence, duplicity, subterfuge, trickery, dishonesty, hypocrisy, falsity, lying, mendacity. **2** *he made a pretence of being unconcerned*: (false) show, semblance, affectation, (false) appearance, outward appearance, impression, (false) front, guise, facade, display. **3** *she had dropped any pretence to faith*: claim, profession. **4** *he was absolutely without pretence*: pretentiousness, display, ostentation, affectation, showiness, posturing, humbug. — OPPOSITES honesty.

**p pretend** verb **1** *they just pretend to listen*: make as if, profess, affect; dissimulate, dissemble, put it on, put on a false front, go through the motions, sham, fake it. **2** *I'll pretend to be the dragon*: put on an act, make believe, play at, act, play-act, impersonate. **3** *it was useless to pretend innocence*: feign, sham, fake, simulate, put on, counterfeit, affect. **4** *he cannot pretend to sophistication*: claim, lay claim to, purport to have, profess to have. • adjective (informal) *a pretend conversation*: imaginary, imagined, pretended, make-believe, made-up, fantasy, fantasized, dreamed-up, unreal, invented, fictitious, mythical, feigned, fake, mock, sham, simulated, artificial, ersatz, false, pseudo; informal phoney.

**pretended** adjective fake, faked, affected, assumed, professed, spurious, mock, imitation, simulated, make-believe, pseudo, sham, false, bogus; informal pretend, phoney.

**pretender** noun claimant, aspirant.

**pretension** noun **1** *the author has no pretension to exhaustive coverage*: aspiration, claim, assertion, pretence, profession. **2** *she spoke without pretension*: pretentiousness, affectation, affectedness,

ostentation, ostentatiousness, artificiality, airs, posing, posturing, show, flashiness; pomposity, pompousness, grandiosity, grandiloquence, magniloquence.

**pretentious** adjective affected, ostentatious, showy; overambitious, pompous, artificial, inflated, overblown, high-sounding, flowery, grandiose, elaborate, extravagant, flamboyant, ornate, grandiloquent, magniloquent; N. Amer. sophomoric; informal flashy, highfalutin, la-di-da, pseudo; Brit. informal poncey.

**preternatural** adjective extraordinary, exceptional, unusual, uncommon, singular, unprecedented, remarkable, phenomenal, abnormal, inexplicable, unaccountable; strange, mysterious, fantastic.

**pretext** noun (false) excuse, ostensible reason, alleged reason; guise, ploy, pretence, ruse.

**prettify** verb beautify, make attractive, make pretty, titivate, adorn, ornament, decorate, smarten (up); informal doll up, do up, give something a facelift; Brit. informal tart up.

**pretty** adjective *a pretty child*: attractive, lovely, good-looking, nice-looking, personable, fetching, prepossessing, appealing, charming, delightful, cute, as pretty as a picture; Scottish & N. English bonny; informal easy on the eye; literary beauteous; old use fair, comely.

— OPPOSITES plain, ugly.

• adverb *a pretty large sum*: quite, rather, somewhat, fairly, reasonably, comparatively, relatively.

• verb *she's prettying herself*: beautify, make attractive, make pretty, prettify, titivate, adorn, ornament, smarten; informal do oneself up; Brit. informal tart oneself up.

**prevail** verb **1** *common sense will prevail*: win (out/through), triumph, be victorious, carry the day, come out on top, succeed, prove superior, conquer, overcome; rule, reign. **2** *the conditions that prevailed in the 1950s*: exist, be in existence, be present, be the case, occur, be prevalent, be current, be the order of the day, be customary, be common, be widespread, be in force/effect; formal obtain.

■ **prevail** on persuade, induce, talk someone into, coax, convince, make, get, press someone into, argue someone into, urge, pressure someone into, pressurize someone into, coerce; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap.

**prevailing** adjective current, existing, prevalent, usual, common, general, widespread.

**prevalence** noun commonness, currency, widespread presence, generality, popularity, pervasiveness, universality, extensiveness; rampancy, ripeness.

**prevalent** adjective widespread, prevailing, frequent, usual, common, current, popular, general, universal; endemic, rampant, rife. — OPPOSITES rare.

**prevaricate** verb be evasive, beat about the bush, hedge, fence, shilly-shally, dodge

(the issue), sidestep (the issue), equivocate; temporize, stall (for time); Brit. hum and haw; old use palter; rare tergiversate.

**prevent** verb **stop**, put a stop to, avert, nip in the bud, fend off, stave off, ward off; hinder, impede, hamper, obstruct, baulk, foil, thwart, forestall, counteract, inhibit, curb, restrain, preclude, pre-empt, save, help; disallow, prohibit, forbid, proscribe, exclude, debar, bar; literary stay.

– OPPOSITES allow.

**preventive** adjective **1** *preventive maintenance*: **pre-emptive**, deterrent, precautionary, protective. **2** *preventive medicine*: **prophylactic**, disease-preventing.

• **noun 1** *a preventive against crime*: **precautionary measure**, deterrent, safeguard, security, protection, defence. **2** *disease preventives*: **prophylactic (device)**, prophylactic medicine, preventive drug.

**previous** adjective **1** *the previous five years* | *her previous boyfriend*: **foregoing**, preceding, antecedent; old, earlier, prior, former, ex-, past, last, sometime, one-time, erstwhile; formal quondam, anterior; old use whilom. **2** (informal) *I was a bit previous*: **overhasty**, hasty, premature, precipitate, impetuous; informal ahead of oneself.

– OPPOSITES next.

■ **previous to** before, prior to, until, (leading) up to, earlier than, preceding; formal anterior to.

**previously** adverb **formerly**, earlier (on), before, hitherto, once, at one time, in the past, in days/times gone by, in bygone days, in times past, in former times; in advance, already, beforehand; formal heretofore.

**prey** noun **1** *the lions killed their prey*: quarry, kill. **2** *she was easy prey*: victim, target, dupe, gull; informal sucker, soft touch, pushover; N. Amer. informal patsy, sap, schlemiel; Austral./NZ informal dill.

– OPPOSITES predator.

■ **prey on 1** *hoverfly larvae prey on aphids*: hunt, catch; eat, feed on, live on/off. **2** *they prey on the elderly*: exploit, victimize, pick on, take advantage of; trick, swindle, cheat, hoodwink, fleece; informal con. **3** *the problem preyed on his mind*: oppress, weigh (heavily) on, lie heavy on, gnaw at; trouble, worry, beset, disturb, distress, haunt, nag, torment, plague, obsess.

**price** noun **1** *the purchase price*: cost, asking price, charge, fee, fare, levy, amount, sum; outlay, expense, expenditure; valuation, quotation, estimate; humorous damage.

**2** *spinsterhood was the price of her career*: consequence, result, cost, penalty, sacrifice; downside, snag, drawback, disadvantage, minus. **3** *he had a price on his head*: reward, bounty, premium.

• **verb** *a ticket is priced at £5.00*: fix/set the price of, cost, value, rate; estimate.

■ **at a price** at a high price/cost, at considerable cost, for a great deal of money.

■ **beyond price**. See **PRICELESS** sense 1.

**priceless** adjective **1** *priceless works of art*: of incalculable value/worth, of immeasurable

value/worth, invaluable, beyond price; irreplaceable, incomparable, unparalleled.

**2** (informal) *that's priceless!* See **HILARIOUS** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES worthless, cheap.

**pricey** adjective (informal). See **EXPENSIVE**.

**prick** verb **1** *prick the potatoes with a fork*: pierce, puncture, make/put a hole in, stab, perforate, nick, jab. **2** *his eyes began to prick*: sting, smart, burn, prickle. **3** *his conscience pricked him*: trouble, worry, distress, perturb, disturb, cause someone anguish, afflict, torment, plague, prey on, gnaw at. **4** *ambition pricked him on to greater effort*: goad, prod, incite, provoke, urge, spur, stimulate, encourage, inspire, motivate, push, propel, impel. **5** *the horse pricked up its ears*: raise, erect.

• **noun 1** *a prick in the leg*: jab, sting, pinprick, stab. **2** *the prick of tears behind her eyelids*: sting, stinging, smart, smarting, burning.

**3** *the prick of conscience*: pang, twinge, stab.

■ **prick up one's ears** listen carefully, pay attention, become attentive, begin to take notice, attend; informal be all ears; literary hark.

**prickle** noun **1** *the cactus is covered with prickles*: thorn, needle, barb, spike, point, spine; technical spicule. **2** *Willie felt a cold prickle of fear*: tingle, tingling (sensation), prickling sensation, chill, thrill; Medicine paraesthesia.

• **verb** *its tiny spikes prickled his skin*: sting, prick.

**prickly** adjective **1** *a prickly hedgehog*: spiky, spiked, thorny, barbed, spiny; briary, brambly; rough, scratchy; technical spiculate, spicular, aculeate, spinose. **2** *my skin feels prickly*: tingly, tingling, prickling. **3** *a prickly character*. See **IRRITABLE**. **4** *the prickly question of the refugees*: **problematic**, awkward, ticklish, tricky, delicate, sensitive, difficult, knotty, thorny, irksome, tough, troublesome, bothersome, vexatious.

**pride** noun **1** *their triumphs were a source of pride*: self-esteem, dignity, honour, self-respect, self-worth, self-regard, pride in oneself. **2** *take pride in a good job well done*: pleasure, joy, delight, gratification, fulfilment, satisfaction, sense of achievement. **3** *he refused her offer out of pride*: arrogance, vanity, self-importance, hubris, conceit, conceitedness, self-love, self-adulation, self-admiration, narcissism, egotism, superciliousness, haughtiness, snobbery, snobbishness; informal big-headedness; literary vainglory. **4** *the bull is the pride of the herd*: best, finest, top, cream, pick, choice, prize, glory, the jewel in the crown. **5** *the vegetable garden was the pride of the gardener*: source of satisfaction, pride and joy, treasured possession, joy, delight.

– OPPOSITES shame, humility.

■ **pride oneself on** be proud of, be proud of oneself for, take pride in, take satisfaction in, congratulate oneself on, pat oneself on the back for.

**priest** noun clergyman, clergywoman, minister (of religion), cleric, clerk in

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holy orders, ecclesiastic, vicar, rector, pastor, parson, father, curé, churchman, churchwoman, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God; Scottish Kirkman; N. Amer. dominie; informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot; Austral. informal josser; dated divine.

**WORD LINKS**

**clerical, hieratic, sacerdotal** relating to priests

**ordain** make someone a priest

**defrock** officially remove a priest from their job because of wrongdoing

**seminary** a training college for priests

**cassock, vestment** robes worn by Christian priests

**soutane** a robe worn by Roman Catholic priests

**priestly** adjective clerical, pastoral, priest-like, ecclesiastical, sacerdotal, hieratic, rectorial; old use vicarial.

**prig** noun **prude**, puritan, killjoy, Mrs Grundy; informal goody-goody, Holy Joe; N. Amer. informal bluenose.

**priggish** adjective **self-righteous**, holier-than-thou, sanctimonious, moralistic, prudish, puritanical, prim, strait-laced, stuffy, prissy, narrow-minded; informal goody-goody, starchy.

— OPPOSITES broad-minded.

**prim** adjective **demure**, (prim and) proper, formal, stuffy, strait-laced, prudish; prissy, mimsy, priggish, puritanical; Brit. po-faced; informal starchy.

**primacy** noun **greater importance**, priority, precedence, pre-eminence, superiority, supremacy, ascendancy, dominance, dominion, leadership.

**prima donna** noun **leading soprano**, leading lady, diva, (opera) star, principal singer.

**primal** adjective **1** *primal masculine instincts*: basic, fundamental, essential, elemental, vital, central, intrinsic, inherent. **2** *the primal source of living things*: original, initial, earliest, first, primitive, primeval.

**primarily** adverb **1** *the bishop was primarily a leader of the local community*: **first (and foremost)**, firstly, essentially, in essence, fundamentally, principally, predominantly, basically. **2** *such work is undertaken primarily for large institutions*: **mostly**, for the most part, chiefly, mainly, in the main, on the whole, largely, to a large extent, especially, generally, usually, typically, commonly, as a rule.

**primary** adjective **1** *our primary role*: **main**, chief, key, prime, central, principal, foremost, first, most important, predominant, paramount; informal number-one. **2** *the primary cause*: **original**, earliest, initial, first; essential, fundamental, basic.

— OPPOSITES secondary.

**prime**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *his prime reason for leaving*: **main**, chief, key, primary, central, principal, foremost, first, most important, paramount, major; informal number-one.

**2** *the prime cause of flooding*: **fundamental**, basic, essential, primary, central. **3** *prime agricultural land*: **top-quality**, top, best, first-class, first-rate, top-tier, grade A, superior, supreme, choice, select, finest; excellent, superb, fine; informal tip-top, A1, top-notch. **4** *a prime example*: **archetypal**, prototypical, typical, classic, excellent, characteristic, quintessential.

— OPPOSITES secondary, inferior.

• **noun** *he is in his prime*: **heyday**, best days/years, prime of one's life; youth, salad days; peak, pinnacle, high point/spot, zenith.

**prime**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *he primed the gun*: **prepare**, load, get ready. **2** *Lucy had primed him carefully*: **brief**, fill in, prepare, put in the picture, inform, advise, instruct, coach, drill; informal clue in, give someone the low-down.

**prime minister** noun **premier**, first minister, head of the government; Brit. First Lord of the Treasury.

**primeval** adjective **1** *primeval forest*: **ancient**, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primordial; pristine, original, virgin. **2** *primeval fears*: **instinctive**, primitive, basic, primal, primordial, intuitive, inborn, innate, inherent.

**primitive** adjective **1** *primitive times*: **ancient**, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primordial, primeval, primal. **2** *primitive peoples*: **uncivilized**, barbarian, barbaric, barbarous, savage, ignorant, uncultivated. **3** *primitive tools*: **crude**, simple, rough (and ready), basic, rudimentary, unrefined, unsophisticated, rude, makeshift. **4** *primitive art*: **simple**, natural, unsophisticated, unaffected, undeveloped, unpretentious.

— OPPOSITES sophisticated, civilized.

**primordial** adjective **1** *the primordial oceans*: **ancient**, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primeval. **2** *their primordial desires*: **instinctive**, primitive, basic, primal, primeval, intuitive, inborn, innate, inherent.

**primp** verb **groom**, tidy, arrange, brush, comb; smarten (up), spruce up; informal titivate, doll up; Brit. informal tart up; N. Amer. informal gussy up.

**prince** noun **ruler**, sovereign, monarch, king, princeling; Crown prince; emir, sheikh, sultan, maharaja, raja.

**princely** adjective **1** *princely buildings*. See **SPLENDID** sense 1. **2** *a princely sum*. See **HANDSOME** sense 3.

**principal** adjective *the principal cause of poor air quality*: **main**, chief, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, (most) prominent; key, crucial, vital, essential, basic, prime, central, focal; premier, paramount, major, overriding, cardinal, pre-eminent, uppermost, highest, top, topmost; informal number-one.

— OPPOSITES minor.

• **noun** *1* *the principal of the firm*: **chief**, chief executive (officer), CEO, chairman, chairwoman, managing director, MD, president, director, manager, head;

informal boss; Brit. informal gaffer, governor.

**2 the school's principal: head (teacher),** headmaster, headmistress; dean, rector, chancellor, vice chancellor, president, provost; N. Amer. informal prexy. **3 a principal in a soap opera: leading actor/actress,** leading player/performer, leading role, lead, star. **4 repayment of the principal: capital (sum),** debt, loan.

**principally** adverb **mainly,** mostly, chiefly, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, largely, to a large extent, predominantly, basically, primarily.

**principle** noun **1 elementary principles: truth,** proposition, concept, idea, theory, assumption, fundamental, essential. **2 the principle of laissez-faire: doctrine,** belief, creed, credo, (golden) rule, criterion, tenet, code, ethic, dictum, canon, law. **3 a woman of principle | sticking to one's principles: morals,** morality, (code of) ethics, beliefs, ideals, standards; integrity, uprightness, righteousness, virtue, probity, (sense of) honour, decency, conscience, scruples.

■ **in principle 1 there is no reason, in principle, why we couldn't work together:** in theory, theoretically, on paper. **2 he has accepted the idea in principle:** in general, in essence, on the whole, in the main.

**principled** adjective **moral,** ethical, virtuous, righteous, upright, upstanding, high-minded, honourable, honest, incorruptible.

**prink** verb **groom,** tidy, arrange, smarten (up), spruce up, preen, primp; informal titivate, doll up; Brit. informal tart up; N. Amer. informal gussy up.

**print** verb **1 a thousand copies of the book were printed: run off;** reprint. **2 patterns were printed on the cloth: imprint,** impress, stamp, mark. **3 they printed 30,000 copies: publish,** issue, release, circulate. **4 the incident is printed on her memory: register,** record, impress, imprint, engrave, etch, stamp, mark.

• noun **1 small print: type,** printing, letters, lettering, characters, type size, typeface, font. **2 prints of his left hand: impression,** fingerprint, footprint. **3 sporting prints: picture,** design, engraving, etching, lithograph, linocut, woodcut. **4 prints and negatives: photograph,** photo, snap, snapshot, picture, still; Brit. enprint. **5 soft floral prints: printed cloth/fabric,** patterned cloth/fabric, chintz.

**prior** adjective **by prior arrangement: earlier,** previous, preceding, foregoing, antecedent, advance; formal anterior.

– OPPOSITES subsequent.

■ **prior to before,** until, till, up to, previous to, earlier than, preceding, leading up to; formal anterior to.

**priority** noun **1 safety is our priority: prime concern,** most important consideration, primary issue. **2 giving priority to primary education: precedence,** greater importance, preference, pre-eminence, predominance, primacy, first place. **3 traffic on the**

**roundabout has priority: right of way.**

**priory** noun **religious house,** abbey, cloister; monastery, friary; convent, nunnery.

**prise** verb **1 I prised the lid off: lever,** jemmy; wrench, wrest, twist; N. Amer. pry, jimmy. **2 he had to prise information from them: wring,** wrest, worm out, wrinkle out, screw, squeeze, extract.

**prison** noun **jail,** lock-up, penal institution, detention centre; Brit. young offender institution; N. Amer. jailhouse, penitentiary, correctional facility; informal clink, cooler, slammer, stir, jug, brig; Brit. informal nick; N. Amer. informal can, pen, pokey, slam; Brit. informal, dated chokey, quod; Brit. historical approved school, borstal, bridewell; Brit. Military glasshouse; **(be in prison)** informal be inside, be behind bars, do time; Brit. informal do bird, do porridge.

#### WORD LINKS

**custodial** relating to prison

**penology** the study of prison management

**panopticon** (in the past) a circular prison, allowing prisoners to be observed at all times

**warden, warder** a prison officer

**prisoner** noun **1 a prisoner serving a life sentence: convict,** detainee, inmate; informal jailbird, con; Brit. informal (old) lag; N. Amer. informal yardbird. **2 the army took many prisoners: prisoner of war,** POW, internee, captive.

**prissy** adjective **prudish,** priggish, prim, prim and proper, strait-laced, Victorian, old-maidish, schoolmistressy, school-marmish; Brit. po-faced; informal starchy.

– OPPOSITES broad-minded.

**pristine** adjective **immaculate,** perfect, in mint condition, as new, unspoilt, spotless, flawless, clean, fresh, new, virgin, pure, unused.

– OPPOSITES dirty, spoilt.

**privacy** noun **seclusion,** solitude, isolation; peace.

**private** adjective **1 his private plane: personal,** own, individual, special, exclusive, privately owned. **2 private talks: confidential,** secret, classified, unofficial, off the record, closet, in camera; backstage, privileged, one-on-one, tête-à-tête. **3 private thoughts: intimate,** personal, secret; innermost, undisclosed, unspoken, unvoiced. **4 a very private man: reserved,** introvert, introverted, self-contained, reticent, discreet, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, retiring, unsociable, withdrawn, solitary, reclusive, hermitic. **5 they found a private place in which to talk: secluded,** solitary, undisturbed, concealed, hidden, remote, isolated, out of the way, sequestered. **6 we can be private here: undisturbed,** uninterrupted; alone, by ourselves. **7 the Queen attended in a private capacity: unofficial,** personal. **8 private industry: independent,** non-state; privatized, denationalized; commercial, private-enterprise.

- **OPPOSITES** public, open, extrovert, busy, crowded, official, state, nationalized.
- **noun** *a private in the army*: **private soldier**, common soldier; trooper; Brit. sapper, gunner, ranker; US GI; Brit. informal Tommy, squaddie.
- **in private** in secret, secretly, privately, behind closed doors, in camera, à huis clos; in confidence, confidentially, between ourselves, entre nous, off the record; formal sub rosa.

**private detective** **noun** *private investigator*; Brit. enquiry agent; informal private eye, PI, sleuth, snoop; N. Amer. informal shamus, gumshoe; informal, dated **private dick**.

**privately** **adverb** **1** *we must talk privately*: in secret, secretly, in private, behind closed doors, in camera, à huis clos; in confidence, confidentially, between ourselves, entre nous, off the record; formal sub rosa. **2** *privately, I am glad*: **secretly**, inwardly, deep down, personally, unofficially. **3** *he lived very privately*: **out of the public** eye, out of public view, in seclusion, in solitude, alone.

- **OPPOSITES** publicly.

**privation** **noun** *deprivation, hardship, destitution, impoverishment, want, need, neediness, austerity.*

- **OPPOSITES** plenty, luxury.

**privilege** **noun** **1** *senior pupils have certain privileges*: **advantage**, benefit; prerogative, entitlement, right; concession, freedom, liberty. **2** *it was a privilege to meet her*: **honour**, pleasure. **3** *parliamentary privilege*: **immunity**, exemption, dispensation.

**privileged** **adjective** **1** *a privileged background*: **wealthy**, rich, affluent, prosperous; **lucky**, fortunate, elite, favoured; (socially) advantaged. **2** *privileged information*: **confidential**, private, secret, restricted, classified, not for publication, off the record, inside; informal hush-hush. **3** *MPs are privileged*: **immune (from prosecution)**, protected, exempt, excepted.

- **OPPOSITES** underprivileged, disadvantaged, public, liable.

**privy** **adjective** *he was not privy to the discussions*: **in the know** about, acquainted with, in on, informed of, advised of, apprised of; informal genned up on, clued up on, wise to; formal cognizant of.

- **noun** *he went out to the privy*. See **TOILET** sense 1.

**prize** **noun** **1** *an art prize*: **award**, reward, premium, purse; trophy, medal; honour, accolade, crown, laurels, palm. **2** *the prizes of war*: **spoils**, booty, plunder, loot, pickings. • **adjective** **1** *a prize bull*: **champion**, award-winning, prize-winning, winning, top, best. **2** *a prize example*: **outstanding**, excellent, superlative, superb, supreme, very good, prime, fine, magnificent, marvellous, wonderful; informal great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic. **3** *a prize idiot*: **utter**, complete, total, absolute, real, perfect, positive, veritable; Brit. informal right, bloody; Austral./NZ informal fair.

- **OPPOSITES** second-rate.

- **verb** *many collectors prize his work*: **value**, set great store by, rate highly, attach great importance to, esteem, hold in high regard, think highly of, treasure, cherish.

**prized** **adjective** *treasured*, precious, cherished, much loved, beloved, valued, esteemed, highly regarded.

**prizewinner** **noun** **champion**, winner, gold medallist, victor; informal champ, number one.

**probability** **noun** **1** *the probability of winning*: **likelihood**, prospect, expectation, chance, chances, odds.

- 2** *relegation is a distinct probability*: **probable event**, prospect, possibility, good/fair/reasonable bet.

**probable** **adjective** **likely**, most likely, odds-on, expected, anticipated, predictable, foreseeable, ten to one; informal on the cards, a good/fair/reasonable bet.

- **OPPOSITES** unlikely.

**probably** **adverb** **in all likelihood**, in all probability, as like(ly) as not, (very/most) likely, ten to one, the chances are, doubtless, no doubt; old use like enough.

**probation** **noun** **trial period**, test period, experimental period, trial.

**probe** **noun** *a probe into an air crash*: **investigation**, enquiry, examination, inquest, exploration, study, analysis.

- **verb** **1** *hands probed his body*: **examine**, feel, feel around, explore, prod, poke, check.
- 2** *police probed the tragedy*: **investigate**, enquire into, look into, study, examine, scrutinize, go into, carry out an inquest into.

**probity** **noun** **integrity**, honesty, uprightness, decency, morality, rectitude, goodness, virtue, right-mindedness, trustworthiness, truthfulness, honour.

- **OPPOSITES** untrustworthiness.

**problem** **noun** **1** *they ran into a problem*: **difficulty**, trouble, worry, complication, difficult situation; snag, hitch, drawback, stumbling block, obstacle, hurdle, hiccup, setback, catch; predicament, plight; misfortune, mishap, misadventure; informal dilemma, headache, prob, facer. **2** *I don't want to be a problem*: **nuisance**, bother, pest, irritant, thorn in one's side/flesh, vexation; informal drag, pain, pain in the neck. **3** *arithmetical problems*: **puzzle**, question, poser, enigma, riddle, conundrum; informal teaser, brain-teaser.

- **adjective** *a problem child*: **troublesome**, difficult, unmanageable, unruly, disobedient, uncontrollable, recalcitrant, delinquent.

- **OPPOSITES** well behaved, manageable.

**problematic** **adjective** **difficult**, hard, taxing, troublesome, tricky, awkward, controversial, ticklish, complicated, complex, knotty, thorny, prickly, vexed; informal sticky; Brit. informal dodgy.

- **OPPOSITES** easy, simple, straightforward.

**procedure** **noun** **course of action**, line of action, policy, series of steps, method, system, strategy, way, approach, formula, mechanism, methodology, MO (modus



operandi), technique; routine, drill, practice.

**proceed** verb 1 *she was uncertain how to proceed*: begin, make a start, get going, move, set something in motion; **take action**, act, go on, go ahead, make progress, make headway. 2 *he proceeded down the road*: go, make one's way, advance, move, progress, carry on, press on, push on. 3 *we should proceed with the talks*: go ahead, carry on, go on, continue, keep on, get on, get ahead; pursue, prosecute. 4 *there is not enough evidence to proceed against him*: take someone to court, start/take proceedings against, start an action against, sue. 5 *all power proceeds from God*: originate, spring, stem, come, derive, arise, issue, flow, emanate.

– OPPOSITES stop.

**proceedings** plural noun 1 *the evening's proceedings*: events, activities, happenings, goings-on, doings. 2 *the proceedings of the meeting*: report, transactions, minutes, account, record(s); annals, archives. 3 *legal proceedings*: legal action, court/judicial proceedings, litigation; lawsuit, case, prosecution.

**proceeds** plural noun profits, earnings, receipts, returns, takings, income, revenue; Sport gate (money/receipts); N. Amer. take.

**process** noun 1 *investigation is a long process*: procedure, operation, action, activity, exercise, affair, business, job, task, undertaking. 2 *a new canning process*: method, system, technique, means, practice, way, approach, methodology.

• verb applications are processed rapidly: deal with, attend to, see to, sort out, handle, take care of, action.

■ in the process of in the middle of, in the course of, in the midst of, in the throes of, busy with, occupied in/with, taken up with/by, involved in.

**procession** noun 1 *a procession through the town*: parade, march, march past, cavalcade, motorcade, cortège; column, file, train.

2 *a procession of dance routines*: series, succession, stream, string, sequence, run.

**proclaim** verb 1 *messengers proclaimed the good news*: declare, announce, pronounce, state, make known, give out, advertise, publish, broadcast, promulgate, trumpet, blazon. 2 *the men proclaimed their innocence*: assert, declare, profess, maintain, protest. 3 *he proclaimed himself president*: declare, pronounce, announce. 4 *cheap paint soon proclaims its cheapness*: demonstrate, indicate, show, reveal, manifest, betray, testify to, signify.

**proclamation** noun declaration, announcement, pronouncement, statement, notification, publication, broadcast, promulgation, blazoning; assertion, profession, protestation; decree, order, edict, ruling.

**proclivity** noun inclination, tendency, leaning, disposition, proneness, propensity, bent, bias, penchant, predisposition; predilection, partiality, liking, preference,

taste, fondness, weakness.

**procrastinate** verb delay, put off doing something, postpone action, defer action, be dilatory, use delaying tactics, stall, temporize, drag one's feet/heels, take one's time, play for time, play a waiting game.

**procreate** verb produce offspring, reproduce, multiply, propagate, breed.

**procure** verb 1 *he managed to procure a coat*: obtain, acquire, get, find, come by, secure, pick up; buy, purchase; informal get hold of, get one's hands on. 2 *the police found that he was procuring*: pimp; Brit. informal ponce.

**prod** verb 1 *Cassie prodded him in the chest*: poke, jab, dig, elbow, butt, stab. 2 *they hoped to prod the government into action*: spur, stimulate, stir, rouse, prompt, drive, galvanize; persuade, urge, chivvy; incite, goad, egg on, provoke.

• noun 1 *a prod in the ribs*: poke, jab, dig, elbow, butt, thrust. 2 *they need a prod to get them to do act*: stimulus, push, prompt, reminder, spur; incitement, goad.

**prodigal** adjective 1 *prodigal habits die hard*: wasteful, extravagant, spendthrift, profligate, improvident, imprudent. 2 *a composer who is prodigal with his talents*: generous, lavish, liberal, unstinting, unsparing; literary bounteous. 3 *a dessert prodigal with whipped cream*: abounding in, abundant in, rich in, covered in, awash with.

– OPPOSITES thrifty, mean, deficient.

**prodigious** adjective enormous, huge, colossal, immense, vast, great, massive, gigantic, mammoth, tremendous, inordinate, monumental; amazing, astonishing, astounding, staggering, stunning, remarkable, phenomenal, terrific, miraculous, impressive, striking, startling, sensational, spectacular, extraordinary, exceptional, breathtaking, incredible; informal humongous, stupendous, fantastic, fabulous, mega, awesome; Brit. informal ginormous; literary wondrous.

– OPPOSITES small, unexceptional.

**prodigy** noun 1 *a seven-year-old prodigy*: genius, mastermind, virtuoso, wunderkind, wonder child; informal whizz-kid, whizz, wizard. 2 *Germany seemed a prodigy of industrial discipline*: model, classic example, paragon, paradigm, epitome, exemplar, archetype.

**produce** verb 1 *the company produces furniture*: manufacture, make, construct, build, fabricate, put together, assemble, turn out, create; mass-produce; informal churn out. 2 *the vineyards produce excellent wines*: yield, grow, give, supply, provide, furnish, bear, bring forth. 3 *she produced ten puppies*: give birth to, bear, deliver, bring forth, bring into the world. 4 *he produced five novels*: create, originate, fashion, turn out; compose, write, pen; paint. 5 *she produced an ID card*: pull out, extract, fish out; present, offer, proffer, show. 6 *no evidence was produced*: present, offer, provide, furnish, advance, put forward, bring forward, come up with. 7 *that will*

*produce a reaction: give rise to, bring about, cause, occasion, generate, engender, lead to, result in, effect, induce, set off; provoke, precipitate, breed, spark off, trigger; literary beget.* **8** *James produced the play: stage, put on, mount, present.*

• **noun** *fresh produce: food, foodstuff(s), products; harvest, crops, fruit, vegetables, greens; Brit. greengrocery.*

**producer** **noun** **1** *a Japanese car producer: manufacturer, maker, builder, constructor, fabricator.* **2** *coffee producers: grower, farmer.* **3** *the producer of the show: impresario, manager, administrator, promoter, regisseur.*

**product** **noun** **1** *a household product: artefact, commodity, manufactured article; creation, invention; (products) goods, wares, merchandise, produce.* **2** *his skill is a product of experience: result, consequence, outcome, effect, upshot, fruit, by-product, spin-off.*

**production** **noun** **1** *the production of cars: manufacture, making, construction, building, fabrication, assembly, creation; mass-production.* **2** *the production of literary works: creation, origination, fashioning; composition, writing.* **3** *literary productions: work, opus, creation; publication, composition, piece; work of art, painting, picture.* **4** *agricultural production: output, yield; productivity.* **5** *admission only on production of a ticket: presentation, proffering, showing.* **6** *a theatre production: performance, staging, presentation, show, piece, play.*

**productive** **adjective** **1** *a productive artist: prolific, inventive, creative; energetic.* **2** *productive talks: useful, constructive, profitable, fruitful, gainful, valuable, effective, worthwhile, helpful.* **3** *productive land: fertile, fruitful, rich, fecund.*

**productivity** **noun** **1** *workers have boosted productivity: efficiency, work rate; output, yield, production.* **2** *the productivity of the soil: fruitfulness, fertility, richness, fecundity.*

– OPPOSITES sterility, barrenness.

**profane** **adjective** **1** *subjects both sacred and profane: secular, lay, non-religious, temporal; formal laic.* **2** *a profane man: irreverent, irrereligious, ungodly, godless, unbelieving, impious, disrespectful, sacrilegious.* **3** *profane language: obscene, blasphemous, indecent, foul, vulgar, crude, filthy, dirty, smutty, coarse, rude, offensive, indecorous.*

– OPPOSITES religious, sacred, reverent, decorous.

• **verb** *invaders profaned our temples: desecrate, violate, defile, treat sacrilegiously.*

**profanity** **noun** **1** *he hissed a profanity | an outburst of profanity: oath, swear word, expletive, curse, obscenity, four-letter word, dirty word; blasphemy, swearing, foul language, bad language, cursing; informal cuss, cuss word; Brit. informal industrial language;*

*formal imprecation; old use execration.*

**2** *some traditional festivals were tainted with profanity: sacrilege, blasphemy, irreligion, ungodliness, impiety, irreverence, disrespect.*

**profess** **verb** **1** *he professed his love: declare, announce, proclaim, assert, state, affirm, avow, maintain, protest; formal aver.* **2** *she professed to loathe publicity: claim, pretend, purport, affect; make out; informal let on.* **3** *the Emperor professed Christianity: affirm one's faith in, affirm one's allegiance to, avow, confess.*

**professed** **adjective** **1** *his professed ambition: claimed, supposed, ostensible, self-styled, apparent, pretended, purported.* **2** *a professed Christian: declared, self-acknowledged, self-confessed, confessed, sworn, avowed, confirmed.*

**profession** **noun** **1** *his chosen profession of teaching: career, occupation, calling, vocation, métier, line (of work), walk of life, job, business, trade, craft; informal racket.* **2** *a profession of allegiance: declaration, affirmation, statement, announcement, proclamation, assertion, avowal, vow, claim, protestation; formal averment.*

**professional** **adjective** **1** *people in professional occupations: white-collar, non-manual.* **2** *a professional cricketer: paid, salaried.* **3** *a thoroughly professional performance: expert, accomplished, skilful, masterly, masterful, fine, polished, skilled, proficient, competent, able, experienced, practised, trained, seasoned, businesslike, deft; informal ace, crack, top-notch.* **4** *not a professional way to behave: appropriate, fitting, proper, honourable, ethical, correct, comme il faut.*

– OPPOSITES manual, amateur, amateurish, inappropriate, unethical.

• **noun** **1** *affluent young professionals: white-collar worker, office worker.* **2** *his first season as a professional: professional player, paid player, salaried player; informal pro.* **3** *she was a real professional on stage: expert, virtuoso, old hand, master, maestro, past master; informal pro, ace, wizard, whizz, hotshot; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven, crackerjack.*

– OPPOSITES manual worker, amateur.

**proffer** **verb** *offer, tender, submit, extend, volunteer, suggest, propose, put forward; hold out.*

– OPPOSITES refuse, withdraw.

**proficiency** **noun** *skill, expertise, experience, accomplishment, competence, mastery, prowess, professionalism, deftness, adroitness, dexterity, finesse, ability, facility; informal know-how.*

– OPPOSITES incompetence.

**proficient** **adjective** *skilled, skilful, expert, experienced, accomplished, competent, masterly, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, professional, consummate, complete, master; informal crack, ace, mean.*

– OPPOSITES incompetent.

**profile** **noun** **1** *his handsome profile: side*

**view**, outline, silhouette, contour, shape, form, figure, lines. **2** *she wrote a profile of the organization*: **description**, account, study, portrait, portrayal, depiction, rundown, sketch, outline.

• **verb** *he was profiled in the Irish Times*: describe, write about, give an account of, portray, depict, sketch, outline.

■ **keep a low profile** lie low, keep quiet, keep out of the public eye, avoid publicity, keep out of sight.

**profit** **noun** **1** *the firm made a profit*: (financial) gain, return(s), yield, proceeds, earnings, winnings, surplus, excess; informal pay dirt, bottom line. **2** *there was little profit in going on*: **advantage**, benefit, value, use, good, avail; informal mileage.

– **OPPOSITES** loss, disadvantage.

• **verb** **1** *the company will not profit from the disposal*: **make money**, make a profit; informal rake it in, clean up, make a packet, make a killing, make a bundle; N. Amer. informal make big bucks, make a fast/quick buck. **2** *how will that profit us?* **benefit**, be beneficial to, be of benefit to, be advantageous to, be of advantage to, be of use to, be of value to, do someone good, help, be of service to, serve, assist, aid.

– **OPPOSITES** lose, disadvantage.

■ **profit by/from** benefit from, take advantage of, derive benefit from, capitalize on, make the most of, turn to one's advantage, put to good use, do well out of, exploit, gain from; informal cash in on.

**profitable** **adjective** **1** *a profitable company*: **money-making**, profit-making, commercial, successful, money-spinning, solvent, in the black, gainful, remunerative, financially rewarding, paying, lucrative, bankable.

**2** *profitable study*: **beneficial**, useful, advantageous, valuable, productive, worthwhile; rewarding, fruitful, illuminating, informative, well spent.

– **OPPOSITES** loss-making, fruitless, useless.

**profiteer** **verb** *a shopkeeper was charged with profiteering*: **overcharge**, racketeer; cheat someone, fleece someone; informal rip someone off, rob someone.

• **noun** *he was a war profiteer*: **racketeer**, exploiter, black marketeer; informal bloodsucker.

**profligate** **adjective** **1** *profligate local authorities*: **wasteful**, extravagant, spendthrift, improvident, prodigal. **2** *a profligate lifestyle*: **dissolute**, degenerate, dissipated, debauched, corrupt, depraved; **promiscuous**, loose, wanton, licentious, libertine, decadent, abandoned, fast; **sybaritic**, voluptuary.

– **OPPOSITES** thrifty, frugal, moral, upright.

• **noun** *he was an out-and-out profligate*: **libertine**, debauchee, degenerate, dissolute, rōué, rake, loose-liver; sybarite, voluptuary; dated rip.

**profound** **adjective** **1** *profound relief*: **heartfelt**, intense, keen, great, extreme, acute, severe, sincere, earnest, deep, deep-seated, overpowering, overwhelming, fervent, ardent. **2** *profound silence*:

**complete**, utter, total, absolute. **3** *a profound change*: **far-reaching**, radical, extensive, sweeping, exhaustive, thoroughgoing.

**4** *a profound analysis*: **wise**, learned, clever, intelligent, scholarly, sage, erudite, discerning, penetrating, perceptive, astute, thoughtful, insightful, perceptive, perspicacious; formal sapient. **5** *profound truths*: **complex**, abstract, deep, weighty, difficult, abstruse, recondite, esoteric.

– **OPPOSITES** superficial, mild, slight, simple.

**profuse** **adjective** **1** *profuse apologies*:

**copious**, prolific, abundant, liberal, unstinting, fulsome, effusive, extravagant, lavish, gushing; informal over the top, gushy. **2** *profuse blooms*: **luxuriant**, plentiful, copious, abundant, lush, rich, exuberant, riotous, teeming, rank, rampant; informal jungly.

– **OPPOSITES** meagre, sparse.

**profusion** **noun** **abundance**, mass, host, cornucopia, riot, plethora, superabundance; informal sea, wealth; formal plenitude.

**progenitor** **noun** **1** *the progenitor of an illustrious family*: **ancestor**, forefather, forebear, parent, primogenitor; Law stirps; old use begetter. **2** *the progenitor of modern jazz*: **originator**, creator, founder, architect, inventor, pioneer.

**progeny** **noun** **offspring**, young, babies, children, sons and daughters, family, brood; **descendants**, heirs, scions; Law issue; old use seed, fruit of one's loins.

**prognosis** **noun** **forecast**, prediction, prognostication, prophecy, divination, augury.

**prognosticate** **verb** **forecast**, predict, prophesy, foretell, foresee, forewarn of.

**prognostication** **noun** **prediction**, forecast, prophecy, prognosis, divination, augury.

**programme** **noun** **1** *our programme for the day*: **schedule**, agenda, calendar, timetable; order of events, line-up. **2** *the government's reform programme*: **scheme**, plan of action, series of measures, strategy. **3** *a television programme*: **broadcast**, production, show, presentation, transmission, performance, telecast; informal prog. **4** *a programme of study*: **course**, syllabus, curriculum. **5** *a theatre programme*: **guide**, list of performers; N. Amer. playbill.

• **verb** *they programmed the day well*:

**arrange**, organize, schedule, plan, map out, timetable, line up; N. Amer. slate.

**progress** **noun** **1** *boulders made progress* **difficult**: **forward movement**, advance, going, progression, headway, passage. **2** *scientific progress*: **development**, advance, advancement, headway, step(s) forward; improvement, betterment, growth.

– **OPPOSITES** relapse.

• **verb** **1** *they progressed slowly down the road*: go, make one's way, move, move forward, go forward, proceed, advance, go on, continue, make headway, work one's way. **2** *the school has progressed rapidly*: **develop**, make progress, advance, make headway, move on, get on, gain ground; improve, get better,



come on, come along, make strides; thrive, prosper, blossom, flourish; informal be getting there.

– OPPOSITES relapse.

■ **in progress** under way, going on, ongoing, happening, occurring, taking place, proceeding, continuing; unfinished, on the stocks; N. Amer. in the works.

**progression** noun **1** *progression to the next stage*: progress, advancement, movement, passage, march; development, evolution, growth. **2** *a progression of peaks on the graph*: succession, series, sequence, string, stream, chain, concatenation, train, row, cycle.

**progressive** adjective **1** *progressive deterioration*: continuing, continuous, increasing, growing, developing, ongoing, accelerating, escalating; gradual, step-by-step, cumulative. **2** *progressive views*: modern, liberal, advanced, forward-thinking, enlightened, enterprising, innovative, pioneering, dynamic, bold, avant-garde, reforming, reformist, radical; informal go-ahead.

– OPPOSITES conservative, reactionary.

● **noun** *he is very much a progressive*: innovator, reformer, reformist, liberal, libertarian.

**prohibit** verb **1** *state law prohibits gambling*: forbid, ban, bar, interdict, proscribe, make illegal, embargo, outlaw, disallow, veto; law enjoin. **2** *a cash shortage prohibited the visit*: prevent, stop, rule out, preclude, make impossible.

– OPPOSITES allow.

**prohibited** adjective forbidden, verboten, taboo; illegal, illicit, against the law; Islam haram; informal not on, out, no go; formal non licet. See also **PROHIBIT**.

– OPPOSITES permitted.

**P** **prohibition** noun **1** *the prohibition of cannabis*: banning, forbidding, prohibiting, barring, debarment, vetoing, proscription, interdiction, outlawing. **2** *a prohibition was imposed*: ban, bar, interdict, veto, embargo, injunction, moratorium.

**prohibitive** adjective **1** *prohibitive costs*: excessively high, sky-high, overinflated; out of the question, beyond one's means; extortionate, unreasonable, exorbitant; informal steep, criminal. **2** *prohibitive regulations*: proscriptive, prohibitory, restrictive, repressive.

**project** noun **1** *an engineering project*: scheme, plan, programme, enterprise, undertaking, venture; proposal, idea, concept. **2** *a history project*: assignment, piece of work, piece of research, task. ● **verb** **1** *profits are projected to rise*: forecast, predict, expect, estimate, calculate, reckon. **2** *his projected book*: intend, plan, propose, devise, design, outline. **3** *balconies projected over the lake*: stick out, jut (out), protrude, extend, stand out, bulge out, poke out, thrust out, cantilever. **4** *seeds are projected from the tree*: propel, discharge, launch, throw, cast, fling, hurl, shoot. **5** *the sun projected his shadow on the wall*: cast, throw,

send, shed, shine. **6** *she tried to project a calm image*: convey, put across, put over, communicate, present, promote.

**projectile** noun missile.

**projecting** adjective sticking out, protuberant, protruding, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging; informal sticky-out.

– OPPOSITES sunken, flush.

**projection** noun **1** *a sales projection*: forecast, prediction, prognosis, expectation, estimate. **2** *tiny projections on the cliff face*: protuberance, protrusion, sticking-out bit, prominence, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag; overhang, ledge, shelf; informal sticky-out bit.

**proletarian** adjective *a proletarian background*: working-class, plebeian, cloth-cap, common.

– OPPOSITES aristocratic.

● **noun** *disaffected proletarians*: working-class person, worker, plebeian, commoner, man/woman/person in the street; derogatory prole.

– OPPOSITES aristocrat.

**proletariat** noun *the workers*, working-class people, wage-earners, the labouring classes, the common people, the lower classes, the masses, the commonalty, the rank and file, the third estate, the plebeians; derogatory the hoi polloi, the plebs, the proles, the great unwashed, the mob, the rabble.

– OPPOSITES aristocracy.

**proliferate** verb *increase rapidly*, grow rapidly, multiply, rocket, mushroom, snowball, burgeon, run riot.

– OPPOSITES decrease, dwindle.

**prolific** adjective **1** *a prolific crop of tomatoes*: plentiful, abundant, bountiful, profuse, copious, luxuriant, rich, lush; fruitful, fecund; literary plenteous, bounteous. **2** *a prolific composer*: productive, creative, inventive, fertile.

**prolix** adjective *long-winded*, verbose, wordy, pleonastic, discursive, rambling, long-drawn-out, overlong, lengthy, protracted, interminable; informal windy; Brit. informal waffly.

**prologue** noun *introduction*, foreword, preface, preamble, prelude; informal intro; formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon.

– OPPOSITES epilogue.

**prolong** verb *lengthen*, extend, draw out, drag out, protract, spin out, stretch out, string out, elongate; carry on, continue, keep up, perpetuate.

– OPPOSITES shorten.

**promenade** noun **1** *the tree-lined promenade*: esplanade, front, seafront, parade, walk, boulevard, avenue; N. Amer. boardwalk; Brit. informal prom. **2** *our nightly promenade*: walk, stroll, turn, amble, airing; dated constitutional.

● **verb** *we promenaded in the park*: walk, stroll, saunter, wander, amble, stretch one's legs, take a turn.

**prominence** noun **1** *his rise to prominence*:

**fame**, celebrity, eminence, pre-eminence, importance, distinction, greatness, note, notability, prestige, stature, standing, position, rank. **2** *the press gave prominence to the reports: good coverage*, importance, precedence, weight, a high profile, top billing. **3** *a rocky prominence: hillock*, hill, hummock, mound; outcrop, crag, spur, rise; ridge, arête; peak, pinnacle; promontory, cliff, headland.

**prominent** adjective **1** *a prominent surgeon: important*, well known, leading, eminent, distinguished, notable, noteworthy, noted, illustrious, celebrated, famous, renowned, acclaimed, famed, influential; N. Amer. major-league. **2** *prominent cheekbones: protuberant*, protruding, projecting, jutting (out), standing out, sticking out, proud, bulging, bulbous. **3** *a prominent feature of the landscape: conspicuous*, noticeable, easily seen, obvious, unmistakable, eye-catching, pronounced, salient, striking, dominant; obtrusive.

– OPPOSITES unimportant, unknown, inconspicuous.

**promiscuity** noun licentiousness, wantonness, immorality; informal sleeping around, sluttishness, whorishness; dated looseness.

– OPPOSITES chastity, virtue.

**promiscuous** adjective **1** *a promiscuous woman: licentious*, sexually indiscriminate, wanton, immoral, of easy virtue, fast; informal easy, swinging, sluttish, whorish; N. Amer. informal roundheeled; Brit. informal sloppy; dated loose, fallen; old use light. **2** *promiscuous reading: indiscriminate*, indiscriminating, unselective, random, haphazard, irresponsible, unthinking, unconsidered.

– OPPOSITES chaste, virtuous, selective.

**promise** noun **1** *you broke your promise: word (of honour)*, assurance, pledge, vow, guarantee, oath, bond, undertaking, agreement, commitment, contract, covenant. **2** *he shows promise: potential*, ability, aptitude, capability, capacity. **3** *a promise of fine weather: indication*, hint, suggestion, sign.

• verb **1** *she promised to go: give one's word*, swear, pledge, vow, undertake, guarantee, contract, engage, give an assurance, commit oneself, bind oneself, swear/take an oath, covenant; old use plight. **2** *the skies promised sunshine: indicate*, lead one to expect, point to, denote, signify, be a sign of, be evidence of, give hope of, bespeak, presage, augur, herald, bode, portend; literary betoken, foretoken, forebode.

**promising** adjective **1** *a promising start: good*, encouraging, favourable, hopeful, full of promise, auspicious, propitious, bright, rosy, heartening, reassuring. **2** *a promising actor: with potential*, budding, up-and-coming, rising, coming, in the making.

– OPPOSITES unfavourable, hopeless.

**promontory** noun headland, point, cape, head, foreland, horn, bill, ness, naze, peninsula; Scottish mull.

**promote** verb **1** *she's been promoted at work: upgrade*, give promotion to, elevate, advance, move up; old use prefer. **2** *an organization promoting justice: encourage*, further, advance, assist, aid, help, contribute to, foster, nurture, develop, boost, stimulate, forward, work for. **3** *she is promoting her new film: advertise*, publicize, give publicity to, beat/bang the drum for, market, merchandise; informal push, plug, hype, puff, boost; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo, flack.

– OPPOSITES demote, obstruct, play down.

**promoter** noun advocate, champion, supporter, backer, proponent, protagonist, campaigner; N. Amer. booster.

**promotion** noun **1** *her promotion at work: upgrading*, preferment, elevation, advancement, step up (the ladder). **2** *the promotion of justice: encouragement*, furtherance, furthering, advancement, assistance, aid, help, contribution to, fostering, boosting, stimulation; N. Amer. boosterism. **3** *the promotion of her new film: advertising*, publicizing, marketing; publicity, campaign, propaganda; informal hard sell, plug, hype, puff; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo.

**prompt** verb **1** *curiosity prompted him to look: induce*, make, move, motivate, lead, dispose, persuade, incline, encourage, stimulate, prod, impel, spur on, inspire. **2** *the statement prompted a hostile reaction: give rise to*, bring about, cause, occasion, result in, lead to, elicit, produce, bring on, engender, induce, precipitate, trigger, spark off, provoke. **3** *the actors needed prompting: remind*, cue, feed, help out; jog someone's memory.

– OPPOSITES deter.

• adjective *a prompt reply: quick*, swift, rapid, speedy, fast, direct, immediate, instant, expeditious, early, punctual, in good time, on time, timely.

– OPPOSITES slow, late.

• adverb *at 3.30 prompt: exactly*, precisely, sharp, on the dot, dead, punctually, on the nail; informal bang on; N. Amer. informal on the button, on the nose.

• noun *he stopped, and Julia supplied a prompt: reminder*, cue, feed.

**promptly** adverb **1** *William arrived promptly at 7.30: punctually*, on time; informal on the dot, bang on; Brit. informal spot on; N. Amer. informal on the button, on the nose. **2** *I expect the matter to be dealt with promptly: without delay*, straight away, right away, at once, immediately, now, as soon as possible; quickly, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, fast, expeditiously; N. Amer. momentarily; informal pronto, asap., p.d.q. (pretty damn quick).

– OPPOSITES late, slowly.

**promulgate** verb **1** *they promulgated their own views: make known*, make public, publicize, spread, communicate, propagate, disseminate, broadcast, promote, preach; literary bruit abroad. **2** *the law was promulgated in 1942: put into effect*, enact, implement, enforce.

**prone** adjective **1** *softwood is prone to rotting* | *prone to rot*: susceptible, vulnerable, subject, open, liable, given, predisposed, likely, disposed, inclined, apt; at risk of.

**2** *his prone body: (lying) face down*, face downwards, on one's stomach/front; *lying flat/down*, horizontal, prostrate.

– OPPOSITES resistant, immune, upright.

**prong** noun *time, spike, point, tip, projection.*

**pronounce** verb **1** *his name is difficult to pronounce*: say, enunciate, articulate, utter, voice, sound, vocalize, get one's tongue round. **2** *the doctor pronounced that I had a virus*: announce, proclaim, declare, affirm, assert; judge, rule, decree; rare asseverate.

**pronounced** adjective noticeable, marked, strong, conspicuous, striking, distinct, prominent, unmistakable, obvious, recognizable, identifiable.

– OPPOSITES slight.

**pronouncement** noun announcement, proclamation, declaration, assertion; judgement, ruling, decree; formal ordinance; rare asseveration.

**pronunciation** noun accent, manner of speaking, speech, diction, delivery, elocution, intonation; articulation, enunciation, voicing, vocalization, sounding; rare orthoepy.

**proof** noun **1** *proof of ownership*: evidence, verification, corroboration, authentication, confirmation, certification, documentation, validation, attestation, substantiation. **2** *the proofs of a book*: page proof, galley proof, galley, pull, slip; revise.

• adjective *no system is proof against theft*: resistant, immune, unaffected, invulnerable, impenetrable, impervious, repellent.

**p** **prop** noun **1** *the roof is held up by props*: pole, post, support, upright, brace, buttress, stay, strut, stanchion, shore, pier, pillar, pile, piling, bolster, truss, column. **2** *a prop for the economy*: mainstay, pillar, anchor, backbone, support, foundation, cornerstone.

• verb **1** *he propped his bike against the wall*: lean, rest, stand, balance, steady. **2** *this post is propping the wall up*: hold up, shore up, bolster up, buttress, support, brace, underpin. **3** *they prop up loss-making industries*: subsidize, underwrite, fund, finance.

**propaganda** noun information, promotion, advertising, publicity; agitprop, disinformation, counter-information, the big lie; informal info, hype, plugging.

**propagandist** noun promoter, champion, supporter, proponent, advocate, campaigner, crusader, publicist, evangelist, apostle; informal plugger.

**propagate** verb **1** *an easy plant to propagate*: breed, grow, cultivate. **2** *these shrubs propagate easily*: reproduce, multiply, proliferate, increase, spread, self-seed, self-sow. **3** *they propagated socialist ideas*: spread, disseminate, communicate, make known, promulgate, circulate, broadcast,

publicize, proclaim, preach, promote; literary bruit abroad.

**propel** verb **1** *a boat propelled by oars*: move, power, push, drive. **2** *he propelled the ball into the air*: throw, thrust, toss, fling, hurl, launch, pitch, project, send, shoot. **3** *confusion propelled her into action*: spur, drive, prompt, precipitate, catapult, motivate, force, impel.

**propeller** noun rotor, screw, airscrew; informal prop.

**propensity** noun tendency, inclination, predisposition, proneness, proclivity, readiness, liability, disposition, leaning, weakness.

**proper** adjective **1** *he's not a proper scientist*: real, genuine, actual, true, bona fide; informal kosher. **2** *the proper channels*: right, correct, accepted, orthodox, conventional, established, official, formal, regular, acceptable, appropriate; old use meet.

**3** *they were terribly proper*: respectable, decorous, seemingly, decent, refined, ladylike, gentlemanly, genteel; formal, conventional, correct, comme il faut, done, orthodox, polite, punctilious. **4** (Brit. informal) *a proper mess*: complete, absolute, real, perfect, total, thorough, utter, out-and-out, positive, unmitigated, consummate; Brit. informal right; Austral./NZ informal fair.

– OPPOSITES fake, inappropriate, wrong, unconventional.

**property** noun **1** *lost property*: possessions, belongings, things, effects, stuff, chattels, movables; resources, assets, valuables, fortune, capital, riches, wealth; Law personality, goods and chattels; informal gear. **2** *private property*: building(s), premises, house(s), land, estates; Law real property, realty; N. Amer. real estate. **3** *healing properties*: quality, attribute, characteristic, feature, power, trait, mark, hallmark.

**prophecy** noun **1** *her prophecy is coming true*: prediction, forecast, prognostication, prognosis, divination, augury. **2** *the gift of prophecy*: foretelling the future, fortune telling, crystal-gazing, prediction, second sight, prognostication, divination, augury, soothsaying.

**prophecy** verb predict, foretell, forecast, foresee, forewarn of, prognosticate.

**prophet, prophetess** noun seer, soothsayer, fortune teller, clairvoyant, diviner; oracle, augur, sibyl.

■ **prophet of doom** pessimist, doom-monger, doomsayer, doomster, Cassandra, Jeremiah; informal doom (and gloom) merchant.

**prophetic** adjective prescient, predictive, far-seeing, prognostic, divinatory, sibylline, apocalyptic; rare vatic, mantic.

**prophylactic** adjective *prophylactic measures*: preventive, preventative, precautionary, protective, inhibitory.

• noun *a prophylactic against malaria*: preventive measure, precaution, safeguard, safety measure; preventive medicine.

**prophylaxis** noun preventive treatment,



prevention, protection, precaution.

**propitiate** verb *appease, placate, mollify, pacify, make peace with, conciliate, make amends to, soothe, calm.*

– OPPOSITES provoke.

**propitious** adjective *favourable, auspicious, promising, providential, advantageous, optimistic, bright, rosy, heaven-sent, hopeful; opportune, timely.*

– OPPOSITES inauspicious, unfortunate.

**proponent** noun *advocate, champion, supporter, backer, promoter, protagonist, campaigner; N. Amer. booster.*

**proportion** noun **1** *a small proportion of the land:* part, portion, amount, quantity, bit, piece, percentage, fraction, section, segment, share. **2** *the proportion of water to alcohol:* ratio, distribution, relative amount/number; relationship. **3** *the drawing is out of proportion:* balance, symmetry, harmony, correspondence, correlation, agreement.

**4** *men of huge proportions:* size, dimensions, magnitude, measurements; mass, volume, bulk; expanse, extent, width, breadth.

**proportional** adjective *corresponding, proportionate, comparable, in proportion, pro rata, commensurate, equivalent, consistent, relative, analogous.*

– OPPOSITES disproportionate.

**proposal** noun **1** *the proposal was rejected:* scheme, plan, idea, project, programme, manifesto, motion, proposition, suggestion, submission. **2** *the proposal of a new constitution:* putting forward, proposing, suggesting, submitting.

– OPPOSITES withdrawal.

**propose** verb **1** *he proposed a solution:* put forward, suggest, submit, advance, offer, present, move, come up with, lodge, table, nominate. **2** *do you propose to go?* intend, mean, plan, have in mind/view, resolve, aim, purpose, think of, aspire, want. **3** *you've proposed to her!* ask someone to marry you; informal pop the question; dated ask for someone's hand in marriage.

– OPPOSITES withdraw.

**proposition** noun **1** *the analysis derives from one proposition:* theory, hypothesis, thesis, argument, premise, theorem, concept, idea, statement. **2** *a business proposition:* proposal, scheme, plan, project, idea, programme, bid. **3** *doing it for real is a very different proposition:* task, job, undertaking, venture, activity, affair, problem.

• verb *he never dared proposition her:* propose sex with, make sexual advances to, make an indecent proposal to, make an improper suggestion to; informal give someone the come-on.

**propound** verb *put forward, advance, offer, proffer, present, set forth, submit, tender, suggest, introduce, postulate, propose, pose, posit; advocate, promote, peddle, spread.*

**proprietor, proprietress** noun *owner, possessor, holder, master/mistress; landowner, landlord/landlady; innkeeper, hotel-keeper, hotelier, shopkeeper; Brit. publican.*

**propriety** noun **1** *he behaves with the utmost propriety:* decorum, respectability, decency, correctness, protocol, appropriateness, suitability, good manners, courtesy, politeness, rectitude, morality, civility, modesty, demureness; sobriety, refinement, discretion. **2** *he was careful to preserve the proprieties in public:* etiquette, convention(s), social grace(s), niceties, protocol, standards, civilities, formalities, accepted behaviour, good form, the done thing, the thing to do, punctilio.

– OPPOSITES indecorum.

**propulsion** noun *thrust, motive force, impetus, impulse, drive, driving force, actuation, push, pressure, power.*

**prosaic** adjective *ordinary, everyday, commonplace, conventional, straightforward, routine, run-of-the-mill, workaday; unimaginative, uninspired, uninspiring, matter-of-fact, dull, dry, dreary, tedious, boring, humdrum, mundane, pedestrian, tame, plodding; bland, insipid, banal, trite, literal, factual, unpoetic, unemotional, unsentimental.*

– OPPOSITES interesting, imaginative, inspired.

**proscribe** verb **1** *gambling was proscribed:* forbid, prohibit, ban, bar, interdict, make illegal, embargo, outlaw, disallow, veto; law enjoin. **2** *the book was proscribed by the Church:* condemn, denounce, attack, criticize, censure, damn, reject.

– OPPOSITES allow, authorize, accept.

**proscription** noun **1** *the proscription of alcohol:* banning, forbidding, prohibition, prohibiting, barring, debarment, vetoing, interdiction, outlawing. **2** *a proscription was imposed:* ban, prohibition, bar, interdict, veto, embargo, moratorium.

**3** *the proscription of his recordings:* condemnation, denunciation, attacking, criticism, censuring, damning, rejection.

– OPPOSITES allowing, authorization, acceptance.

**prosecute** verb **1** *they prosecute offenders:* take to court, institute legal proceedings against, take legal action against, sue, try, bring to trial, put on trial, in the dock, indict, arraign; N. Amer. impeach; informal have the law on. **2** *they helped him prosecute the war:* pursue, fight, wage, carry on, conduct, direct, engage in, proceed with, continue (with), keep on with.

– OPPOSITES defend, let off, give up.

**proselyte** noun *convert, new believer, catechumen.*

**prospect** noun **1** *there is little prospect of success:* likelihood, hope, expectation, anticipation, (good/poor) chance, odds, probability, possibility, promise, lookout; fear, danger. **2** *her job prospects:* possibilities, potential, promise, expectations, outlook. **3** *a daunting prospect:* vision, thought, idea; task, undertaking. **4** *Jimmy is an exciting prospect:* candidate, possibility; informal catch. **5** *there is a pleasant prospect from the lounge:* view, vista,

outlook, perspective, panorama, aspect, scene; picture, spectacle, sight.

• **verb** *they are prospecting for oil*: search, look, explore, survey, scout, hunt, reconnoitre, examine, inspect.

■ **in prospect** expected, likely, coming soon, on the way, to come, at hand, near, imminent, in the offing, in store, on the horizon, just around the corner, in the air, in the wind, brewing, looming; informal on the cards.

**prospective** adjective **potential**, possible, probable, likely, future, eventual, -to-be, soon-to-be, in the making; intending, aspiring, would-be; forthcoming, approaching, coming, imminent.

**prospectus** noun **brochure**, pamphlet, description, particulars, announcement, advertisement; syllabus, curriculum, catalogue, programme, list, scheme, schedule.

**prosper** verb **flourish**, thrive, do well, bloom, blossom, burgeon, progress, do all right for oneself, get ahead, get on (in the world), be successful; informal go places.

– OPPOSITES fail, flounder.

**prosperity** noun **success**, profitability, affluence, wealth, opulence, luxury, the good life, milk and honey, (good) fortune, ease, plenty, comfort, security, well-being.

– OPPOSITES hardship, failure.

**prosperous** adjective **thriving**, flourishing, successful, strong, vigorous, profitable, lucrative, expanding, booming, burgeoning; **affluent**, wealthy, rich, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, opulent, substantial, in clover; informal on a roll, on the up and up, in the money.

– OPPOSITES ailing, poor.

**p prostitute** noun **whore**, sex worker, call girl; rent boy; informal tart, pro, moll, working girl, member of the oldest profession; Brit. informal tom, renter; N. Amer. informal hooker, hustler, chippy; black English ho; dated streetwalker, woman of the streets, lady/woman of the night, scarlet woman, cocotte; old use courtesan, strumpet, harlot, trollop, woman of ill repute, lady of pleasure, wench.

• **verb** *they prostituted their art*: betray, sacrifice, sell, sell out, debase, degrade, demean, devalue, cheapen, lower, shame, misuse, pervert; abandon one's principles, be untrue to oneself.

**prostitution** noun **whoring**, the sex industry, streetwalking, Mrs Warren's profession, sex tourism; informal the oldest profession, the trade; rough trade; Brit. informal the game; N. Amer. informal hooking, hustling; dated whoredom; old use harlotry.

**prostrate** adjective **1** *the prostrate figure on the ground*: prone, lying flat, lying down, stretched out, spreadeagled, sprawling, horizontal, recumbent; rare procumbent. **2** *his wife was prostrate with shock*: overwhelmed, overcome, overpowered, brought to one's knees, stunned, dazed; speechless, helpless; informal knocked/hit for six. **3** *the fever left me prostrate*: worn

out, exhausted, fatigued, tired out, sapped, dog-tired, spent, drained, debilitated, enervated, laid low; informal all in, done in, dead, dead beat, dead on one's feet, ready to drop, fagged out, bushed, frazzled, worn to a frazzle; Brit. informal whacked, knackered; N. Amer. informal pooped.

– OPPOSITES upright, fresh.

• **verb** *she was prostrated by the tragedy*:

**overwhelm**, overcome, overpower, bring to one's knees, devastate, debilitate, weaken, enfeeble, enervate, lay low, wear out, exhaust, tire out, drain, sap, wash out, take it out of; informal knacker, frazzle, do in; N. Amer. informal poop.

■ **prostrate oneself** throw oneself down, lie down, stretch oneself out, throw oneself at someone's feet; dated measure one's length.

**prostration** noun **collapse**, weakness, debility, lassitude, exhaustion, fatigue, tiredness, enervation, emotional exhaustion.

**protagonist** noun **1** *the protagonist in the plot*: **main/central character**, principal, hero/heroine, leading man/lady, title role, lead. **2** *a protagonist of deregulation*: **champion**, advocate, upholder, supporter, backer, promoter, proponent, exponent, campaigner, fighter, crusader; apostle, apologist; N. Amer. booster.

– OPPOSITES opponent.

**protean** adjective **1** *the protean nature of mental disorders*: **ever-changing**, variable, changeable, mutable, kaleidoscopic, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, shifting, unsettled, fluctuating, fluid, wavering, vacillating, mercurial, volatile; technical labile. **2** *a remarkably protean composer*: **versatile**, adaptable, flexible, all-round, multifaceted, multitalented, many-sided.

– OPPOSITES constant, consistent, limited.

**protect** verb **keep safe**, keep from harm, save, safeguard, preserve, defend, shield, cushion, insulate, hedge, shelter, screen, secure, fortify, guard, watch over, look after, take care of, keep; inoculate.

– OPPOSITES expose, neglect, attack, harm.

**protection** noun **1** *protection against frost*: **defence**, security, shielding, preservation, conservation, safe keeping, safeguarding, safety, sanctuary, shelter, refuge, lee, immunity, insurance, indemnity. **2** *under the protection of the Church*: **safe keeping**, care, charge, keeping, protectorship, guidance, aegis, auspices, umbrella, guardianship, support, patronage, championship, providence. **3** *good protection against noise*: **barrier**, buffer, shield, screen, hedge, cushion, preventative, armour, refuge, bulwark.

**protective** adjective **1** *protective clothing*: **preservative**, protecting, safeguarding, shielding, defensive, safety, precautionary, preventive, preventative. **2** *he felt protective towards the girl*: **solicitous**, caring, warm, paternal/maternal, fatherly/motherly, gallant, chivalrous; overprotective, possessive, jealous.

**protector** noun **1** *a protector of the*

*environment*: defender, preserver, guardian, guard, champion, watchdog, ombudsman, knight in shining armour, guardian angel, patron, chaperon, escort, keeper, custodian, bodyguard, minder; informal hired gun. **2** *ear protectors*: guard, shield, buffer, cushion, pad, screen.

**protégé, protégée** *noun* pupil, student, trainee, apprentice; disciple, follower; discovery, find, ward.

**protest** *noun* **1** *he resigned as a protest*: objection, complaint, exception, disapproval, challenge, dissent, demurral, remonstrance, fuss, outcry. **2** *women staged a protest*: demonstration, (protest) march, rally; sit-in, occupation; work-to-rule, industrial action, stoppage, strike, walkout, mutiny, picket, boycott; informal demo.

– OPPOSITES support, approval.

• **verb** **1** *residents protested at the plans*: express opposition, object, dissent, take issue, make/take a stand, put up a fight, kick, take exception, complain, express disapproval, disagree, demur, remonstrate, make a fuss; cry out, speak out, rail, inveigh, fulminate; informal kick up a fuss/stink. **2** *people protested outside the cathedral*: demonstrate, march, hold a rally, sit in, occupy somewhere; work to rule, take industrial action, stop work, down tools, strike, go on strike, walk out, mutiny, picket somewhere; boycott something. **3** *he protested his innocence*: insist on, maintain, assert, affirm, announce, proclaim, declare, profess, contend, argue, claim, vow, swear (to), stress; formal aver, asseverate.

– OPPOSITES acquiesce, support, deny.

**protestation** *noun* **1** *his protestations of innocence*: declaration, announcement, profession, assertion, insistence, claim, affirmation, assurance, oath, vow; rare aver, asseveration. **2** *we helped him despite his protestations*: objection, protest, exception, complaint, disapproval, opposition, challenge, dissent, demurral, remonstrance, fuss, outcry; informal stink.

– OPPOSITES denial, acquiescence, support.

**protester** *noun* **1** *the council lost protesters' letters*: objector, opposer, opponent, complainant, complainer, dissenter, dissident, nonconformist. **2** *the protesters were moved on*: demonstrator, protest marcher; striker, mutineer, picket.

**protocol** *noun* **1** *a stickler for protocol*: etiquette, conventions, formalities, customs, rules of conduct, procedure, ritual, accepted behaviour, propriety, proprieties, decorum, good form, the done thing, the thing to do, punctilio. **2** *the two countries signed a protocol*: agreement, treaty, entente, concordat, convention, deal, pact, contract, compact; formal concord.

**prototype** *noun* **1** *a prototype of the weapon*: original, first example/model, master, mould, template, framework, mock-up, pattern, sample; design, guide, blueprint. **2** *the prototype of an ideal wife*: typical example, paradigm, archetype, exemplar.

**protract** *verb* prolong, lengthen, extend, draw out, drag out, spin out, stretch out, string out, elongate; carry on, continue, keep up, perpetuate.

– OPPOSITES curtail, shorten.

**protracted** *adjective* prolonged, long-lasting, extended, long-drawn-out, spun out, dragged out, strung out, lengthy, long.

– OPPOSITES short.

**protrude** *verb* stick out, jut (out), project, extend, stand out, bulge out, poke out, thrust out, cantilever.

**protruding** *adjective* sticking out, protuberant, projecting, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging; informal sticky-out.

– OPPOSITES sunken, flush.

**protrusion** *noun* **1** *the neck vertebrae have short vertical protrusions*: bump, lump, knob; protuberance, projection, sticking-out bit, prominence, swelling, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag; ledge, shelf, ridge; informal sticky-out bit. **2** *protrusion of the lips*: sticking out, jutting, projection, obtrusion, prominence; swelling, bulging.

**protuberance** *noun* **1** *a protuberance can cause drag*: bump, lump, knob, projection, protrusion, sticking-out bit, prominence, swelling, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag; ledge, shelf, ridge; informal sticky-out bit. **2** *the protuberance of the incisors*: sticking out, jutting, projection, obtrusion, prominence; swelling, bulging.

**protuberant** *adjective* sticking out, protruding, projecting, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging; informal sticky-out.

– OPPOSITES sunken, flush.

**proud** *adjective* **1** *the proud parents beamed*: pleased, glad, happy, delighted, joyful, overjoyed, thrilled, satisfied, gratified, content. **2** *a proud day*: pleasing, gratifying, satisfying, cheering, heart-warming; happy, good, glorious, memorable, notable, red-letter. **3** *they were poor but proud*: self-respecting, dignified, noble, worthy; independent. **4** *I'm not too proud to admit I'm wrong*: arrogant, conceited, vain, self-important, full of oneself, puffed up, swollen-headed, jumped-up, smug, complacent, disdainful, condescending, scornful, supercilious, snobbish, imperious, pompous, overbearing, bumptious, haughty; informal big-headed, too big for one's boots, high and mighty, stuck-up, uppity, snooty, highfalutin; Brit. informal toffee-nosed; literary vainglorious; rare hubristic. **5** *the proud ships*: magnificent, splendid, resplendent, grand, noble, stately, imposing, dignified, striking, impressive, majestic, glorious, awe-inspiring, awesome, monumental. **6** *the switch is proud of the wall*: projecting, sticking out/up, jutting (out), protruding, prominent, raised, convex, elevated.

– OPPOSITES ashamed, shameful, humble, modest, unimpressive, concave, flush.



**prove** verb **1** *that proves I'm right: show (to be true)*, demonstrate (the truth of), show beyond doubt, manifest, produce proof/evidence; witness to, give substance to, determine, substantiate, corroborate, verify, ratify, validate, authenticate, document, bear out, confirm; formal evince. **2** *the rumour proved to be correct: turn out*, be found, happen.

– OPPOSITES disprove.

■ **prove oneself** demonstrate one's abilities/qualities, show one's (true) mettle, show what one is made of.

**provenance** noun origin, source, place of origin; birthplace, fount, roots, pedigree, derivation, root, etymology; N. Amer. provenience; formal radix.

**proverb** noun saying, adage, saw, maxim, axiom, motto, bon mot, aphorism, apophthegm, epigram, gnome, dictum, precept.

**proverbial** adjective well known, famous, famed, renowned, traditional, time-honoured, legendary; notorious, infamous.

**provide** verb **1** *the Foundation will provide funds: supply*, give, issue, furnish, come up with, dispense, bestow, impart, produce, yield, bring forth, bear, deliver, donate, contribute, pledge, advance, spare, part with, allocate, distribute, allot, put up; informal fork out, lay out; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up. **2** *he was provided with enough tools: equip*, furnish, issue, supply, outfit; fit out, rig out, kit out, arm, provision; informal fix up. **3** *he had to provide for his family: feed*, nurture, nourish; **support**, maintain, keep, sustain, provide sustenance for, fend for, finance, endow. **4** *the test may provide the answer: make available*, present, offer, afford, give, add, bring, yield, impart. **5** *we have provided for further restructuring: prepare*, allow, make provision, be prepared, arrange, get ready, plan, cater. **6** *the banks have to provide against bad debts: take precautions*, take steps/measures, guard, forearm oneself; make provision for. **7** *the Act provides that factories must be kept clean: stipulate*, lay down, require, order, ordain, demand, prescribe, state, specify.

– OPPOSITES refuse, withhold, deprive, neglect.

**provided** conjunction if, on condition that, providing (that), provided that, presuming (that), assuming (that), on the assumption that, as long as, given (that), with the provision/proviso that, with/on the understanding that, contingent on.

**providence** noun **1** *a life mapped out by providence: fate*, destiny, nemesis, kismet, God's will, divine intervention, predestination, predetermination, the stars; one's lot (in life); old use one's portion. **2** *he had a streak of providence: prudence*, foresight, forthought, far-sightedness, judiciousness, shrewdness, circumspection, wisdom, sagacity, common sense; careful budgeting, thrift, economy.

**provident** adjective prudent, far-sighted,

judicious, shrewd, circumspect, forearmed, wise, sagacious, sensible; thrifty, economical.

– OPPOSITES improvident.

**providential** adjective opportune, advantageous, favourable, auspicious, propitious, heaven-sent, welcome, golden, lucky, happy, fortunate, felicitous, timely, well timed, seasonable, convenient, expedient.

– OPPOSITES inopportune.

**provider** noun supplier, donor, giver, contributor, source.

**providing** conjunction. See PROVIDED.

**province** noun **1** *a province of the Ottoman Empire: territory*, region, state, department, canton, area, district, sector, zone, division.

**2** *people in the provinces: non-metropolitan areas/counties*, Middle England/America, rural areas/districts, the countryside, the backwoods, the wilds; informal the sticks, the middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal the boondocks. **3** *that's outside my province: responsibility*, area of activity, area of interest, knowledge, department, sphere, world, realm, field, domain, territory, orbit, preserve, line of country; business, affair, concern; speciality, forte; jurisdiction, authority; informal pigeon, bailiwick, turf.

**provincial** adjective **1** *the provincial government: regional*, state, territorial, district, local; sectoral, zonal, cantonal, county. **2** *provincial areas: non-metropolitan*, small-town, non-urban, outlying, rural, country, rustic, backwoods, backwater; informal one-horse; N. Amer. informal hick, freshwater. **3** *they're so dull and provincial: unsophisticated*, narrow-minded, parochial, small-town, suburban, insular, parish-pump, inward-looking, conservative; small-minded, blinkered, bigoted, prejudiced; N. Amer. informal jerkwater, corn-fed.

– OPPOSITES national, metropolitan, cosmopolitan, sophisticated, broad-minded.

• **noun** *they were dismissed as provincials: (country) bumpkin*, country cousin, rustic, yokel, village idiot, peasant; Irish informal culchie; N. Amer. informal hayseed, hick, rube, hillbilly.

– OPPOSITES sophisticated.

**provision** noun **1** *the provision of weapons to guerrillas: supplying*, supply, providing, giving, presentation, donation; equipping, furnishing. **2** *there has been limited provision for gifted children: facilities*, services, amenities, resource(s), arrangements; means, funds, benefits, assistance, allowance(s). **3** *provisions for the trip: supplies*, food and drink, stores, groceries, foodstuff(s), provender, rations; informal grub, eats, nosh; N. Amer. informal chuck; formal comestibles; literary viands; dated victuals. **4** *he made no provision for the future: preparations*, plans, arrangements, prearrangement, precautions, contingency. **5** *the provisions of the Act: term*, clause; requirement, specification, stipulation;

proviso, condition, qualification, restriction, limitation.

**provisional** adjective interim, temporary, pro tem; transitional, changeover, stopgap, short-term, fill-in, acting, caretaker, TBC (to be confirmed), subject to confirmation; pencilled in, working, tentative, contingent.

– OPPOSITES permanent, definite.

**provisionally** adverb temporarily, short-term, pro tem, for the interim, for the present, for the time being, for now, for the nonce; subject to confirmation, in an acting capacity, conditionally, tentatively.

**proviso** noun condition, stipulation, provision, clause, rider, qualification, restriction, caveat.

**provocation** noun **1** *he remained calm despite severe provocation*: goading, prodding, egging on, incitement, pressure; annoyance, irritation, nettling; harassment, plaguing, molestation; teasing, taunting, torment; affront, insults; informal hassle, aggravation. **2** *without provocation, Jones punched Mr Cartwright*: justification, excuse, pretext, occasion, call, motivation, motive, cause, grounds, reason, need.

**provocative** adjective **1** *provocative remarks*: annoying, irritating, exasperating, infuriating, maddening, vexing, galling; insulting, offensive, inflammatory, incendiary, controversial; informal aggravating, in-your-face. **2** *a provocative pose*: sexy, sexually arousing, sexually exciting, alluring, seductive, suggestive, inviting, tantalizing, titillating; indecent, pornographic, indelicate, immodest, shameless; erotic, sensuous, slinky, coquettish, amorous, flirtatious; informal tarty, come-hither.

– OPPOSITES soothing, calming, modest, decorous.

**provoke** verb **1** *the plan has provoked outrage*: arouse, produce, evoke, cause, give rise to, occasion, call forth, elicit, induce, excite, spark off, touch off, kindle, generate, engender, instigate, result in, lead to, bring on, precipitate, prompt, trigger; literary beget. **2** *he was provoked into replying*: goad, spur, prick, sting, prod, egg on, incite, rouse, stir, move, stimulate, motivate, excite, inflame, work/fire up, impel. **3** *he wouldn't be provoked*: annoy, anger, incense, enrage, irritate, infuriate, exasperate, madden, nettles, get/take a rise out of, ruffle, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise; harass, harry, plague, molest; tease, taunt, torment; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal peeve, aggravate, hassle, miff, rile, needle, get, bug, hack off, make someone's blood boil, get under someone's skin, get in someone's hair, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get across someone; Brit. informal wind up, nark; N. Amer. informal rankle, ride, gravel.

– OPPOSITES allay, deter, pacify, appease.

**prow** noun bow(s), stem, front, nose, head, cutwater; Brit. humorous sharp end.

**prowess** noun **1** *his prowess as a winemaker*:

skill, expertise, mastery, facility, ability, capability, capacity, savoir faire, talent, genius, adeptness, aptitude, dexterity, deftness, competence, accomplishment, proficiency, finesse; informal know-how. **2** *the knights' prowess in battle*: courage, bravery, gallantry, valour, heroism, intrepidity, nerve, pluck, pluckiness, boldness, daring, audacity, fearlessness; informal bottle, guts, spunk; N. Amer. informal moxie, sand.

– OPPOSITES inability, ineptitude, cowardice.

**prowl** verb move stealthily, slink, skulk, steal, nose, pussyfoot, sneak, stalk, creep; informal snoop.

**proximity** noun closeness, nearness, propinquity; accessibility, handiness; old use vicinity.

**proxy** noun deputy, representative, substitute, delegate, agent, surrogate, stand-in, attorney, go-between.

**prude** noun puritan, prig, killjoy, moralist, pietist; informal goody-goody; N. Amer. informal bluenose.

**prudence** noun **1** *you have gone beyond the bounds of prudence*: wisdom, judgement, good judgement, common sense, sense, sagacity, shrewdness, advisability.

**2** *financial prudence*: caution, care, providence, far-sightedness, foresight, forethought, shrewdness, circumspection; thrift, economy.

– OPPOSITES folly, recklessness, extravagance.

**prudent** adjective **1** *it is prudent to obtain consent*: wise, well judged, sensible, politic, judicious, sagacious, sage, shrewd, advisable, well advised. **2** *a prudent approach to borrowing*: cautious, careful, provident, far-sighted, judicious, shrewd, circumspect; thrifty, economical.

– OPPOSITES unwise, reckless, extravagant.

**prudish** adjective puritanical, priggish, prim, prim and proper, moralistic, pietistic, sententious, censorious, strait-laced, Victorian, old-maidish, stuffy; informal goody-goody; rare Grundyish, starchy.

– OPPOSITES permissive.

**prune** verb **1** *I pruned the roses*: cut back, trim, thin, pinch back, clip, shear, pollard, top, dock. **2** *prune lateral shoots of wisteria*: cut off, lop (off), chop off, clip, snip (off), nip off, dock. **3** *staff numbers have been pruned*: reduce, cut (back/down), pare (down), slim down, make reductions in, make cutbacks in, trim, decrease, diminish, downsize, axe, shrink; informal slash.

– OPPOSITES increase.

**prurient** adjective salacious, licentious, voyeuristic, lascivious, lecherous, lustful, lewd, libidinous, lubricious; formal concupiscent.

**pry** verb enquire impertinently, be inquisitive, be curious, poke about/around, ferret (about/around), spy, be a busybody; eavesdrop, listen in, intrude; informal stick/poke one's nose in/into, be nosy, nose, snoop; Austral./NZ informal stickybeak.

– OPPOSITES mind one's own business.

**pssalm** noun sacred song, religious song, hymn, song of praise; chant, plainsong; (psalms) psalmody, psalter.

**pseud** noun poser, poseur, pretentious person, sham, fraud; informal show-off, phoney.

**pseudo** adjective bogus, sham, phoney, artificial, mock, ersatz, quasi-, fake, false, faux, spurious, deceptive, misleading, assumed, contrived, affected, insincere; informal pretend, put-on; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**pseudonym** noun pen name, nom de plume, assumed name, false name, alias, professional name, sobriquet, stage name, nom de guerre.

**psych** (informal) verb

■ **psych someone out** intimidate, daunt, browbeat, bully, cow, tyrannize, scare, terrorize, frighten, dishearten, unnerve, subdue; informal bulldoze; N. Amer. informal buffalo.

■ **psych oneself up** nerve oneself, steel oneself, brace oneself, summon one's courage, prepare oneself, gear oneself up, urge oneself on, gird (up) one's loins.

**psyche** noun soul, spirit, (inner) self, ego, true being, inner man/woman, persona, subconscious, mind, intellect; technical anima, pneuma.

– OPPOSITES body.

**psychiatrist** noun psychotherapist, psychoanalyst; informal shrink, head doctor; Brit. humorous trick cyclist.

**psychic** adjective 1 *psychic powers*: supernatural, paranormal, other-worldly, supernormal, preternatural, metaphysical, extrasensory, magic, magical, mystical, mystic, occult. 2 *I'm not psychic*: clairvoyant, telepathic, having second sight, having a sixth sense. 3 *psychic development*: emotional, spiritual, inner; cognitive, psychological, intellectual, mental, psychiatric, psychogenic.

– OPPOSITES normal, physical.

• noun *she is a psychic*: clairvoyant, fortune teller, crystal-gazer; medium, spiritualist; telepathist, telepath, mind-reader, palmist, palm-reader.

**psychological** adjective 1 *his psychological state*: mental, emotional, intellectual, inner, cerebral, brain, rational, cognitive. 2 *her pain was psychological*: (all) in the mind, psychosomatic, emotional, irrational, subjective, subconscious, unconscious.

– OPPOSITES physical.

**psychology** noun 1 *a degree in psychology*: study of the mind, science of the mind. 2 *the psychology of the road user*: mindset, mind, mental processes, thought processes, way of thinking, cast of mind, mentality, persona, psyche, (mental) attitude(s), make-up, character; informal what makes someone tick.

**psychopath** noun madman, madwoman, maniac, lunatic, psychotic, sociopath; informal loony, fruitcake, nutcase, nut, psycho,

schizo, head case, headbanger, sicko; Brit. informal nutter; N. Amer. informal screwball, crazy, kook, meshuggener.

**psychopathic** adjective. See MAD sense 1.

**psychosomatic** adjective (all) in the mind, psychological, irrational, stress-related, stress-induced, subjective, subconscious, unconscious.

**psychotic** adjective. See MAD sense 1.

**pub** noun (Brit.) bar, inn, tavern, hostelry, wine bar, taproom, roadhouse; Brit. public house; Austral./NZ hotel; informal watering hole; Brit. informal local, boozer; dated alehouse; historical pot-house, beerhouse; N. Amer. historical saloon.

**puberty** noun adolescence, pubescence, sexual maturity, growing up; youth, young adulthood, teenage years, teens, the awkward age; formal juvenescence.

**public** adjective 1 *public affairs*: state, national, federal, government; constitutional, civic, civil, official, social, municipal, community, communal, local; nationalized. 2 *by public demand*: popular, general, common, communal, collective, shared, joint, universal, widespread. 3 *a public figure*: prominent, well known, important, leading, eminent, distinguished, notable, noteworthy, noted, celebrated, household, famous, famed, influential; N. Amer. major-league. 4 *public places*: open (to the public), communal, accessible to all, available, free, unrestricted, community. 5 *the news became public*: known, published, publicized, in circulation, exposed, overt, plain, obvious.

– OPPOSITES private, obscure, unknown, restricted, secret.

• noun 1 *the British public*: people, citizens, subjects, general public, electors, electorate, voters, taxpayers, residents, inhabitants, citizenry, population, populace, community, society, country, nation, world; everyone. 2 *his adoring public*: audience, spectators, followers, following, fans, devotees, aficionados, admirers; patrons, clientele, market, consumers, buyers, customers, readers.

■ **in public** publicly, openly, in the open, in full view, for all to see, undisguisedly, blatantly, flagrantly, brazenly, overtly; formal coram populo.

#### WORD LINKS

agoraphobia fear of public places

**publication** noun 1 *the author of this publication*: book, volume, title, work, tome, opus; newspaper, paper, magazine, periodical, newsletter, bulletin, journal, report; organ, booklet, brochure, catalogue; daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual; informal rag, mag, 'zine. 2 *the publication of her new book*: issuing, announcement, publishing, printing, notification, reporting, declaration, communication, proclamation, broadcasting, publicizing, advertising, distribution, spreading, dissemination, promulgation, issuance, appearance.

**publicity** noun 1 *the blaze of publicity*: public



**attention**, public interest, public notice, media attention/interest, exposure, glare, limelight. **2** *publicity should boost sales: promotion*, advertising, propaganda; boost, push; informal hype, ballyhoo, puff, puffery, build-up, razzmatazz; plug.

**publicize** verb **1** *I never publicize the fact: make known*, make public, publish, announce, report, post, communicate, broadcast, issue, put out, distribute, spread, promulgate, disseminate, circulate, air; disclose, reveal, divulge, leak. **2** *he just wants to publicize his book: advertise*, promote, build up, talk up, push, beat the drum for, boost; informal hype, plug, puff (up).  
– **OPPOSITES** conceal, suppress.

**public-spirited** adjective community-minded, socially concerned, philanthropic, charitable; altruistic, humanitarian, generous, unselfish.

**publish** verb **1** *we publish novels: issue*, bring out, produce, print. **2** *he ought to publish his views: make known*, make public, publicize, announce, report, post, communicate, broadcast, issue, put out, distribute, spread, promulgate, disseminate, circulate, air; disclose, reveal, divulge, leak.

**pucker** verb *she puckered her forehead: wrinkle*, crinkle, crease, furrow, crumple, rumple, ruck up, scrunch up, corrugate, ruffle, screw up, shrivel; cockle.  
• **noun** *a pucker in the sewing: wrinkle*, crinkle, crumple, corrugation, furrow, line, fold.

**puckish** adjective mischievous, naughty, impish, roguish, playful, arch, prankish; informal waggish.

**pudding** noun dessert, sweet, second course, last course; Brit. informal afters, pud.

**puddle** noun pool, spill, splash; literary plash.

**puerile** adjective childish, immature, infantile, juvenile, babyish; silly, inane, fatuous, jejune, asinine, foolish, petty.

– **OPPOSITES** mature, sensible.

**puff** noun **1** *a puff of wind: gust*, blast, flurry, rush, draught, waft, breeze, breath. **2** *he took a puff at his cigar: pull*; informal drag. **3** (informal) *they expected a puff in our review column: favourable mention*, review, recommendation, good word, advertisement, promotion, commercial; informal ad; Brit. informal advert. **4** (informal) *a salesman's puff: publicity*, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, build-up; patter, line, pitch, sales talk; informal spiel.

• **verb** **1** *he walked fast, puffing a little: breathe heavily*, pant, blow; gasp, fight for breath. **2** *she puffed at her cigarette: smoke*, draw on, drag on, suck at/on. **3** (informal) *new ways to puff our products: advertise*, promote, publicize, push, recommend, endorse, beat the drum for; informal hype (up), plug.

■ **puff out/up** bulge, swell (out), stick out, distend, tumefy, balloon (up/out), expand, inflate, enlarge.

■ **puff something out/up** distend, expand,

dilate, inflate, blow up, pump up, enlarge, bloat.

**puffed** adjective out of breath, breathless, short of breath; panting, puffing, gasping, wheezing, wheezy, winded; informal out of puff.

**puffed-up** adjective self-important, conceited, arrogant, bumptious, pompous, overbearing; affected, stiff, vain, proud; informal snooty, uppity, uppish.

**puffy** adjective swollen, puffed up, distended, enlarged, inflated, dilated, bloated, engorged, bulging, tumid, tumescent.

**pugilism** noun (dated). See **BOXING**.

**pugilist** noun (dated) boxer, fighter, prizefighter; informal bruiser, pug.

**pugnacious** adjective combative, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, bellicose, warlike, quarrelsome, argumentative, contentious, disputatious, hostile, threatening, truculent; fiery, hot-tempered.

– **OPPOSITES** peaceable.

**puke** verb (informal). See **VOMIT** verb senses 1, 2.

**pukka** adjective (informal) **1** *the pukka thing to do: respectable*, decorous, proper, genteel, polite; conventional, right, correct, accepted, decent. **2** *pukka racing cars: genuine*, authentic, proper, actual, real, true, bona fide, veritable, legitimate; informal kosher, the real McCoy. **3** *a pukka meal: excellent*, very good, outstanding, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful, first-class; informal A1, ace, great, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, awesome, wicked; Brit. informal brilliant, brill.

– **OPPOSITES** improper, imitation, bad.

**pull** verb **1** *he pulled the box towards him: tug*, haul, drag, draw, tow, heave, lug, jerk, wrench; informal yank. **2** *he pulled the bad tooth out: extract*, take out, remove. **3** *he pulled a muscle: strain*, sprain, wrench, turn, rick, tear; damage. **4** *race day pulled big crowds: attract*, draw, bring in, pull in, lure, seduce, entice, tempt, beckon, interest, fascinate.

– **OPPOSITES** push, repel.

• **noun** **1** *give the chain a pull: tug*, jerk, heave; informal yank. **2** *she took a pull on her beer: gulp*, draught, drink, swallow, mouthful, slug; informal swill, swig. **3** *a pull on a cigarette: puff*; informal drag. **4** *she felt the pull of the sea: attraction*, draw, lure, allurement, enticement, magnetism, temptation, fascination, appeal. **5** *he has a lot of pull in finance: influence*, sway, power, authority, say, prestige, standing, weight, leverage, muscle, teeth; informal clout.

■ **pull something apart** dismantle, disassemble, take/pull to pieces, take/pull to bits, take apart, strip down; demolish, destroy, break up.

■ **pull back** withdraw, retreat, fall back, back off; pull out, retire, disengage; flee, turn tail.

■ **pull something down** demolish, knock down, tear down, dismantle, raze (to the ground), level, flatten, bulldoze, destroy.

■ **pull in** stop, halt, come to a halt, pull over, pull up, draw up, brake, park.

■ **pull someone/something in** **1** *they pulled*

in big audiences. See **PULL** verb sense 4.

**2** (informal) *the police pulled him in*: arrest, apprehend, detain, take into custody, seize, capture, catch; informal collar, nab, nick, pinch, run in, bust, feel someone's collar.

■ **pull someone's leg** tease, fool, play a trick on, rag, pull the wool over someone's eyes; informal kid, rib, lead up the garden path, take for a ride; Brit. informal wind up, have on.

■ **pull something off** achieve, fulfil, succeed in, accomplish, bring off, carry off, perform, discharge, complete, clinch, fix, effect, engineer.

■ **pull out** withdraw, resign, leave, retire, step down, bow out, back out, give up; informal quit.

■ **pull through** get better, get well again, improve, recover, rally, come through, recuperate.

■ **pull something to pieces** **1** *don't pull my radio to pieces*. See **PULL SOMETHING APART**.

**2** *they pulled the plan to pieces*: criticize, attack, censure, condemn, find fault with, pillory, maul, savage; informal knock, slam, pan, bash, crucify, lay into, roast; Brit. informal slate, rubbish, slag off.

■ **pull oneself together** regain one's composure, recover, get a grip on oneself, get over it; informal snap out of it, get one's act together, buck up.

■ **pull up**. See **PULL IN**.

■ **pull someone up** reprimand, rebuke, scold, chide, chastise, upbraid, berate, reprove, reproach, censure, take to task, admonish, lecture, read someone the Riot Act, haul over the coals; informal tell off, bawl out, dress down, give someone hell, give someone an earful; Brit. informal tick off, carpet, give someone a rollicking; N. Amer. informal chew out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate.

**pulp** noun **1** *he kneaded it into a pulp*: mush, mash, paste, purée, pomace, pap, slop, slush, mulch; informal gloop, goo; N. Amer. informal glop. **2** *the sweet pulp on cocoa seeds*: flesh, marrow, meat.

• **verb** *pulp the gooseberries*: mash, purée, cream, crush, press, liquidize, liquefy, sieve, squash, pound, macerate, grind, mince.

• **adjective** *pulp fiction*: trashy, cheap, sensational, lurid, tasteless; informal tacky, rubbishy.

**pulpit** noun stand, lectern, platform, podium, stage, dais, rostrum.

**pulsate** verb palpitate, pulse, throb, pump, undulate, surge, heave, rise and fall; beat, thump, drum, thrum; flutter, quiver.

**pulse** noun **1** *the pulse in her neck*: heartbeat, pulsation, pulsing, throbbing, pounding.

**2** *the pulse of the train wheels*: rhythm, beat, tempo, cadence, pounding, thudding, drumming. **3** *pulses of ultrasound*: burst, blast, spurt, impulse, surge.

• **verb** *music pulsed through the building*: throb, pulsate, vibrate, beat, pound, thud, thump, drum, thrum, reverberate, echo.

**pulverize** verb **1** *the seeds are pulverized into flour*: grind, crush, pound, powder, mill, crunch, squash, press, pulp, mash, sieve, mince, macerate; technical comminute.

**2** (informal) *he pulverized the opposition*. See **TROUCE**.

**pummel** verb batter, pound, belabour, drub, beat; punch, strike, hit, thump, thrash; informal clobber, wallop, bash, whack, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, biff, lay into, lam; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal bust, slug; Austral./NZ informal quilt; literary smite.

**pump** verb **1** *I pumped air out of the tube*: force, drive, push; suck, draw, tap, siphon, withdraw, expel, extract, bleed, drain. **2** *she pumped up the tyre*: inflate, aerate, blow up, fill up; swell, enlarge, distend, expand, dilate, puff up. **3** *blood was pumping from his leg*: spurt, spout, squirt, jet, surge, spew, gush, stream, flow, pour, spill, well, cascade, run, course. **4** (informal) *I pumped them for information*: interrogate, cross-examine, ask, question, quiz, probe, sound out, catechize, give someone the third degree; informal grill.

**pun** noun play on words, wordplay, double entendre, innuendo, witticism, quip, bon mot.

**punch**<sup>1</sup> verb *Jim punched him in the face*: hit, strike, thump, jab, smash, welt, cuff, clip; batter, buffet, pound, pummel; informal sock, slug, biff, bop, wallop, clobber, bash, whack, thwack, clout, lam, whomp; Brit. informal stick one on, dot, slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, bust; Austral./NZ informal quilt; literary smite.

• **noun** **1** *a punch on the nose*: blow, hit, knock, thump, box, jab, clip, welt; uppercut, hook; informal sock, slug, biff, bop, wallop, bash, whack, clout, belt; N. Amer. informal boff, bust; dated buffet. **2** *the album is full of punch*: vigour, liveliness, vitality, drive, strength, zest, verve, enthusiasm; impact, bite, kick; informal oomph, bang.

**punch**<sup>2</sup> verb *he punched her ticket*: make a hole in, perforate, puncture, pierce, prick, hole, spike, skewer; literary transpierce.

**punch-up** noun (Brit. informal). See **FIGHT** noun sense 1.

**punchy** adjective *punchy dialogue*: forceful, incisive, strong, powerful, vigorous, dynamic, effective, impressive, telling, compelling; dramatic, passionate, graphic, vivid, potent, authoritative, aggressive; informal in-your-face.

– **OPPOSITES** ineffectual.

**punctilio** noun **1** *a stickler for punctilio*:

conformity, conscientiousness, punctiliousness; etiquette, protocol, conventions, formalities, propriety, decorum, manners, politesse, good form, the done thing. **2** *the punctilios of court procedure*: nicety, detail, fine point, subtlety, nuance, refinement.

– **OPPOSITES** informality.

**punctilious** adjective meticulous, conscientious, diligent, scrupulous, careful, painstaking, rigorous, perfectionist, methodical, particular, strict; fussy, fastidious, finicky, pedantic; informal nit-picking, pernickety; N. Amer. informal persnickety; old use nice.

– OPPOSITES careless.

**punctual** adjective on time, prompt, on schedule, in (good) time; informal on the dot.

– OPPOSITES late.

**punctuate** verb **1** *how to punctuate direct speech: add punctuation to, put punctuation marks in, dot, apostrophize.* **2** *slides punctuated the talk: break up, interrupt, intersperse, pepper, sprinkle, scatter.*

**puncture** noun **1** *the tyre developed a puncture: hole, perforation, rupture; cut, slit; leak.* **2** *my car has a puncture: flat tyre; informal flat.*

• verb **1** *he punctured her balloon: make a hole in, pierce, rupture, perforate, stab, cut, slit, prick, spike, stick, lance; deflate.* **2** *she knows how to puncture his speeches: put an end to, cut short, deflate, reduce.*

**pundit** noun expert, authority, specialist, doyen(ne), master, guru, sage, savant; informal buff, whizz.

**pungent** adjective **1** *a pungent marinade: strong, powerful, pervasive, penetrating; sharp, acid, sour, biting, bitter, tart, vinegary, pungent, highly flavoured, aromatic, spicy, piquant, peppery, hot.* **2** *pungent remarks: caustic, biting, trenchant, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, acrimonious, barbed, sharp, tart, incisive, bitter, venomous, waspish.*

– OPPOSITES bland, mild.

**punish** verb **1** *they punished their children: discipline, bring someone to book, teach someone a lesson; tan someone's hide; informal murder, wallop, come down on (like a ton of bricks), have someone's guts for garters; Brit. informal give someone what for; dated chastise.* **2** *higher charges would punish the poor: penalize, unfairly disadvantage, handicap, hurt, wrong, ill-use, maltreat.* **3** *the strikers punished the defence's mistakes: exploit, take advantage of, turn to account, profit from, capitalize on, cash in on; informal walk all over.*

**punishable** adjective illegal, unlawful, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, actionable, indictable, penal; blameworthy, dishonest, fraudulent, unauthorized, outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, interdicted, proscribed.

**punishing** adjective *a punishing schedule: arduous, demanding, taxing, onerous, burdensome, strenuous, rigorous, stressful, trying; hard, difficult, tough, exhausting, tiring, gruelling, crippling, relentless; informal killing.*

– OPPOSITES easy.

**punishment** noun **1** *the punishment of the guilty: penalizing, punishing, disciplining; retribution; dated chastisement.* **2** *the teacher imposed punishments: penalty, penance, sanction, sentence, one's just deserts; discipline, correction, vengeance, justice, judgement; informal comeuppance.* **3** *both boxers took punishment: a battering, a thrashing, a beating, a drubbing; informal a hiding.* **4** *ovens take continual punishment:*

*maltreatment, mistreatment, abuse, ill-use, manhandling; damage, harm.*

#### WORD LINKS

**punitive**, **penal** relating to punishment  
**penology** the study of the punishment of crime

**condign** referring to punishment that is fitting and deserved

**impunity** freedom from punishment

**reprieve** the cancellation of a punishment

**punitive** adjective **1** *punitive measures: penal, disciplinary, corrective, correctional, retributive.* **2** *punitive taxes: harsh, severe, stiff, stringent, burdensome, demanding, crushing, crippling; high, sky-high, inflated, exorbitant, extortionate, excessive, inordinate, unreasonable; Brit. swingeing.*

**punter** noun **1** (informal) *each punter has a 1:39 chance: gambler, backer, staker, speculator, bettor; informal plunger, high roller.* **2** (Brit. informal) *sales bring the punters in: customer, client, patron; buyer, purchaser, shopper, consumer; (punters) clientele, audience, trade, business; Brit. informal bums on seats.*

**puny** adjective **1** *he grew up puny: undersized, undernourished, underfed, stunted, slight, small, little; weak, feeble, sickly, delicate, frail, fragile; informal weedy, pint-sized.* **2** *puny efforts to save their homes: pitiful, pitiable, inadequate, insufficient, derisory, miserable, sorry, meagre, paltry, trifling, inconsequential; informal pathetic, measly, piddling; formal exiguous.*

– OPPOSITES sturdy, substantial.

**pupil** noun **1** *former pupils of the school: student, scholar; schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl.* **2** *the guru's pupils: disciple, follower, student, protégé, apprentice, trainee, novice.*

**puppet** noun **1** *a show with puppets: marionette; glove puppet, hand puppet, finger puppet.* **2** *a puppet of the government: pawn, tool, instrument, cat's paw, poodle, creature, dupe; mouthpiece, minion, stooge.*

**purchase** verb *we purchased the software: buy, pay for, acquire, obtain, pick up, snap up, take, procure; invest in; informal get hold of, score.*

– OPPOSITES sell.

• noun **1** *he's happy with his purchase: acquisition, investment, order, bargain; shopping, goods; informal buy.* **2** *he could get no purchase on the wall: grip, grasp, hold, foothold, toehold, anchorage, attachment, support; resistance, friction, leverage.*

– OPPOSITES sale.

**purchaser** noun buyer, shopper, customer, consumer, patron; Law vendee.

**pure** adjective **1** *pure gold: unadulterated, uncontaminated, unmixed, undiluted, unalloyed, unblended; sterling, solid, refined, 100%; clarified, clear, filtered; flawless, perfect, genuine, real.* **2** *the air is so pure: clean, clear, fresh, sparkling, unpolluted, uncontaminated, untainted; wholesome, natural, healthy; sanitary, uninfected, disinfected, germ-free, sterile,*



sterilized, aseptic. **3** *pure in body and mind: virtuous, moral, ethical, good, righteous, saintly, honourable, reputable, wholesome, clean, honest, upright, upstanding, exemplary, irreproachable; chaste, virginal, maidenly; decent, worthy, noble, blameless, guiltless, spotless, unsullied, uncorrupted, undefiled; informal squeaky clean.* **4** *pure maths: theoretical, abstract, conceptual, academic, hypothetical, speculative, conjectural.* **5** *three hours of pure magic: sheer, utter, absolute, out-and-out, complete, total, perfect, unmitigated.*

– OPPOSITES adulterated, polluted, immoral, practical.

**pure-bred** adjective pedigree, thoroughbred, full-bred, blooded, pedigreed, pure.

– OPPOSITES hybrid.

**purely** adverb entirely, completely, absolutely, wholly, exclusively, solely, only, just, merely.

**purgative** noun laxative, evacuant; Medicine aperient; old use lenitive; dated purge.

**purgatory** noun torment, torture, misery, suffering, affliction, anguish, agony, woe, hell; an ordeal, a nightmare.

– OPPOSITES paradise.

**purge** verb **1** *he purged them of their doubt: cleanse, clear, purify, wash, shrive, absolve; rare lustrate.* **2** *lawbreakers were purged from the army: remove, get rid of, expel, eject, exclude, dismiss, sack, oust, eradicate, clear out, weed out.*

• noun *the purge of dissidents: removal, expulsion, ejection, exclusion, eviction, dismissal, sacking, ousting, eradication.*

**purify** verb **1** *trees help to purify the air: clean, cleanse, refine, decontaminate; filter, clarify, clear, freshen, deodorize; sanitize, disinfect, sterilize.* **2** *they purify themselves before the ceremony: purge, cleanse, unburden, deliver; redeem, shrive, exorcize, sanctify; rare lustrate.*

**purist** noun pedant, perfectionist, formalist, literalist, stickler, traditionalist, doctrinaire, quibbler, dogmatist; informal nit-picker; old use precisian.

**puritan** noun moralist, pietist, prude, prig, killjoy; ascetic; informal goody-goody, Holy Joe; N. Amer. informal bluenose.

**puritanical** adjective moralistic, puritan, pietistic, strait-laced, stuffy, prudish, prim, priggish; narrow-minded, sententious, censorious; austere, severe, ascetic, abstemious; informal goody-goody, starchy.

– OPPOSITES permissive.

**purity** noun **1** *the purity of our tap water: cleanness, clearness, clarity, freshness; sterility.* **2** *they sought purity in a foul world: virtue, morality, goodness, righteousness, saintliness, piety, honour, honesty, integrity, decency, ethicality, impeccability; innocence, chastity.*

**purloin** verb steal, thief, rob, take, snatch, pilfer, loot, appropriate; informal swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle; Brit. informal pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock

off, nobble; N. Amer. informal heist.

**purport** verb *this work purports to be authoritative: claim, profess, pretend; appear, seem; be ostensibly, pose as, impersonate, masquerade as, pass for.* • noun **1** *the purport of his remarks: gist, substance, drift, implication, intention, meaning, significance, sense, essence, thrust, message.* **2** *the purport of the attack: intention, purpose, object, objective, aim, goal, target, end, design, idea.*

**purpose** noun **1** *the purpose of his visit: motive, motivation, grounds, cause, occasion, reason, point, basis, justification.* **2** *their purpose was to subvert the economy: intention, aim, object, objective, goal, end, plan, scheme, target; ambition, aspiration.* **3** *I cannot see any purpose in it: advantage, benefit, good, use, value, merit, worth, profit; informal mileage, percentage.* **4** *the original purpose of the porch: function, role, use.* **5** *they started the game with purpose: determination, resolution, resolve, steadfastness, backbone, drive, push, enthusiasm, ambition, motivation, commitment, conviction, dedication; informal get-up-and-go.*

• verb (formal) *they purposed to reach the summit: intend, mean, aim, plan, design, have the intention; decide, resolve, determine, propose, aspire, set one's sights on.*

■ on purpose deliberately, intentionally, purposely, by design, wilfully, knowingly, consciously, of one's own volition; expressly, specifically, especially, specially.

**purposeful** adjective determined, resolute, steadfast, single-minded; enthusiastic, motivated, committed, dedicated, persistent, dogged, unfaltering, unshakeable.

– OPPOSITES aimless.

**purse** noun **1** *the money fell out of her purse: wallet, money bag; N. Amer. change purse, billfold.* **2** (N. Amer.) *a woman's purse.* See **HANDBAG.** **3** *the public purse: fund(s), kitty, coffers, pool, bank, treasury, exchequer; money, finances, wealth, reserves, cash, capital, assets.* **4** *the fight will net him a \$75,000 purse: prize, reward, award; winnings, stake(s).*

• verb *he pursed his lips: press together, compress, tighten, pucker, pout.*

**pursuance** noun (formal) **1** *he was arrested in pursuance of this Act: execution, discharge, implementation, performance, accomplishment, fulfilment, dispatch, prosecution, enforcement.* **2** *their pursuance of power: search for, pursuit of, quest for, hunt for.*

**pursue** verb **1** *I pursued him down the garden: follow, run after, chase; hunt, stalk, track, trail, shadow, hound, course; informal tail.* **2** *pursue the goal of political union: strive for, work towards, seek, search for, aim at/for, aspire to.* **3** *he had been pursuing her for weeks: woo, pay court to, chase, run after; informal make up to; dated court, make love to, romance, set one's cap at.* **4** *she pursued a*

**political career:** engage in, be occupied in, practise, follow, prosecute, conduct, ply, take up, undertake, carry on. **5** *we will not pursue the matter:* investigate, research, inquire into, look into, examine, scrutinize, analyse, delve into, probe.

– OPPOSITES avoid, shun.

**pursuit** noun **1** *the pursuit of profit:* striving towards, quest after/for, search for; aim, goal, objective, dream. **2** *a worthwhile pursuit:* activity, hobby, pastime, diversion, recreation, relaxation, divertissement, amusement; occupation, trade, vocation, business, work, job, employment.

**purvey** verb sell, supply, provide, furnish, cater, retail, deal in, trade, stock, offer; peddle, hawk, tout, traffic in; informal flog.

**purveyor** noun seller, vendor, retailer, supplier, stockist, trader, pedlar, hawker; Brit. tout.

**pus** noun suppuration, matter; discharge, secretion.

#### WORD LINKS

purulent containing pus  
maturate, suppurate form pus

**push** verb **1** *she tried to push him away:* shove, thrust, propel; send, drive, force, prod, poke, nudge, elbow, shoulder; sweep, bundle, hustle, manhandle. **2** *she pushed her way into the flat:* force, shove, thrust, squeeze, jostle, elbow, shoulder, bundle, hustle; work, inch. **3** *he pushed the panic button:* press, depress, bear down on, hold down, squeeze; operate, activate. **4** *don't push her to join in:* urge, press, pressure, pressurize, force, impel, coerce, nag; prevail on, browbeat into; informal lean on, twist someone's arm, bulldoze. **5** *they push their own products:* advertise, publicize, promote, bang the drum for; sell, market, merchandise; informal plug, hype (up), puff, flog; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo.

– OPPOSITES pull.

• noun **1** *I felt a push in the back:* shove, thrust, nudge, ram, bump, jolt, butt, prod, poke. **2** *the enemy's eastward push:* advance, drive, thrust, charge, attack, assault, onslaught, onrush, offensive, sortie, sally, incursion.

■ **at a push** (Brit. informal) if necessary, if need be, if needs must, if all else fails, in an emergency.

■ **push someone around** bully, domineer, ride roughshod over, trample on, bulldoze, browbeat, tyrannize, intimidate, threaten, victimize, pick on; informal lean on, boss about/around.

■ **push for** demand, call for, request, press for, campaign for, lobby for, speak up for; urge, promote, advocate, champion, espouse.

■ **push off** (informal) go away, depart, leave, get out; go, get moving, be off (with you), shoo; informal skedaddle, split, scam, run along, beat it, get lost, shove off, buzz off, clear off, on your bike; Brit. informal get stuffed, sling your hook, hop it, bog off, naff off; N. Amer. informal bug off, take a powder,

take a hike; Austral./NZ informal rack off, nick off; literary begone.

■ **push on** press on, continue one's journey, carry on, advance, proceed, go on, progress, make headway, forge ahead.

**pushover** noun **1** *the teacher was a pushover:* weakling, feeble opponent, man of straw; informal soft touch, easy touch, easy meat.

**2** *this course is no pushover:* easy task, walkover, five-finger exercise, gift; child's play; informal doddle, piece of cake, picnic, money for old rope, cinch, breeze, walk in the park; Brit. informal doss; N. Amer. informal duck soup, snap; Austral./NZ informal bludge; dated snip.

**pushy** adjective assertive, self-assertive, overbearing, domineering, aggressive, forceful, forward, bold, bumptious, officious; thrusting, ambitious, overconfident, cocky; informal bossy; dated pushful.

– OPPOSITES submissive.

**pusillanimous** adjective timid, timorous, cowardly, fearful, faint-hearted, lily-livered, spineless, craven, shrinking; informal chicken, gutless, wimpy, wimpish, sissy, yellow, yellow-bellied.

– OPPOSITES brave.

**pussyfoot** verb **1** *you can't pussyfoot around with this:* equivocate, tergiversate, be evasive, be non-committal, sidestep the issue, prevaricate, quibble, hedge, beat about the bush; Brit. hum and haw; informal duck the question, sit on the fence, shilly-shally. **2** *I had to pussyfoot over the gravel:* creep, tiptoe, pad, soft-shoe, steal, sneak, slink.

**pustule** noun pimple, spot, bleb, boil, swelling, eruption, carbuncle, blister, abscess; informal whitehead, zit; Scottish informal plook; technical comedo, papule.

**put** verb **1** *she put the parcel on a chair:* place, set (down), lay (down), deposit, position, settle; leave, plant; informal stick, dump, bung, park, plonk, pop; N. Amer. informal plunk. **2** *he didn't want to be put in a category:* assign to, consign to, allocate to, place in. **3** *don't put the blame on me:* lay, pin, place, fix; attribute to, impute to, assign to, allocate to, ascribe to. **4** *the proposals put to the committee:* submit, present, tender, offer, proffer, advance, suggest, propose. **5** *she put it bluntly:* express, word, phrase, frame, formulate, render, convey, couch; state, say, utter. **6** *he put the cost at £8,000:* estimate, calculate, reckon, gauge, assess, evaluate, value, judge, measure, compute, fix, set; informal guesstimate.

■ **put something about** the rumour had been put about: spread, circulate, make public, disseminate, broadcast, publicize, pass on, propagate, bandy about.

■ **put something across/over** communicate, convey, get across/over, explain, make clear, spell out, clarify; get through to someone.

■ **put something aside** **1** *we've got a bit put aside in the bank:* save, put by, set aside, deposit, reserve, store, stockpile, hoard,

stow, cache; informal salt away, squirrel away, stash away. **2** *they put aside their differences*: disregard, set aside, ignore, forget, discount, bury.

■ **put someone away** (informal) *they put him away for life*: jail, imprison, put in prison, put behind bars, lock up, incarcerate; informal cage; Brit. informal bang up, send down; N. Amer. informal jug.

■ **put something away** **1** *she never puts her things away*: replace, put back, tidy away, tidy up, clear away. **2** (informal) *she can put away a lot of food*. See **EAT** sense 1.

■ **put someone down** **1** (informal) *he often puts me down*: criticize, belittle, disparage, deprecate, denigrate, slight, humiliate, shame, crush, squash, deflate; informal show up, cut down to size. **2** *I put him down as shy*: consider to be, judge to be, reckon to be, take to be; regard, have down, take for.

■ **put something down** **1** *he put his ideas down on paper*: write down, note down, jot down, take down, set down; list, record, register, log. **2** *they put down the rebellion*: suppress, check, crush, quash, squash, quell, overthrow, stamp out, repress, subdue. **3** *the horse had to be put down*: destroy, put to sleep, put out of its misery, put to death, kill. **4** *put it down to the heat*: attribute, ascribe, chalk up, impute; blame on.

■ **put something forward**. See **PUT** sense 4.

■ **put in for** apply for, put in an application for, try for; request, seek, ask for.

■ **put someone off** deter, discourage, dissuade, daunt, unnerve, intimidate, scare off, repel, repulse; distract, disturb, divert, sidetrack; informal turn off.

■ **put something off** postpone, defer, delay, put back, adjourn, hold over, reschedule, shelve, table; informal put on ice, put on the back burner.

■ **put it on** pretend, play-act, make believe, fake it, go through the motions.

■ **put something on** **1** *she put on jeans*: dress in, don, pull on, throw on, slip into, change into; informal doll oneself up in. **2** *I put the light on*: switch on, turn on, activate. **3** *they put on an extra train*: provide, lay on, supply, make available. **4** *the museum put on an exhibition*: organize, stage, mount, present, produce. **5** *she put on an American accent*: feign, fake, simulate, affect, assume. **6** *he put a fiver on Oxford United*: bet, gamble, stake, wager; place, lay; risk, chance, hazard.

■ **put someone out** **1** *Maria was put out by the slur*: annoy, anger, irritate, offend, affront, displease, irk, vex, pique, nettle, gall, upset; informal rile, miff, peeve; Brit. informal nark. **2** *I don't want to put you out*: inconvenience, trouble, bother, impose on, disoblige; formal discommode.

■ **put something out** **1** *firemen put out the blaze*: extinguish, quench, douse, smother; blow out, snuff out. **2** *he put out a press release*: issue, publish, release, bring out, circulate, publicize, post.

■ **put someone up** **1** *we can put him up*

*for a few days*: accommodate, house, take in, lodge, quarter, billet; give someone a roof over their head. **2** *they put up a candidate*: nominate, propose, put forward, recommend.

■ **put something up** **1** *the building was put up 100 years ago*: build, construct, erect, raise. **2** *she put up a poster*: display, pin up, stick up, hang up, post. **3** *we put up alternative schemes*: propose, put forward, present, submit, suggest, tender. **4** *the chancellor put up taxes*: increase, raise; informal jack up, hike, bump up. **5** *he put up most of the funding*: provide, supply, furnish, give, contribute, donate, pledge, pay; informal fork out, cough up, shell out; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up.

■ **put upon** (informal) take advantage of, impose on, exploit, use, misuse; informal walk all over.

■ **put someone up to something** (informal) persuade to, encourage to, urge to, egg on to, incite to, goad into.

■ **put up with** tolerate, take, stand (for), accept, stomach, swallow, endure, bear, support, take something lying down; informal abide, lump it; Brit. informal stick, be doing with; formal brook; old use suffer.

**putative** adjective supposed, assumed, presumed; accepted, recognized; commonly regarded, presumptive, alleged, reputed, reported, rumoured.

**putrefy** verb decay, rot, decompose, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate; moulder.

**putrid** adjective decomposing, decaying, rotting, rotten, bad, off, putrefied, putrescent, rancid, mouldy; foul, fetid, rank.

**puzzle** verb **1** *her decision puzzled me*: perplex, confuse, bewilder, bemuse, baffle, mystify, confound, nonplus; informal flummox, faze, stump, beat; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** *she puzzled over the problem*: think hard about, mull over, muse over, ponder, contemplate, meditate on, consider, deliberate on, chew over, wonder about. **3** *she tried to puzzle out what he meant*: work out, understand, comprehend, sort out, reason out, solve, make sense of, make head or tail of, unravel, decipher; informal figure out, suss out.

• **noun** *the poem has always been a puzzle*: enigma, mystery, paradox, conundrum, poser, riddle, problem; informal stumper.

**puzzled** adjective perplexed, confused, bewildered, bemused, baffled, mystified, confounded, nonplussed, at a loss, at sea; informal flummoxed, stumped, fazed, clueless; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.

**puzzling** adjective baffling, perplexing, bewildering, confusing, complicated, unclear, mysterious, enigmatic, ambiguous, obscure, abstruse, unfathomable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, cryptic.

– **OPPOSITES** clear.

**pyromaniac** noun arsonist, incendiary; Brit. fire-raiser; informal firebug, pyro; N. Amer. informal torch.



# Qq

**quack** **noun** **1** *a quack selling fake medicines:* swindler, charlatan, mountebank, trickster, fraud, fraudster, impostor, hoaxer, sharper; informal con man, shark; Brit. informal twister; N. Amer. informal grifter; Austral. informal shicer. **2** (Brit. informal) *get the quack to examine you.* See **DOCTOR** **noun**.

**quadrangle** **noun** *courtyard, quad, court, cloister, precinct; square, plaza, piazza.*

**quaff** **verb** *drink, swallow, gulp (down), guzzle, slurp, down, drain, empty; imbibe, partake of, consume, sup, sip; informal sink, kill, slug, swig, swill, slug, knock back, toss off; Brit. informal get outside (of), shift, murder, neck; N. Amer. informal chug, snarf (down).*

**quagmire** **noun** **1** *the field became a quagmire:* swamp, morass, bog, marsh, mire, slough; old use quag. **2** *a judicial quagmire:* muddle, mix-up, mess, predicament, mare's nest, quandary, tangle, imbroglio; trouble, confusion, difficulty; informal sticky situation, pickle, stew, dilemma, fix, bind.

**quail** **verb** *cower, cringe, flinch, shrink, recoil, shy (away), pull back; shiver, tremble, shake, quake, blench, blanch.*

**quaint** **adjective** **1** *a quaint town:* picturesque, charming, sweet, attractive, old-fashioned, old-world; Brit. twee; N. Amer. cunning; mock old use olde (worlde). **2** *quaint customs:* unusual, different, out of the ordinary, curious, eccentric, quirky, bizarre, whimsical, unconventional; informal offbeat. – **OPPOSITES** ugly, ordinary.

**quake** **verb** **1** *the ground quaked:* shake, tremble, quiver, shudder, sway, rock, wobble, move, heave, convulse. **2** *we quaked when we saw the soldiers:* tremble, shake, quiver, shiver; blench, blanch, flinch, shrink, recoil, cower, cringe.

**qualification** **noun** **1** *a teaching qualification:* certificate, diploma, degree, licence, document, warrant; eligibility, acceptability, adequacy; proficiency, skill, ability, capability, aptitude. **2** *I can't accept it without qualification:* modification, limitation, reservation, stipulation; alteration, amendment, revision, moderation, mitigation; condition, proviso, caveat.

**qualified** **adjective** *certified, certificated, chartered, licensed, professional; trained, fit,*

*competent, accomplished, proficient, skilled, experienced, expert.*

**qualify** **verb** **1** *I qualify for free travel:* be eligible, meet the requirements; be entitled to, be permitted. **2** *they qualify as refugees:* count, be considered, be designated, be eligible. **3** *she qualified as a solicitor:* be certified, be licensed; pass, graduate, make the grade, succeed, pass muster. **4** *the course qualified them to teach:* authorize, empower, allow, permit, license; equip, prepare, train, educate, teach. **5** *they qualified their findings:* modify, limit, restrict, make conditional; moderate, temper, modulate, mitigate.

**quality** **noun** **1** *a poor quality of signal:* standard, grade, class, calibre, condition, character, nature, form, rank, value, level; sort, type, kind, variety. **2** *work of such quality:* excellence, superiority, merit, worth, value, virtue, calibre, eminence, distinction, incomparability; talent, skill, virtuosity, craftsmanship. **3** *her good qualities:* feature, trait, attribute, characteristic, point, aspect, facet, side, property.

**qualm** **noun** *misgiving, doubt, reservation, second thought, worry, concern, anxiety; (qualms) hesitation, hesitance, hesitancy, demur, reluctance, disinclination, apprehension, trepidation, unease; scruples, remorse, compunction.*

**quandary** **noun** *predicament, plight, difficult situation, awkward situation; trouble, muddle, mess, confusion, difficulty, mare's nest; informal dilemma, sticky situation, pickle, hole, stew, fix, bind, jam.*

**quantity** **noun** **1** *the quantity of food collected:* amount, total, aggregate, sum, quota, mass, weight, volume, bulk; quantum, proportion, portion, part. **2** *a quantity of ammunition:* amount, lot, great deal, good deal, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion, plenty; informal piles, oodles, tons, lots, loads, heaps, masses, stacks, bags; Brit. informal shedloads.

**quarrel** **noun** *they had a quarrel about money:* argument, disagreement, squabble, fight, dispute, wrangle, clash, altercation, feud, contretemps, disputation, falling-out, war of words, shouting match; informal tiff, slanging match, run-in; Brit. informal barney,

row, bust-up.

• **verb** *don't quarrel over it*: argue, fight, disagree, fall out; differ, be at odds; bicker, squabble, cross swords, lock horns, be at each other's throats; informal argufy; Brit. informal row.

■ **quarrel with you can't quarrel with the verdict**: fault, criticize, object to, oppose, take exception to; attack, take issue with, impugn, contradict, dispute, controvert; informal knock; formal gainsay.

**quarrelsome** adjective argumentative, disputatious, confrontational, captious, pugnacious, combative, antagonistic, bellicose, belligerent, cantankerous, choleric; Brit. informal strop; N. Amer. informal scrappy.

– OPPOSITES peaceable.

**quarry** noun prey, victim; object, goal, target; kill, game.

**quarter** noun **1** *the Latin quarter*: district, area, region, part, side, neighbourhood, precinct, locality, sector, zone; ghetto, community, enclave. **2** *help from an unexpected quarter*: source, direction, place, location; person. **3** *the servants' quarters*: accommodation, lodgings, rooms, chambers; home; informal pad, digs; formal abode, residence, domicile. **4** *the riot squads gave no quarter*: mercy, leniency, clemency, lenity, compassion, pity, charity, sympathy, tolerance.

• **verb** **1** *they were quartered in a villa*: accommodate, house, board, lodge, put up, take in, install, shelter; Military billet. **2** *I quartered the streets*: patrol, range over, tour, reconnoitre, traverse, survey, scout; Brit. informal recce.

**quash** verb **1** *he may quash the sentence*: cancel, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, countermand, withdraw, overturn, overrule, veto, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void; Law vacate; formal abrogate. **2** *we want to quash these rumours*: put an end to, put a stop to, stamp out, crush, put down, check, curb, nip in the bud, squash, quell, subdue, suppress, extinguish, stifle; informal squelch, put the kibosh on.

– OPPOSITES validate.

**quasi-** combining form **1** *quasi-scientific*: supposedly, seemingly, apparently, allegedly, ostensibly, on the face of it, on the surface, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, purportedly, nominally; pseudo- **2** *a quasi-autonomous organization*: partly, partially, part, to a certain extent, to some extent, half, relatively, comparatively, (up) to a point; almost, nearly, just about, all but.

**quaver** verb tremble, waver, quiver, shake, vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, falter, warble.

**quay** noun wharf, pier, jetty, landing stage, berth; marina, dock, harbour.

**queasy** adjective nauseous, nauseated, bilious, sick; ill, unwell, poorly, green about the gills; Brit. off colour.

**queen** noun **1** *the Queen was crowned*: monarch, sovereign, ruler, head of state;

Her Majesty; king's consort, queen consort.

**2** (informal) *the queen of soul music*: **doyenne**, star, superstar, leading light, big name, queen bee, prima donna, idol, heroine, favourite, darling, goddess.

**queer** adjective **1** *it seemed queer to see him here*: odd, strange, unusual, funny, peculiar, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, freakish, eerie, unnatural; unconventional, unorthodox, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, anomalous, atypical, untypical, out of the ordinary, incongruous, irregular; puzzling, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable; informal fishy, creepy, spooky, freaky; Brit. informal rum. **2** (Brit. informal, dated) *the pills made her feel queer*. See **ILL** adjective sense 1.

– OPPOSITES normal, well.

• **verb** *he queered the whole deal*: spoil, ruin, wreck, destroy, scotch, disrupt, undo, thwart, foil, blight, cripple, jeopardize, threaten, undermine, compromise; informal botch, blow, put the kibosh on; Brit. informal scupper.

**quell** verb **1** *troops quelled the unrest*: put an end to, put a stop to, end, crush, put down, check, crack down on, curb, nip in the bud, squash, quash, subdue, suppress, overcome; informal squelch. **2** *he quelled his misgivings*: calm, soothe, pacify, settle, quieten, quiet, silence, allay, assuage, mitigate, moderate; literary stay.

**quench** verb **1** *they quenched their thirst*: satisfy, slake, sate, satiate, gratify, relieve, assuage, take the edge off, indulge; lessen, reduce, diminish, check, suppress, extinguish, overcome. **2** *the flames were quenched*: extinguish, put out, snuff out, smother, douse.

**querulous** adjective petulant, peevish, pettish, complaining, fractious, fretful, irritable, testy, tetchy, cross, snappish, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, miserable, moody, grumpy, bad-tempered, sullen, sulky, sour, churlish; informal snappy, grouchy, whiny; Brit. informal ratty, cranky; N. English informal mardy; N. Amer. informal soreheaded.

**query** noun **1** *we are happy to answer any queries*: question, enquiry; Brit. informal quiz. **2** *there was a query as to who owned the hotel*: doubt, uncertainty, question (mark), reservation; scepticism.

• **verb** **1** *'Why do that?' queried Isobel*: ask, enquire, question; Brit. informal quiz. **2** *folk may query his credentials*: question, call into question, challenge, dispute, cast aspersions on, doubt, have suspicions about, have reservations about.

**quest** noun **1** *their quest for her killer*: search, hunt; pursuance of. **2** *Sir Galahad's quest*: expedition, journey, voyage, trek, travels, odyssey, adventure, exploration, search; crusade, mission, pilgrimage.

■ **in quest of** in search of, in pursuit of, seeking, looking for, on the lookout for, after.

**question** noun **1** *please answer my question*: enquiry, query; interrogation;

Brit. informal quiz. **2** *there is no question that he is ill*: **doubt**, dispute, argument, debate, uncertainty, dubiousness, reservation; formal dubiety. **3** *the political questions of the day*: **issue**, matter, business, problem, concern, topic, theme, case; debate, argument, dispute, controversy.

– **OPPOSITES** answer, certainty.

• **verb 1** *the magistrate questions the suspect*: **interrogate**, cross-examine, cross-question, quiz, catechize; interview, debrief, examine, give the third degree to; informal grill, pump. **2** *she questioned his motives*: **query**, call into question, challenge, dispute, cast aspersions on, doubt, suspect, have suspicions about, have reservations about.

■ **beyond question 1** *her loyalty is beyond question*: undoubted, beyond doubt, certain, indubitable, indisputable, incontrovertible, unquestionable, undeniable, clear, patent, manifest. **2** *the results demonstrated this beyond question*: indisputably, irrefutably, incontestably, incontrovertibly, unquestionably, undeniably, undoubtedly, beyond doubt, without doubt, clearly, patently, obviously.

■ **in question** at issue, under discussion, under consideration, on the agenda, to be decided.

■ **out of the question** impossible, impracticable, unfeasible, unworkable, inconceivable, unimaginable, unrealizable, unsuitable; informal not on.

#### WORD LINKS

**interrogative** relating to questions  
**catechism** questions and answers used for teaching the principles of Christianity  
**rhetorical** referring to a question asked for effect rather than to obtain an answer

**questionable adjective 1** *jokes of questionable taste*: **doubtful**, dubious, uncertain, debatable, controversial, contentious, arguable; unverified, unprovable, unresolved, unconvincing, implausible, improbable; borderline, marginal, moot; informal iffy; Brit. informal dodgy. **2** *questionable financial dealings*: **suspicious**, suspect, dubious, irregular, odd, strange, murky, dark, unsavoury, disreputable; informal funny, fishy, shady, iffy; Brit. informal dodgy.

– **OPPOSITES** indisputable, honest.

**questionnaire noun** *question sheet*, survey form, opinion poll; test, exam, examination, quiz; Medicine questionnaire.

**queue noun 1** *a queue of people*: **line**, row, column, file, chain, string; procession, train, cavalcade; waiting list; N. Amer. wait list; Brit. informal crocodile. **2** *a traffic queue*: (**traffic**) **jam**, tailback, gridlock; N. Amer. back-up; informal snarl-up.

• **verb** *we queued for ice creams*: **line up**, form a queue, queue up, wait in line, form a line, fall in.

**quibble noun** *I have just one quibble*: **criticism**, objection, complaint, protest, argument, exception, grumble, grouse, cavil; informal niggle, moan, gripe, beef, grouch.

• **verb** *no one quibbled with the title*: **object** to, find fault with, complain about, cavil at; split hairs, chop logic; criticize, query, fault, pick holes in; informal nit-pick; old use pettifog.

**quick adjective 1** *a quick worker*: **fast**, swift, rapid, speedy, high-speed, expeditious, brisk, smart; lightning, whirlwind, fast-track, breakneck, whistle-stop; informal nippy, zippy; literary fleet. **2** *she took a quick look*: **hasty**, hurried, cursory, perfunctory, desultory, superficial, summary; brief, short, fleeting, transient, transitory, short-lived, lightning, momentary. **3** *a quick end to the recession*: **sudden**, instantaneous, immediate, instant, abrupt, precipitate. **4** *she isn't as quick as the others*: **intelligent**, bright, clever, gifted, able, astute, quick-witted, sharp-witted, smart; observant, alert, sharp, perceptive; informal brainy, on the ball, quick on the uptake.

– **OPPOSITES** slow, long.

**quicken verb 1** *she quickened her pace*: **speed up**, accelerate, step up, hasten, hurry (up); informal gee up. **2** *the film quickened his interest in nature*: **stimulate**, excite, arouse, rouse, stir up, activate, galvanize, whet, inspire, kindle; invigorate, revive, revitalize.

**quickly adverb 1** *he walked quickly*: **fast**, swiftly, briskly, rapidly, speedily, at the speed of light, at full tilt, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a gallop, at the double, post-haste, hotfoot; informal double quick, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), like (greased) lightning, hell for leather, like mad, like blazes, like the wind; Brit. informal like the clappers, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; literary apace. **2** *you'd better leave quickly*: **immediately**, directly, at once, now, straight away, right away, instantly, forthwith, without delay, without further ado; soon, promptly, early; N. Amer. momentarily; informal like a shot, asap (as soon as possible), pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson, straight off. **3** *he quickly inspected it*: **briefly**, fleetingly, briskly; hastily, hurriedly, cursorily, perfunctorily, superficially, desultorily.

**quick-tempered adjective irritable**, irascible, hot-tempered, short-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile; cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy, prickly, choleric; informal snappy, chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse; Brit. informal narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal soreheaded.

– **OPPOSITES** placid.

**quick-witted adjective intelligent**, bright, clever, gifted, able, astute, quick, smart, sharp-witted; observant, alert, sharp, perceptive; informal brainy, on the ball, quick on the uptake.

– **OPPOSITES** slow.

**quid pro quo noun** *exchange*, trade, trade-off, swap, switch, barter, substitute, reciprocation, return; amends, compensation, recompense, restitution, reparation.



**quiescent** adjective inactive, inert, idle, dormant, at rest, inoperative, deactivated, quiet; still, motionless, immobile, passive.

– OPPOSITES active.

**quiet** adjective **1** *the whole pub went quiet:* silent, still, hushed, noiseless, soundless; mute, dumb, speechless. **2** *a quiet voice:* soft, low, muted, muffled, faint, indistinct, inaudible, hushed, whispered, suppressed. **3** *a quiet village:* peaceful, sleepy, tranquil, calm, still, restful, undisturbed, untroubled; unfrequented. **4** *can I have a quiet word?* private, confidential, secret, discreet, unofficial, off the record, between ourselves. **5** *quiet colours:* unobtrusive, restrained, muted, understated, subdued, subtle, low-key; soft, pale, pastel. **6** *you can't keep it quiet for long:* secret, confidential, classified, unrevealed, undisclosed, unknown, under wraps; informal hush-hush, mum; formal sub rosa. **7** *business is quiet:* slow, stagnant, slack, sluggish, inactive, idle.

– OPPOSITES loud, busy, public.  
• noun *the quiet of the countryside:* peacefulness, peace, restfulness, calm, tranquillity, serenity; silence, quietness, stillness, still, quietude, hush, soundlessness.

**quieten** verb **1** *quieten the children down:* silence, hush, shush, quiet; informal shut up. **2** *her companions quietened:* fall silent, stop talking, break off, shush, hold one's tongue; informal shut up, clam up, shut it, pipe down, shut one's mouth, put a sock in it, button it. **3** *he tried to quieten manic patients:* pacify, calm (down), soothe, subdue, tranquillize, relax, comfort, compose.

**quietly** adverb **1** *she quietly entered the room:* silently, in silence, noiselessly, soundlessly, inaudibly; mutely, dumbly. **2** *he spoke quietly:* softly, in a low voice, in a whisper, in a murmur, under one's breath, in an undertone, sotto voce, gently, faintly, weakly, feebly. **3** *some bonds were sold quietly:* discreetly, privately, confidentially, secretly, unofficially, off the record. **4** *she is quietly confident:* calmly, patiently, placidly, serenely.

**quilt** noun duvet, cover(s); Brit. eiderdown; N. Amer. comforter, puff; Austral. trademark Doona.

**quintessence** noun **1** *it's the quintessence of the modern home:* perfect example, exemplar, prototype, stereotype, picture, epitome, embodiment, ideal; best, pick, prime, acme, crème de la crème. **2** *the quintessence of intelligence:* essence, soul, spirit, nature, core, heart, crux, kernel, marrow, substance; informal nitty-gritty; Philosophy quiddity, esse.

**quintessential** adjective typical, prototypical, stereotypical, archetypal, classic, model, standard, stock, representative, conventional; ideal, consummate, exemplary, best, ultimate.

**quip** noun *the quip provoked a smile:* joke, witty remark, witticism, jest, pun, sally, pleasantry, bon mot; informal one-liner, gag,

crack, wisecrack, funny.

• verb *'Enjoy your trip?' he quipped:* joke, jest, pun, sally; informal gag, wisecrack.

**quirk** noun **1** *they all know his quirks:* idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, foible, whim, vagary, caprice, fancy, crotchet, habit, characteristic, trait, fad; informal hang-up. **2** *a quirk of fate:* chance, fluke, freak, anomaly, twist.

**quirky** adjective eccentric, idiosyncratic, unconventional, unorthodox, unusual, strange, bizarre, peculiar, odd, outlandish, zany; informal wacky, freaky, kinky, way-out, far out, kooky, offbeat.

– OPPOSITES conventional.

**quisling** noun collaborator, fraternizer, colluder, sympathizer; traitor, turncoat, back-stabber, double-crosser, defector, Judas, snake in the grass, fifth columnist.

**quit** verb **1** *he quit the office at 12.30:* leave, vacate, exit, depart from, withdraw from; abandon, desert. **2** (informal) *he's decided to quit his job:* resign from, leave, give up, hand in one's notice, stand down from, relinquish, vacate, walk out on, retire from; informal chuck, pack in. **3** (informal) *quit living in the past:* give up, stop, cease, discontinue, drop, break off, abandon, abstain from, desist from, refrain from, avoid, forgo; informal pack (it) in, leave off.

**quite** adverb **1** *two quite different types:* completely, entirely, totally, wholly, absolutely, utterly, thoroughly, altogether. **2** *red hair was quite common:* fairly, rather, somewhat, slightly, relatively, comparatively, moderately, reasonably, to a certain extent; informal pretty, kind of, sort of.

**quiver** verb **1** *I quivered with terror:* tremble, shake, shiver, quaver, quake, shudder. **2** *the bird quivers its wings:* flutter, flap, beat, agitate, vibrate.

• noun *a quiver in her voice:* tremor, tremble, shake, quaver, flutter, fluctuation, waver.

**quixotic** adjective idealistic, romantic, visionary, Utopian, extravagant, starry-eyed, unrealistic, unworldly; impracticable, unworkable, impossible.

**quiz** noun **1** *a music quiz:* competition, test. **2** (informal) *jockey faces quiz over bribes:* interrogation, questioning, interview, examination, the third degree; informal grilling.

• verb *a man was being quizzed by police:* question, interrogate, cross-examine, cross-question, interview, sound out, give someone the third degree; informal grill, pump.

**quizzical** adjective enquiring, questioning, curious; puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified; amused, mocking, teasing.

**quota** noun allocation, share, allowance, limit, ration, portion, dispensation, slice (of the cake); percentage, commission; proportion, fraction, bit, amount, quantity; informal cut, rake-off; Brit. informal whack.

**quotation** noun **1** *a quotation from Dryden:* citation, quote, excerpt, extract, passage,

line, paragraph, verse, phrase; reference, allusion; N. Amer. cite. **2** *a quotation for the building work*: estimate, quote, price, tender, bid, costing, charge, figure.

**quote** verb **1** *he quoted a sentence from the book*: recite, repeat, reproduce, retell, echo, iterate; take, extract. **2** *she quoted one case in which a girl died*: cite, mention, refer to, name, instance, specify, identify; relate, recount; allude to, point out, present, offer, advance.

• **noun** **1** *a Shakespeare quote*. See **QUOTATION** sense 1. **2** *ask the contractor for a quote*. See

**QUOTATION** sense 2.

**quotidian** adjective **1** *the quotidian routine*: daily, everyday, day-to-day, diurnal. **2** *her dreadfully quotidian car*: ordinary, average, run-of-the-mill, everyday, standard, typical, middle-of-the-road, common, conventional, mainstream, unremarkable, unexceptional, workaday, commonplace, mundane, uninteresting; informal bog-standard, nothing to write home about, a dime a dozen; Brit. informal common or garden.

– **OPPOSITES** unusual.

# Rr

**rabbit** noun buck, doe; Brit. coney; informal bunny.

## WORD LINKS

**myxomatosis** an infectious and usually fatal disease of rabbits

**scut** a rabbit's short tail

**warren** a network of rabbit burrows

**rabble** noun **1** *a rabble of noisy youths:* mob, crowd, throng, gang, swarm, horde, pack, mass, group. **2** *rule by the rabble:* the common people, the masses, the populace, the multitude, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the plebeians, the proletariat, the peasantry, the hoi polloi, the lower classes, the riff-raff; informal the proles, the plebs.

– OPPOSITES nobility.

**rabble-rouser** noun agitator, troublemaker, instigator, firebrand, revolutionary, demagogue.

**rabid** adjective **1** *a rabid dog:* rabies-infected, mad. **2** *a rabid anti-royalist:* extreme, fanatical, overzealous, extremist, maniacal, passionate, fervent, diehard, uncompromising, illiberal; informal gung-ho.

– OPPOSITES moderate.

**race**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *Dave won the race:* contest, competition, event, fixture, heat, trial(s). **2** *the race for naval domination:* competition, rivalry, contention; quest. **3** *the mill race:* channel, waterway, conduit, sluice, spillway.

• verb **1** *he will race in the final:* compete, contend; run. **2** *Claire raced after him:* hurry, dash, rush, run, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, scurry; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it. **3** *her heart was racing:* pound, beat rapidly, throb, pulsate, thud, thump, hammer, palpitate, flutter, pitter-patter, quiver, pump.

**race**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *pupils of many different races:* ethnic group, racial type, (ethnic) origin. **2** *a bloodthirsty race:* people, nation.

**racial** adjective ethnic, ethnological, race-related; cultural, national, tribal.

**racism** noun racial discrimination, racialism, racial prejudice, xenophobia, chauvinism, bigotry; anti-Semitism.

**racist** noun *he was exposed as a racist:* racial

**bigot**, racist, xenophobe, chauvinist; anti-Semite.

• adjective *a racist society:* (racially) discriminatory, racist, prejudiced, bigoted; anti-Semitic.

**rack** noun *put the cake on a wire rack:* frame, framework, stand, holder, trestle, support, shelf.

• verb *she was racked with guilt:* torment, afflict, torture, agonize, harrow; plague, bedevil, persecute, trouble, worry.

■ **on the rack** under pressure, under stress, under a strain, in distress; in trouble, in difficulties, having problems.

■ **rack one's brains** think hard, concentrate, cudgel one's brains; informal scratch one's head.

**racket** noun **1** *the engine makes such a racket:* noise, din, hubbub, clamour, uproar, tumult, commotion, rumpus, pandemonium, babel; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row. **2** (informal) *a gold-smuggling racket:* illegal scheme, fraud, swindle; informal rip-off; N. Amer. informal shakedown.

**raconteur** noun storyteller, narrator, anecdotalist; Austral. informal magsman.

**racy** adjective *risqué*, suggestive, naughty, sexy, spicy, ribald; indecorous, indecent, immodest, off colour, dirty, rude, smutty, crude, salacious; N. Amer. gamy; informal raunchy, blue; Brit. informal saucy; euphemistic adult.

– OPPOSITES prim.

**raddled** adjective haggard, gaunt, drawn, tired, fatigued, drained, exhausted, worn out, washed out; unwell, unhealthy; informal the worse for wear.

**radiance** noun **1** *the radiance of the sun:* light, brightness, brilliance, luminosity, beams, rays, illumination, blaze, glow, gleam, lustre, glare; luminescence, incandescence. **2** *her face flooded with radiance:* joy, elation, jubilation, ecstasy, rapture, euphoria, delirium, happiness, delight, pleasure.

**radiant** adjective **1** *the radiant moon:* shining, bright, illuminated, brilliant, gleaming, glowing, ablaze, luminous, luminescent, lustrous, incandescent, dazzling, shimmering; old use splendid. **2** *she looked radiant:* joyful, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, jubilant, rapturous, ecstatic, euphoric, in



seventh heaven, on cloud nine, delighted, very happy; informal on top of the world, over the moon; Austral. informal wrapped.

– OPPOSITES dark, gloomy.

**radiate verb** **1** *the stars radiate energy*: emit, give off, give out, discharge, diffuse; shed, cast. **2** *light radiated from the hall*: shine, beam, emanate. **3** *their faces radiate hope*: display, show, exhibit; emanate, breathe, be a picture of. **4** *four spokes radiate from the hub*: fan out, spread out, branch out/off, extend, issue.

**radical adjective** **1** *radical reform*: thoroughgoing, thorough, complete, total, comprehensive, exhaustive, sweeping, far-reaching, wide-ranging, extensive, profound, major, stringent, rigorous. **2** *radical differences between the two theories*: fundamental, basic, essential, quintessential; structural, deep-seated, intrinsic, organic, constitutive. **3** *a radical political movement*: revolutionary, progressive, reformist, revisionist, progressivist; extreme, extremist, fanatical, militant, diehard.

– OPPOSITES superficial, minor, conservative.

• **noun** *the arrested man was a radical*: revolutionary, progressive, reformer, revisionist; militant, zealot, extremist, fanatic, diehard; informal ultra.

– OPPOSITES conservative.

**raffish adjective** *rakish*, unconventional, bohemian; devil-may-care, casual, careless; louche, disreputable, dissolute, decadent.

**raffle noun** *lottery*, (prize) draw, sweepstake, sweep, tombola; N. Amer. lotto.

**rag<sup>1</sup> noun** **1** *an oily rag*: cloth, scrap of cloth; N. Amer. informal schmatte. **2** *a man dressed in rags*: tatters, torn clothing, old clothes; cast-offs, hand-me-downs.

**rag<sup>2</sup> noun** (Brit.) *the student rag*: fund-raising event, charity event, charitable event.

• **verb** (informal) *he was ragged mercilessly*.

See TEASE.

**ragamuffin noun** urchin, waif, guttersnipe; informal scarecrow; dated gamin(e).

**ragbag noun** *jumble*, hotchpotch, mishmash, mess, hash; assortment, mixture, miscellany, medley, mixed bag, melange, variety, diversity, potpourri; N. Amer. hodgepodge.

**rage noun** **1** *his rage is due to frustration*: fury, anger, wrath, outrage, indignation, temper, spleen, resentment, pique, annoyance, vexation, displeasure; pet, tantrum, (bad) mood; informal grump, strop; literary ire, cholera. **2** *the current rage for DIY*: craze, passion, fashion, taste, trend, vogue, fad, enthusiasm, obsession, compulsion, fixation, fetish, mania, preoccupation; informal thing.

• **verb** **1** *she raged silently*: be angry, be furious, be enraged, be incensed, seethe, be beside oneself, rave, storm, fume, spit; informal be livid, be wild, foam at the mouth, have a fit, be steamed up. **2** *he raged against the reforms*: protest about, complain about, oppose, denounce; fulminate, storm, rail; informal kick up a stink about. **3** *a storm was*

*raging*: blow, howl, thunder, rampage.

■ (all) **the rage** popular, fashionable, in fashion, in vogue, the (latest) thing, in great demand, sought-after, le dernier cri; informal in, the in thing, cool, big, trendy, hot, hip.

**ragged adjective** **1** *ragged jeans*: tattered, in tatters, torn, ripped, holey, in holes, moth-eaten, frayed, worn (out), falling to pieces, threadbare, scruffy, shabby; informal tatty.

**2** *a ragged child*: shabby, scruffy, down at heel, unkempt. **3** *a ragged coastline*: jagged, craggy, rugged, uneven, rough, irregular; serrated, sawtooth, indented; technical crenulate, crenulated.

– OPPOSITES smart.

**raging adjective** **1** *a raging mob*: angry, furious, enraged, incensed, infuriated, irate, fuming, seething, ranting; informal livid, wild; literary wrathful. **2** *raging seas*: stormy, violent, wild, turbulent, tempestuous. **3** *a raging headache*: excruciating, agonizing, painful, throbbing, acute, bad. **4** *her raging thirst*: severe, extreme, great, excessive.

**raid noun** **1** *the raid on Dieppe*: attack, assault, descent, blitz, incursion, sortie; onslaught, storming, charge, offensive, invasion, blitzkrieg. **2** *a raid on a shop*: robbery, burglary, hold-up, break-in, ram raid; looting, plunder; informal smash-and-grab, stick-up; Brit. informal blag; N. Amer. informal heist. **3** *a police raid on the flat*: swoop, search; N. Amer. informal bust, takedown.

• **verb** **1** *they raided shipping in the harbour*: attack, assault, set upon, descend on, swoop on, blitz, assail, storm, rush. **2** *armed men raided the store*: rob, hold up, break into; plunder, steal from, pillage, loot, ransack, sack; informal stick up. **3** *homes were raided by police*: search, swoop on; N. Amer. informal bust.

**raider noun** robber, burglar, thief, housebreaker, plunderer, pillager, looter, marauder; attacker, assailant, invader.

**rail verb** *he rails against injustice*: protest, fulminate, inveigh, rage, speak out, make a stand; expostulate about, criticize, denounce, condemn; object to, oppose, complain about, challenge; informal kick up a fuss about.

**railing noun** fence, fencing, rail(s), paling, palisade, balustrade, banister, hurdle.

**raillery noun** teasing, mockery, chaff, ragging; banter, badinage; informal leg-pulling, ribbing, kidding; N. Amer. informal josh.

**rain noun** **1** *the rain had stopped*: rainfall, precipitation, raindrops, wet weather; drizzle, mizzle, shower, rainstorm, cloudburst, torrent, downpour, deluge, storm. **2** *a rain of hot ash*: shower, deluge, flood, torrent, avalanche, flurry; storm, hail. • **verb** **1** *it rained heavily*: pour (down), pelt down, tip down, teem down, beat down, lash down, sheet down, rain cats and dogs; fall, drizzle, spit; informal be chucking it down; Brit. informal bucket down. **2** *bombs rained on the city*: fall, hail, drop, shower.

## WORD LINKS

pluvial relating to rainfall

nimbus a rain cloud

isohyet a line on a map connecting points having the same amount of rainfall

**rainy** adjective wet, showery, drizzly, damp, inclement.

**raise** verb **1** *he raised a hand in greeting*: lift (up), hold aloft, elevate, uplift, upraise, upthrust; hoist, haul up, hitch up; Brit. informal hoick up. **2** *he raised himself in the bed*: sit up, stand up. **3** *they raised prices*: increase, put up, push up, up, mark up, escalate, inflate; informal hike (up), jack up, bump up. **4** *he raised his voice*: amplify, louden, magnify, intensify, boost, lift, increase, heighten, augment. **5** *the temple was raised in 900 BC*: build, construct, erect, assemble, put up. **6** *how will you raise the money?* get, obtain, acquire; accumulate, amass, collect, fetch, net, make. **7** *the city raised troops to fight for them*: recruit, enlist, sign up, conscript, call up, mobilize, rally, assemble; US draft. **8** *a tax raised on imports*: levy, impose, exact, demand, charge. **9** *he raised several objections*: bring up, air, ventilate; present, table, propose, submit, advance, suggest, moot, put forward. **10** *the disaster raised doubts about safety*: give rise to, occasion, cause, produce, engender, elicit, create, result in, lead to, prompt, awaken, arouse, induce, kindle, incite, stir up, trigger, spark off, provoke, instigate, foment, whip up; literary beget. **11** *most parents raise their children well*: bring up, rear, nurture, look after, care for, provide for, mother, parent, tend, cherish; educate, train. **12** *he raised cattle*: breed, rear, nurture, keep, tend; grow, farm, cultivate, produce. **13** *he was raised to the peerage*: promote, advance, upgrade, elevate, ennoble; informal kick upstairs; old use prefer.

— OPPOSITES lower, reduce, demolish.

• noun *the workers wanted a raise*: pay rise, pay increase, increment.

**r raised** adjective embossed, relief, relieve, die-stamped.

**rake**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *he raked the leaves into a pile*: scrape, collect, gather. **2** *she raked the gravel: smooth (out)*, level, even out, flatten, comb. **3** *the cat raked his arm with its claws*: scratch, lacerate, scrape, rasp, graze, grate; Medicine excoriate. **4** *she raked a hand through her hair*: drag, pull, scrape, tug, comb. **5** *I raked through my pockets*: rummage, search, hunt, sift, rifle. **6** *machine-gun fire raked the streets*: sweep, enfilade, pepper, strafe.

■ **rake something in** (informal) earn, make, get, gain, obtain, acquire, accumulate, bring in, pull in, pocket, realize, fetch, return, yield, raise, net, gross.

■ **rake something up** remind people of, recollect, remember, call to mind; drag up, dredge up.

**rake**<sup>2</sup> noun *he was something of a rake*: playboy, libertine, profligate; degenerate, rōu, debauchee; lecher, seducer, womanizer, philanderer, adulterer, Don

Juan, Lothario, Casanova; informal ladykiller, ladies' man, lech.

**rake-off** noun (informal). See **cut** noun sense 3.

**rakish** adjective dashing, debonair, stylish, jaunty, devil-may-care; raffish, disreputable, louché; informal sharp.

**rally** verb **1** *the troops rallied and held their ground*: regroup, reassemble, re-form, reunite. **2** *he rallied an army*: muster, marshal, mobilize, raise, call up, recruit, enlist, conscript; assemble, gather, round up; US draft; formal convoke. **3** *ministers rallied to denounce the rumours*: get together, band together, assemble, join forces, unite, ally, collaborate, cooperate, pull together. **4** *share prices rallied*: recover, improve, get better, pick up, revive, bounce back, perk up, look up, turn a corner.

— OPPOSITES disperse, disband, slump.

• noun **1** *a rally in support of the strike*: (mass) meeting, gathering, assembly; demonstration, (protest) march; informal demo. **2** *a rally in oil prices*: recovery, upturn, improvement, comeback, resurgence; Stock Exchange dead cat bounce.

— OPPOSITES slump.

**ram** verb **1** *he rammed his sword into its sheath*: force, thrust, plunge, stab, push, sink, dig, stick, cram, jam, stuff, pack. **2** *a van rammed the police car*: hit, strike, crash into, collide with, impact, run into, smash into, bump (into), butt.

**ramble** verb **1** *we rambled around the lanes*: walk, hike, tramp, trek, backpack; wander, stroll, saunter, amble, roam, range, rove, traipse; Scottish & Irish stravaig; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle; formal perambulate. **2** *she does ramble on*: chatter, babble, prattle, prate, blather, gabble, jabber, twitter, rattle, maunder; informal jaw, gas, gab, yak, yabber; Brit. informal witter, chunter, natter, waffle, rabbit.

• noun *a ramble in the hills*: walk, hike, trek; wander, stroll, saunter, amble, roam, traipse, jaunt, promenade; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle; formal perambulation.

**rambler** noun walker, hiker, backpacker, wanderer, rover; literary wayfarer.

**rambling** adjective **1** *a rambling speech*: long-winded, verbose, wordy, prolix; digressive, maundering, roundabout, circuitous, circumlocutory; disconnected, disjointed, incoherent. **2** *rambling streets*: winding, twisting, twisty, labyrinthine; sprawling. **3** *a rambling rose*: trailing, creeping, climbing, vining.

— OPPOSITES concise.

**ramification** noun consequence, result, aftermath, outcome, effect, upshot; development, implication; product, by-product.

**ramp** noun slope, bank, incline, gradient, tilt; rise, ascent, acclivity; drop, descent, declivity.

**rampage** verb *mobs rampaged through the streets*: riot, run riot, go on the rampage, run amok, go berserk; storm, charge, tear.

■ **go on the rampage** riot, rampage, go

berserk, get out of control, run amok; N. Amer. informal go postal.

**rampant** adjective **1** *rampant inflation*: uncontrolled, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, widespread; out of control, out of hand, rife. **2** *rampant dislike*: vehement, strong, violent, forceful, intense, passionate, fanatical. **3** *rampant vegetation*: luxuriant, exuberant, lush, rich, riotous, rank, profuse, vigorous; informal jungly. **4** (Heraldry) *a lion rampant*: upright, erect, standing (up), rearing up.

– OPPOSITES controlled, mild.

**rampart** noun *defensive wall*, embankment, earthwork, parapet, breastwork, battlement, bulwark, outwork.

**rampshackle** adjective *tumbledown*, dilapidated, derelict, decrepit, neglected, run down, gone to rack and ruin, crumbling, decaying, rickety, shaky, unsound; informal shambly; N. Amer. informal shacky.

– OPPOSITES sound.

**rancid** adjective *sour*, stale, turned, rank, putrid, foul, rotten, bad, off; gamy, high, fetid, stinking, malodorous, foul-smelling; literary noisome.

– OPPOSITES fresh.

**rancorous** adjective *bitter*, spiteful, hateful, resentful, acrimonious, malicious, malevolent, hostile, venomous, vindictive, baleful, vitriolic, vengeful, pernicious, mean, nasty; informal bitchy, catty.

– OPPOSITES amicable.

**rancour** noun *bitterness*, spite, hate, hatred, resentment, malice, ill will, malevolence, animosity, antipathy, enmity, hostility, acrimony, venom, vitriol.

**random** adjective *random spot checks*: arbitrary, unsystematic, unplanned, undirected, casual, indiscriminate, non-specific, haphazard, stray, erratic; chance, accidental.

– OPPOSITES systematic.

■ *at random* unsystematically, arbitrarily, randomly, unmethodically, haphazardly.

**range** noun **1** *his range of vision*: span, scope, compass, sweep, extent, area, field, orbit, ambit, horizon, latitude; limits, bounds, confines, parameters. **2** *a range of mountains*: row, chain, sierra, ridge, massif; line, string, series. **3** *a range of quality foods*: assortment, variety, diversity, mixture, collection, array, selection, choice. **4** *she put the dish into the range*: stove, cooker; trademark Aga. **5** *cows grazed on open range*: pasture, pasturage, pastureland, grass, grassland, veld; Scottish shieling; literary greensward.

• **verb 1** *charges range from 1% to 5%*: vary, fluctuate, differ; extend, stretch, reach, cover, go, run. **2** *on the stalls are ranged fresh foods*: arrange, line up, order, position, dispose, set out, array. **3** *they ranged over the steppes*: roam, rove, traverse, travel, journey, wander, drift, ramble, meander, stroll, traise, walk, hike, trek.

**rangy** adjective *long-legged*, long-limbed, leggy, tall; slender, slim, lean, thin, gangling,

gangly, lanky, spindly, skinny, spare.

– OPPOSITES squat.

**rank**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *he was elevated to ministerial rank*: position, level, grade, echelon; class, status, standing; dated station. **2** *a family of rank*: high standing, blue blood, high birth, nobility, aristocracy; eminence, distinction, prestige; prominence, influence, consequence, power. **3** *a rank of riflemen*: row, line, file, column, string, train, procession.

• **verb 1** *the plant is ranked as endangered*: classify, class, categorize, rate, grade, bracket, group, pigeonhole, designate; catalogue, file, list. **2** *he ranked below the others*: be graded, have a status, be classed, be classified, be categorized; belong. **3** *tulips ranked like guardsmen*: line up, align, order, arrange, dispose, set out, array, range.

■ *the rank and file* **1** *the officers and the rank and file*: other ranks, soldiers, NCOs, lower ranks; men, troops. **2** *a speech appealing to the rank and file*: the (common) people, the proletariat, the masses, the populace, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians; the hoi polloi, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed; informal the proles, the plebs.

**rank**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *rank vegetation*: abundant, lush, luxuriant, dense, profuse, vigorous, overgrown; informal jungly. **2** *a rank smell*: offensive, unpleasant, nasty, revolting, sickening, obnoxious, noxious; foul, fetid, smelly, stinking, reeking, high, off, rancid, putrid, malodorous; Brit. informal niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; literary noisome.

**3** *rank stupidity*: downright, utter, outright, out-and-out, absolute, complete, sheer, arrant, thoroughgoing, unqualified, unmitigated, positive, perfect, patent, pure, total.

– OPPOSITES sparse, pleasant.

**rankle** verb *cause resentment*, annoy, upset, anger, irritate, offend, affront, displease, provoke, irk, vex, pique, nettle, gall; informal rile, miff, peeve, aggravate, hack off; Brit. informal nark; N. Amer. informal tick off.

**ransack** verb *plunder*, pillage, raid, rob, loot, sack, strip, despoil; ravage, devastate, turn upside down; scour, rifle, comb, search.

**rant** verb *she ranted on about the unfairness*: hold forth, go on, fulminate, vociferate, sound off, spout, pontificate, bluster, declaim; shout, yell, bellow; informal mouth off.

• **noun** *he went into a rant about them*: tirade, diatribe, broadside, polemic; literary philippic.

**rap**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *she rapped his fingers with a ruler*: hit, strike; informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop; literary smite. **2** *I rapped on the door*: knock, tap, bang, hammer, pound. **3** (informal) *banks were rapped for high charges*. See REPRIMAND verb.

• **noun 1** *a rap on the knuckles*: blow, hit, knock, bang, crack; informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop. **2** *a rap at the door*: knock, tap, rat-tat, bang, hammering, pounding.

■ *take the rap* (informal) be punished, take



the blame, suffer (the consequences), pay (the price).

**rap**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *they didn't care a rap*: whit, iota, jot, hoot, scrap, bit, fig; informal damn, monkey's.

**rapacious** **adjective** grasping, greedy, avaricious, acquisitive, covetous; mercenary, materialistic; insatiable, predatory; informal money-grubbing; N. Amer. informal grabby.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**rape** **noun** **1** *he was charged with rape*: sexual assault, sexual abuse; old use ravishment, defilement. **2** *the rape of rainforest*: destruction, violation, ravaging, pillaging, plundering, desecration, defilement, sacking, sack.

• **verb** **1** *he raped her at knifepoint*: sexually assault, sexually abuse, violate, force oneself on; literary ravish; old use defile. **2** *they raped our country*: ravage, violate, desecrate, defile, plunder, pillage, despoil; lay waste, ransack, sack.

**rapid** **adjective** quick, fast, swift, speedy, expeditious, express, brisk; lightning, meteoric, whirlwind; sudden, instantaneous, instant, immediate; hurried, hasty, precipitate; informal p.d.q. (pretty damn quick); literary fleet.

– OPPOSITES slow.

**rapidly** **adverb** quickly, fast, swiftly, speedily, at the speed of light, post-haste, hotfoot, at full tilt, briskly; hurriedly, hastily, in haste, in a rush, precipitately; informal like a shot, double quick, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), in a flash, hell for leather, at the double, like a bat out of hell, like (greased) lightning, like mad, like the wind; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; literary apace.

– OPPOSITES slowly.

**rapport** **noun** affinity, close relationship, (mutual) understanding, bond, empathy, sympathy, accord.

**rapt** **adjective** fascinated, enthralled, spellbound, captivated, riveted, gripped, mesmerized, enchanted, entranced, bewitched; transported, enraptured, thrilled, ecstatic.

– OPPOSITES inattentive.

**rapture** **noun** *she gazed at him in rapture*: ecstasy, bliss, exaltation, euphoria, elation, joy, enchantment, delight, happiness, pleasure.

■ **go into raptures** enthuse, rhapsodize, rave, gush, wax lyrical; praise something to the skies.

**rapturous** **adjective** ecstatic, joyful, elated, euphoric, enraptured, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, transported, enchanted, blissful, happy; enthusiastic, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, rapt; informal over the moon, on top of the world, blissed out; Austral. informal wrapped.

**rara avis** **noun** rarity, rare bird, wonder, marvel, nonpareil, nonsuch, one of a kind; curiosity, oddity, freak; Brit. informal one-off.

**rare** **adjective** **1** *rare moments of privacy*:

infrequent, scarce, sparse, few and far between, thin on the ground, like gold dust; occasional, limited, odd, isolated, unaccustomed, unwonted; Brit. out of the common. **2** *rare stamps*: unusual, recherché, uncommon, unfamiliar, atypical, singular.

**3** *a man of rare talent*: exceptional, outstanding, unparalleled, peerless, matchless, unique, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed; consummate, superior, superlative, first-class; informal A1, top-notch.

– OPPOSITES common, commonplace.

**rarefied** **adjective** esoteric, exclusive, select; elevated, lofty.

**rarely** **adverb** seldom, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely, not often; once in a while, now and then, occasionally; informal once in a blue moon.

– OPPOSITES often.

**raring** **adjective** eager, keen, enthusiastic; impatient, longing, desperate; ready; informal dying, itching, gagging.

**rarity** **noun** **1** *the rarity of earthquakes in the UK*: infrequency, rareness, unusualness, uncommonness, scarcity, scarceness. **2** *this book is a rarity*: collector's item, rare thing, rare bird, rara avis; wonder, nonpareil, one of a kind; curiosity, oddity; Brit. informal one-off.

**rascal** **noun** scallywag, imp, monkey, mischief-maker, wretch; informal scamp, tyke, horror, monster; Brit. informal perisher; N. Amer. informal varmint; old use rapsallion.

**rash**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *he broke out in a rash*: spots, breakout, eruption; hives; Medicine erythema, exanthema, urticaria. **2** *a rash of articles in the press*: series, succession, spate, wave, flood, deluge, torrent; outbreak, epidemic, flurry.

**rash**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** *a rash decision*: reckless, impulsive, impetuous, hasty, foolhardy, incautious, precipitate; careless, heedless, thoughtless, imprudent, foolish; ill-advised, injudicious, ill-judged, misguided, hare-brained; literary temerarious.

– OPPOSITES prudent.

**rasp** **verb** **1** *enamel is rasped off the teeth*: scrape, rub, abrade, grate, grind, sand, file, scratch, scour; Medicine excoriate. **2** *'Help!' he rasped*: croak, squawk, caw, say hoarsely.

**rasping** **adjective** harsh, grating, jarring; raspy, scratchy, hoarse, rough, gravelly, croaky, gruff, husky, throaty, guttural.

**rate** **noun** **1** *a fixed rate of interest*: percentage, ratio, proportion; scale, standard. **2** *an hourly rate of £30*: charge, price, cost, tariff, fare, levy, toll; fee, remuneration, payment, wage, allowance. **3** *the rate of change*: speed, pace, tempo, velocity, momentum.

• **verb** **1** *they rated their ability at driving*: assess, evaluate, appraise, judge, weigh up, estimate, calculate, gauge, measure, adjudge; grade, rank, classify, categorize. **2** *the scheme was rated effective*: consider, judge, reckon, think, hold, deem, find; regard as, look on as, count as. **3** *he rated*

only a brief mention: merit, deserve, warrant, be worthy of, be deserving of.

**4** (informal) *Ben doesn't rate him: think highly of*, think much of, set much store by; admire, esteem, value.

■ **at any rate** in any case, anyhow, anyway, in any event, nevertheless; whatever happens, come what may, regardless, notwithstanding.

**rather** **adverb** **1** *I'd rather you went: sooner*, by preference, preferably, by choice. **2** *it's rather complicated: quite*, a bit, a little, fairly, slightly, somewhat, relatively, to some degree, comparatively; informal pretty, sort of, kind of. **3** *her true feelings—or rather, lack of feelings: more precisely*, to be precise, to be exact, strictly speaking. **4** *she seemed sad rather than angry: more*; as opposed to, instead of. **5** *it was not impulsive, but rather a considered decision: on the contrary*, instead.

**ratify** **verb** **confirm**, approve, sanction, endorse, agree to, accept, uphold, authorize, formalize, validate, recognize; sign.  
— **OPPOSITES** reject.

**rating** **noun** **grade**, grading, classification, ranking, rank, category, designation; assessment, evaluation, appraisal; mark, score.

**ratio** **noun** **proportion**, comparative number, correlation, relationship, correspondence; percentage, fraction, quotient.

**ration** **noun** **1** *a daily ration of chocolate: allowance*, allocation, quota, quantum, share, portion, helping; amount, quantity, measure, proportion, percentage. **2** *the garrison ran out of rations: supplies*, provisions, food, foodstuffs, eatables, edibles, provender; stores; informal grub, eats; N. Amer. informal chuck; formal comestibles; dated victuals.

● **verb** *fuel supplies were rationed: control*, limit, restrict; conserve.

**rational** **adjective** **1** *a rational approach: logical*, reasoned, sensible, reasonable, cogent, intelligent, judicious, shrewd, common-sense, commonsensical, sound, prudent; down-to-earth, practical, pragmatic. **2** *she was not rational at the time of signing: sane*, compos mentis, in one's right mind, of sound mind; normal, balanced, lucid, coherent; informal all there. **3** *man is a rational being: intelligent*, thinking, reasoning; cerebral, logical, analytical; formal ratiocinative.  
— **OPPOSITES** illogical, insane.

**rationale** **noun** **reason(s)**, reasoning, thinking, logic, grounds, sense; principle, theory, argument, case; motive, motivation, explanation, justification, excuse; the whys and wherefores.

**rationalize** **verb** **1** *he tried to rationalize his behaviour: justify*, explain (away), account for, defend, vindicate, excuse. **2** *an attempt to rationalize the industry: streamline*, reorganize, modernize, update; trim, hone, simplify, downsize, prune.

**rattle** **verb** **1** *hailstones rattled against the*

*window: clatter*, patter; clink, clunk. **2** *he rattled some coins: jingle*, jangle, clink, tinkle. **3** *the bus rattled along: jolt*, bump, bounce, jounce, shake, judder. **4** *the government were rattled by the strike: unnerve*, disconcert, disturb, fluster, shake, perturb, discompose, discomfit, ruffle, throw; informal faze.

● **noun** *the rattle of the bottles: clatter*, clank, clink, clang; jingle, jangle.

■ **rattle something off** reel off, recite, list, fire off, run through, enumerate.

■ **rattle on/away** prattle, babble, chatter, gabble, prate, go on, jabber, gibber, blether, ramble; informal gab, yak, yap; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle.

**ratty** **adjective** (Brit. informal). See **IRRITABLE**.

**raucous** **adjective** **1** *raucous laughter: harsh*, strident, screeching, piercing, shrill, grating, discordant, dissonant; noisy, loud, cacophonous. **2** *a raucous hen night: rowdy*, noisy, boisterous, roisterous, wild.

— **OPPOSITES** soft, quiet.

**raunchy** **adjective** (informal). See **SEXY** sense 2.

**ravage** **verb** **lay waste**, devastate, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, leave desolate; pillage, plunder, despoil, ransack, sack, loot; literary rape; old use spoil.

**ravages** **plural noun** **1** *the ravages of time: damaging effects*, ill effects. **2** *the ravages of man: (acts of) destruction*, damage, devastation, ruin, havoc, depredation(s).

**rave** **verb** **1** *he was raving about the fires of hell: talk wildly*, babble, jabber, talk incoherently. **2** *I raved and swore at them: rant (and rave)*, rage, lose one's temper, storm, fulminate, fume; shout, roar, thunder, bellow; informal fly off the handle, blow one's top, go up the wall, hit the roof; Brit. informal go spare; N. Amer. informal flip one's wig. **3** *he raved about her talent: praise*, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, sing the praises of, rhapsodize over, enthuse about/over, acclaim, eulogize, extol; N. Amer. informal ballyhoo; formal laud; old use panegyric.

— **OPPOSITES** criticize.

● **noun** (informal) *the food won raves from the critics: praise*, a rapturous reception, tribute, plaudits, acclaim.

— **OPPOSITES** criticism.

● **adjective** (informal) *rave reviews: rapturous*, enthusiastic, glowing, ecstatic, excellent, highly favourable.

**raven** **adjective** *raven hair: black*, jet-black, ebony; literary sable.

**ravenous** **adjective** **1** *I'm absolutely ravenous: starving*, very hungry, famished; rare esurient. **2** *her ravenous appetite: voracious*, insatiable; greedy, gluttonous; literary insatiate.

**rave-up** **noun** (Brit. informal). See **PARTY** noun sense 1.

**ravine** **noun** **gorge**, canyon, gully, defile, couloir; chasm, abyss, gulf; S. English chine; N. English clough, gill, thrutch; N. Amer. gulch, coulee.

**raving** adjective **1** *she's raving mad*. See **MAD** sense 1. **2** *a raving beauty*: very great, remarkable, extraordinary, singular, striking, outstanding, stunning.

**ravings** plural noun gibberish, rambling, babbling, wild/incoherent talk.

**ravish** verb **1** (literary) *he tried to ravish her*: rape, sexually assault/abuse, violate, force oneself on, molest; old use dishonour, defile. **2** (literary) *you will be ravished by this wine*: enrapture, enchant, delight, charm, entrance, enthrall, captivate. **3** (old use) *her child was ravished from her breast*: seize, snatch, carry off/away, steal, abduct.

**ravishing** adjective beautiful, gorgeous, stunning, wonderful, lovely, striking, magnificent, dazzling, radiant, delightful, charming, enchanting; informal amazing, sensational, fantastic, fabulous, terrific; Brit. informal smashing; N. Amer. informal bodacious.  
– OPPOSITES hideous.

**raw** adjective **1** *raw carrot*: uncooked, fresh. **2** *raw materials*: unprocessed, untreated, unrefined, crude, natural. **3** *raw recruits*: inexperienced, new, untrained, untried, untested; callow, immature, green, naive; informal wet behind the ears. **4** *his skin is raw*: sore, red, painful, tender; abraded, chafed; Medicine excoriated. **5** *a raw morning*: bleak, cold, chilly, freezing, icy, icy-cold, wintry, bitter; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **6** *raw emotions*: strong, intense, passionate, fervent, powerful, violent; undisguised, un concealed, unrestrained, uninhibited, naked. **7** *raw, contemporary images of Latin America*: realistic, unembellished, unvarnished, brutal, harsh.

– OPPOSITES cooked, processed.

■ **in the raw** (informal). See **NAKED** sense 1.

**raw-boned** adjective thin, lean, gaunt, bony, skinny, spare.  
– OPPOSITES plump.

**ray** noun **1** *rays of light*: beam, shaft, streak, stream. **2** *a ray of hope*: glimmer, flicker, spark, hint, suggestion, sign.  
● verb *her hair rayed out in the water*: spread out, fan out.

**raze** verb destroy, demolish, raze to the ground, tear down, pull down, knock down, level, flatten, bulldoze, wipe out, lay waste.

**re** preposition about, concerning, regarding, with regard to, relating to, apropos (of), on the subject of, in respect of, with reference to, in connection with.

**reach** verb **1** *Travis reached out a hand*: stretch out, hold out, extend, outstretch, thrust out, stick out. **2** *reach me that book*: pass, hand, give. **3** *soon she reached Helen's house*: arrive at, get to, come to; end up at. **4** *the temperature reached 94 degrees*: attain, get to; rise to, climb to; fall to, sink to, drop to; informal hit. **5** *the leaders reached an agreement*: achieve, work out, draw up, put together, negotiate, thrash out, hammer out. **6** *I have been trying to reach you all day*: get in touch with, contact, get through to, get, speak to; informal get hold of. **7** *our concern is to reach more people*: influence, sway, get

(through) to, make an impression on, have an impact on.

● noun **1** *Bobby moved out of her reach*: grasp, range. **2** *small goals within your reach*: capabilities, capacity. **3** *beyond the reach of the law*: jurisdiction, authority, influence; scope, range, compass, ambit.

**react** verb **1** *how would he react if she told him the truth?* behave, act, take it, conduct oneself; respond, reply, answer. **2** *he reacted against the new regulations*: rebel against, oppose, rise up against.

**reaction** noun **1** *his reaction had bewildered her*: response, answer, reply, rejoinder, retort, riposte; informal comeback. **2** *a reaction against modernism*: backlash, counteraction. **3** *the forces of reaction*: conservatism, the right (wing), the extreme right.

**reactionary** adjective a reactionary policy: right-wing, conservative, rightist, traditionalist, conventional, unprogressive.  
– OPPOSITES progressive.

● noun an extreme reactionary: right-winger, conservative, rightist, traditionalist, conventionalist.  
– OPPOSITES radical.

**read** verb **1** *he was reading the newspaper*: peruse, study, scrutinize, look through; pore over, be absorbed in; run one's eye over, cast an eye over, leaf through, scan, flick through, skim through, thumb through. **2** *he read a passage of the letter*: read out/aloud, recite, declaim. **3** *I can't read my own writing*: decipher, make out, make sense of, interpret, understand. **4** *his remark could be read as a criticism*: interpret, take (to mean), construe, see, understand. **5** *the dial read 70mph*: indicate, register, record, display, show. **6** *he read modern history*: study, take; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ major in.

● noun *have a read of this*: perusal, study, scan; look (at), browse (through), leaf (through), flick (through), skim (through).  
■ *read something into something* infer from, interpolate from, assume from, attribute to; read between the lines.

■ *read up on* study; informal bone up on; Brit. informal mug up on, swot; old use con.

#### WORD LINKS

**legible** clear enough to read  
**literacy** the ability to read and write  
**illiterate** unable to read and write  
**dyslexia** a disorder involving difficulty in learning to read

**readable** adjective **1** *the inscription is perfectly readable*: legible, easy to read, decipherable, clear, intelligible, comprehensible. **2** *her novels are immensely readable*: enjoyable, entertaining, interesting, absorbing, gripping, enthralling, engrossing, stimulating; informal unputdownable.

– OPPOSITES illegible.

**readily** adverb **1** *Durkin readily offered to drive him*: willingly, without hesitation, unhesitatingly, ungrudgingly, gladly, happily, eagerly, promptly. **2** *the island is*



*readily accessible*: easily, with ease, without difficulty.

– OPPOSITES reluctantly.

**readiness** noun **1** *their readiness to accept change*: willingness, enthusiasm, eagerness, keenness; promptness, quickness, alacrity.

**2** *a state of readiness*: preparedness, preparation. **3** *the readiness of his reply*: promptness, quickness, rapidity, swiftness, speed, speediness.

■ **in readiness** (at the) ready, available, on hand, accessible, handy; prepared, primed, on standby, standing by, on full alert.

**reading** noun **1** *a cursory reading of the financial pages*: perusal, study, scan, scanning; browse (through), look (through), glance (through), leaf (through), flick (through), skim (through). **2** *a man of wide reading*: (book) learning, scholarship, education, erudition. **3** *readings from the Bible*: passage, lesson; section, piece; recital, recitation. **4** *my reading of the situation*: interpretation, construal, understanding, explanation, analysis. **5** *a meter reading*: record, figure, indication, measurement.

**ready** adjective **1** *are you ready?* prepared, (all) set, organized, primed; informal fit, psyched up, geared up. **2** *everything is ready*: completed, finished, prepared, organized, done, arranged, fixed, in readiness. **3** *he's always ready to help*: willing, prepared, game, pleased, inclined, disposed, predisposed; eager, keen, happy, glad. **4** *she looked ready to collapse*: about to, on the point of, on the verge of, close to, liable to, likely to. **5** *a ready supply of food*: (easily) available, accessible; handy, close/near at hand, to/on hand, convenient, within reach, at the ready, near, at one's fingertips. **6** *a ready answer*: prompt, quick, swift, speedy, fast, immediate, unhesitating; clever, sharp, astute, shrewd, keen, perceptive, discerning; literary rather.

• **verb** *he needed time to ready himself*: prepare, get/make ready, organize; gear oneself up; informal psych oneself up.

■ **at the ready** in position, poised, ready for use/action, waiting; N. Amer. on deck.

■ **make ready** prepare, make preparations, get everything ready, gear up for.

**ready-made** adjective **1** *ready-made clothing*: ready-to-wear; Brit. off the peg; N. Amer. off the rack. **2** *ready-made meals*: pre-cooked, oven-ready, convenience.

– OPPOSITES tailor-made.

**real** adjective **1** *is she a fictional character or a real person?* actual, non-fictional, factual; historical; material, physical, tangible, concrete, palpable. **2** *real gold*: genuine, authentic, bona fide; informal pukka, kosher. **3** *my real name*: true, actual. **4** *tears of real grief*: sincere, genuine, true, unfeigned, heartfelt, unaffected. **5** *a real man*: proper, true; informal regular; old use very. **6** *you're a real idiot*: complete, utter, thorough, absolute, total, prize, perfect; Brit. informal right, proper; Austral./NZ informal fair.

– OPPOSITES imaginary, imitation.

• **adverb** (N. Amer. informal) *that's real good of you*. See **VERY** adverb.

**realism** noun **1** *optimism tinged with realism*: pragmatism, practicality, common sense, level-headedness. **2** *a degree of realism*: authenticity, fidelity, verisimilitude, truthfulness, faithfulness; naturalism.

**realistic** adjective **1** *you've got to be realistic*: practical, pragmatic, matter-of-fact, down-to-earth, sensible, commonsensical; rational, reasonable, level-headed, clear-sighted, businesslike; informal having both/one's feet on the ground, hard-nosed, no-nonsense. **2** *a realistic aim*: achievable, attainable, feasible, practicable, viable, reasonable, sensible, workable; informal doable. **3** *a realistic portrayal of war*: true (to life), lifelike, truthful, faithful, real-life, naturalistic, graphic.

– OPPOSITES idealistic, impracticable.

**reality** noun **1** *distinguishing fantasy from reality*: the real world, real life, actuality; truth; physical existence. **2** *the harsh realities of life*: fact, actuality, truth. **3** *the reality of the detail*: verisimilitude, authenticity, realism, fidelity, faithfulness.

– OPPOSITES fantasy.

■ **in reality** in (actual) fact, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, actually, really, in truth; in practice; old use in sooth.

**realization** noun **1** *a growing realization of the danger*: awareness, understanding, comprehension, consciousness, appreciation, recognition, discernment; formal cognizance. **2** *the realization of our dreams*: fulfilment, achievement, accomplishment, attainment; formal effectuation.

**realize** verb **1** *he suddenly realized what she meant*: register, perceive, discern, be/become aware of (the fact that), be/become conscious of (the fact that), notice; understand, grasp, comprehend, see, recognize, work out, fathom (out), apprehend; informal latch on to, cotton on to, tumble to, savvy, figure out, get (the message); Brit. informal twig, suss; formal be/become cognizant of. **2** *they realized their dream*: fulfil, achieve, accomplish, make a reality, make happen, bring to fruition, bring about/off, carry out/through; formal effectuate. **3** *the company realized significant profits*: make, clear, gain, earn, return, produce. **4** *the goods realized £3000*: be sold for, fetch, go for, make, net. **5** *he realized his assets*: cash in, liquidate, capitalize.

**really** adverb **1** *he is really very wealthy*: in (actual) fact, actually, in reality, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, to tell the truth; old use in sooth. **2** *he really likes her*: genuinely, truly, honestly; undoubtedly, without a doubt, indubitably, certainly, assuredly, unquestionably; old use verily. **3** *they were really kind to me*: very, extremely, thoroughly, decidedly, dreadfully, exceptionally, exceedingly, immensely, tremendously, uncommonly, remarkably, eminently, extraordinarily,

most, downright; Scottish unco; N. Amer. quite; informal awfully, terribly, terrifically, fearfully, right, devilishly, ultra, too — for words, seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well, fair; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful, plumb, powerful, way; informal, dated devilish, frightfully; old use exceeding.

**realm** noun **1** *peace in the realm: kingdom, country, land, dominion, nation.* **2** *the realm of academia: world, domain, sphere, area, field, arena, province, territory.*

**reap** verb **1** *the corn has been reaped: harvest, garner, gather in, bring in.* **2** *reaping the benefits: receive, obtain, get, acquire, secure, realize.*

**rear**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I was reared in Newcastle: bring up, care for, look after, nurture, parent; educate; N. Amer. raise.* **2** *he reared cattle: breed, raise, keep.* **3** *laboratory-reared plants: grow, cultivate.* **4** *Harry reared his head: raise, lift (up), hold up, uplift.* **5** *Creagan Hill reared up before them: rise (up), tower, soar, loom.*

**rear**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *the rear of the building: back (part), hind part, back end; Nautical stern.* **2** *the rear of the queue: (tail) end, rear end, back end, tail; N. Amer. tag end.* **3** *he slapped her on the rear.* See **BOTTOM** noun sense 6.

– **OPPOSITES** front.

• **adjective** *the rear bumper: back, end, rearmost; hind, hinder, hindmost; technical posterior.*

**rearrange** verb **1** *the furniture has been rearranged: reposition, move round, change round, arrange differently.* **2** *Tony had rearranged his schedule: reorganize, alter, adjust, change (round), reschedule; informal jigger.*

**reason** noun **1** *the main reason for his decision: cause, ground(s), basis, rationale; motive, motivation, purpose, point, aim, intention, objective, goal; explanation, justification, argument, defence, vindication, excuse, pretext.* **2** *postmodern voices railing against reason: rationality, logic, logical thought, reasoning, cognition; formal ratiocination.* **3** *he was losing his reason: sanity, mind, mental faculties; senses, wits; informal marbles.* **4** *he continues, against reason, to love her: good sense, good judgement, common sense, wisdom, sagacity, reasonableness.*

• **verb** **1** *a young child is unable to reason: think rationally, think logically, use one's common sense, use one's head/brain; formal cogitate, ratiocinate.* **2** *Scott reasoned that Annabel might be ill: calculate, come to the conclusion, conclude, reckon, think, judge, deduce, infer, surmise; informal figure.* **3** *her husband tried to reason with her: talk round, bring round, win round, persuade, prevail on, convince, make someone see the light.*

■ **reason something out** work out, think through, make sense of, get to the bottom of, puzzle out; informal figure out.

■ **reason with someone** talk round, bring round, persuade, prevail on, convince; make someone see the light.

■ **with reason** justifiably, justly, legitimately, rightly, reasonably.

#### WORD LINKS

rational based on reason or logic

**reasonable** adjective **1** *a reasonable man | a reasonable explanation: sensible, rational, logical, fair, fair-minded, just, equitable; intelligent, wise, level-headed, practical, realistic; sound, (well) reasoned, valid, commonsensical; tenable, plausible, credible, believable.* **2** *you must take all reasonable precautions: within reason, practicable, sensible; appropriate, suitable.*

**3** *cars in reasonable condition: fairly good, acceptable, satisfactory, average, adequate, fair, all right, tolerable, passable; informal OK.*

**4** *reasonable prices: inexpensive, moderate, low, cheap, budget, bargain; competitive.*

**reasoned** adjective logical, rational, well thought out, clear, lucid, coherent, cogent, well expressed, well presented, considered, sensible.

**reasoning** noun thinking, (train of) thought, thought process, logic, reason, analysis, interpretation, explanation, rationalization; reasons, rationale, arguments; formal ratiocination.

**reassure** verb **put/set someone's mind at rest**, put someone at ease, encourage, inspire, hearten, buoy up, cheer up; comfort, soothe.

– **OPPOSITES** alarm.

**rebate** noun (partial) refund, repayment; discount, deduction, reduction, decrease.

**rebel** noun **1** *the rebels took control of the capital: revolutionary, insurgent, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, insurrectionary, guerrilla, terrorist, freedom fighter.* **2** *the concept of the artist as a rebel: nonconformist, dissenter, dissident, iconoclast, maverick.*

• **verb** **1** *the citizens rebelled: revolt, mutiny, riot, rise up, take up arms, stage/mount a rebellion, be insubordinate.* **2** *his stomach rebelled at the thought of food: recoil, show/feel repugnance.* **3** *teenagers rebelling against their parents: defy, disobey, refuse to obey, kick against, challenge, oppose, resist.*

– **OPPOSITES** obey.

• **adjective** **1** *rebel troops: insurgent, revolutionary, mutinous, rebellious, insurrectionary, insurrectionist.* **2** *rebel MPs: rebellious, defiant, disobedient, insubordinate, subversive, resistant, recalcitrant; nonconformist, maverick, iconoclastic; old use contumacious.*

– **OPPOSITES** compliant.

**rebellion** noun **1** *troops suppressed the rebellion: uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, revolution, insurgence, insurgency; rioting, riot, disorder, unrest.* **2** *an act of rebellion: defiance, disobedience, rebelliousness, insubordination, subversion, subversiveness, resistance.*

**rebellious** adjective **1** *rebellious troops: rebel, insurgent, mutinous, mutinying, rebelling, rioting, riotous, insurrectionary,*

insurrectionist, revolutionary. **2 a rebellious adolescent:** defiant, disobedient, insubordinate, unruly, mutinous, wayward, obstreperous, recalcitrant, intractable; Brit. informal bolshie; formal refractory; old use contumacious.

**rebirth** noun revival, renaissance, resurrection, reawakening, renewal, regeneration; revitalization, rejuvenation; formal renaissance.

**rebound** verb **1** *the ball rebounded off the wall:* bounce (back), spring back, ricochet, boomerang; N. Amer. carom. **2** *later sterling rebounded:* recover, rally, pick up, make a recovery. **3** *Thomas's tactics rebounded on him:* backfire, boomerang, have unwelcome repercussions; old use redound on.

**rebuff** verb *his offer was rebuffed:* reject, turn down, spurn, refuse, decline, repudiate; snub, slight, repulse, repel, dismiss, brush off, give someone the cold shoulder; informal give someone the brush-off; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush.

– OPPOSITES accept.

• noun *the rebuff did little to dampen his ardour:* rejection, snub, slight, repulse; refusal, spurning, cold-shouldering, discouragement; informal brush-off, kick in the teeth, slap in the face.

**rebuild** verb reconstruct, renovate, restore, remodel, remake, reassemble.

– OPPOSITES demolish.

**rebuke** verb *she never rebuked him in front of others:* reprimand, reproach, scold, admonish, reprove, chastise, upbraid, berate, take to task, criticize, censure; informal tell off, give someone a telling-off, give someone a talking-to, give someone a dressing-down, give someone an earful; Brit. informal tick off; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

• noun *Damian was silenced by the rebuke:* reprimand, reproach, reproof, scolding, admonishment, admonition, reproof, upbraiding; informal telling-off, dressing-down; Brit. informal ticking-off; formal castigation.

– OPPOSITES compliment.

**rebut** verb refute, deny, disprove; invalidate, negate, contradict, controvert, counter, discredit, give the lie to, explode; informal shoot full of holes; formal confute.

– OPPOSITES confirm.

**rebuttal** noun refutation, denial, countering, invalidation, negation, contradiction.

**recalcitrant** adjective uncooperative, intractable, insubordinate, defiant, rebellious, wilful, wayward, headstrong, self-willed, contrary, perverse, difficult, awkward; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie, stropky; formal refractory; old use contumacious, froward.

– OPPOSITES amenable.

**recall** verb **1** *he recalled his student days:* remember, recollect, call to mind; think back on/to, look back on, reminisce about.

**2** *their exploits recall the days of chivalry:* bring to mind, call to mind, put one in mind of, call up, conjure up, evoke. **3** *the ambassador was recalled:* summon back, order back, call back. **4** (old use) *he recalled his earlier communication:* revoke, rescind, cancel, retract, countermand, withdraw; formal abrogate.

– OPPOSITES forget.

• noun **1** *the recall of the ambassador:* summoning back, ordering back, calling back. **2** *their recall of dreams:* recollection, remembrance, memory.

**recant** verb **1** *he was forced to recant his political beliefs:* renounce, disavow, deny, repudiate, renege on; formal forswear, abjure. **2** *he refused to recant:* change one's mind, be apostate; rare tergiversate. **3** *he recanted his testimony:* retract, take back, withdraw.

**recantation** noun renunciation, renouncement, disavowal, denial, repudiation, retraction, withdrawal.

**recapitulate** verb summarize, sum up; restate, repeat, reiterate, go over, review; informal recap.

**recede** verb **1** *the flood waters receded:* retreat, go back/down, move back/away, withdraw, ebb, subside, abate. **2** *the lights receded into the distance:* disappear, fade into the distance, be lost to view. **3** *fears of violence have receded:* diminish, lessen, decrease, dwindle, fade, abate, subside, ebb, wane.

– OPPOSITES advance, grow.

**receipt** noun **1** *the receipt of a letter:* receiving, getting, obtaining, gaining; arrival, delivery. **2** *make sure you get a receipt:* proof of purchase, sales ticket, till receipt. **3** *receipts from house sales:* proceeds, takings, money/payment received, income, revenue, earnings; profits, (financial) return(s); N. Amer. take.

**receive** verb **1** *Tony received an award | they received £650 in damages:* be given, be presented with, be awarded, collect; get, obtain, gain, acquire; win, be paid, earn, gross, net. **2** *she received a letter:* be sent, be in receipt of, accept (delivery of). **3** *Alec received the news on Monday:* be told, be informed of, be notified of, hear, discover, find out (about), learn; informal get wind of. **4** *he received her suggestion with a complete lack of interest:* hear, listen to; respond to, react to. **5** *she received a serious injury:* experience, sustain, undergo, meet with; suffer, bear. **6** *they received their guests:* greet, welcome, say hello to. **7** *she's not receiving visitors:* entertain, be at home to.

– OPPOSITES give, send.

**receiver** noun **1** *the receiver of a gift:* recipient, beneficiary, donee. **2** *a telephone receiver:* handset.

– OPPOSITES donor.

**recent** adjective **1** *recent research:* new, the latest, current, fresh, modern, contemporary, up to date, up to the minute. **2** *his recent visit:* not long ago, just gone.

– OPPOSITES old.



**recently** adverb not long ago, a short time ago, in the past few days/weeks/months, a little while back; lately, latterly, just now.

**receptacle** noun container, holder, repository; box, tin, bin, can, canister, case, pot, bag.

**reception** noun **1** the reception of the goods: receipt, receiving, getting. **2** the reception of foreign diplomats: greeting, welcoming, entertaining. **3** a chilly reception: response, reaction, treatment. **4** a wedding reception: party, function, social occasion, soirée; N. Amer. levee; informal do, bash; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano.

**receptive** adjective open-minded, responsive, amenable, well disposed, flexible, approachable, accessible; old use susceptible.

– OPPOSITES unresponsive.

**recess** noun **1** two recesses fitted with bookshelves: alcove, bay, niche, nook, corner, hollow, oriel. **2** the deepest recesses of Broadcasting House: innermost parts, heart, depths, bowels. **3** the Christmas recess: adjournment, break, interlude, interval, rest; holiday, vacation; informal breather. • verb let's recess for lunch: adjourn, stop, (take a) break; informal take five.

**recession** noun economic decline, downturn, depression, slump, slowdown.

– OPPOSITES boom.

**recherché** adjective obscure, rare, esoteric, abstruse, arcane, recondite, exotic, strange, unusual, unfamiliar, out of the ordinary.

**recipe** noun **1** a tasty recipe: cooking instructions; old use receipt. **2** a recipe for success: means/way of achieving, prescription, formula, blueprint.

**recipient** noun receiver, beneficiary, legatee, donee.

– OPPOSITES donor.

**reciprocal** adjective **1** reciprocal love: given/felt in return, requited, reciprocated. **2** reciprocal obligations and duties: mutual, common, shared, joint, corresponding, complementary.

**reciprocate** verb **1** I was happy to reciprocate: do the same (in return), return the favour. **2** love that was not reciprocated: requite, return, give back.

**recital** noun **1** a piano recital: concert, (musical) performance, solo (performance); informal gig. **2** her recital of Adam's failures: enumeration, list, litany, catalogue, listing, detailing; account, report, description, recapitulation, recounting. **3** a recital of the Lord's Prayer. See RECITATION sense 1.

**recitation** noun **1** the recitation of his poem: recital, saying aloud, declamation, rendering, rendition, delivery, performance. **2** a recitation of her life story: account, description, narration, narrative, story. **3** songs and recitations: reading, passage; poem, verse, monologue.

**recite** verb **1** he began to recite verses of the Koran: repeat from memory, say aloud,

declaim, quote, deliver, render. **2** John recited the facts they knew: enumerate, list, detail, reel off; recount, relate, describe, narrate, give an account of, recapitulate, repeat.

**reckless** adjective rash, careless, thoughtless, heedless, unheeding, hasty, overhasty, precipitate, precipitous, impetuous, impulsive, daredevil, devil-may-care; irresponsible, foolhardy, over-adventurous, audacious; ill-advised, injudicious, madcap, imprudent, unwise, ill-considered; literary temerarious.

– OPPOSITES careful.

**reckon** verb **1** the cost was reckoned at £6,000: calculate, compute, work out, put a figure on, figure; count (up), add up, total; Brit. tot up. **2** Anselm reckoned Hugh among his friends: include, count, consider to be, regard as, look on as. **3** (informal) I reckon I can manage that: believe, think, be of the opinion/view, be convinced, dare say, imagine, guess, suppose, consider; informal figure. **4** it was reckoned a failure: regard as, consider, judge, hold to be, think of as; deem, rate, gauge, count. **5** I reckon to get good value for money: expect, anticipate, hope to, be looking to; count on, rely on, depend on, bank on; N. Amer. informal figure on.

■ to be reckoned with important, of considerable importance, significant; influential, powerful, strong, potent, formidable, redoubtable.

■ reckon with **1** it's her mother you'll have to reckon with: deal with, contend with, face (up to). **2** they hadn't reckoned with her burning ambition: take into account, take into consideration, bargain for/on, anticipate, foresee, be prepared for, consider; formal take cognizance of.

■ reckon without overlook, fail to take account of, disregard.

**reckoning** noun **1** by my reckoning, this comes to £2 million: calculation, estimation, estimate, computation, working out, summation, judgement, evaluation. **2** the terrible reckoning that he deserved: retribution, fate, doom, nemesis, punishment.

■ day of reckoning Judgement Day, day of retribution, doomsday.

**reclaim** verb **1** travelling expenses can be reclaimed: get back, claim back, recover, regain, retrieve, recoup. **2** Henrietta had reclaimed him from a life of vice: save, rescue, redeem; reform.

**recline** verb lie (down/back), lean back; be recumbent; relax, repose, loll, lounge, sprawl, stretch out; literary couch.

**recluse** noun **1** a religious recluse: hermit, ascetic; historical anchorite, anchoress; old use eremite. **2** a natural recluse: loner, solitary, lone wolf.

**reclusive** adjective solitary, secluded, isolated, hermit-like, hermitic, eremitic, eremitical, cloistered.

– OPPOSITES gregarious.

**recognition** noun **1** there was no sign of

*recognition on his face: identification, recollection, remembrance. 2 his recognition of his lack of experience: acknowledgement, acceptance, admission; realization, awareness, consciousness, knowledge, appreciation; formal cognizance. 3 we have sought official recognition: approval, certification, accreditation, endorsement, validation. 4 you deserve recognition for the tremendous job you are doing: appreciation, gratitude, thanks, congratulations, credit, commendation, acclaim, bouquets, acknowledgement.*

**recognizable** adjective identifiable, noticeable, perceptible, discernible, detectable, distinguishable, observable, perceivable; distinct, unmistakable, clear; old use sensible.

– OPPOSITES imperceptible.

**recognize** verb **1** *Hannah recognized him at once: identify, place, know, put a name to; remember, recall, recollect; know by sight; Scottish & N. English ken. 2 they recognized Alan's ability: acknowledge, accept, admit; realize, be aware of, be conscious of, perceive, discern, appreciate; formal be cognizant of. 3 many therapists are recognized by the BPS: approve, certify, accredit, endorse, sanction, validate. 4 the Trust recognized their hard work: pay tribute to, show appreciation of, appreciate, be grateful for, acclaim, commend.*

**recoil** verb **1** *she instinctively recoiled: draw back, jump back, pull back; flinch, shy away, shrink (back), blench. 2 he recoiled from the thought: feel revulsion at, feel disgust at, be unable to stomach, shrink from, balk at. 3 his rifle recoiled: kick (back), jerk back, spring back. 4 this will eventually recoil on him: have an adverse effect on, rebound on, affect badly, backfire, boomerang; old use redound on.*

• noun *the recoil of the gun: kickback, kick.*

**recollect** verb remember, recall, call to mind, think of; think back to, look back on, reminisce about.

– OPPOSITES forget.

**recollection** noun memory, remembrance, impression, reminiscence.

**recommend** verb **1** *his former employer recommended him for the post: advocate, endorse, commend, suggest, put forward, propose, nominate, put up; speak favourably of, speak well of, put in a good word for, vouch for; informal plug. 2 the committee recommended a cautious approach: advise, counsel, urge, exhort, enjoin, prescribe, argue for, back, support; suggest, advocate, propose. 3 there was little to recommend her: have in one's favour, give an advantage to; informal have going for one.*

**recommendation** noun **1** *the advisory group's recommendations: advice, counsel, guidance, direction, enjoiner; suggestion, proposal. 2 a personal recommendation: commendation, endorsement, good word, favourable mention, testimonial; suggestion, tip; informal plug. 3 a place whose*

*only recommendation is that it has very few women: advantage, good point/feature, benefit, asset, boon, attraction, appeal.*

**recompense** verb **1** *offenders should recompense their victims: compensate, indemnify, repay, reimburse, make reparation to, make restitution to, make amends to. 2 she wanted to recompense him: reward, pay back; old use guerdon. 3 nothing could recompense her loss: make up for, compensate for, make amends for, make restitution for, make reparation for, redress, make good.*

• noun *damages were paid in recompense: compensation, reparation, restitution, indemnification, indemnity; reimbursement, repayment, redress; old use guerdon.*

**reconcilable** adjective compatible, consistent, congruous, congruent.

**reconcile** verb **1** *the news reconciled us: reunite, bring (back) together (again), restore friendly relations between, make peace between; pacify, appease, placate, mollify; formal conciliate. 2 trying to reconcile his religious beliefs with his career: make compatible, harmonize, square, make congruent, balance. 3 the quarrel was reconciled: settle, resolve, sort out, mend, remedy, heal, rectify; informal patch up. 4 they had to reconcile themselves to drastic losses: (come to) accept, resign oneself to, come to terms with, learn to live with, get used to.*

– OPPOSITES estrange.

**reconciliation** noun **1** *the reconciliation of the disputants: reuniting, reunion, bringing together (again), conciliation, reconciliation; pacification, appeasement, placating, mollification. 2 a reconciliation of their differences: resolution, settlement, settling, resolving, mending, remedying. 3 there was little hope of reconciliation: restoration of harmony, agreement, compromise, understanding, peace; formal concord. 4 the reconciliation of theory with practice: harmonizing, harmonization, squaring, balancing.*

**recondite** adjective obscure, abstruse, arcane, esoteric, recherché, profound, difficult, complex, complicated, involved; incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, cryptic, opaque.

**recondition** verb overhaul, rebuild, renovate, restore, repair, reconstruct, remodel, refurbish; informal do up, revamp.

**reconnaissance** noun (preliminary) survey, exploration, observation, investigation, examination, inspection; patrol, search; reconnoitring; informal recce; N. Amer. informal recon.

**reconnoitre** verb survey, make a reconnaissance of, explore; investigate, examine, scrutinize, inspect, observe, take a look at; patrol; informal recce, make a recce of, check out; N. Amer. informal recon.

**reconsider** verb rethink, review, revise, re-examine, re-evaluate, reassess, reappraise; change, alter, modify; have second thoughts, change one's mind.

**reconsideration** noun review, rethink, re-examination, reassessment, re-evaluation, reappraisal.

**reconstruct** verb 1 *the building had to be reconstructed*: rebuild, restore, renovate, recreate, remake, reassemble, remodel, refashion, revamp, recondition, refurbish.

2 *reconstructing the events of that day*:

recreate, build up a picture/impression of, piece together, re-enact.

**record** noun 1 *written records of the past*:

account(s), document(s), documentation, data, file(s), dossier(s), evidence, report(s); annal(s), archive(s), chronicle(s); minutes, transactions, proceedings, transcript(s); certificate(s), instrument(s), deed(s); register, log, logbook; Law muniment(s).

2 *listening to records*: album, vinyl; dated gramophone record, disc, LP, EP, single, forty-five, seventy-eight. 3 *his previous good record*: history, track record, reputation.

4 *he's got a record*: criminal record, police record; previous; Brit. informal form; N. Amer. informal rap sheet. 5 *a new British record*:

best performance, highest achievement; best time, fastest time; world record. 6 *a lasting record of what they have achieved*: reminder, memorial, souvenir, memento, remembrance, testament.

• adjective *record profits*: record-breaking, best ever, unsurpassed, unparalleled, unequalled, second to none.

• verb 1 *the doctor recorded her blood pressure*: write down, put in writing, take down, note, make a note of, jot down, put down on paper; document, put on record, enter, minute, register, log; list, catalogue. 2 *the thermometer recorded a high temperature*: indicate, register, show, display. 3 *the team recorded their fourth away win*: achieve, accomplish, chalk up, notch up; informal clock up. 4 *the recital was recorded live*: make a record/recording of, tape, tape-record; video-record, videotape, video.

■ *off the record* 1 *his comments were off the record*: unofficial, confidential, in (strict) confidence, not to be made public. 2 *they admitted, off the record, that they had made a mistake*: unofficially, privately, in (strict) confidence, confidentially, between ourselves.

**recorder** noun 1 *he put a tape in the recorder*: tape recorder, cassette recorder; video (recorder), VCR, videotape recorder.

2 *a recorder of rural life*: record keeper, archivist, annalist, diarist, chronicler, historian.

**recount** verb tell, relate, narrate, give an account of, describe, report, outline, delineate, relay, convey, communicate, impart.

**recoup** verb get back, regain, recover, win back, retrieve, redeem, recuperate.

**recourse** noun *surgery may be the only recourse*: option, possibility, alternative, resort, way out, hope, remedy, choice, expedient.

■ have recourse to resort to, make use of, avail oneself of, turn to, call on, look to, fall back on.

**recover** verb 1 *he's recovering from a heart attack*: recuperate, get better, convalesce, regain one's strength, get stronger, get back on one's feet; be on the mend, be on the road to recovery, pick up, rally, respond to treatment, improve, heal, pull through, bounce back. 2 *later, shares recovered*: rally, improve, pick up, make a recovery, rebound, bounce back. 3 *the stolen material has been recovered*: retrieve, regain (possession of), get back, recoup, reclaim, repossess, redeem, recuperate, find (again), track down. 4 *gold coins recovered from a wreck*: salvage, save, rescue, retrieve.

– OPPOSITES deteriorate.

■ *recover oneself* pull oneself together, regain one's composure, regain one's self-control; informal get a grip (on oneself).

**recovery** noun 1 *her recovery may be slow*: recuperation, convalescence. 2 *the economy was showing signs of recovery*: improvement, rallying, picking up, upturn, upswing. 3 *the recovery of the stolen goods*: retrieval, regaining, repossession, getting back, reclamation, recouping, redemption, recuperation.

– OPPOSITES relapse, deterioration.

**recreation** noun 1 *she cycles for recreation*: pleasure, leisure, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, entertainment, amusement; play, sport; informal R & R; N. Amer. informal rec; old use disport. 2 *his favourite recreations*: pastime, hobby, leisure activity.

– OPPOSITES work.

**recrimination** noun accusation(s), counter-accusation(s), countercharge(s), counter-attack(s), retaliation(s).

**recruit** verb 1 *more soldiers were recruited*: enlist, call up, conscript; US draft, muster in; old use levy. 2 *the king recruited an army*: muster, form, raise, mobilize. 3 *the company is recruiting staff*: hire, employ, take on; enrol, sign up, engage.

– OPPOSITES disband, dismiss.

• noun 1 *new recruits were enlisted*: conscript, new soldier; US draftee; Brit. informal sprog; N. Amer. informal flatbird. 2 *top-quality recruits*: trainee, newcomer, initiate, beginner, novice; N. Amer. hire; informal rookie, newbie; N. Amer. informal tenderfoot, greenhorn.

**rectify** verb correct, (put) right, put to rights, sort out, deal with, amend, remedy, repair, fix, make good, resolve, settle; informal patch up.

**rectitude** noun righteousness, goodness, virtue, morality, honour, honourableness, integrity, principle, probity, honesty, trustworthiness, uprightness, decency, good character.

**recumbent** adjective lying, flat, horizontal, stretched out, sprawled (out), reclining, prone, prostrate, supine; lying down.

– OPPOSITES upright.

**recuperate** verb 1 *he went to France to*



**recuperate:** get better, recover, convalesce, get well, regain one's strength/health, get over something. **2** *he recuperated the money:* get back, regain, recover, recoup, retrieve, reclaim, repossess, redeem.

**recur** verb happen again, reoccur, occur again, repeat (itself); come back (again), return, reappear, appear again; formal recrudescence.

**recurrent** adjective repeated, recurring, repetitive, periodic, cyclical, seasonal, perennial, regular, frequent; intermittent, sporadic, spasmodic.

**recycle** verb reuse, reprocess, reclaim, recover; salvage, save.

**red** adjective **1** *a red dress:* scarlet, vermilion, ruby, cherry, cerise, cardinal, carmine, wine, blood-red; coral, cochineal, rose; brick-red, maroon, rusty, rufous; reddish; literary damask, vermeil, sanguine. **2** *he was red in the face:* flushed, reddish, pink, pinkish, florid, rubicund; ruddy, rosy, glowing; burning, feverish; literary rufescent; old use sanguine. **3** *his eyes were red:* bloodshot, swollen, sore. **4** *red hair:* reddish, auburn, Titian, chestnut, carrot, ginger.

• **noun** (informal, derogatory) *the war against the Reds:* Communist, socialist, left-winger, leftist; informal Commie, lefty.

■ **in the red** overdrawn, in debt, in debit, in deficit, in arrears.

■ **see red** (informal) become very angry, become enraged, lose one's temper; informal go mad, go crazy, go wild, go bananas, hit the roof, go up the wall, fly off the handle, blow one's top, flip (one's lid), go ballistic; Brit. informal go spare, do one's nut; N. Amer. informal flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack.

**red-blooded** adjective manly, masculine, virile, macho.

**redden** verb go/turn red, blush, flush, colour (up), burn.

**redeem** verb **1** *one feature redeems the book:* save, compensate for the defects of, vindicate. **2** *he fully redeemed himself next time:* vindicate, free from blame, absolve. **3** *you cannot redeem their sins:* atone for, make amends for, make restitution for. **4** *redeeming sinners:* save, deliver from sin, convert. **5** *Billy redeemed his drums from the pawnbrokers:* retrieve, regain, recover, get back, reclaim, repossess; buy back. **6** *this voucher can be redeemed at any branch:* exchange, cash in, convert, trade in. **7** *they could not redeem their debts:* pay off/back, clear, discharge, honour. **8** *he made no effort to redeem his promise:* fulfil, carry out, discharge, make good; keep (to), stick to, hold to, adhere to, abide by, honour.

**redeeming** adjective compensating, compensatory, extenuating, redemptive.

**redemption** noun **1** *God's redemption of his people:* salvation, saving, deliverance. **2** *the redemption of their possessions:* retrieval, recovery, reclamation, repossession, return. **3** *the redemption of credit vouchers:* exchange, cashing in, conversion. **4** *the redemption of the mortgage:* paying off/back,

discharge, clearing, honouring. **5** *the redemption of his obligations:* fulfilment, carrying out, discharge, performing, honouring, meeting.

**red-handed** adjective in the act, with one's fingers/hand in the till, in flagrante delicto; Brit. informal with one's trousers down; N. Amer. informal with one's pants down.

**redolent** adjective **1** *names redolent of history:* evocative, suggestive, reminiscent. **2** (literary) *the air was redolent of incense:* smelling of, scented with, fragrant with, perfumed with.

**redoubtable** adjective formidable, awe-inspiring, fearsome, daunting; impressive, commanding, indomitable, invincible, doughty, mighty.

**redound** verb **1** (formal) *his effort will redound to his credit:* contribute to, be conducive to, result in, lead to, have an effect; formal conduce to. **2** (old use) *the consequences redounded upon them:* rebound on, have an adverse effect on, backfire.

**redress** verb **1** *we redressed the problem:* rectify, correct, right, put to rights, compensate for, amend, remedy, make good, resolve, settle. **2** *we aim to redress the balance:* even up, regulate, equalize.

• **noun** *your best hope of redress:* compensation, reparation, restitution, recompense, repayment, indemnity, indemnification, retribution, satisfaction; justice.

**reduce** verb **1** *the aim is to reduce pollution:* lessen, make smaller, lower, bring down, decrease, diminish, minimize; shrink, narrow, contract, shorten; axe, cut (back/down), make cutbacks in, trim, slim (down), prune; rationalize, downsize; informal chop. **2** *he reduced her to tears:* bring to, bring to the point of, drive to. **3** *he was reduced to the ranks:* demote, downgrade, lower (in rank). **4** *bread has been reduced:* make cheaper, lower the price of, cut (in price), mark down, discount, put on sale; informal slash, knock down.

– **OPPOSITES** increase, put up.

■ **in reduced circumstances** impoverished, in straitened circumstances, ruined, bankrupted; poor, indigent, impecunious, in penury, poverty-stricken, destitute; needy, badly off, hard up; informal flat (broke), without two pennies to rub together, strapped for cash; Brit. informal stony broke, skint, in Queer Street; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious.

**reduction** noun **1** *a reduction in pollution:* lessening, lowering, decrease, diminution. **2** *a reduction in staff:* cut, cutback, scaling down, rationalization, trimming, pruning, axing, chopping. **3** *a reduction in inflationary pressure:* easing, lightening, moderation, alleviation. **4** *a reduction in status:* demotion, downgrading, lowering. **5** *substantial reductions:* discount, markdown, deduction, (price) cut, concession.

**redundancy** noun **1** *redundancy in language:*

superfluity, unnecessaryness, excess.

**2 redundancies are in the offing:** sacking, dismissal, lay-off, discharge; unemployment.

**redundant** adjective **1** *many churches are now redundant:* unnecessary, not required, unneeded, uncalled for, surplus (to requirements), superfluous. **2** *2,000 workers were made redundant:* sacked, dismissed, laid off, discharged; unemployed, jobless, out of work.

– OPPOSITES employed.

**reef** noun shoal, bar, sandbar, sandbank, spit; Scottish skerry.

**reek** verb *the whole place reeked:* stink, smell (bad), stink to high heaven.

• noun *the reek of cattle dung:* stink, bad smell, stench, malodour; Brit. informal niff, pong, whiff; literary miasma.

**reel** verb **1** *he reeled as the ship began to roll:* stagger, lurch, sway, rock, stumble, totter, wobble, falter. **2** *we were reeling from the crisis:* be shaken, be stunned, be in shock, be shocked, be taken aback, be staggered, be aghast, be upset. **3** *the room reeled:* go round (and round), whirl, spin, revolve, swirl, twirl, turn, swim.

■ **reel something off** recite, rattle off, list, run through, enumerate, detail, itemize.

**refer** verb **1** *he referred to errors in the article:* mention, make reference to, allude to, touch on, reference, speak of/about, talk of/about, write about, comment on, deal with, point out, call attention to. **2** *the matter has been referred to my insurers:* pass, hand on/over, send on, transfer, remit, entrust, assign. **3** *these figures refer only to 2001:* apply to, be relevant to, concern, relate to, be connected with, pertain to, appertain to, be pertinent to, have a bearing on, cover. **4** *the name refers to a Saxon village:* denote, describe, indicate, mean, signify, designate. **5** *the constable referred to his notes:* consult, turn to, look at, have recourse to.

**referee** noun **1** *the referee blew his whistle:* umpire, judge; informal ref. **2** *include the names of two referees:* supporter, character witness, advocate.

• verb **1** *he refereed the game:* umpire, judge. **2** *they asked him to referee in the dispute:* arbitrate, mediate; adjudicate.

**reference** noun **1** *his journal contains many references to railways:* mention of, allusion to, comment on, remark about.

**2** *references are given in the bibliography:* source, citation, authority, credit; bibliographical data. **3** *reference to a higher court:* referral, transfer, remission. **4** *a glowing reference:* testimonial, character reference, recommendation; credentials; dated character.

■ **with reference to** apropos, with regard to, regarding, with respect to, on the subject of, re; in relation to, relating to, in connection with.

**referendum** noun vote, plebiscite, ballot, poll.

**refine** verb **1** *refining our cereal foods:* purify, process, treat. **2** *helping students to refine*

*their language skills:* improve, perfect, polish (up), hone, fine-tune.

**refined** adjective **1** *refined sugar:* purified, processed, treated. **2** *a refined lady:* cultivated, cultured, polished, stylish, elegant, sophisticated, urbane; polite, gracious, well mannered, well bred, gentlemanly, ladylike, genteel. **3** *a person of refined taste:* discriminating, discerning, fastidious, exquisite, impeccable, fine.

– OPPOSITES crude, coarse.

**refinement** noun **1** *the refinement of sugar:* purification, refining, processing, treatment, treating. **2** *all writing needs endless refinement:* improvement, polishing, honing, fine-tuning, touching up, finishing off, revision, editing. **3** *a woman of refinement:* style, elegance, finesse, polish, sophistication, urbanity; politeness, grace, graciousness, good manners, good breeding, gentility; cultivation, taste, discrimination.

**reflect** verb **1** *the snow reflects light:* send back, throw back, cast back. **2** *their expressions reflected their feelings:* indicate, show, display, demonstrate, be evidence of, register, reveal, betray, disclose; express, communicate; formal evince. **3** *he reflected on his responsibilities:* think about, give thought to, consider, give consideration to, review, mull over, contemplate, cogitate about/on, meditate on, muse on, brood on/over, turn over in one's mind; old use pore on; rare cerebrate.

■ **reflect badly on** discredit, disgrace, shame, put in a bad light, damage, tarnish the reputation of, give a bad name to, bring into disrepute.

**reflection** noun **1** *the reflection of light:* sending back, throwing back, casting back. **2** *her reflection in the mirror:* image, likeness. **3** *your hands are a reflection of your well-being:* indication, display, demonstration, manifestation; expression, evidence. **4** *a sad reflection on society:* slur, aspersion, imputation, reproach, shame, criticism. **5** *after some reflection, he turned it down:* thought, thinking, consideration, contemplation, deliberation, pondering, meditation, musing, rumination; formal cogitation; rare cerebration. **6** *write down your reflections:* opinion, thought, view, belief, feeling, idea, impression, conclusion, assessment; comment, observation, remark.

**reflex** adjective instinctive, automatic, involuntary, reflexive, impulsive, intuitive, spontaneous, unconscious, unconditioned, untaught, unlearned.

– OPPOSITES conscious.

**reform** verb **1** *a plan to reform the system:* improve, (make) better, ameliorate, refine; alter, make alterations to, change, adjust, make adjustments to, adapt, amend, revise, reshape, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel, reorganize. **2** *after his marriage he reformed:* mend one's ways, change for the better, turn over a new leaf, improve.

• noun *the reform of the prison system:*

**improvement**, amelioration, refinement; alteration, change, adaptation, amendment, revision, reshaping, refashioning, redesigning, restyling, revamp, revamping, renovation, rebuilding, reconstruction, remodelling, reorganizing, reorganization.

**refractory** *adjective* (formal) **obstinate**, stubborn, mulish, pig-headed, obdurate, headstrong, self-willed, wayward, wilful, perverse, contrary, recalcitrant, obstreperous, disobedient; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie, stropky; N. Amer. informal balky; old use contumacious, froward.  
– **OPPOSITES** obedient.

**refrain** *verb* **abstain**, desist, hold back, stop oneself, forbear, avoid, eschew, shun, renounce; informal swear off; formal forswear, abjure.

**refresh** *verb* **1** *the cool air will refresh me:* **reinvigorate**, revitalize, revive, restore, fortify, enliven, perk up, stimulate, freshen, energize, exhilarate, reanimate, wake up, revivify, inspirit; blow away the cobwebs; informal buck up, pep up. **2** *let me refresh your memory:* jog, stimulate, prompt, prod. **3** (N. Amer.) *I refreshed his glass:* **refill**, top up, replenish, recharge.  
– **OPPOSITES** weary.

**refreshing** *adjective* **1** *a refreshing drink:* **invigorating**, revitalizing, reviving, restoring, bracing, fortifying, enlivening, inspiriting, stimulating, energizing, exhilarating. **2** *a refreshing change of direction:* **welcome**, stimulating, fresh, imaginative, innovative, innovatory.

**refreshment** *noun* **1** *refreshments were available in the interval:* **food and drink**, sustenance, provender; snacks, titbits, eatables; informal nibbles, eats, grub, nosh; formal comestibles; literary viands; dated victuals; old use aliment. **2** *spiritual refreshment:* **invigoration**, revival, stimulation, reanimation, revivification, rejuvenation, regeneration, renewal.

**refrigerate** *verb* **keep cold**, cool (down), chill.  
– **OPPOSITES** heat.

**refuge** *noun* **1** *homeless people seeking refuge in subway stations:* **shelter**, protection, safety, security, asylum, sanctuary. **2** *a refuge for mountain gorillas:* **sanctuary**, shelter, place of safety, (safe) haven, sanctum; retreat, bolt-hole, hiding place, hideaway, hideout.

**refugee** *noun* **displaced person**, DP, fugitive, asylum seeker, exile, émigré, stateless person; Austral. informal reffo.

**refund** *verb* **1** *we will refund your money if you're not satisfied:* **repay**, give back, return, pay back. **2** *they refunded the subscribers:* **reimburse**, compensate, recompense, remunerate, indemnify.  
• *noun* **a full refund:** **repayment**, reimbursement, rebate.

**refurbish** *verb* **renovate**, recondition, rehabilitate, revamp, overhaul, restore, renew, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct; redecorate, spruce up, upgrade, refit;

N. Amer. **bring up to code**; informal **do up**; N. Amer. informal **rehab**.

**refusal** *noun* **1** *we had one refusal to our invitation:* **non-acceptance**, no, dissent, demurral, negation, turndown; regrets. **2** *you can have first refusal:* **option**, choice, opportunity to purchase. **3** *the refusal of planning permission:* **withholding**, denial, turndown.

**refuse**<sup>1</sup> *verb* **1** *he refused their invitation:* **decline**, turn down, say no to; reject, spurn, rebuff, dismiss; send one's regrets; informal **pass up**. **2** *the Council refused planning permission:* **withhold**, not grant, deny.  
– **OPPOSITES** accept, grant.

**refuse**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **piles of refuse:** **rubbish**, waste, debris, litter, detritus, dross; dregs, leftovers; N. Amer. **garbage**, trash; Austral./NZ **mullock**; informal **dreck**, junk.

**refute** *verb* **1** *attempts to refute Einstein's theory:* **disprove**, prove wrong/false, controvert, rebut, give the lie to, explode, debunk, discredit, invalidate; informal **shoot full of holes**; formal **confute**. **2** *she refuted the allegation:* **deny**, reject, repudiate, rebut; contradict; formal **gainsay**.

**regain** *verb* **1** *government troops regained the capital:* **recover**, get back, win back, recoup, retrieve, reclaim, repossess; take back, retake, recapture, reconquer. **2** *they regained dry land:* **return to**, get back to, reach again, rejoin.

**regal** *adjective* **1** *a regal feast.* See **SPLENDID** sense 1. **2** *his regal forebears:* **royal**, kingly, queenly, princely.

**regale** *verb* **1** *they were lavishly regaled:* **entertain**, wine and dine, fete, feast, serve, feed. **2** *he regaled her with colourful stories:* **entertain**, amuse, divert, delight, fascinate, captivate.

**regard** *verb* **1** *we regard these results as encouraging:* **consider**, look on, view, see, think of, judge, deem, estimate, assess, reckon, adjudge, rate, gauge. **2** *he regarded her coldly:* **look at**, contemplate, eye, gaze at, stare at; watch, observe, view, study, scrutinize; literary **behold**. **3** (old use) *he seldom regards her advice:* **heed**, pay heed to, pay attention to, listen to, take notice of.

• *noun* **1** *he has no regard for human life:* **consideration**, care, concern, thought, notice, heed, attention. **2** *doctors are held in high regard:* **esteem**, respect, acclaim, admiration, approval, approbation, estimation. **3** *Jamie sends his regards:* **best wishes**, good wishes, greetings, kind/kindest regards, felicitations, salutations, respects, compliments, best, love. **4** *his steady regard:* (fixed) **look**, gaze, stare; observation, contemplation, study, scrutiny. **5** *in this regard I disagree with you:* **respect**, aspect, point, item, particular, detail, specific; matter, issue, topic, question.  
■ **with regard to.** See **REGARDING**.

**regarding** *preposition* **concerning**, as regards, with/in regard to, with respect to, with reference to, relating to, respecting,



re, about, apropos, on the subject of, in connection with, vis-à-vis.

**regardless** *adverb* *he decided to go, regardless: anyway, anyhow, in any case, nevertheless, nonetheless, despite everything, in spite of everything, even so, all the same, in any event, come what may; informal irregardless.*

■ **regardless** of irrespective of, without regard to, without reference to, disregarding, without consideration of, discounting, ignoring, notwithstanding, no matter; informal irregardless of.

**regenerate** *verb* *revive, revitalize, renew, restore, breathe new life into, revivify, rejuvenate, reanimate, resuscitate; informal give a shot in the arm to.*

**regime** *noun* **1** *the former Communist regime: government, authorities, rule, authority, control, command, administration, leadership.* **2** *a health regime: system, arrangement, scheme; order, pattern, method, procedure, routine, course, plan, programme.*

**regiment** *noun* *the regiment was fighting in France: unit, outfit, force, corps, division, brigade, battalion, squadron, company, platoon.*

• *verb* *their life is strictly regimented: organize, order, systematize, control, regulate, manage, discipline.*

**regimented** *adjective* *strictly regulated, organized, disciplined, controlled, ordered, systematic, orderly, rigid, inflexible.*

**region** *noun* *the western region of the country: district, province, territory, division, area, section, sector, zone, belt, part, quarter; informal parts.*

**regional** *adjective* **1** *regional variation: geographical, territorial; by region.* **2** *a regional parliament: local, localized, provincial, district, parochial.*

– OPPOSITES national.

**register** *noun* **1** *the register of electors: list, listing, roll, roster, index, directory, catalogue, inventory.* **2** *the parish register: record, chronicle, log, logbook, ledger, archive; annals, files.* **3** *the lower register of the piano: range, reaches; notes, octaves.* • *verb* **1** *I wish to register a complaint: record, put on record, enter, file, lodge, write down, put in writing, submit, report, note, minute, log.* **2** *it is not too late to register: enrol, put one's name down, enlist, sign on/up, apply.* **3** *the dial registered a speed of 100mph: indicate, read, record, show, display.* **4** *her face registered anger: display, show, express, exhibit, betray, evidence, reveal, manifest, demonstrate, bespeak; formal evince.* **5** *the content of her statement did not register: make an impression, get through, sink in, penetrate, have an effect, strike home.*

**regress** *verb* *revert, retrogress, relapse, lapse, backslide, slip back; deteriorate, decline, go downhill, worsen, degenerate, get worse.*

– OPPOSITES progress.

**regret** *verb* *they came to regret their decision:*

*be sorry about, feel contrite about, feel remorse about/for, be remorseful about, rue, repent (of), feel repentant about, be regretful at/about.*

• *noun* **1** *both players later expressed regret: remorse, sorrow, contrition, contriteness, repentance, penitence, guilt, compunction, remorsefulness, ruefulness.* **2** *please give your grandmother my regrets: apology, apologies; refusal.* **3** *they left with genuine regret: sadness, sorrow, disappointment, unhappiness, grief.*

– OPPOSITES satisfaction.

**regretful** *adjective* *sorry, remorseful, contrite, repentant, rueful, penitent, conscience-stricken, apologetic, guilt-ridden, ashamed, shamefaced.*

– OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**regrettable** *adjective* *undesirable, unfortunate, unwelcome, sorry, woeful, disappointing; deplorable, lamentable, shameful, disgraceful.*

**regular** *adjective* **1** *plant them at regular intervals: uniform, even, consistent, constant, unchanging, unvarying, fixed.* **2** *a regular beat: rhythmic, steady, even, uniform, constant, unchanging, unvarying.* **3** *the subject of regular protests: frequent, repeated, continual, recurrent, periodic, constant, perpetual, numerous.* **4** *regular methods of business: established, conventional, orthodox, proper, official, approved, bona fide, standard, usual, traditional, tried and tested.* **5** *a regular procedure: methodical, systematic, structured, well ordered, well organized, orderly, efficient.* **6** *his regular route to work: usual, normal, customary, habitual, routine, typical, accustomed, established.* **7** *(informal, dated) he's a regular charmer: utter, real, absolute, complete, thorough, total, out-and-out, perfect; N. Amer. full-bore; Brit. informal right, proper; Austral./NZ informal fair.*

– OPPOSITES erratic, occasional.

**regulate** *verb* **1** *the flow of the river has been regulated: control, adjust, manage.* **2** *a new act regulating businesses: supervise, police, monitor, check (up on), be responsible for; control, manage, direct, guide, govern.*

**regulation** *noun* **1** *EC regulations: rule, ruling, order, directive, act, law, by-law, statute, edict, canon, pronouncement, dictate, dictum, decree, fiat, command, precept.* **2** *the regulation of blood sugar: adjustment, control, management, balancing.* **3** *the regulation of financial services: supervision, policing, superintendence, monitoring, inspection; control, management, responsibility for.* • *adjective* *regulation dress: official, prescribed, set, fixed, mandatory, compulsory, obligatory.*

– OPPOSITES unofficial.

**regurgitate** *verb* **1** *a ruminant continually regurgitates food: disgorge, bring up; old use regorge.* **2** *regurgitating facts: repeat, say again, restate, reiterate, recite, parrot; informal trot out.*

**rehabilitate** verb **1** *efforts to rehabilitate patients: restore to normality*, reintegrate, readapt; N. Amer. informal rehab. **2** *former dissidents were rehabilitated*: reinstate, restore, bring back; pardon, absolve, exonerate, forgive; formal exculpate. **3** *rehabilitating vacant housing: recondition*, restore, renovate, refurbish, revamp, overhaul, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct; redecorate, spruce up; upgrade, refit, modernize; informal do up; N. Amer. informal rehab.

**rehearsal** noun practice (session), trial, read-through, run-through; informal dry run.

**rehearse** verb **1** *I rehearsed the role*: practise, read through, run through/over, go over, prepare. **2** *he rehearsed the Vienna Philharmonic*: train, drill, prepare, coach, put someone through their paces. **3** *the document rehearsed all the arguments*: enumerate, list, itemize, detail, spell out, catalogue, recite, rattle off; restate, repeat, reiterate, recapitulate, go over, run through; informal recap.

**reign** verb **1** *Robert II reigned for nineteen years: be king/queen*, be monarch, be sovereign, sit on the throne, wear the crown, rule. **2** *chaos reigned: prevail*, exist, be present, be the case, occur, be prevalent, be current, be rife, be rampant, be the order of the day, be in force, be in effect; formal obtain.

• noun **1** *during Henry's reign: rule*, sovereignty, monarchy. **2** *his reign as manager: time*, period, incumbency, managership, leadership.

#### WORD LINKS

regnal relating to a reign  
regnant reigning  
Rex/Regina the reigning king or queen  
interregnum a period between reigns, when normal government is suspended

**reigning** adjective **1** *the reigning monarch: ruling*, regnant; on the throne. **2** *the reigning world champion: incumbent*, current. **3** *the reigning legal conventions: prevailing*, existing, current; usual, common, recognized, established, accepted, popular, widespread.

**reimburse** verb **1** *they will reimburse your travel costs: repay*, refund, return, pay back. **2** *we'll reimburse you: compensate*, recompense, repay.

**rein** noun *there is no rein on his behaviour: restraint*, check, curb, constraint, restriction, limitation, control, brake.

• verb *they reined back costs: restrain*, check, curb, constrain, hold back/in, keep under control, regulate, restrict, control, curtail, limit.

■ **free rein** freedom, a free hand, leeway, latitude, flexibility, liberty, independence, free play, licence, room to manoeuvre, carte blanche.

■ **keep a tight rein on** exercise strict control over, regulate, discipline, regiment, keep in line.

**reincarnation** noun rebirth, transmigration of the soul, metempsychosis.

**reinforce** verb **1** *troops reinforced the dam: strengthen*, fortify, bolster up, shore up, buttress, prop up, underpin, brace, support. **2** *reinforcing links between colleges and companies: strengthen*, fortify, support; cement, boost, promote, encourage, deepen, enrich, enhance, intensify, improve. **3** *the need to reinforce NATO troops: augment*, increase, add to, supplement, boost, top up.

**reinforcement** noun **1** *the reinforcement of our defences: strengthening*, fortification, bolstering, shoring up, buttressing, bracing. **2** *reinforcement of the bomber force: augmentation*, increase, supplementing, boosting, topping up. **3** *they returned later with reinforcements: additional troops*, fresh troops, auxiliaries, reserves; support, back-up, help.

**reinstate** verb restore, return to power, put back, bring back, reinstitute, reinstall.

**reiterate** verb repeat, say again, restate, recapitulate, go over (and over), rehearse.

**reject** verb **1** *the miners rejected the offer: turn down*, refuse, decline, say no to, spurn; informal give the thumbs down to. **2** *Jamie rejected her: rebuff*, spurn, shun, snub, repudiate, cast off/aside, discard, abandon, desert, turn one's back on, have nothing (more) to do with, wash one's hands of; informal give someone the brush-off; literary forsake.

– OPPOSITES accept.

• noun **1** *I got it cheap – it's a reject: second*, discard. **2** *what a reject! failure*, loser, incompetent.

**rejection** noun **1** *a rejection of the offer: refusal*, declining, turning down, dismissal, spurning. **2** *Madeleine's rejection of him: repudiation*, rebuff, spurning, abandonment, desertion; informal brush-off; literary forsaking.

**rejoice** verb **1** *they rejoiced when she returned: be joyful*, be happy, be pleased, be glad, be delighted, be elated, be ecstatic, be euphoric, be overjoyed, be as pleased as Punch, be cock-a-hoop, be jubilant, be in raptures, be beside oneself with joy, be delirious, be thrilled, be on cloud nine, be in seventh heaven; celebrate, make merry; informal be over the moon, be on top of the world; Austral. informal be wrapped; literary joy; old use jubilate. **2** *he rejoiced in their success: take delight*, find/take pleasure, feel satisfaction, find joy, enjoy, revel in, glory in, delight in, relish, savour.

– OPPOSITES mourn.

**rejoicing** noun happiness, pleasure, joy, gladness, delight, elation, jubilation, exuberance, exultation, celebration, revelry, merrymaking.

**rejoin**<sup>1</sup> verb *the path rejoins the main road further on: return to*, be reunited with, join again, reach again, regain.

**rejoin**<sup>2</sup> verb *Eugene rejoined that you couldn't*

*expect much:* **answer**, reply, respond, return, retort, riposte, counter.

**rejoinder** noun **answer**, reply, response, retort, riposte, counter; informal comeback.

**rejuvenate** verb **revive**, revitalize, regenerate, breathe new life into, revivify, reanimate, resuscitate, refresh, reawaken, put new life into; informal give a shot in the arm to, pep up, buck up.

**relapse** verb **1** *a few patients relapse: become ill again*, have/suffer a relapse, deteriorate, degenerate, take a turn for the worse.

**2** *she relapsed into silence:* **revert**, lapse; regress, retrogress, slip back, slide back, degenerate.

– OPPOSITES improve.

• **noun 1** *one patient suffered a relapse:* **deterioration**, turn for the worse. **2** *a relapse into alcoholism:* **decline**, lapse, deterioration, degeneration, reversion, regression, retrogression, fall, descent, slide.

**relate** verb **1** *he related many stories:*

tell, recount, narrate, report, chronicle, outline, delineate, retail, recite, repeat, communicate, impart. **2** *mortality is related to unemployment levels:* **connect (with)**, associate (with), link (with), correlate (with), ally (with), couple (with). **3** *the charges relate to offences committed in August:* **apply**, be relevant, concern, pertain to, be pertinent to, have a bearing on, appertain to, involve; old use regard.

**4** *she cannot relate to her step-father: have a rapport*, get on (well), feel sympathy, feel for, identify with, empathize with, understand; informal hit it off with.

**related** adjective **1** *related ideas:* connected, interconnected, associated, linked, coupled, allied, affiliated, concomitant, corresponding, analogous, kindred, parallel, comparable, homologous, equivalent.

**2** *are you two related? of the same family*, kin, akin, kindred, consanguineous; formal cognate.

– OPPOSITES unconnected.

**r** **relation** noun **1** *the complex relation between church and state:* **connection**, relationship, association, link, correlation, correspondence, parallel, alliance, bond, interrelation, interconnection. **2** *this had no relation to national security:* **relevance**, applicability, reference, pertinence, bearing. **3** *are you a relation of his?* **relative**, member of the family, kinsman, kinswoman; (**relations**) family, (kith and) kin, kindred. **4** *improving relations with India:* **dealings**, communication, relationship, connections, contact, interaction. **5** *sexual relations.* See **SEX** sense 1.

**relationship** noun **1** *the relationship between diet and diabetes:* **connection**, relation, association, link, correlation, correspondence, parallel, alliance, bond, interrelation, interconnection. **2** *evidence of their relationship to a common ancestor:* **family ties/connections**, blood relationship, kinship, affinity, consanguinity, common ancestry/lineage. **3** *the end of their*

*relationship:* **romance**, (love) affair, love, liaison, amour.

**relative** adjective **1** *the relative importance of each factor:* **comparative**, respective, comparable, correlative, parallel, corresponding. **2** *the food required is relative to body weight:* **proportionate**, proportional, in proportion, commensurate, corresponding. **3** *relative ease:* **moderate**, reasonable, a fair degree of, considerable, comparative.

• **noun** *he's a relative of mine:* **relation**, member of someone's/the family, kinsman, kinswoman; (**relatives**) family, (kith and) kin, kindred, kinsfolk.

**relatively** adverb **comparatively**, by comparison; quite, fairly, reasonably, rather, somewhat, to a certain degree/degree, tolerably, passably; informal pretty, kind of, sort of.

**relax** verb **1** *yoga is helpful in learning to relax:* **unwind**, loosen up, ease up/off, slow down, de-stress, unbend, rest, put one's feet up, take it easy; informal chill (out), cool out; N. Amer. informal hang loose. **2** *a walk will relax you:* **calm (down)**, unwind, loosen up, make less tense/uptight, soothe, pacify, compose. **3** *he relaxed his grip:* **loosen**, loose, slacken, unclench, weaken, lessen. **4** *her muscles relaxed:* **become less tense**, loosen, slacken, unknot. **5** *they relaxed the restrictions:* **moderate**, modify, temper, ease (up on), loosen, lighten, dilute, weaken, reduce, decrease; informal let up on.

– OPPOSITES tense, tighten.

**relaxation** noun **1** *a state of relaxation:*

(**mental**) **repose**, calm, tranquillity, peacefulness, loosening up, unwinding.

**2** *I just play for relaxation:* **recreation**, enjoyment, amusement, entertainment, fun, pleasure, leisure; informal R & R. **3** *muscle relaxation:* **loosening**, slackening, loosing.

**4** *relaxation of censorship rules:* **moderation**, easing, loosening, lightening; alleviation, mitigation, dilution, weakening, reduction; informal letting up.

**relay** noun *a live relay of the performance:*

**broadcast**, transmission, showing.

• **verb** *relaying messages through a third party:* **pass on**, hand on, transfer, repeat, communicate, send, transmit, disseminate, spread, circulate.

**release** verb **1** *all prisoners were released:*

(set) **free**, let go/out, allow to leave, liberate, set at liberty. **2** *Burke released the animal:* **untie**, undo, loose, let go, unleash, unfetter. **3** *this released staff for other duties:* **make available**, free (up), put at someone's disposal, supply, furnish, provide. **4** *she released Stephen from his promise:* **excuse**, exempt, discharge, deliver, absolve; informal let off. **5** *police released the news yesterday:* **make public**, make known, issue, break, announce, declare, report, reveal, divulge, disclose, publish, broadcast, circulate, communicate, disseminate. **6** *the film has been released on video:* **launch**, put on the market, put on sale, bring out,



make available.

– **OPPOSITES** imprison, tie up.

• **noun 1** *the release of political prisoners:* freeing, liberation, deliverance; freedom, liberty. **2** *the release of the news:* issuing, announcement, declaration, reporting, revealing, divulging, disclosure, publication, communication, dissemination. **3** *a press release:* announcement, bulletin, newflash, dispatch, proclamation. **4** *the group's last release:* CD, album, single, record; video, film; book.

**relegate** verb *downgrade, lower (in rank/status), put down, move down; demote, degrade.*

– **OPPOSITES** upgrade.

**relent** verb **1** *the government finally relented: change one's mind, do a U-turn, backpedal, back down, give way/in, capitulate; become merciful, become lenient, agree to something, allow something, concede something; Brit. do an about-turn; formal accede.* **2** *the rain has relented: ease (off/up), slacken, let up, abate, drop, die down, lessen, decrease, subside, weaken, tail off.*

**relentless** adjective **1** *their relentless pursuit of quality: persistent, continuing, constant, continual, continuous, non-stop, never-ending, unabating, interminable, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, unremitting, unrelenting, unrelieved; unfaltering, unflagging, untiring, unwavering, dogged, single-minded, tireless, indefatigable; formal pertinacious.* **2** *a relentless taskmaster: harsh, grim, cruel, severe, strict, remorseless, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, unmerciful, heartless, hard-hearted, unforgiving; inflexible, unbending, uncompromising, obdurate, unyielding.*

**relevant** adjective *pertinent, applicable, apposite, material, apropos, to the point, germane; connected, related, linked.*

**reliable** adjective **1** *reliable evidence: dependable, good, well founded, authentic, valid, genuine, sound, true.* **2** *a reliable friend: trustworthy, dependable, good, true, faithful, devoted, steadfast, staunch, constant, loyal, trusty, dedicated, unfailing; truthful, honest.* **3** *reliable brakes: dependable, safe, fail-safe.* **4** *a reliable firm: reputable, dependable, trustworthy, honest, responsible, established, proven.*

– **OPPOSITES** untrustworthy.

**reliance** noun **1** *reliance on the state: dependence, dependency.* **2** *reliance on his own judgement: trust, confidence, faith, belief, conviction.*

**relic** noun **1** *a Viking relic: artefact, historical object, ancient object, antiquity, antique.* **2** *a saint's relics: remains, corpse, bones, reliquiae; Medicine cadaver.*

**relief** noun **1** *it was such a relief to share my worries: reassurance, consolation, comfort, solace.* **2** *the relief of pain: alleviation, alleviating, relieving, assuagement, assuaging, palliation, allaying, soothing, easing, lessening, reduction.* **3** *relief from her burden: freedom, release, liberation,*

*deliverance.* **4** *a little light relief: respite, amusement, diversion, entertainment, jollity, jollification, recreation.* **5** *bringing relief to the starving: help, aid, assistance, succour, sustenance; charity, gifts, donations.* **6** *his relief arrived to take over: replacement, substitute, deputy, reserve, cover, stand-in, supply, locum (tenens), understudy.*

– **OPPOSITES** intensification.

■ **throw something into relief** highlight, spotlight, give prominence to, point up, show up, emphasize, bring out, stress, accent, underline, underscore, accentuate.

**relieve** verb **1** *this helps relieve pain:*

*alleviate, mitigate, assuage, ease, dull, reduce, lessen, diminish.* **2** *relieving the boredom: counteract, reduce, alleviate, mitigate; interrupt, vary, stop, dispel, prevent.* **3** *the helpers relieved us: replace, take over from, stand in for, fill in for, substitute for, deputize for, cover for.* **4** *this relieves the teacher of a heavy load: (set) free, release, exempt, excuse, absolve, let off, discharge.*

– **OPPOSITES** aggravate.

**relieved** adjective *glad, thankful, grateful, pleased, happy, easy/easier in one's mind, reassured.*

– **OPPOSITES** worried.

**religion** noun *faith, belief, worship, creed; sect, cult, church, denomination.*

#### WORD LINKS

**theology, divinity** the study of religious belief

**pilgrim** a person travelling to a holy place for religious reasons

**proselytize** convert someone from one religion to another

**fundamentalism** the strict following of the basic doctrines of a religion

**heresy** belief or opinion which goes against traditional religious doctrine

**apostate** a person who abandons a system of religious belief

**heathen, infidel** a person who does not belong to a widely held religion

**pagan** a person who has religious beliefs other than those of established religions

**religious** adjective **1** *a religious person:*

*devout, pious, reverent, godly, God-fearing, churchgoing, practising, faithful, devoted, committed.*

**2** *religious beliefs:*

*spiritual, theological, scriptural, doctrinal, ecclesiastical, church, churchly, holy, divine, sacred.*

**3** *religious attention to detail: scrupulous, conscientious, meticulous, sedulous, punctilious, strict, rigorous, close.*

– **OPPOSITES** atheistic, secular.

**relinquish** verb **1** *he relinquished control of the company: renounce, give up/away, hand over, let go of.*

**2** *he relinquished his post: leave, resign from, stand down from, bow out of, give up; informal quit, chuck.*

**3** *he relinquished his pipe-smoking: discontinue, stop, cease, give up, desist from; informal quit, leave off, kick; formal forswear.*

**4** *she relinquished her grip: let go, release, loose,*

loosen, relax.

– OPPOSITES retain, continue.

**relish** noun **1** *he dug into his food with relish*: **enjoyment**, gusto, delight, pleasure, glee, rapture, satisfaction, contentment, appreciation, enthusiasm, appetite; humorous delectation. **2** *a hot relish*: **condiment**, sauce, dressing, flavouring, seasoning, dip.

– OPPOSITES dislike.

• **verb** **1** *he was relishing his moment of glory*: **enjoy**, delight in, love, adore, take pleasure in, rejoice in, appreciate, savour, revel in, luxuriate in, glory in. **2** *I don't relish the drive*: **look forward to**, fancy, anticipate with pleasure.

**reluctance** noun **unwillingness**, disinclination; hesitation, wavering, vacillation; doubts, second thoughts, misgivings; old use disrelish.

**reluctant** adjective **1** *her parents were reluctant*: **unwilling**, disinclined, unenthusiastic, resistant, resisting, opposed; hesitant. **2** *a reluctant smile*: **shy**, bashful, coy, diffident, reserved, timid, timorous. **3** *he was reluctant to leave*: **loath**, unwilling, disinclined, indisposed; not in favour of, against, opposed to.

– OPPOSITES willing, eager.

**rely** verb **1** *we can rely on his discretion*: **depend**, count, bank, place reliance, reckon; be confident of, be sure of, believe in, have faith in, trust in; informal swear by; N. Amer. informal figure on. **2** *we rely on government funding*: **be dependent**, depend, be unable to manage without.

**remain** verb **1** *the problem will remain*: **continue** to exist, endure, last, abide, carry on, persist, stay (around), prevail, survive, live on. **2** *he remained in hospital*: **stay** (behind/put), wait (around), be left, hang on; informal hang around/round; Brit. informal hang about; old use bide. **3** *union leaders remain sceptical*: **continue to be**, stay, keep, persist in being, carry on being.

**remainder** noun **residue**, balance, remaining part/number, rest, others, those left, remnant(s), surplus, extra, excess, overflow; technical residuum.

**remaining** adjective **1** *the remaining workers*: **residual**, surviving, left (over); extra, surplus, spare, superfluous, excess. **2** *his remaining jobs*: **unsettled**, outstanding, unfinished, incomplete, to be done, unattended to. **3** *my only remaining memories*: **surviving**, lasting, enduring, continuing, persisting, abiding, (still) existing.

**remains** plural noun **1** *the remains of her drink*: **remainder**, residue, remaining part/number, rest, remnant(s); technical residuum. **2** *Roman remains*: **antiquities**, relics, reliquiae. **3** *the saint's remains*: **corpse**, (dead) body, carcass; bones, skeleton; Medicine cadaver.

**remark** verb **1** *'You're quiet,' he remarked*: **comment**, say, observe, mention, reflect, state, declare, announce, pronounce, assert; formal opine. **2** *many critics remarked on their*

*rapport*: **comment**, mention, refer to, speak of, pass comment on. **3** *he remarked the absence of policemen*: **note**, notice, observe, take note of, perceive, discern.

• **noun** **1** *his remarks have been misinterpreted*: **comment**, statement, utterance, observation, declaration, pronouncement. **2** *worthy of remark*: **attention**, notice, comment, mention, observation, acknowledgement.

**remarkable** adjective **extraordinary**, exceptional, amazing, astonishing, astounding, marvellous, wonderful, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal, outstanding, momentous; out of the ordinary, unusual, uncommon, surprising; informal fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome; literary wondrous.

– OPPOSITES ordinary.

**remediable** adjective **curable**, treatable, operable; solvable, reparable, rectifiable, resolvable.

– OPPOSITES incurable.

**remedy** noun **1** *herbal remedies*: **treatment**, cure, medicine, medication, medicament, drug; old use physic. **2** *a remedy for all kinds of problems*: **solution**, answer, cure, antidote, curative, nostrum, panacea, cure-all; informal magic bullet.

• **verb** **1** *remedying the situation*: **put/set right**, put/set to rights, right, rectify, solve, sort out, straighten out, resolve, correct, repair, mend, make good. **2** *anaemia can be remedied by iron tablets*: **cure**, treat, heal, make better; relieve, ease, alleviate, palliate.

**remember** verb **1** *remembering happy times*: **recall**, call to mind, recollect, think of; reminisce about, look back on; old use bethink oneself of. **2** *can you remember all that?* **memorize**, commit to memory, retain; learn off by heart. **3** *you must remember she's only five*: **bear/keep in mind**, be mindful of the fact; take into account, take into consideration. **4** *remember to feed the cat*: **be sure**, be certain; mind that you, make sure that you. **5** *remember me to Alice*: **send one's best wishes to**, send one's regards to, give one's love to, send one's compliments to, say hello to. **6** *the nation remembered those who gave their lives*: **commemorate**, pay tribute to, honour, salute, pay homage to. **7** *she remembered them in her will*: **bequeath something to**, leave something to, bestow something on.

– OPPOSITES forget.

**remembrance** noun **1** *an expression of remembrance*: **recollection**, reminiscence; remembering, recalling, recollecting, reminiscing. **2** *she smiled at the remembrance*: **memory**, recollection, reminiscence, thought. **3** *we sold poppies in remembrance*: **commemoration**, memory, recognition. **4** *a remembrance of my father*: **memento**, reminder, keepsake, souvenir, memorial, token.

**remind** verb **1** *I left a note to remind him*: **jog someone's memory**, help someone

remember, prompt. **2** *the song reminded me of my sister: make someone think of*, make someone remember, put someone in mind of, bring/call to mind, evoke.

**reminder** noun **prompt**, aide-memoire, mnemonic.

**reminisce** verb **remember**, cast one's mind back to, look back on, be nostalgic about, recall, recollect, reflect on, call to mind.

**reminiscences** plural noun **memories**, recollections, reflections, remembrances.

**reminiscent** adjective **similar to**, comparable with, evocative of, suggestive of, redolent of.

**remiss** adjective **negligent**, neglectful, irresponsible, careless, thoughtless, heedless, lax, slack, sloppy, slipshod, lackadaisical; N. Amer. derelict; formal delinquent.

– OPPOSITES careful.

**remission** noun **1** *the remission of all fees: cancellation*, setting aside, suspension, revocation; formal abrogation. **2** *the cancer is in remission: respite*, abeyance. **3** *the wind howled without remission: respite*, lessening, abatement, easing, decrease, reduction, diminution, dying down, slackening, lull; informal let-up. **4** *the remission of sins: forgiveness*, pardoning, absolution, exoneration; formal exculpation.

**remit** verb **1** *the fines were remitted: cancel*, set aside, suspend, revoke; formal abrogate. **2** *remitting duties to the authorities: send*, dispatch, forward, hand over; pay. **3** *the case was remitted to the Court of Appeal: pass (on)*, refer, send on, transfer. **4** (rare) *we remitted all further discussion: postpone*, defer, put off/back, shelve, delay, suspend; N. Amer. table; informal put on the back burner, put on ice. **5** *remitting their sins: pardon*, forgive; excuse. **6** (old use) *the fever remitted: diminish*, lessen, decrease, ease (up), abate, moderate, subside.

• noun *that is outside his remit: area of responsibility*, sphere, orbit, scope, ambit, province; brief, instructions, orders; informal bailiwick.

**remittance** noun **1** *send the form with your remittance: payment*, money, fee; cheque; formal monies. **2** *a monthly remittance: allowance*, sum of money.

**remnant** noun **1** *the remnants of the picnic: remains*, remainder, leftovers, residue, rest; technical residuum. **2** *remnants of cloth: scrap*, piece, bit, fragment, shred, offcut, oddment.

**remonstrate** verb **1** *'I'm not a child!'* *he remonstrated: protest*, complain, expostulate; argue with, take issue with. **2** *we remonstrated against this proposal: object strongly to*, complain vociferously about, protest against, argue against, oppose strongly, make a fuss about, challenge; deplore, condemn, denounce, criticize; informal kick up a fuss/stink about.

**remorse** noun **contrition**, regret, repentance, penitence, guilt, compunction,

remorsefulness, ruefulness, contriteness; pangs of conscience.

**remorseful** adjective **sorry**, full of regret, regretful, contrite, repentant, penitent, guilt-ridden, conscience-stricken, guilty, chastened, self-reproachful.

– OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**remorseless** adjective **1** **heartless**, pitiless, merciless, ruthless, callous, cruel, hard-hearted, inhumane, unmerciful, unforgiving, unfeeling. **2** *remorseless cost-cutting: relentless*, unrelenting, unremitting, unabating, inexorable, unstoppable.

– OPPOSITES compassionate.

**remote** adjective **1** *areas remote from hospitals: faraway*, distant, far (off), far removed. **2** *a remote mountain village: isolated*, out of the way, off the beaten track, secluded, lonely, in the back of beyond, godforsaken, inaccessible; N. Amer. in the backwoods, lonesome; Austral./NZ in the backblocks, in the booy; informal in the sticks, in the middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal in the tall timbers; Austral./NZ informal beyond the black stump; old use unapproachable. **3** *events remote from modern times: irrelevant to*, unrelated to, unconnected to, unconcerned with, not pertinent to, immaterial to, unassociated with; foreign to, alien to. **4** *a remote possibility: unlikely*, improbable, implausible, doubtful, dubious; faint, slight, slim, small, slender. **5** *she seems very remote: aloof*, distant, detached, withdrawn, reserved, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, unapproachable, unresponsive, unfriendly, unsociable, introspective, introverted; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES close, central.

**removal** noun **1** *the removal of heavy artillery: taking away*, moving, carrying away. **2** *his removal from office: dismissal*, ejection, expulsion, ousting, displacement, deposition; N. Amer. ouster; informal sacking, firing. **3** *the removal of customs barriers: withdrawal*, elimination, taking away. **4** *the removal of errors: deletion*, elimination, erasing, effacing, obliteration. **5** *the removal of weeds: uprooting*, eradication. **6** *the removal of old branches: cutting off*, chopping off, hacking off. **7** *her removal to France: move*, transfer, relocation. **8** *the removal of a rival: killing*, murder, elimination; informal liquidation.

– OPPOSITES installation.

**remove** verb **1** *remove the plug: detach*, unfasten; pull out, take out, disconnect. **2** *she removed the lid: take off*, undo, unfasten. **3** *he removed a note from his wallet: take out*, extract, produce, bring out, get out, pull out, withdraw. **4** *police removed boxes of documents: take away*, carry away, move, transport; confiscate; informal cart off. **5** *Sheila removed the mud: clean off*, wash off, wipe off, rinse off, scrub off, sponge out. **6** *Henry removed his coat: take off*, pull off, slip out of; Brit. informal peel off. **7** *he was removed from his post: dismiss*, discharge, get rid of, dislodge, displace, expel, oust,



depose; informal sack, fire, kick out, boot out; Brit. informal turf out. **8 tax relief was removed:** **withdraw**, abolish, eliminate, get rid of, do away with, stop, cut, axe. **9 Gabriel removed two words:** **delete**, erase, rub out, cross out, strike out, score out. **10 weeds have to be removed:** **uproot**, pull out, eradicate. **11 removing branches:** **cut off**, chop off, lop off, hack off. **12 (dated) he removed to Edinburgh:** **move (house)**, relocate, transfer; emigrate; Brit. informal up sticks; N. Amer. informal pull up stakes. **13 the mobsters removed their enemies.** See **KILL** verb sense 1.

– **OPPOSITES** attach, insert, replace.

• **noun** it is impossible, at this remove, to reconstruct the accident: **distance**, space of time, interval.

**removed** adjective **distant**, remote, disconnected; unrelated, unconnected, alien, foreign.

**remunerate** verb **pay**, reward, reimburse, recompense.

**remuneration** noun **payment**, pay, salary, wages; earnings, fee(s), reward, recompense, reimbursement; formal emolument(s).

**remunerative** adjective **lucrative**, well paid, financially rewarding; profitable.

**renaissance** noun **revival**, renewal, resurrection, reawakening, re-emergence, rebirth, reappearance, resurgence, regeneration; formal **renascence**.

**rend** verb **tear/rip apart**, tear/rip in two, split, rupture, sever; literary **tear/rip asunder**, sunder; rare **dissever**; old **use** **rive**.

**render** verb **1 her fury rendered her speechless:** **make**, cause to be/become, leave. **2 rendering assistance:** **give**, provide, supply, furnish, contribute; offer, proffer. **3 the invoices rendered by the accountants:** **send in**, present, submit. **4 the jury rendered their verdict:** **deliver**, return, hand down, give, announce. **5 paintings rendered in vivid colours:** **paint**, draw, depict, portray, represent, execute; literary **limn**. **6 she rendered all three verses:** **perform**, sing. **7 the characters are vividly rendered:** **act**, perform, play, depict, interpret. **8 the phrase was rendered into English:** **translate**, put, express, rephrase, reword. **9 he rendered up the stolen money:** **give back**, return, restore, pay back, repay, hand over, give up, surrender. **10 the fat can be rendered:** **melt down**, clarify.

**rendezvous** noun **Edward was late for their rendezvous:** **meeting**, appointment, assignation; informal **date**; literary **tryst**.

• **verb** the bar where they had agreed to rendezvous: **meet**, come together, gather, assemble.

**rendition** noun **1 our rendition of Beethoven's Fifth:** **performance**, rendering, interpretation, presentation, execution, delivery. **2 the artist's rendition of Adam and Eve:** **depiction**, portrayal, representation. **3 an interpreter's rendition of the message:** **translation**, interpretation, version.

**renegade** noun **1 he was denounced as a renegade:** **traitor**, defector, deserter,

turncoat, rebel, mutineer; rare **tergiversator**.

**2 (old use) a religious renegade:** **apostate**, heretic, dissenter; old **use** **recreant**.

• **adjective 1 renegade troops:** **treacherous**, traitorous, disloyal, treasonous, rebel, mutinous. **2 a renegade monk:** **apostate**, heretic, heretical, dissident; old **use** **recreant**.

– **OPPOSITES** loyal.

**renee** verb **default on**, fail to honour, go back on, break, back out of, withdraw from, retreat from, welsh on, backtrack on; break one's word/promise.

– **OPPOSITES** honour.

**renew** verb **1 I renewed my search:** **resume**, return to, take up again, come back to, begin again, start again, restart, recommence; continue (with), carry on (with). **2 they renewed their vows:** **reaffirm**, reassert; repeat, reiterate, restate. **3 something to renew her interest in life:** **revive**, regenerate, revitalize, reinvigorate, restore, resuscitate, breathe new life into; old **use** **renovate**. **4 the hotel was completely renewed:** **renovate**, restore, refurbish, modernize, overhaul, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel; N. Amer. bring something up to code; informal **do up**; N. Amer. informal **rehab**. **5 they renewed Jackie's contract:** **extend**, prolong. **6 I renewed my supply of toilet paper:** **replenish**, restock, resupply, top up, replace.

**renewal** noun **1 the renewal of our friendship:** **resumption**, recommencement, re-establishment; continuation. **2 spiritual renewal:** **regeneration**, revival, reinvigoration, revitalization; old **use** **renovation**. **3 the renewal of older urban areas:** **renovation**, restoration, modernization, reconditioning, overhauling, redevelopment, rebuilding, reconstruction.

**renounce** verb **1 Edward renounced his claim to the throne:** **give up**, relinquish, abandon, abdicate, surrender, waive, forgo; Law **disclaim**; formal **abnegate**. **2 Hungary renounced the agreement:** **reject**, refuse to abide by, repudiate. **3 she renounced her family:** **repudiate**, deny, reject, abandon, wash one's hands of, turn one's back on, disown, spurn, shun; literary **forsake**. **4 he renounced alcohol:** **abstain from**, give up, desist from, refrain from, keep off, eschew; informal **quit**, pack in, lay off; formal **forswear**.

– **OPPOSITES** assert, accept.

**renovate** verb **modernize**, restore, refurbish, revamp, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, redevelop; update, upgrade, refit; N. Amer. bring something up to code; informal **do up**; N. Amer. informal **rehab**.

**renown** noun **fame**, distinction, eminence, pre-eminence, prominence, repute, reputation, prestige, acclaim, celebrity, notability.

**renowned** adjective **famous**, celebrated, famed, eminent, distinguished, acclaimed, illustrious, pre-eminent, prominent, great, esteemed, of note, of repute, well known, well thought of.

– **OPPOSITES** unknown.

**rent<sup>1</sup>** verb **1 she rented a car:** **hire**, lease,

charter. **2** *why don't you rent it out?* **let (out)**, lease (out), hire (out); sublet, sublease.

**rent**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *the rent in his trousers:* **rip**, tear, split, hole, slash, slit. **2** *a vast rent in the mountains:* **gorge**, chasm, fault, rift, fissure, crevasse.

**renunciation** **noun** **1** *Henry's renunciation of his throne:* **relinquishment**, giving up, abandonment, abdication, surrender, waiving, forgoing; Law disclaimer; rare abnegation. **2** *his renunciation of luxury:* **abstention**, refraining, going without, giving up, eschewal; formal forswearing. **3** *their renunciation of terrorism:* **repudiation**, rejection, abandonment.

**reorganize** **verb** **restructure**, change, alter, adjust, transform, shake up, rationalize, rearrange, reshape, overhaul.

**repair**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *the car was repaired:* **mend**, fix (up), put/set right, restore (to working order), overhaul, service; informal patch up. **2** *they repaired the costumes:* **mend**, darn; informal patch up. **3** *repairing relations with other countries:* **put/set right**, mend, fix, straighten out, improve; informal patch up. **4** *she sought to repair the wrong she had done:* **rectify**, make good, (put) right, correct, make up for, make amends for, make reparation for.

• **noun** **1** *in need of repair:* **restoration**, fixing (up), mending, renovation; old use reparation.

**2** *an invisible repair:* **mend**, darn. **3** *in good repair:* **condition**, working order, state, shape, fettle; Brit. informal nick.

■ **beyond repair** irreparable, irreversible, irretrievable, irremediable, irrecoverable, past hope.

**repair**<sup>2</sup> **verb** (formal) *we repaired to the sitting room:* **go**, head for, adjourn, wend one's way; formal remove; literary betake oneself.

**reparable** **adjective** **rectifiable**, remediable, curable, restorable, recoverable, retrievable, salvageable.

**reparation** **noun** **amends**, restitution, redress, compensation, recompense, repayment, atonement.

**repartee** **noun** **banter**, badinage, bantering, raillery, witticism(s), ripostes, sallies, quips, joking, jesting, chaff, chaffing; formal personification.

**repast** **noun** (formal) **meal**, feast, banquet; informal spread, feed, bite (to eat); Brit. informal nosh-up; formal collation; literary refection.

**repay** **verb** **1** *repaying customers who have been cheated:* **reimburse**, refund, pay back/off, recompense, compensate, indemnify. **2** *the grants have to be repaid:* **pay back**, return, refund, reimburse. **3** *I'd like to repay her generosity:* **reciprocate**, return, requite, recompense, reward. **4** *interesting books that would repay further study:* **be well worth**, be worth one's while.

**repayment** **noun** **1** *the repayment of tax:* **refund**, reimbursement, paying back. **2** *repayment for all they have done:* **recompense**, reward, compensation.

**repeal** **verb** *the Act was repealed:* **revoke**,

rescind, cancel, reverse, annul, nullify, declare null and void, quash, abolish; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

– **OPPOSITES** enact.

• **noun** *the repeal of the law:* **revocation**, rescinding, cancellation, reversal, annulment, nullification, quashing, abolition; formal abrogation; old use recall.

**repeat** **verb** **1** *she repeated her story:* **say again**, restate, reiterate, go/run through again, recapitulate; informal recap. **2** *children can repeat large chunks of text:* **recite**, quote, parrot, regurgitate; informal trot out. **3** *Steele was invited to repeat his work:* **do again**, redo, replicate, duplicate. **4** *the episodes were repeated:* **rebroadcast**, rerun, reshoot, show again.

• **noun** **1** *a repeat of the previous year's final:* **repetition**, duplication, replication, duplicate. **2** *repeats of his TV show:* **rerun**, rebroadcast, reshooting.

■ **repeat itself** reoccur, recur, occur again, happen again.

**repeated** **adjective** **recurrent**, frequent, persistent, continual, incessant, constant; regular, periodic, numerous, (very) many, a great many.

– **OPPOSITES** occasional.

**repeatedly** **adverb** **frequently**, often, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a time; persistently, recurrently, constantly, continually, regularly; N. Amer. oftentimes; informal 24-7; literary oft, oft-times.

**repel** **verb** **1** *the rebels were repelled:* **fight off**, repulse, drive back/away, force back, beat back, push back; hold off, ward off, keep at bay; Brit. see off; old use rebut. **2** *the coating will repel water:* **be impervious to**, be impermeable to, keep out, resist. **3** *the thought of kissing him repelled me:* **revolt**, disgust, repulse, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, be repulsive, be distasteful, be repugnant; informal turn off; N. Amer. informal gross out.

**repellent** **adjective** **1** *a repellent stench:* **revolting**, repulsive, disgusting, repugnant, sickening, nauseating, stomach-turning, nauseous, vile, nasty, foul, horrible, awful, dreadful, terrible, obnoxious, loathsome, offensive, objectionable; abhorrent, despicable, reprehensible, contemptible, odious, hateful, execrable; N. Amer. vomitous; informal ghastrly, horrid, gross, rank, yucky, icky; literary noisome; old use disgusting. **2** *a repellent coating:* **impermeable**, impervious; -proof, -resistant.

– **OPPOSITES** delightful.

**repent** **verb** **feel remorse**, regret, be sorry, rue, reproach oneself, be ashamed, feel contrite; be penitent, be remorseful, be repentant.

**repentance** **noun** **remorse**, contrition, contriteness, penitence, regret, ruefulness, remorsefulness, shame, guilt; old use rue.

**repentant** **adjective** **penitent**, contrite, regretful, rueful, remorseful, apologetic, chastened, ashamed, shamefaced.

—OPPOSITES impenitent.

**repercussion** noun **1** *political repercussions:* consequence, result, effect, outcome; reverberation, backlash, aftermath, fallout; US blowback. **2** (old use) *a vicious repercussion:* reverberation, recoil, kickback.

**repertoire** noun *collection, stock, range, repertory, reserve, store, repository, supply.*

**repetition** noun **1** *the statistics bear repetition:* reiteration, repeating, restatement, retelling. **2** *the repetition of words:* repeating, echoing, parroting. **3** *a repetition of the scene in the kitchen:* recurrence, reoccurrence, rerun, repeat. **4** *there is some repetition:* repetitiveness, repetitiveness, redundancy, tautology.

**repetitious** adjective *repetitious work.* See REPETITIVE.

**repetitive** adjective *monotonous, tedious, boring, humdrum, mundane, dreary, tiresome; unvaried, unchanging, unvarying, recurrent, recurring, repeated, repetitious, routine, mechanical, automatic.*

**rephrase** verb *reword, put in other words, express differently, paraphrase.*

**repine** verb (literary) *fret, be/feel unhappy, mope, eat one's heart out, brood; lament, grieve, mourn, sorrow, pine.*

**replace** verb **1** *Adam replaced the receiver:* put back, return, restore. **2** *a new chairman came in to replace him:* take the place of, succeed, take over from, supersede; stand in for, substitute for, deputize for, cover for, relieve; informal *step into someone's shoes/boots.* **3** *she replaced the spoon with a fork:* substitute, exchange, change, swap.

—OPPOSITES remove.

**replacement** noun **1** *we have to find a replacement:* successor; substitute, stand-in, locum, relief, cover. **2** *the wiring was in need of replacement:* renewal, replacing.

**replenish** verb **1** *she replenished their glasses:* refill, top up, fill up, recharge; N. Amer. *freshen.* **2** *their supplies were replenished:* stock up, restock, restore, replace.

—OPPOSITES empty, exhaust.

**replete** adjective **1** *the guests were replete:* well fed, sated, satiated, full (up); gluttoned, gorged; informal *stuffed.* **2** *a sumptuous environment replete with antiques:* filled, full, well stocked, well supplied, crammed, packed, jammed, teeming, overflowing, bursting; informal *jam-packed, chock-a-block.*

**replica** noun **1** *is it real or a replica?* copy, model, duplicate, reproduction, replication; dummy, imitation, facsimile, carbon copy. **2** *a replica of her mother:* perfect likeness, double, lookalike, (living) image, twin, clone; informal *spitting image, (dead) ringer.*

**replicate** verb *copy, reproduce, duplicate, recreate, repeat, perform again; clone.*

**reply** verb **1** *Rachel didn't reply:* answer, respond, come back, write back. **2** *he replied defensively:* respond, answer, rejoin, retort, riposte, counter, come back.

• noun *he waited for a reply:* answer,

response, rejoinder, retort, riposte; informal *comeback.*

**report** verb **1** *the government reported a fall in inflation:* announce, describe, give an account of, detail, outline, communicate, divulge, disclose, reveal, make public, publish, broadcast, proclaim, publicize. **2** *the newspapers reported on the scandal:* investigate, look into, inquire into; write about, cover, describe, give details of, commentate on. **3** *I reported him to the police:* inform on, tattle on; informal *shop, tell on, squeal on, rat on, peach on;* Brit. informal *grass on.* **4** *Juliet reported for duty:* present oneself, arrive, turn up, clock in, sign in; Brit. *clock on;* N. Amer. *punch in;* informal *show up.* • noun **1** *a full report on the meeting:* account, review, record, description, statement; transactions, proceedings, transcripts, minutes. **2** *reports of drug dealing:* news, information, word, intelligence; literary *tidings.* **3** *newspaper reports:* story, account, article, piece, item, column, feature, bulletin, dispatch. **4** (Brit.) *a school report:* assessment, evaluation, appraisal; N. Amer. *report card.* **5** *reports of his imminent resignation:* rumour, whisper; informal *buzz;* old use *bruit.* **6** *the report of a gun:* bang, blast, crack, shot, gunshot, explosion, boom. **7** (old use) *of good report.* See REPUTATION.

**reporter** noun *journalist, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newsmen, newswoman, columnist; Brit. pressman; N. Amer. legman, wireman; Austral. roundsman; informal news hound, hack, stringer, journo; N. Amer. informal newsy.*

**repose** noun **1** *a face in repose:* rest, relaxation, inactivity; sleep, slumber. **2** *they found true repose:* peace (and quiet), peacefulness, quiet, quietness, calm, tranquillity. **3** *he lost his repose:* composure, serenity, equanimity, poise, self-possession, aplomb.

• verb **1** *the diamond reposed on a bed of velvet:* lie, rest, be placed, be situated. **2** (literary) *the trust he had reposed in her:* put, place, invest, entrust. **3** *the beds where we reposed:* lie (down), recline, rest, sleep; literary *slumber.*

**repository** noun *store, storehouse, depository; reservoir, bank, cache, treasury, fund, mine.*

**reprehensible** adjective *deplorable, disgraceful, discreditable, despicable, blameworthy, culpable, wrong, bad, shameful, dishonourable, objectionable, opprobrious, repugnant, inexcusable, unforgivable, indefensible, unjustifiable; criminal, sinful, scandalous, iniquitous; formal exceptionable.*

—OPPOSITES praiseworthy.

**represent** verb **1** *a character representing a single quality:* symbolize, stand for, personify, epitomize, typify, embody, illustrate. **2** *the initials which represent her qualification:* stand for, designate, denote; literary *betoken.* **3** *Hathor is represented as a woman with cow's horns:* depict, portray,



render, picture, delineate, show, illustrate; literary limn. **4** *he represented himself as the owner of the factory*: describe as, present as, profess to be, claim to be, pass oneself off as, pose as, pretend to be. **5** *ageing represents a threat to one's independence*: constitute, be, amount to, be regarded as. **6** *a panel representing a cross section of the public*: be a typical sample of, be representative of, typify. **7** *his solicitor represented him in court*: appear for, act for, speak on behalf of. **8** *the Queen was represented by Lord Lewin*: deputize for, substitute for, stand in for. **9** (formal) *I represented the case as I saw it*: point out, state, present, put forward. **10** (formal) *the vendors represented that the information was accurate*: claim, maintain, state, affirm, contend; rare asseverate.

**representation** noun **1** *Rossetti's representation of women*: portrayal, depiction, delineation, presentation, rendition. **2** *representations of the human form*: likeness, painting, drawing, picture, illustration, sketch, image, model, figure, figurine, statue, statuette. **3** (formal) *making representations to the council*: statement, deposition, allegation, declaration, exposition, report, protestation.

**representative** adjective **1** *a representative sample*: typical, prototypical, characteristic, illustrative, archetypal. **2** *a female figure representative of Britain*: symbolic, emblematic. **3** *representative government*: elected, elective, democratic, popular.

– OPPOSITES atypical, totalitarian.  
• noun **1** *a representative of the Royal Society*: spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman, agent, official, mouthpiece. **2** *a sales representative*: (commercial) traveller, (travelling) salesman, saleswoman, agent; informal rep; N. Amer. informal drummer. **3** *the Cambodian representative at the UN*: delegate, commissioner, ambassador, attaché, envoy, emissary, chargé d'affaires, deputy. **4** *our representatives in parliament*: Member (of Parliament), MP; councillor; N. Amer. Member of Congress, senator. **5** *he acted as his father's representative*: deputy, substitute, stand-in, proxy. **6** *fossil representatives of lampreys*: example, specimen, exemplar, exemplification.

**repress** verb **1** *the rebellion was repressed*: suppress, quell, quash, subdue, put down, crush, extinguish, stamp out, defeat, conquer, rout, overwhelm, contain. **2** *the peasants were repressed*: oppress, subjugate, keep down, rule with a rod of iron, intimidate, tyrannize, crush. **3** *these emotions may well be repressed*: restrain, hold back/in, keep back, suppress, keep in check, control, keep under control, curb, stifle, bottle up; informal button up, keep the lid on.

**repressed** adjective **1** *a repressed country*: oppressed, subjugated, subdued, tyrannized. **2** *repressed feelings*: restrained, suppressed, held back/in, kept in check, stifled, pent up, bottled up. **3** *emotionally repressed*: inhibited, frustrated, restrained;

informal uptight, hung up.

– OPPOSITES democratic, uninhibited.

**repression** noun **1** *the repression of the protests*: suppression, quashing, subduing, crushing, stamping out. **2** *political repression*: oppression, subjugation, suppression, tyranny, despotism, authoritarianism. **3** *the repression of sexual urges*: restraint, restraining, holding back, keeping back, suppression, control, stifling, bottling up.

**repressive** adjective oppressive, authoritarian, despotic, tyrannical, dictatorial, fascist, autocratic, totalitarian, undemocratic.

**reprieve** verb **1** *she was reprieved*: grant a stay of execution to, pardon, spare, grant an amnesty to, amnesty; informal let off (the hook); old use respite. **2** *the threatened pits could be reprieved*: save, rescue.

• noun **a last-minute reprieve**: stay of execution, remission, pardon, amnesty; US Law continuance; informal let-off.

**reprimand** verb *he was publicly reprimanded*: rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task, lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, lecture, criticize, censure; informal tell off, give someone a telling-off, give someone a talking-to, dress down, give someone a dressing-down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, slap someone's wrist, bawl out, pitch into, lay into, lace into, blast; Brit. informal tick off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a wiggling, give someone a rocket, give someone a rollicking; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate; dated give someone a rating; rare reprehend, objurgate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

• noun *they received a severe reprimand*: rebuke, reproof, admonishment, admonition, reproach, reproof, scolding, upbraiding, censure; informal telling-off, rap over the knuckles, slap on the wrist, flea in one's ear, dressing-down, earful, roasting, tongue-lashing; Brit. informal ticking-off, carpeting, wiggling, rocket, rollicking; formal castigation; dated rating.

– OPPOSITES commendation.

**reprisal** noun *retaliation*, counter-attack, comeback; revenge, vengeance, retribution, requital; informal a taste of one's own medicine.

**reproach** verb *Albert reproached him for being late*. See REPRIMAND verb.

• noun **1** *an expression of reproach*. See REPRIMAND noun. **2** *this party is a reproach to British politics*: disgrace, discredit, source of shame, blemish, stain, blot; literary smirch.

■ **beyond/above reproach** perfect, blameless, above suspicion, without fault, faultless, flawless, irreproachable, exemplary, impeccable, immaculate, unblemished, spotless, untarnished, stainless, unsullied, whiter than white; informal squeaky clean.

**reproachful** adjective disapproving, reproving, critical, censorious, disparaging, withering, accusatory, admonitory; formal castigatory.

– OPPOSITES approving.

**reprobate** noun *a hardened reprobate:*

rogue, rascal, scoundrel, miscreant, good-for-nothing, villain, wretch, rake, degenerate, libertine, debauchee; informal, dated rotter, bounder; dated cad; old use blackguard, knave, rapsallion, scapegrace.

• **adjective** *reprobate behaviour:*

unprincipled, bad, roguish, wicked, rakish, shameless, immoral, degenerate, dissipated, debauched, depraved; old use knavish.

• **verb** (old use) *they reprobated his conduct:*

criticize, condemn, censure, denounce.

**reproduce** verb **1** *each artwork is reproduced*

*in colour: copy, duplicate, replicate; photocopy, xerox, photostat, print. 2 this work has not been reproduced in other laboratories: repeat, replicate, recreate, redo; simulate, imitate, emulate, mirror, mimic. 3 some animals reproduce prolifically: breed, produce offspring, procreate, propagate, multiply.*

**reproduction** noun **1** *colour reproduction:*

copying, duplication, duplicating; photocopying, xeroxing, photostatting, printing. **2** *a reproduction of the original: print, copy, reprint, duplicate, facsimile, carbon copy, photocopy; trademark Xerox. 3 the process of reproduction: breeding, procreation, multiplying, propagation.*

**reproductive** adjective generative, procreative, propagative; sexual, genital.

**reproof** noun **rebuke, reprimand, reproach, admonishment, admonition; disapproval, censure, criticism, condemnation; informal telling-off, dressing down; Brit. informal ticking-off; dated rating.**

**reprove** verb **reprimand, rebuke, reproach, scold, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, berate, take to task, haul over the coals, criticize, censure; informal tell off, give someone a telling-off, give someone a talking-to, dress down, give someone a dressing-down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, slap someone's wrist; Brit. informal tick off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone a rocket, give someone a rollicking; formal castigate; dated give someone a rating; rare reprehend, objurgate.**

**reptile** noun

#### WORD LINKS

**herpetology** the branch of zoology concerned with reptiles and amphibians

**reptilian** adjective **1** *reptilian species: reptile, reptile-like, saurian; cold-blooded. 2 a reptilian smirk: unpleasant, distasteful, nasty, disagreeable, unattractive, off-putting, horrible, horrid; unctuous, ingratiating, oily, oleaginous; informal smarmy, slimy, creepy.*

**repudiate** verb **1** *she repudiated communism: reject, renounce, abandon, give*

*up, turn one's back on, disown, cast off, lay aside; formal forswear, abjure; literary forsake.*

**2** *Cranham repudiated the allegations:*

**deny, refute, contradict, controvert, rebut, dispute, dismiss, brush aside; formal gainsay.**

**3** *Egypt repudiated the treaty: cancel, revoke, rescind, reverse, overrule, overturn, invalidate, nullify; disregard, flout, renege on; Law disaffirm; formal abrogate.*

– OPPOSITES embrace, confirm.

**repudiation** noun **1** *the repudiation of*

*one's religion: rejection, renunciation, abandonment, forswearing, giving up; rare abjuration. 2 his repudiation of the allegations: denial, refutation, rebuttal, rejection. 3 a repudiation of the contract: cancellation, revocation, rescindment, reversal, invalidation, nullification; Law disaffirmation; formal abrogation.*

**repugnance** noun **revulsion, disgust, abhorrence, repulsion, loathing, hatred, detestation, aversion, distaste, antipathy, contempt; old use disrelish.**

**repugnant** adjective **1** *the idea of cannibalism is repugnant: abhorrent, revolting, repulsive, repellent, disgusting, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, nasty, loathsome, sickening, nauseating, hateful, detestable, horrible, execrable, abominable, monstrous, appalling, insufferable, intolerable, unacceptable, contemptible, unsavoury, unpalatable; informal ghastly, gross, horrid; literary noisome. 2 (formal) the restriction is repugnant to the tenancy: incompatible with, in conflict with, contrary to, at variance with, inconsistent with.*

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**repulse** verb **1** *the rebels were repulsed:*

**repel, drive back/away, fight back/off; put to flight, force back, beat off/back; ward off, hold off; Brit. see off; old use rebut.**

**2** *her advances were repulsed: rebuff, reject, spurn, snub, cold-shoulder; informal give someone the brush-off, freeze out; Brit. informal knock back; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush. 3 his bid for the company was repulsed: reject, turn down, refuse, decline. 4 the brutality repulsed her: revolt, disgust, repel, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, be repugnant to; informal turn off; N. Amer. informal gross out.*

• **noun 1** *the repulse of the attack: repelling, driving back; warding off, holding off.*

**2** *he was mortified by this repulse: rebuff, rejection, snub, slight; informal brush-off, knock-back.*

**repulsion** noun **disgust, revulsion, abhorrence, repugnance, nausea, horror, aversion, abomination, distaste; old use disrelish.**

**repulsive** adjective **revolting, disgusting, abhorrent, repellent, repugnant, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, nasty, loathsome, sickening, nauseating, hateful, detestable, execrable, abominable, horrible, monstrous, noxious, horrendous, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, unsavoury,**

unpleasant, disagreeable, distasteful; ugly, hideous, grotesque; informal ghastly, horrid, gross, rank; literary noisome; old use disgusting, loathly.

– OPPOSITES attractive.

**reputable** adjective *well thought of*, highly regarded, (well) respected, respectable, of (good) *repute*, prestigious, established; reliable, dependable, trustworthy; old use of good report.

– OPPOSITES untrustworthy.

**reputation** noun (good) *name*, character, *repute*, standing, stature, status, position, renown, esteem, prestige; N. Amer. informal *rep*, *rap*; old use honour, report.

**repute** noun **1** *a woman of ill repute:*

**reputation**, name, character; old use report. **2** *a firm of international repute:* fame, renown, celebrity, distinction, high standing, stature, prestige.

**reputed** adjective **1** *they are reputed to be very rich:* **thought**, said, reported, rumoured, believed, held, considered, regarded, deemed, alleged. **2** *a reputed naturalist:* **well thought of**, (well) respected, highly regarded, of good *repute*.

**reputedly** adverb *supposedly*, by all accounts, so I'm told, so people say, allegedly.

**request** noun **1** *requests for assistance:* appeal, entreaty, plea, petition, application, demand, call; formal adjuration; literary behest.

**2** *Charlotte spoke, at Ursula's request:* bidding, entreaty, demand, insistence.

**3** *indicate your requests on the form:*

**requirement**, wish, desire; choice.

• **verb 1** *the government requested military aid:* ask for, appeal for, call for, seek, solicit, plead for, apply for, demand; formal adjure. **2** *I requested him to help:* call on, beg, entreat, implore; literary beseech.

**require** verb **1** *the child required hospital treatment:* need, be in need of. **2** *a situation requiring patience:* necessitate, demand, call for, involve, entail. **3** *unquestioning obedience is required:* demand, insist on, call for, ask for, expect. **4** *she was required to pay costs:* order, instruct, command, enjoin, oblige, compel, force. **5** *do you require anything else?* want, wish to have, desire; lack, be short of.

**required** adjective **1** *required reading:* essential, vital, indispensable, necessary, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, prescribed. **2** *cut it to the required length:* desired, preferred, chosen; correct, proper, right.

– OPPOSITES optional.

**requirement** noun need, wish, demand, want, necessity, essential, prerequisite, stipulation.

**requisite** adjective *he lacks the requisite skills:* necessary, required, prerequisite, essential, indispensable, vital.

– OPPOSITES optional.

• **noun 1** *toilet requisites:* requirement, need, necessity, essential. **2** *a requisite for a successful career:* necessity, essential

(requirement), prerequisite, precondition, sine qua non; informal must.

**requisition** noun **1** *requisitions for staff:* order, request, call, application, claim, demand; Brit. indent. **2** *the requisition of cultural treasures:* appropriation, commandeering, seizure, confiscation, expropriation.

• **verb 1** *the house was requisitioned by the army:* commandeer, appropriate, take over, take possession of, occupy, seize, confiscate, expropriate. **2** *she requisitioned statements:* request, order, call for, demand.

**requital** noun **1** *in requital of your kindness:* repayment, return, payment, recompense.

**2** *personal requital:* revenge, vengeance, retribution, redress.

**requite** verb **1** *requiting their hospitality:* return, reciprocate, repay. **2** *Drake had requited the wrongs inflicted on them:*

avenge, exact revenge for, revenge, pay someone back for; take reprisals, settle the score, get even. **3** *she did not requite his love:* reciprocate, return.

**rescind** verb revoke, repeal, cancel, reverse, overturn, overrule, annul, nullify, void, invalidate, quash, abolish; Law vacate; formal abrogate; old use recall.

– OPPOSITES enforce.

**rescission** noun (formal) **revocation**, repeal, rescindment, annulment, nullification, invalidation, voiding; formal abrogation; old use recall.

**rescue** verb **1** *an attempt to rescue the hostages:* save, save the life of, come to the aid of; (set) free, release, liberate. **2** *Boyd rescued his papers:* retrieve, recover, salvage, get back.

• **noun** *the rescue of 10 crewmen:* saving, rescuing; release, freeing, liberation, deliverance, redemption.

■ **come to someone's rescue** help, assist, lend a (helping) hand to, bail out; informal save someone's bacon, save someone's neck, save someone's skin.

**research** noun **1** *medical research:* investigation, experimentation, testing, analysis, fact-finding, examination, scrutiny, scrutinization. **2** *he continued his researches:* experiments, experimentation, tests, inquiries, studies.

• **verb 1** *the phenomenon has been widely researched:* investigate, study, inquire into, look into, probe, explore, analyse, examine, scrutinize, review. **2** *I researched all the available material:* study, read (up on), sift through; informal check out.

**resemblance** noun similarity, likeness, similitude, correspondence, congruity, congruence, coincidence, conformity, agreement, equivalence, comparability, parallelism, uniformity, sameness.

**resemble** verb look like, be similar to, be like, bear a resemblance to, remind one of, take after, favour, have the look of; approximate to, smack of, have (all) the hallmarks of, correspond to, echo, mirror, parallel.



**resent** verb begrudge, feel aggrieved at/about, feel bitter about, grudge, be annoyed at/about, be resentful of, dislike, take exception to, object to, take amiss, take offence at, take umbrage at, bear/harbour a grudge about.

– OPPOSITES welcome.

**resentful** adjective aggrieved, indignant, irritated, piqued, put out, in high dudgeon, dissatisfied, disgruntled, discontented, offended, bitter, jaundiced; envious, jealous; informal miffed, peeved; Brit. informal narked; N. Amer. informal sore.

**resentment** noun bitterness, indignation, irritation, pique, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement, discontentment, discontent, resentfulness, bad feelings, hard feelings, ill will, acrimony, rancour, animosity, jaundice; envy, jealousy.

**reservation** noun **1** *grave reservations*: doubt, qualm, scruple; misgivings, scepticism, unease, hesitation, objection. **2** *group reservations*: (advance) booking; dated engagement. **3** *the reservation of the room*: booking, ordering, securing; dated engagement. **4** *Indian reservation*: reserve, enclave, sanctuary, territory, homeland. ■ **without reservation** wholeheartedly, unreservedly, without qualification, fully, completely, totally, entirely, wholly, unconditionally.

**reserve** verb **1** *ask your newsagent to reserve you a copy*: put to one side, put aside, set aside, keep (back), save, hold back, keep in reserve, earmark. **2** *he reserved a table*: book, make a reservation for, order, arrange for, secure; formal bespeak; dated engage. **3** *the management reserves the right to alter the programme*: retain, keep, hold. **4** *reserve your judgement until you know him better*: defer, postpone, put off, delay, withhold.

• **noun 1** *reserves of petrol*: stock, store, supply, stockpile, pool, hoard, cache.

**2** *the army are calling up reserves*:

reinforcements, extras, auxiliaries. **3** *a nature reserve*: national park, sanctuary, preserve, conservation area. **4** *his natural reserve*: reticence, detachment, distance, remoteness, coolness, aloofness, constraint, formality; shyness, diffidence, timidity, taciturnity, inhibition; informal stand-offishness. **5** *she trusted him without reserve*: reservation, qualification, condition, limitation, hesitation, doubt.

• **adjective** *a reserve goalkeeper*: substitute, stand-in, relief, replacement, fallback, spare, extra.

■ **in reserve** available, to/on hand, ready, in readiness, set aside, at one's disposal.

**reserved** adjective **1** *Sewell is rather reserved*: reticent, quiet, private, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, undemonstrative, unsociable, formal, constrained, cool, aloof, detached, distant, remote, unapproachable, unfriendly, withdrawn, secretive, silent, taciturn; shy, retiring, diffident, timid, self-effacing, inhibited, introverted; informal stand-offish. **2** *that table is reserved*: booked,

taken, spoken for, prearranged; dated engaged; formal bespoken.

– OPPOSITES outgoing.

**reservoir** noun **1** *sailing on the reservoir*: lake, pool, pond; water supply; Scottish loch. **2** *an ink reservoir*: receptacle, container, holder, repository, tank. **3** *the reservoir of managerial talent*: stock, store, stockpile, reserve(s), supply, bank, pool, fund.

**reshuffle** verb *the prime minister reshuffled his cabinet*: reorganize, restructure, rearrange, change (around), shake up, shuffle.

• **noun** *a management reshuffle*: reorganization, restructuring, change, rearrangement; informal shake-up.

**reside** verb **1** *most students reside in flats*: live in, occupy, inhabit, stay in, lodge in; formal dwell in, be domiciled in. **2** *the paintings reside in an air-conditioned vault*: be situated, be found, be located, lie.

**3** *executive power resides in the president*: be vested in, be bestowed on, be conferred on, be in the hands of. **4** *the qualities that reside within each individual*: be inherent, be present, exist.

**residence** noun **1** (formal) *her private residence*: home, house, place of residence, address; quarters, lodgings; informal pad; formal dwelling (place), domicile, abode. **2** *his place of residence*: occupancy, habitation, residency; formal abode.

**resident** noun **1** *the residents of New York City*: inhabitant, local, citizen, native; householder, homeowner, occupier, tenant; formal denizen. **2** (Brit.) *the bar is open to residents only*: guest, lodger.

• **adjective 1** *resident in the UK*: living, residing, in residence; formal dwelling. **2** *a resident nanny*: live-in, living in. **3** *the resident registrar in obstetrics*: permanent, incumbent.

**residential** adjective suburban, commuter, dormitory.

**residual** adjective **1** *residual heat*: remaining, leftover, unused, unconsumed. **2** *residual affection*: lingering, enduring, abiding, surviving, vestigial.

**residue** noun remainder, remaining part, rest, remnant(s); surplus, extra, excess; remains, leftovers; technical residuum.

**resign** verb **1** *the senior manager resigned*: leave, hand in one's notice, give notice, stand down, step down; informal quit. **2** *19 MPs resigned their seats*: give up, leave, vacate, stand down from; informal quit, pack in; old use demit. **3** *he resigned his right to the title*: renounce, relinquish, give up, abandon, surrender, forgo, cede; Law disclaim; literary forsake. **4** *we resigned ourselves to a long wait*: reconcile oneself to, become resigned to, come to terms with.

**resignation** noun **1** *his resignation from his post*: departure, leaving, standing down, stepping down; informal quitting. **2** *she handed in her resignation*: notice, letter of resignation. **3** *he accepted his fate with resignation*: patience, forbearance,

stoicism, fortitude, fatalism, acceptance, acquiescence, compliance, passivity.

**resigned** adjective patient, long-suffering, uncomplaining, forbearing, stoical, philosophical, fatalistic, acquiescent, compliant, passive.

**resilient** adjective 1 *resilient materials*: flexible, pliable, supple; durable, hard-wearing, stout, strong, sturdy, tough. 2 *young and resilient*: strong, tough, hardy; quick to recover, buoyant, irrepressible.

**resist** verb 1 *built to resist cold winters*: withstand, be proof against, combat, weather, endure, be resistant to, keep out. 2 *they resisted his attempts to change things*: oppose, fight, refuse to accept, object to, defy, set one's face against, kick against; obstruct, impede, hinder, block, thwart, frustrate; informal be anti. 3 *I resisted the urge to retort*: refrain from, abstain from, forbear from, desist from, not give in to, restrain oneself from, stop oneself from. 4 *she tried to resist him*: struggle with/against, fight (against), stand up to, withstand, hold off; fend off, ward off.

– OPPOSITES welcome, submit.

■ **cannot resist** love, adore, relish, have a weakness for, be very keen on, like, delight in, enjoy, take great pleasure in; informal be mad about, get a kick/thrill out of.

**resistance** noun 1 *resistance to change*: opposition, hostility, refusal to accept. 2 *a spirited resistance*: opposition, fight, stand, struggle. 3 *the body's resistance to disease*: ability to fight off, immunity from, defences against. 4 *the French resistance*: resistance movement, freedom fighters, underground, partisans.

**resistant** adjective 1 *resistant to water*: impervious, unsusceptible, immune, invulnerable, proof against, unaffected by. 2 *resistant to change*: opposed, averse, hostile, inimical, against; informal anti.

**resolute** adjective determined, purposeful, resolved, adamant, single-minded, firm, unswerving, unwavering, steadfast, staunch, stalwart, unflinching, unhesitating, persistent, indefatigable, tenacious, strong-willed, unshakeable; stubborn, dogged, obstinate, obdurate, inflexible, intransigent, implacable, unyielding, unrelenting; spirited, brave, bold, courageous, plucky, indomitable; N. Amer. rock-ribbed; informal gutsy, spunky; formal pertinacious.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**resolution** noun 1 *her resolution not to smoke*: intention, resolve, decision, intent, aim, plan; commitment, pledge, promise. 2 *the committee passed the resolution*: motion, proposal, proposition; N. Amer. resolve. 3 *she handled the work with resolution*: determination, purpose, purposefulness, resolve, resoluteness, single-mindedness, firmness (of purpose); steadfastness, staunchness, perseverance, persistence, indefatigability, tenacity, tenaciousness, staying power, dedication, commitment; stubbornness, doggedness,

obstinacy, obduracy; boldness, spiritedness, braveness, bravery, courage, pluck, grit, courageousness; informal guts, spunk; formal pertinacity. 4 *a satisfactory resolution of the problem*: solution, answer, end, ending, settlement, conclusion.

**resolve** verb 1 *this matter cannot be resolved overnight*: settle, sort out, solve, find a solution to, fix, straighten out, deal with, put right, put to rights, rectify; informal hammer out, thrash out, figure out. 2 *Charity resolved not to wait any longer*: determine, decide, make up one's mind, take a decision. 3 *the committee resolved that the project should proceed*: vote, pass a resolution, rule, decide formally, agree. 4 *the compounds were resolved into their active constituents*: break down/up, separate, reduce, divide. 5 *the ability to resolve facts into their legal categories*: analyse, dissect, break down. 6 *the grey smudge resolved into a sandy beach*: turn, change, be transformed.

• noun 1 *their intimidation merely strengthened his resolve*. See **RESOLUTION** sense 3. 2 (N. Amer.) *he made a resolve not to go there again*: decision, resolution, commitment.

**resolved** adjective determined, hell bent, intent, set.

**resonant** adjective 1 *a resonant voice*: deep, low, sonorous, full, full-bodied, vibrant, rich, clear, ringing; loud, booming, thunderous. 2 *valleys resonant with the sound of church bells*: reverberating, reverberant, resounding, echoing, filled. 3 *resonant words*: evocative, suggestive, expressive, redolent.

**resort** noun 1 *a seaside resort*: holiday destination, (tourist) centre; informal honeypot. 2 *settle the matter without resort to legal proceedings*: recourse to, turning to, the use of, utilizing. 3 *strike action is our last resort*: expedient, measure, step, recourse, alternative, option, choice, possibility, hope. ■ **in the last resort** ultimately, in the end, at the end of the day, in the long run, when all is said and done.

■ **resort** to have recourse to, fall back on, turn to, make use of, use, employ, avail oneself of; stoop to, descend to, sink to.

**resound** verb 1 *the explosion resounded round the silent street*: echo, re-echo, reverberate, ring out, boom, thunder, rumble. 2 *resounding with the clang of hammers*: reverberate, echo, re-echo, resonate, ring. 3 *nothing will resound like their earlier achievements*: be acclaimed, be celebrated, be renowned, be famed, be glorified, be trumpeted.

**resounding** adjective 1 *a resounding voice*: reverberant, reverberating, resonant, resonating, echoing, ringing, sonorous, deep, rich, clear; loud, booming. 2 *a resounding success*: enormous, huge, very great, tremendous, terrific, colossal; emphatic, decisive, conclusive, outstanding, remarkable, phenomenal.

**resource** noun 1 *use your resources*

*efficiently: assets, funds, wealth, money, capital; staff; supplies, materials, store(s), stock(s), reserve(s).* **2** *your tutor is there as a resource: facility, amenity, aid, help, support.* **3** *tears were her only resource: expedient, resort, course, scheme, stratagem; trick, ruse, device.* **4** *a person of resource: initiative, resourcefulness, enterprise, ingenuity, inventiveness; talent, ability, capability; informal gumption.*

**resourceful** adjective *ingenious, enterprising, inventive, creative; clever, talented, able, capable.*

**respect** noun **1** *the respect due to a great artist: esteem, regard, high opinion, admiration, reverence, deference, honour.*

**2** *he spoke to her with respect: due regard, politeness, courtesy, civility, deference.*

**3** *paying one's respects: (kind) regards, compliments, greetings, best/good wishes, felicitations, salutations; old use remembrances.* **4** *the report was accurate in every respect: aspect, regard, facet, feature, way, sense, particular, point, detail.*

– OPPOSITES contempt.

• **verb 1** *he is highly respected for his industry: esteem, admire, think highly of, have a high opinion of, hold in high regard, hold in (high) esteem, look up to, revere, reverence, honour.* **2** *they respected our privacy: show consideration for, have regard for, observe, be mindful of, be heedful of; formal take cognizance of.* **3** *father respected her wishes: abide by, comply with, follow, adhere to, conform to, act in accordance with, defer to, obey, observe, keep (to).*

– OPPOSITES despise, disobey.

■ **with respect to/in respect of** concerning, regarding, in/with regard to, with reference to, respecting, re, about, apropos, on the subject of, in connection with, vis-à-vis.

**respectable** adjective **1** *a respectable middle-class background: reputable, of good repute, upright, honest, honourable, trustworthy, decent, good, well bred, clean-living.* **2** *a respectable salary: fairly good, decent, fair, reasonable, moderately good; substantial, considerable, sizeable.*

– OPPOSITES disreputable, paltry.

**respectful** adjective *deferential, reverent, reverential, dutiful; polite, well mannered, civil, courteous, gracious.*

– OPPOSITES rude.

**respective** adjective *separate, personal, own, particular, individual, specific, special, appropriate, different, various.*

**respite** noun **1** *a brief respite: rest, break, breathing space, interval, intermission, interlude, recess, lull, pause, time out; relief, relaxation, repose; informal breather, let-up.* **2** *respite from debts: postponement, deferment, delay, reprieve; US Law continuance.*

**resplendent** adjective *splendid, magnificent, brilliant, dazzling, glittering, gorgeous, impressive, imposing, spectacular, striking, stunning, majestic; informal splendid.*

**respond** verb **1** *they do not respond to questions: answer, reply, make a response, make a rejoinder.* **2** *'No,' she responded: say, answer, reply, rejoin, retort, riposte, counter.* **3** *they were slow to respond: react, make a response, reciprocate, retaliate.*

**response** noun **1** *his response to the question: answer, reply, rejoinder, retort, riposte; informal comeback.* **2** *an angry response: reaction, reply, retaliation; informal comeback.*

– OPPOSITES question.

**responsibility** noun **1** *it was his responsibility to find witnesses: duty, task, function, job, role, business; Brit. informal pigeon.* **2** *they denied responsibility for the bomb attack: blame, fault, guilt, culpability, liability.* **3** *a sense of responsibility: trustworthiness, (common) sense, maturity, reliability, dependability.* **4** *managerial responsibility: authority, control, power, leadership.*

**responsible** adjective **1** *who is responsible for prisons? in charge of, in control of, at the helm of, accountable for, liable for.* **2** *I am responsible for the mistake: accountable, answerable, to blame, guilty, culpable, blameworthy, at fault, in the wrong.* **3** *a responsible job: important, powerful, executive.* **4** *he is responsible to the president: answerable, accountable.* **5** *a responsible tenant: trustworthy, sensible, mature, reliable, dependable.*

**responsive** adjective *quick to react, reactive, receptive, open to suggestions, amenable, flexible, forthcoming.*

**rest**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *he needed to rest: relax, take a rest, ease up/off, let up, slow down, have/take a break, unbend, unwind, recharge one's batteries, be at leisure, take it easy, put one's feet up; lie down, go to bed, have/take a nap, catnap, doze, sleep; informal take five, have/take a breather, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal chill out; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs.* **2** *his hands rested on the rail: lie, be laid, repose, be placed, be positioned, be supported by.* **3** *she rested her basket on the ground: support, prop (up), lean, lay, set, stand, position, place, put.* **4** *the film script rests on an improbable premise: be based, depend, be dependent, rely, hinge, turn on, be contingent, revolve around.*

• **noun 1** *get some rest: repose, relaxation, leisure, respite, time off, breathing space; sleep, nap, doze; informal shut-eye, snooze, lie-down, forty winks; Brit. informal kip.* **2** *a short rest from work: holiday, vacation, break, breathing space, interval, interlude, intermission, time off/out; informal breather.* **3** *she took the poker from its rest: stand, base, holder, support, rack, frame, shelf.* **4** *we came to rest 100 metres lower: a standstill, a halt, a stop.*

**rest**<sup>2</sup> noun *the rest of the board are appointees: remainder, residue, balance, remaining part/number/quantity, others, those left, remains, remnant(s), surplus, excess; technical residuum.*



•verb *you may rest assured that he is there:* **remain**, continue to be, stay, keep, carry on being.

**restaurant** noun bistro, brasserie, cafe, cafeteria; N. Amer. diner/informal eatery.

**restful** adjective relaxed, relaxing, quiet, calm, calming, tranquil, soothing, peaceful, placid, reposeful, leisurely, undisturbed, untroubled.

– OPPOSITES exciting.

**restitution** noun **1** *restitution of the land seized:* **return**, restoration, handing back, surrender. **2** *restitution for the damage caused:* **compensation**, recompense, reparation, damages, indemnification, indemnity, reimbursement, repayment, remuneration, redress; old use guerdon.

**restive** adjective **1** *Edward is getting restive.* See **RESTLESS** sense 1. **2** *the militants are increasingly restive:* **unruly**, disorderly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, wilful, recalcitrant, insubordinate; Brit. informal bolshie; formal refractory; old use contumacious.

**restless** adjective **1** *Maria was restless:* **uneasy**, ill at ease, restive, fidgety, edgy, on edge, tense, nervy, worked up, nervous, agitated, anxious, on tenterhooks, keyed up; informal jumpy, jittery, twitchy, uptight, like a cat on a hot tin roof; Brit. informal like a cat on hot bricks. **2** *a restless night:* **sleepless**, wakeful; fitful, broken, disturbed, troubled, unsettled; rare insomnolent.

**restlessness** noun **unease**, restiveness, edginess, tenseness, nervousness, agitation, anxiety, fretfulness, apprehension, disquiet; informal jitteriness.

**restoration** noun **1** *the restoration of democracy:* **reinstatement**, reinstitution, re-establishment, reimposition, return. **2** *the restoration of derelict housing:* **repair**, repairing, fixing, mending, refurbishment, reconditioning, rehabilitation, rebuilding, reconstruction, overhaul, redevelopment, renovation; N. Amer. informal rehab.

**restore** verb **1** *the aim to restore democracy:* **reinststate**, bring back, reinstitute, reimpose, reinstall, re-establish. **2** *he restored it to its rightful owner:* **return**, give back, hand back. **3** *the building has been restored:* **repair**, fix, mend, refurbish, recondition, rehabilitate, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel, overhaul, redevelop, renovate; informal do up; N. Amer. informal rehab. **4** *a good sleep can restore you:* **reinvigorate**, revitalize, revive, refresh, energize, fortify, revivify, regenerate, stimulate, freshen.

– OPPOSITES abolish.

**restrain** verb **1** *Charles restrained his anger:* **control**, keep under control, check, hold/keep in check, curb, suppress, repress, contain, dampen, subdue, smother, choke back, stifle, bottle up, rein back/in; informal keep the lid on. **2** *she could barely restrain herself from swearing:* **prevent**, stop, keep, hold back. **3** *leg cuffs were used for restraining violent criminals:* **tie up**, bind, tether, chain (up), fetter, shackle, manacle.

**restrained** adjective **1** *Julie was quite restrained:* **self-controlled**, self-restrained, not given to excesses, sober, steady, unemotional, undemonstrative. **2** *restrained elegance:* **muted**, soft, discreet, subtle, quiet, unobtrusive, unostentatious, understated, tasteful.

**restraint** noun **1** *a restraint on their impulsiveness:* **constraint**, check, control, restriction, limitation, curtailment; rein, bridle, brake, damper, impediment, obstacle. **2** *the customary restraint of the police:* **self-control**, self-restraint, self-discipline, control, moderation, prudence, judiciousness. **3** *the room has been decorated with restraint:* **subtlety**, understatedness, taste, tastefulness, discrimination, discretion. **4** *a child restraint:* **belt**, harness, strap.

**restrict** verb **1** *a busy working life restricted his leisure activities:* **limit**, keep within bounds, regulate, control, moderate, cut down. **2** *the cuff supports the ankle without restricting movement:* **hinder**, interfere with, impede, hamper, obstruct, block, check, curb. **3** *he restricted himself to a 15-minute speech:* **confine**, limit.

**restricted** adjective **1** *restricted space:* **cramped**, confined, constricted, small, narrow, tight; old use strait. **2** *a restricted calorie intake:* **limited**, controlled, regulated, reduced. **3** *a restricted zone:* **out of bounds**, off limits, private, exclusive. **4** *restricted information:* **(top)** secret, classified; informal hush-hush.

– OPPOSITES unlimited.

**restriction** noun **1** *there is no restriction on the number of places:* **limitation**, limit, constraint, control, check, curb; condition, proviso, qualification. **2** *the restriction of personal freedom:* **reduction**, limitation, diminution, curtailment. **3** *restriction of movement:* **hindrance**, impediment, slowing, reduction, limitation.

**result** noun **1** *stress is the result of overwork:* **consequence**, outcome, upshot, sequel, effect, reaction, repercussion, ramification, conclusion, culmination. **2** *what is your result?* **answer**, solution; sum, total, product. **3** *exam results:* **mark**, score, grade. **4** *the result of the trial:* **verdict**, decision, outcome, conclusion, judgement, findings, ruling.

– OPPOSITES cause.

•verb **1** *differences between species could result from their habitat:* **follow**, ensue, develop, stem, spring, arise, derive, evolve, proceed; occur, happen, take place, come about; be caused by, be brought about by, be produced by, originate in, be consequent on. **2** *the shooting resulted in five deaths:* **end in**, culminate in, finish in, terminate in, lead to, prompt, precipitate, trigger; cause, bring about, occasion, effect, give rise to, produce, engender, generate; literary beget.

**resume** verb **1** *the government resumed negotiations:* **restart**, recommence, begin again, start again, reopen; renew, return to, continue with, carry on with. **2** *the priest*

*resumed his kneeling posture: return to, come back to, take up again, reoccupy.*

– OPPOSITES suspend, abandon.

**résumé** noun **summary**, precis, synopsis, abstract, outline, summarization, summation, epitome; abridgement, digest, condensation, abbreviation, overview, review.

**resumption** noun **restart**, restarting, recommencement, reopening; continuation, carrying on, renewal, return to.

**resurgence** noun **renewal**, revival, recovery, comeback, reawakening, resurrection, reappearance, re-emergence, regeneration; resumption, recommencement, continuation; formal renaissance.

**resurrect** verb **1** *Jesus was resurrected: raise from the dead*, restore to life, revive. **2** *resurrecting his career: revive*, restore, regenerate, revitalize, breathe new life into, reinvigorate, resuscitate, rejuvenate, stimulate, re-establish, relaunch.

**resuscitate** verb **1** *medics resuscitated him: bring round*, revive, bring back to consciousness; give artificial respiration to, give the kiss of life to. **2** *measures to resuscitate the economy: revive*, resurrect, restore, regenerate, revitalize, breathe new life into, reinvigorate, rejuvenate, stimulate.

**retain** verb **1** *the government retained a share in the industries: keep (possession of)*, keep hold of, hold on to, hang on to. **2** *existing footpaths are to be retained: maintain*, keep, preserve, conserve. **3** *some students retain facts easily: remember*, memorize, keep in one's mind/memory. **4** *solicitors can retain a barrister: employ*, contract, keep on the payroll.

– OPPOSITES give up, abolish.

**retainer** noun **1** *they're paid a retainer: (retaining) fee*, periodic payment, advance, standing charge. **2** *a faithful retainer*. See **SERVANT** sense 1.

**retaliate** verb **fight back**, hit back, respond, react, reply, reciprocate, counter-attack, return like for like, get back at someone, give tit for tat, give someone a taste of their own medicine; have/get/take one's revenge, be revenged, avenge oneself, take reprisals, get even, pay someone back; informal get one's own back.

**retaliation** noun **revenge**, vengeance, reprisal, retribution, requital, recrimination, repayment; response, reaction, reply, counter-attack; old use a Roland for an Oliver.

**retard** verb **delay**, slow down/up, hold back/up, set back, postpone, put back, detain, decelerate; hinder, hamper, obstruct, inhibit, impede, check, restrain, restrict, trammel; literary stay.

– OPPOSITES accelerate.

**retch** verb **1** *the sour taste made her retch: gag*, heave; informal keck. **2** *he retched all over the table*. See **VOMIT** verb sense 1.

**reticence** noun **reserve**, restraint, inhibition, diffidence, shyness; unresponsiveness, quietness, taciturnity, secretiveness.

**reticent** adjective **reserved**, withdrawn, introverted, inhibited, diffident, shy; uncommunicative, unforthcoming, unresponsive, tight-lipped, quiet, taciturn, silent, guarded, secretive.

– OPPOSITES expansive.

**retinue** noun **entourage**, escort, company, court, staff, personnel, household, train, suite, following, bodyguard; aides, attendants, servants, retainers.

**retire** verb **1** *he has retired: give up work*, stop working, stop work. **2** *we've retired him on full pension: pension off*, force to retire. **3** *Gillian retired to her office: withdraw*, go away, take oneself off, decamp, shut oneself away; formal repair; literary betake oneself. **4** *their forces retired: retreat*, withdraw, pull back, fall back, disengage, back off, give ground. **5** *everyone retired early: go to bed*, call it a day, go to sleep; informal turn in, hit the hay/sack.

**retired** adjective *a retired schoolteacher: former*, ex-, past, in retirement; elderly.

**retirement** noun **1** *they are nearing retirement: giving up work*, stopping work. **2** *he lived in retirement in Kent: seclusion*, retreat, solitude, isolation; obscurity.

**retiring** adjective **1** *the retiring president: departing*, outgoing. **2** *a retiring man: shy*, diffident, self-effacing, unassuming, unassertive, reserved, reticent, quiet, timid, modest; private, secret, secretive, withdrawn, reclusive, unsociable.

– OPPOSITES incoming, outgoing.

**retort** verb *'No need to be rude!' she retorted: answer*, reply, respond, say, return, counter, rejoinder, riposte, retaliate, snap back.

• noun *a sarcastic retort: answer*, reply, response, return, counter, rejoinder, riposte, retaliation; informal comeback.

**retract** verb **1** *the sea otter can retract its claws: pull in/back*, draw in. **2** *he retracted his allegation: take back*, withdraw, recant, disavow, disclaim, repudiate, renounce, reverse, revoke, rescind, go back on, backtrack on; formal abjure.

**retreat** verb **1** *the army retreated: withdraw*, retire, draw back, pull back/out, fall back, give way, give ground, beat a retreat. **2** *the tide was retreating: go out*, ebb, recede, fall, go down. **3** *the government had to retreat: change one's mind*, change one's plans; back down, climb down, do a U-turn, backtrack, back-pedal, give in, concede defeat; Brit. do an about-turn.

– OPPOSITES advance.

• noun **1** *the retreat of the army: withdrawal*, pulling back. **2** *the President's retreat: clambdown*, backdown, about-face, U-turn; Brit. about-turn. **3** *her rural retreat: refuge*, haven, sanctuary; hideaway, hideout, hiding place; informal hidey-hole. **4** *a period of retreat from the world: seclusion*, withdrawal, retirement, solitude, isolation, sanctuary.

**retrench** verb **1** *we have to retrench: economize*, cut back, make cutbacks, make savings, make economies, reduce expenditure, be economical, be frugal,

tighten one's belt. **2** *services have to be retrenched*: reduce, cut (back/down), pare (down), slim down, make reductions in, make cutbacks in, trim, prune; informal slash.

**retribution** noun **punishment**, penalty, one's just deserts; revenge, reprisal, requital, retaliation, vengeance, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth), tit for tat; redress, reparation, restitution, recompense, repayment, indemnification, atonement, amends.

**retrieve** verb **1** *I retrieved our balls from their garden*: get back, bring back, recover, regain (possession of), recoup, reclaim, repossess, redeem, recuperate. **2** *they were trying to retrieve the situation*: put/set right, rectify, remedy, restore, sort out, straighten out, resolve.

**retrograde** adjective **1** *a retrograde step*: for the worse, regressive, negative, downhill, unwelcome. **2** *retrograde motion*: backward(s), reverse, rearward.

– OPPOSITES positive.

**retrospect** noun

■ **in retrospect** looking back, on reflection, in/with hindsight.

**retrospective** adjective **backdated**, retroactive, ex post facto.

**return** verb **1** *he returned to London*: go back, come back, arrive back, come home. **2** *the symptoms returned*: recur, reoccur, occur again, repeat (itself); reappear, appear again. **3** *he returned the money*: give back, hand back; pay back, repay. **4** *Peter returned the book to the shelf*: restore, put back, replace, reinstall. **5** *he returned the volley*: hit back, throw back. **6** *she returned his kiss*: reciprocate, requite, give in return, repay, give back. **7** *'Later,' returned Isabel*: answer, reply, respond, counter, rejoin, retort. **8** *the jury returned a unanimous verdict*: deliver, bring in, hand down. **9** *the club returned a profit*: yield, earn, realize, net, gross, clear. **10** *the Labour candidate was returned*: elect, vote in, choose, select.

– OPPOSITES depart, disappear, keep.

• **noun 1** *his return to Paris*: homecoming.

**2** *the return of hard times*: recurrence, reoccurrence, repeat, repetition, reappearance, revival, resurrection, re-emergence, resurgence. **3** *I requested the return of my books*: giving back, handing back, replacement, restoration, reinstatement, restitution. **4** *two returns to London*: return ticket/fare; N. Amer. round trip ticket/fare. **5** *a quick return on investments*: yield, profit, gain, revenue, interest, dividend. **6** *a census return*: statement, report, submission, record, dossier; document, form.

– OPPOSITES departure, disappearance, single.  
■ **in return for** in exchange for, as a reward for, as compensation for.

**revamp** verb renovate, redecorate, refurbish, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, make over; upgrade, refit, re-equip; remodel, refashion, redesign, restyle; informal do up, give something a facelift, vamp

up; Brit. informal tart up; N. Amer. informal rehab.

**reveal** verb **1** *the police can't reveal his whereabouts*: divulge, disclose, tell, let slip/drop, give away/out, blurt (out), release, leak; make known, make public, broadcast, publicize, circulate, disseminate; informal let on; old use discover. **2** *he revealed his new car*: show, display, exhibit, disclose, uncover; literary uncloak. **3** *the data reveal a good deal of information*: bring to light, uncover, lay bare, unearth, unveil; formal evince; literary uncloak.

– OPPOSITES hide.

**revel** verb **1** *they revelled all night*: celebrate, make merry, have a party, carouse, roister; informal party, live it up, whoop it up, make whoopee, rave, paint the town red. **2** *he revelled in the applause*: enjoy, delight in, love, like, adore, be pleased by, take pleasure in, appreciate, relish, lap up, savour; informal get a kick out of.

• **noun late-night revels**: celebration, festivity, jollification, merrymaking, carousal, carouse, spree; party, jamboree; informal rave, shindig, bash; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up; N. Amer. informal wingding, blast; Austral. informal rage, ding, jollo.

**revelation** noun **1** *revelations about his personal life*: disclosure, surprising fact, announcement, report; admission, confession. **2** *the revelation of a secret*: divulging, divulgence, disclosure, disclosing, letting slip/drop, giving away/out, leaking, leak, betrayal, unveiling, making known, making public, broadcasting, publicizing, dissemination, reporting, report, declaring, declaration.

**reveller** noun **merrymaker**, partygoer, carouser, roisterer; old use wassailer.

**revelry** noun **celebration(s)**, parties, revels, festivity, festivities, jollification, merrymaking, carousing, carousal, roistering; informal partying.

**revenge** noun **1** *she is seeking revenge*: vengeance, retribution, retaliation, reprisal, requital, recrimination, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth), redress, satisfaction. **2** *they were filled with revenge*: vengefulness, vindictiveness, vitriol, spite, spitefulness, malice, maliciousness, malevolence, ill will, animosity, hate, hatred, rancour, bitterness; literary maleficence. • **verb 1** *he revenged his brother's murder*: avenge, take/exact revenge for, exact retribution for, take reprisals for, get redress for, get satisfaction for. **2** *I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you*: take revenge on, get one's revenge on, avenge oneself on, take vengeance on, get even with, settle a/the score with, pay back, take reprisals against; informal get one's own back on.

**revenue** noun **income**, takings, receipts, proceeds, earnings; profit(s).

– OPPOSITES expenditure.

**reverberate** verb resound, echo, re-echo, resonate, ring, boom, rumble.

**reverberation** noun **1** *natural reverberation*: resonance, echo, echoing,



re-echoing, resounding, ringing, booming, rumbling. **2** *political reverberations*: **repercussions**, ramifications, consequences, shock waves; aftermath, fallout, backlash.

**revere** verb respect, admire, think highly of, have a high opinion of, esteem, hold in high esteem/regard, look up to.

– OPPOSITES despise.

**reverence** noun esteem, regard, respect, acclaim, admiration, appreciation, estimation, favour.

– OPPOSITES scorn.

**reverent** adjective respectful, reverential, admiring, devoted, devout, dutiful, awed, deferential.

**reverie** noun daydream, daydreaming, trance, musing; inattention, inattentiveness, wool-gathering, preoccupation, absorption, abstraction, lack of concentration.

**reversal** noun **1** *there was no reversal on this issue*: **turnaround**, turnabout, about-face, volte-face, change of heart, U-turn, backtracking; Brit. about-turn; rare tergiversation. **2** *a reversal of roles*: **swap**, exchange, change, swapping, interchange. **3** *the reversal of the decision*: **alteration**, changing; countermanding, undoing, overturning, overthrow, disallowing, overriding, overruling, veto, vetoing, revocation, repeal, rescinding, annulment, nullification, voiding, invalidation; formal rescission, abrogation. **4** *they suffered a reversal*: **setback**, reverse, upset, failure, misfortune, mishap, disaster, blow, disappointment, adversity, hardship, affliction, vicissitude, defeat; bad luck.

**reverse** verb **1** *the car reversed into a lamp post*: **back**, drive back/backwards, move back/backwards. **2** *reverse the bottle in the ice bucket*: **turn upside down**, turn over, upend, upturn, invert; old use overset. **3** *I reversed my jacket*: **turn inside out**. **4** *reverse your roles*: **swap (round)**, change (round), exchange, interchange, switch (round). **5** *the umpire reversed the decision*: **alter**, change; overturn, overthrow, disallow, override, overrule, veto, revoke, repeal, rescind, annul, nullify, void, invalidate; Brit. do an about-turn on; formal abrogate.

• adjective in reverse order: **backward(s)**, reversed, inverted, transposed.

• noun **1** *the reverse is the case*: **opposite**, contrary, converse, inverse, obverse, antithesis. **2** *successes and reverses*. See **REVERSAL** sense 4. **3** *the reverse of the page*: **other side**, reverse side, back, underside, wrong side, verso.

**revert** verb **1** *life will soon revert to normal*: **return**, go back, change back, default; fall back, regress, relapse. **2** *the property reverted to the landlord*: **be returned**; historical escheat.

**review** noun **1** *the Council undertook a review*: **analysis**, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, examination, investigation, inquiry, probe, inspection, study. **2** *the rent is due for review*: **reconsideration**, reassessment, re-evaluation, reappraisal;

change, alteration, modification, revision.

**3** *book reviews*: **criticism**, critique, assessment, evaluation, commentary; Brit. informal crit. **4** *a scientific review*: **journal**, periodical, magazine, publication. **5** *their review of the economy*: **survey**, report, study, account, description, statement, overview. **6** *a military review*: **inspection**, parade, tattoo, procession; Brit. march past.

• verb **1** *reviewed the evidence*: **survey**, study, research, consider, analyse, examine, scrutinize, explore, look into, probe, investigate, inspect, assess, appraise; informal size up. **2** *the referee reviewed his decision*: **reconsider**, re-examine, reassess, re-evaluate, reappraise, rethink; change, alter, modify, revise. **3** *he reviewed the day*: **remember**, recall, reflect on, think through, go over in one's mind, look back on. **4** *reviewing troops*: **inspect**, view. **5** *she reviewed the play*: **comment on**, evaluate, assess, appraise, judge, critique, criticize.

**reviewer** noun critic, commentator, judge, observer, pundit, analyst.

**revile** verb criticize, censure, condemn, attack, inveigh against, rail against, lambaste, denounce; slander, libel, malign, vilify, besmirch, abuse; informal knock, slam, pan, crucify, roast, bad-mouth; Brit. informal slate, rubbish, slag off; N. Amer. informal pummel; Austral./NZ informal bag, monster; formal excoriate, calumniate.

– OPPOSITES praise.

**revise** verb **1** *she revised her opinion*:

**reconsider**, review, re-examine, reassess, re-evaluate, reappraise, rethink; change, alter, modify. **2** *the editor revised the text*: **amend**, emend, correct, alter, change, edit, rewrite, redraft, rephrase, rework. **3** (Brit.) *revise your lecture notes*: **go over**, reread, memorize; cram; informal bone up on; Brit. informal swot up (on), mug up (on).

**revision** noun **1** *a revision of the Prayer Book*: **emendation**, correction, alteration, adaptation, editing, rewriting, redrafting.

**2** *a new revision*: **version**, edition, rewrite. **3** *a major revision of the system*: **reconsideration**, review, re-examination, reassessment, re-evaluation, reappraisal, rethink; change, alteration, modification. **4** (Brit.) *he was doing some revision*: **rereading**, memorizing, cramming; Brit. informal swotting.

**revitalize** verb **reinvigorate**, re-energize, boost, regenerate, revive, revivify, rejuvenate, reanimate, resuscitate, refresh, stimulate, breathe new life into; informal give a shot in the arm to, pep up, buck up.

**revival** noun **1** *a revival in the economy*: **improvement**, rallying, picking up, amelioration, turn for the better, upturn, upswing, resurgence. **2** *the revival of traditional crafts*: **comeback**, re-establishment, reintroduction, restoration, reappearance, resurrection, regeneration, rejuvenation.

– OPPOSITES downturn, disappearance.

**revive** verb **1** *attempts to revive her failed*: **resuscitate**, bring round, bring back to

consciousness. **2** *the man soon revived*: regain consciousness, come round, wake up. **3** *a cup of tea revived her*: reinvigorate, revitalize, refresh, energize, reanimate, resuscitate, revivify, rejuvenate, regenerate, enliven, stimulate. **4** *reviving old traditions*: reintroduce, re-establish, restore, resurrect, bring back, regenerate, resuscitate.

**revoke** verb **cancel**, repeal, rescind, reverse, annul, nullify, void, invalidate, countermand, retract, withdraw, overrule, override; Law vacate; formal abrogate.

**revolt** verb **1** *the people revolted*: rebel, rise (up), take to the streets, riot, mutiny. **2** *the smell revolted him*: disgust, sicken, nauseate, make someone sick, make someone's gorge rise, turn someone's stomach, be repugnant to, be repulsive to, put off, be offensive to; informal turn off; N. Amer. informal gross out.

• **noun** *an armed revolt*: rebellion, revolution, insurrection, mutiny, uprising, riot, rioting, insurgence, seizure of power, coup (d'état).

**revolting** adjective disgusting, sickening, nauseating, stomach-turning, stomach-churning, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, appalling, abominable, hideous, horrible, awful, dreadful, terrible, obnoxious, vile, nasty, foul, loathsome, offensive, objectionable, off-putting, distasteful, disagreeable; N. Amer. vomituous; informal ghastly, putrid, horrid, gross, gut-churning, yucky, rank, skanky, icky; formal rebarbative; literary noisome; old use disgusting, loathly.

– OPPOSITES attractive, pleasant.

**revolution** noun **1** *the French Revolution*: rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, uprising, riot, rioting, insurgence, seizure of power, coup (d'état). **2** *a revolution in printing techniques*: dramatic change, radical alteration, sea change, metamorphosis, transformation, innovation, reorganization, restructuring; informal shake-up; N. Amer. informal shakedown. **3** *one revolution of a wheel*: (single) turn, rotation, circle, spin; circuit, lap. **4** *the revolution of the earth*: turning, rotation, circling; orbit.

**revolutionary** adjective **1** *revolutionary troops*: rebellious, rebel, insurgent, rioting, mutinous, renegade, insurrectionary, insurrectionist, seditious, subversive, extremist. **2** *revolutionary change*: thoroughgoing, thorough, complete, total, absolute, radical, comprehensive, sweeping, far-reaching, extensive, profound. **3** *a revolutionary kind of wheelchair*: new, novel, original, unusual, unconventional, unorthodox, newfangled, innovative, innovatory, innovational, modern, state-of-the-art, futuristic, pioneering.

• **noun** *political revolutionaries*: rebel,

insurgent, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, agitator, subversive.

**revolutionize** verb transform, alter dramatically, shake up, turn upside down, restructure, reorganize, transmute, metamorphose; humorous transmogrify.

**revolve** verb **1** *a fan revolved slowly*: go round, turn round, rotate, spin. **2** *the moon*

*revolves around the earth*: circle, travel, orbit. **3** *his life revolves around cars*: be concerned with, be preoccupied with, focus on, centre around. **4** *her mind revolved the possibilities*: think about/over, give thought to, consider, reflect on, mull over, muse on, cogitate about/on, chew over, weigh up; old use pore on.

**revulsion** noun disgust, repulsion, abhorrence, repugnance, nausea, horror, aversion, abomination, distaste; old use disrelish.

– OPPOSITES delight.

**reward** noun *a reward for its safe return*:

recompense, prize, award, honour, decoration, bonus, premium, bounty, present, gift, payment; informal pay-off, perk; formal perquisite.

• **verb** *they were well rewarded*: recompense, pay, remunerate, make something worth someone's while; give an award to.

– OPPOSITES punish.

**rewarding** adjective satisfying, gratifying, pleasing, fulfilling, enriching, edifying, beneficial, illuminating, worthwhile, productive, fruitful.

**reword** verb rewrite, rephrase, recast, put in other words, express differently, redraft, revise; paraphrase.

**rewrite** verb revise, recast, reword, rephrase, redraft.

**rhetoric** noun **1** *a form of rhetoric*: oratory, eloquence, command of language, way with words. **2** *empty rhetoric*: bombast, turgidity, grandiloquence, magniloquence, pomposity, extravagant language, purple prose; wordiness, verbosity, prolixity; informal hot air; rare fustian.

**rhetorical** adjective **1** *rhetorical devices*: stylistic, oratorical, linguistic, verbal.

**2** *rhetorical hyperbole*: extravagant, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, oratorical, turgid, flowery, florid; informal highfalutin; rare fustian.

**rhyme** noun poem, piece of poetry, verse; (rhymes) poetry, doggerel.

**rhythm** noun **1** *the rhythm of the music*: beat, cadence, tempo, time, pulse, throb, swing.

**2** *poetic features such as rhythm*: metre, measure, stress, accent, cadence. **3** *the rhythm of daily life*: pattern, flow, tempo.

**rhythmic** adjective rhythmical, with a steady pulse, measured, throbbing, beating, pulsating, regular, steady, even.

**ribald** adjective. See **CRUDE** sense 3.

**rich** adjective **1** *rich people*: wealthy, affluent, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, prosperous, opulent; N. Amer. silk-stocking; informal rolling in money, in the money, loaded, stinking rich, filthy rich, well heeled, made of money; informal, dated oofy. **2** *rich furnishings*: sumptuous, opulent, luxurious, luxury, de luxe, lavish, gorgeous, splendid, magnificent, costly, expensive, fancy; informal posh, classy, plush, ritzy, swanky, bling-

bling; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank.

**3 a garden rich in flowers:** **abounding**, well provided, well stocked, crammed, packed, teeming, bursting; informal jam-packed, chock-a-block, chock-full; Austral./NZ informal chocker. **4 a rich supply of restaurants:** **plentiful**, abundant, copious, ample, profuse, lavish, liberal, generous, bountiful; literary plenteous, bounteous. **5 rich soil:** **fertile**, productive, fecund, fruitful. **6 a rich sauce:** **creamy**, fatty, heavy, full-flavoured. **7 a rich wine:** **full-bodied**, heavy, fruity. **8 rich colours:** **strong**, deep, full, intense, vivid, brilliant. **9 her rich voice:** **sonorous**, full, resonant, deep, clear, mellow, mellifluous; rare mellifluent. **10 (informal) that's rich!** **preposterous**, outrageous, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, laughable, risible; informal a bit much; Brit. informal a bit thick.

— **OPPOSITES** poor, light.

**riches plural noun 1 his new-found riches:**

**money**, wealth, funds, (hard) cash, (filthy) lucre, wherewithal, means, (liquid) assets, capital, resources, reserves; opulence, affluence, prosperity; informal dough, bread, loot, shekels, moolah, the necessary; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, readies; N. Amer. informal bucks, mazuma, dinero; US informal greenbacks, simoleons, jack, rocks; Austral./NZ informal Oscar; Brit. dated l.s.d.; old use pelf. **2 underwater riches:** **resources**, treasure(s), bounty, jewels, gems.

**richly adverb 1 the richly furnished**

**chamber:** **sumptuously**, opulently, luxuriously, lavishly, gorgeously, splendidly, magnificently; informal poshly, plushly, ritzily, swankily, classily. **2 the joy she richly deserves:** **fully**, thoroughly, in full measure, well, completely, wholly, totally, entirely, absolutely, amply, utterly.

— **OPPOSITES** meanly.

**rickety adjective shaky, unsteady, unsound, unsafe, tumbledown, broken-down, dilapidated, ramshackle; informal shamblly; N. Amer. informal shaky.**

**rid verb ridding the building of asbestos:** **clear**, free, purge, empty, strip.

■ **get rid of 1 we must get rid of some stuff:**

dispose of, throw away/out, clear out, discard, scrap, dump, bin, jettison; informal chuck (away), ditch, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash. **2 the cats got rid of the rats:** **destroy**, eliminate, annihilate, obliterate, wipe out, kill.

**riddle<sup>1</sup> noun an answer to the riddle:** **puzzle**, conundrum, brain-teaser, problem, question, poser, enigma, mystery; informal stumper.

**riddle<sup>2</sup> verb 1 his car was riddled by gunfire:**

**perforate**, hole, pierce, puncture, pepper. **2 he was riddled with cancer:** **permeate**, suffuse, fill, pervade, spread through, imbue, saturate, overrun, beset. **3 the soil must be riddled:** **sieve**, sift, strain, screen, filter; old use griddle.

**ride verb 1 she can ride a horse:** **sit on**, mount, bestride; manage, handle, control. **2 they rode home:** **travel**, move, proceed, make

one's way; trot, canter, gallop.

• **noun he took us for a ride:** **trip**, journey, drive, run, excursion, outing, jaunt; lift; informal spin.

**ridicule noun he was subjected to ridicule:**

**mockery**, derision, laughter, scorn, scoffing, contempt, jeering, sneering, sneers, jibes, jibing, teasing, taunts, taunting, ragging, chaffing, sarcasm, satire; informal kidding, ribbing, joshing; N. Amer. informal goofing, razzing; Austral./NZ informal chacking; dated sport.

— **OPPOSITES** respect.

• **verb his theory was ridiculed:** **deride**, mock, laugh at, heap scorn on, jeer at, jibe at, sneer at, treat with contempt, scorn, make fun of, poke fun at, scoff at, satirize, lampoon, burlesque, caricature, parody, tease, taunt, rag, chaff; informal kid, rib, josh, take the mickey out of; N. Amer. informal goof on, rag on, razz, pull someone's chain; Austral./NZ informal chack, poke mullock at, sling off at; dated make sport of, twit.

**ridiculous adjective stupid, ludicrous, preposterous, laughable, farcical, risible, foolish, silly, senseless, absurd, inane, fatuous, childish, puerile, half-baked, hare-brained, ill-thought-out, crackpot, idiotic, nonsensical.**

— **OPPOSITES** sensible.

**rife adjective 1 violence is rife:** **widespread**, general, common, universal, extensive, ubiquitous, omnipresent, endemic, inescapable, insidious, prevalent. **2 the village was rife with gossip:** **overflowing**, bursting, alive, teeming, abounding.

— **OPPOSITES** unknown.

**riff-raff noun rabble, scum, the lowest of the low, good-for-nothings, undesirables; informal peasants.**

— **OPPOSITES** elite.

**rifle verb 1 she rifled through her wardrobe:**

**rummage**, search, hunt, forage. **2 a thief rifled her home:** **burgle**, rob, steal from, loot, raid, plunder, ransack.

**rift noun 1 a deep rift in the ice:** **crack**, fault, flaw, split, break, breach, fissure, fracture, cleft, crevice, cavity, opening. **2 the rift between them:** **breach**, division, split; quarrel, squabble, disagreement, falling-out, row, argument, dispute, conflict, feud; estrangement; informal spat, scrap; Brit. informal bust-up.

**rig<sup>1</sup> verb 1 the boats were rigged with a single**

**sail:** **equip**, kit out, fit out, supply, furnish, provide, arm. **2 I rigged myself out in black:** **dress**, clothe, attire, robe, garb, array, deck out, drape, accoutre, outfit, get up, trick out/up; informal doll up; old use apparel. **3 he will rig up a shelter:** **set up**, erect, assemble; throw together, cobble together, put together, whip up, improvise, contrive; Brit. informal knock up.

• **noun 1 a CB radio rig:** **apparatus**, appliance, machine, device, instrument, contraption, system; tackle, gear, kit, outfit. **2 the rig of the American Army Air Corps:** **uniform**, costume, ensemble, outfit, livery, attire,



clothes, clothing, garments, dress, garb, regimentals, regalia, trappings; Brit. strip; informal get-up, gear, togs; Brit. informal kit; formal apparel; old use raiment, vestments.

**rig<sup>2</sup> verb** they rigged the election: **manipulate**, engineer, distort, misrepresent, pervert, tamper with, doctor; falsify, fake, trump up; informal fix; Brit. informal fiddle.

**right adjective 1** *it wouldn't be right to do that*: just, fair, proper, good, upright, righteous, virtuous, moral, ethical, honourable, honest; lawful, legal. **2** *the right answer*: **correct**, accurate, exact, precise; proper, valid, conventional, established, official, formal; Brit. informal spot on. **3** *the right person for the job*: **suitable**, appropriate, fitting, correct, proper, desirable, preferable, ideal; old use meet.

**4** *you've come at the right time*: **opportune**, advantageous, favourable, propitious, good, lucky, happy, fortunate, providential, felicitous; timely, seasonable, convenient, expedient, suitable, appropriate. **5** *he's not right in the head*: **sane**, lucid, rational, balanced, compos mentis; informal all there.

**6** *he does not look right*: **healthy**, well, (fighting) fit, normal, up to par; informal up to scratch, in the pink. **7** *my right hand*: **dextral**. **8** (informal) *it's a right mess*: **absolute**, complete, total, real, thorough, perfect, utter, sheer, unmitigated, veritable.

– **OPPOSITES** wrong, insane, unhealthy.

• **adverb 1** *she was right at the limit of her patience*: **completely**, fully, totally, absolutely, utterly, quite. **2** *the pub's right in the middle of the village*: **exactly**, precisely, directly, immediately, just, squarely, dead; informal (slap) bang, smack, plumb; N. Amer. informal smack dab. **3** *keep going right on*: **straight**, directly, as the crow flies. **4** (informal) *I'll be right with you*: **straight**, directly, forthwith, without further ado, promptly, quickly, asap, as soon as possible; N. Amer. in short order. **5** *I think I heard right*: **correctly**, accurately, properly, precisely, aright, rightly, perfectly. **6** *make sure you're treated right*: **well**, properly, justly, fairly, equitably, impartially, honourably, lawfully, legally. **7** *things will turn out right*: **well**, for the best, favourably, happily, advantageously, profitably, providentially, luckily, conveniently.

– **OPPOSITES** wrong, badly.

• **noun 1** *the difference between right and wrong*: **goodness**, righteousness, virtue, integrity, rectitude, propriety, morality, truth, honesty, honour, justice, fairness, equity; lawfulness, legality. **2** *you have the right to say no*: **entitlement**, prerogative, privilege, advantage, due, birthright, liberty, authority, power, licence, permission, dispensation, leave, sanction; Law, historical droit.

– **OPPOSITES** wrong.

• **verb 1** *the way to right a capsized dinghy*: **set upright**, turn back over. **2** *we must right the situation*: **remedy**, put right, rectify, retrieve, fix, resolve, sort out, settle, square; straighten out, correct, repair, mend,

redress, make good, ameliorate, better.

■ **by rights** properly, correctly, technically, in fairness; legally, de jure.

■ **right away** at once, straight away, (right) now, this (very) minute, this instant, immediately, instantly, directly, forthwith, without further ado, promptly, quickly, without delay, asap, as soon as possible; N. Amer. in short order; informal straight off, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), pronto; N. Amer. informal lickety-split.

■ **within one's rights** entitled, permitted, allowed, at liberty, empowered, authorized, qualified, licensed, justified.

#### WORD LINKS

**recto** the right-hand page in a book

**starboard** the right-hand side of a ship or aircraft

**dexter** (Heraldry) on the bearer's right-hand side of a coat of arms

**righteous adjective 1** *righteous living*: good, virtuous, upright, upstanding, decent; ethical, principled, moral, high-minded, law-abiding, honest, honourable, blameless, irreproachable, noble; saintly, angelic, pure. **2** *righteous anger*: **justifiable**, justified, legitimate, defensible, supportable, rightful; admissible, allowable, understandable, excusable, acceptable, reasonable.

– **OPPOSITES** sinful, unjustifiable.

**rightful adjective 1** *the car's rightful owner*: **legal**, lawful, real, true, proper, correct, recognized, genuine, authentic, acknowledged, approved, licensed, valid, bona fide, de jure; informal legit, kosher. **2** *their rightful place in society*: **deserved**, merited, due, just, right, fair, proper, fitting, appropriate, suitable.

**right-wing adjective** **conservative**, rightist, ultra-conservative, blimpish, diehard; reactionary, traditionalist, conventional, unprogressive; fascist, fascistic.

– **OPPOSITES** left-wing.

**rigid adjective 1** *a rigid container*: **stiff**, hard, firm, inflexible, unbending, unyielding, inelastic. **2** *a rigid routine*: **fixed**, set, firm, inflexible, unalterable, unchangeable, immutable, unvarying, invariable, hard and fast, cast-iron. **3** *a rigid approach to funding*: **strict**, severe, stern, stringent, rigorous, inflexible, uncompromising, intransigent.

– **OPPOSITES** flexible, lenient.

**rigmarole noun 1** *the rigmarole of dressing up*: **fuss**, bother, trouble, folderol, ado, potter; NZ bobsy-die; informal palaver, song and dance, performance, to-do, pantomime, hassle; Brit. informal carry-on. **2** *that rigmarole about the house being haunted*: **tale**, saga, yarn, shaggy-dog story; informal spiel.

**rigorous adjective 1** *rigorous attention to detail*: **meticulous**, conscientious, punctilious, careful, diligent, attentive, scrupulous, painstaking, exact, precise, accurate, thorough, particular, strict, demanding, exacting; informal pernickety. **2** *the rigorous enforcement of rules*: **strict**, severe, stern, stringent, tough, harsh, rigid,

relentless, unsparing, inflexible, draconian, intransigent, uncompromising, exacting. **3** *rigorous yachting conditions*: harsh, severe, bad, bleak, extreme, inclement; unpleasant, disagreeable, foul, nasty, filthy; stormy, wild, tempestuous.

– OPPOSITES slapdash, lax, mild.

**rigour** noun **1** *a mine operated under conditions of rigour*: strictness, severity, stringency, toughness, harshness, rigidity, inflexibility, intransigence. **2** *intellectual rigour*: meticulousness, thoroughness, carefulness, diligence, scrupulousness, exactness, exactitude, precision, accuracy, correctness, strictness. **3** *the rigours of the journey*: hardship, harshness, severity, adversity; ordeal, misery, trial; discomfort, inconvenience, privation.

**rile** verb (informal). See **ANNOY**.

**rim** noun **1** *the rim of her cup*: brim, edge, lip. **2** *the rim of the crater*: edge, border, side, margin, brink, fringe, boundary, perimeter, limits, periphery; old use skirt.

**rind** noun skin, peel, zest, integument; Botany pericarp.

**ring**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a ring round the moon*: circle, band, halo, disc. **2** *she wore a ring*: wedding ring, band. **3** *a circus ring*: arena, enclosure, field, ground; amphitheatre, stadium. **4** *a ring of onlookers*: circle, group, knot, cluster, bunch, band, throng, crowd, flock, pack. **5** *a spy ring*: gang, syndicate, cartel, mob, band, circle, organization, association, society, alliance, league, coterie, cabal. • verb *police ringed the building*: surround, circle, encircle, encompass, girdle, enclose, hem in, confine, seal off.

**WORD LINKS**

annular ring-shaped

**ring**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *church bells rang all day*: toll, sound, peal, chime, clang, bong, ding, jingle, tinkle; literary knell. **2** *the room rang with laughter*: resound, reverberate, resonate, echo. **3** *I'll ring you tomorrow*: telephone, phone (up), call (up); reach, dial; informal give someone a buzz; Brit. informal give someone a bell, give someone a tinkle, get on the blower to; N. Amer. informal get someone on the horn.

• noun **1** *the ring of a bell*: chime, toll, peal, clang, clink, ding, jingle, tinkle, tintinnabulation, sound; literary knell. **2** *I'll give Chris a ring*: call, telephone call, phone call; informal buzz; Brit. informal bell, tinkle.

■ *ring something in herald*, signal, announce, proclaim, usher in, introduce; mark, signify, indicate; literary betoken, knell.

**rinse** verb wash (out), clean, cleanse, bathe; dip, drench, splash, swill, sluice, hose down.

**riot** noun **1** *a riot in the capital*: uproar, commotion, upheaval, disturbance, furor, tumult, melee, scuffle, fracas, fray, brawl, free-for-all; violence, fighting, vandalism, mayhem, turmoil, lawlessness, anarchy; N. Amer. informal wilding; Law, dated affray. **2** *the garden was a riot of colour*: mass, sea, splash, show, exhibition.

• verb *the miners rioted*: (go on the) rampage, run riot, fight in the streets, run wild, run amok, go berserk; informal raise hell. ■ *run riot 1 the children ran riot*: (go on the) rampage, riot, run amok, go berserk, go out of control; informal raise hell. **2** *the vegetation has run riot*: grow profusely, spread uncontrolled, grow rapidly, spread like wildfire; burgeon, multiply, rocket.

**riotous** adjective **1** *the demonstration turned riotous*: unruly, rowdy, disorderly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, undisciplined, uproarious, tumultuous; violent, wild, ugly, lawless, anarchic. **2** *a riotous party*: boisterous, lively, loud, noisy, unrestrained, uninhibited, uproarious, unruly, rollicking; informal rumbustious; N. Amer. informal rambunctious.

– OPPOSITES peaceable.

**rip** verb **1** *he ripped the posters down*: tear, wrench, wrest, pull, snatch, tug, prise, heave, drag, peel, pluck; informal yank. **2** *she ripped Leo's note into pieces*: tear, claw, hack, slit, cut; literary rend.

• noun *a rip in my sleeve*: tear, slit, split, rent, laceration, cut, gash, slash.

**ripe** adjective **1** *a ripe tomato*: mature, ripened, full grown, ready to eat; luscious, juicy, succulent, tender, sweet. **2** *the dock is ripe for development*: ready, fit, suitable, right. **3** *the ripe old age of ninety*: advanced, hoary, venerable, old. **4** *the time is ripe for his return*: opportune, advantageous, favourable, auspicious, propitious, promising, good, right, fortunate, benign, providential, felicitous, seasonable; convenient, suitable, appropriate, apt, fitting.

– OPPOSITES unsuitable, young.

**ripen** verb become ripe, mature, mellow.

**rip-off** noun (informal) fraud, swindle, confidence trick; informal con, scam, flimflam, gyp; Brit. informal swizz, daylight robbery; N. Amer. informal rip, shakedown, bunco; Austral. informal rort.

**riposte** noun *an indignant riposte*: retort, counter, rejoinder, sally, return, answer, reply, response; informal comeback.

• verb *'Heaven help you,' riposted Sally*: retort, counter, rejoin, return, retaliate, hurl back, answer, reply, respond, come back.

**ripple** noun *he blew ripples in his coffee*: wavelet, wave, undulation, ripplet, ridge, ruffle.

**rise** verb **1** *the sun rose*: move up/upwards, come up, make one's/its way up, arise, ascend, climb, mount, soar. **2** *the mountains rising above us*: loom, tower, soar, rise up, rear (up). **3** *prices rose*: go up, increase, soar, shoot up, surge, leap, jump, rocket, escalate, spiral. **4** *living standards have risen*: improve, get better, advance, go up, soar, shoot up. **5** *his voice rose*: get higher, get louder, increase, swell, intensify. **6** *he rose from his chair*: stand up, get to one's feet, get up, jump up, leap up; formal arise. **7** *he rises at dawn*: get up, get out of bed, rouse oneself, stir, bestir oneself, be up

and about; informal rise and shine, shake a leg, surface; formal arise. **8** *the court rose at midday*: adjourn, recess, be suspended, pause, take a break; informal knock off, take five. **9** *he rose through the ranks*: make progress, climb, advance, get on, work one's way, be promoted. **10** *he wouldn't rise to the bait*: react, respond; take. **11** *Christ rose again*: come back to life, be resurrected, revive. **12** *the dough started to rise*: swell, expand, enlarge, puff up. **13** *the nation rose against its oppressors*: rebel, revolt, mutiny, riot, take up arms. **14** *the Rhine rises in the Alps*: originate, begin, start, emerge; issue from, spring from, flow from, emanate from. **15** *her spirits rose*: brighten, lift, cheer up, improve, pick up; informal buck up. **16** *the ground rose gently*: slope upwards, go uphill, incline, climb.

– OPPOSITES fall, descend, drop, sit, retire, resume, die, shelve.

• **noun 1** *a price rise*: increase, hike, leap, upsurge, upswing, climb, escalation. **2** *he got a rise of 11%*: raise, pay increase, wage increase; hike, increment. **3** *a rise in standards*: improvement, amelioration, upturn, leap. **4** *his rise to power*: progress, climb, promotion, elevation, aggrandizement. **5** *we walked up the rise*: slope, incline, acclivity, hillock, hill; formal eminence.

**risible** adjective laughable, ridiculous, absurd, comical, comic, amusing, funny, hilarious, humorous, droll, farcical, silly, ludicrous, hysterical; informal rib-tickling, priceless; informal, dated killing.

**risk** noun **1** *there is a certain amount of risk*: chance, uncertainty, unpredictability, precariousness, instability, insecurity, perilousness, riskiness. **2** *the risk of fire*: possibility, chance, probability, likelihood, danger, peril, threat, menace, fear, prospect.

– OPPOSITES safety, impossibility.

• **verb 1** *he risked his life to save them*: endanger, imperil, jeopardize, hazard, gamble (with), chance; put on the line, put in jeopardy. **2** *you risk getting cold and wet*: run the risk of, stand a chance of, be in danger of.

■ **at risk** in danger, in peril, in jeopardy, under threat.

**risky** adjective dangerous, hazardous, perilous, fraught with danger, unsafe, insecure, precarious, parlous, touch-and-go, treacherous; uncertain, unpredictable; informal chancy, dicey, hairy; N. Amer. informal gnarly.

**risqué** adjective ribald, rude, bawdy, raucous, earthy, indecent, suggestive, improper, naughty, locker-room; vulgar, dirty, smutty, crude, coarse, obscene, lewd, X-rated; informal blue, raunchy; Brit. informal fruity, off colour, saucy; N. Amer. informal gamy.

**rite** noun ceremony, ritual, ceremonial; service, sacrament, liturgy, worship, office; act, practice, custom, tradition, convention, institution, procedure.

**ritual** noun *an elaborate civic ritual*:

ceremony, rite, ceremonial, observance; service, sacrament, liturgy, worship; act, practice, custom, tradition, convention, formality, procedure, protocol.

• **adjective a ritual burial**: ceremonial, ritualistic, prescribed, set, formal; sacramental, liturgical; traditional, conventional.

**ritzy** adjective (informal). See POSH sense 1.

**rival** noun **1** *his rival for the nomination*: opponent, challenger, competitor, contender; adversary, antagonist, enemy; literary foe. **2** *the tool has no rival*: equal, match, peer, equivalent, counterpart, like.

– OPPOSITES ally.

• **verb** *few countries can rival it for scenery*: match, compare with, compete with, vie with, equal, measure up to, be in the same league as, be on a par with, touch, challenge; informal hold a candle to.

• **adjective rival candidates**: competing, opposing, contending.

**rivalry** noun competitiveness, competition, contention, vying; opposition, conflict, feuding, antagonism, friction, enmity; informal keeping up with the Joneses.

**riven** adjective *a country riven by civil war*: torn apart, split, rent, severed; literary cleft, torn asunder.

**river** noun **1** *watercourse, waterway*, tributary, stream, rivulet, brook, inlet, rill, runnel, freshet; Scottish & N. English burn; N. English beck; S. English bourn; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ creek; Austral. billabong. **2** *a river of molten lava*: stream, torrent, flood, deluge, cascade.

#### WORD LINKS

**fluvial** relating to or found in a river

**riparian** relating to or found on the banks of a river

**confluence** a place where two rivers join

**delta** a triangular area where the mouth of a river has split into several channels

**estuary** the mouth of a large river

**oxbow** a loop formed by a horseshoe-shaped bend in a river

**rapids, white water** a very fast-flowing stretch of a river

**spate, freshet** a flood in a river

**levee** an embankment built to prevent a river from overflowing

**weir** a dam built to regulate the flow of a river

**potamology** the study of rivers

**riveted** adjective **1** *she stood riveted to the spot*: fixed, rooted, frozen, unable to move; motionless, unmoving, immobile, stock-still. **2** *he was riveted by the newsreels*: fascinated, engrossed, gripped, captivated, enthralled, spellbound, mesmerized, transfixed. **3** *their eyes were riveted on the teacher*: fixed, fastened, focused, concentrated, locked, glued.

**riveting** adjective fascinating, gripping, engrossing, interesting, intriguing, absorbing, captivating, enthralling, compelling, spellbinding, mesmerizing; informal unputdownable.



– OPPOSITES boring.

**road** **noun** **1** *the roads were crowded with traffic:* street, thoroughfare, roadway, carriageway, avenue, Broadway, bypass, ring road, trunk road, byroad; lane, crescent, drive, parade, row; corniche; Brit. dual carriageway, clearway, motorway; N. Amer. highway, freeway, parkway, throughway, expressway; US turnpike, interstate. **2** *a step on the road to recovery:* way, path, route, course. **3** *oil tankers waiting in the roads:* anchorage, channel, haven, roadstead.

■ **on the road** on tour, touring, travelling.

**roam** **verb** wander, rove, ramble, drift, walk, traipse; range, travel, tramp, traverse, trek; Scottish & Irish stravaig; informal cruise, mosey; formal perambulate; old use peregrinate.

**roar** **noun** **1** *the roars of the crowd:* shout, bellow, yell, cry, howl; clamour; informal holler. **2** *the roar of the sea:* boom, crash, rumble, roll, thundering. **3** *roars of laughter:* guffaw, howl, hoot, shriek, gale, peal. • **verb** **1** *'Get out!' roared Angus:* bellow, yell, shout, bawl, howl; informal holler. **2** *thunder roared:* boom, rumble, crash, roll, thunder. **3** *the movie left them roaring:* guffaw, laugh, hoot; informal split one's sides, be rolling in the aisles, be doubled up, crack up, be in stitches, die laughing; Brit. informal crease up, fall about. **4** *a motorbike roared past:* speed, zoom, whizz, flash; informal belt, tear, zip; Brit. informal bomb.

**roaring** **adjective** **1** *a roaring fire:* blazing, burning, flaming. **2** (informal) *a roaring success:* enormous, huge, massive, (very) great, tremendous; complete, out-and-out, thorough; informal rip-roaring, whopping, fantastic.

**roast** **verb** **1** *potatoes roasted in olive oil:* cook, bake, grill; N. Amer. broil. **2** (informal) *they roasted him for wasting time.* See **CRITICIZE**.

**roasting** (informal) **adjective** *a roasting day:* hot, sweltering, scorching, blistering, searing, torrid; informal boiling (hot), baking (hot).

• **noun** *the boss gave him a roasting.* See **LECTURE** noun sense 2.

**rob** **verb** **1** *the gang robbed the local bank:* burgle, steal from, hold up, break into; raid, loot, plunder, pillage; N. Amer. burglarize; informal do, turn over, knock off, stick up. **2** *he robbed an old woman:* steal from; informal mug, jump; N. Amer. informal clip. **3** *he was robbed of his savings:* cheat, swindle, defraud; informal do out of, con out of, fleece; N. Amer. informal stiff. **4** (informal) *it cost £70—I was robbed:* overcharge; informal rip off, sting, do, diddle; N. Amer. informal gouge. **5** *defeat robbed him of his title:* deprive, strip, divest; deny.

**robber** **noun** burglar, thief, housebreaker, mugger, shoplifter; stealer, pilferer, raider, looter, plunderer, pillager; bandit, highwayman; informal crook, crackman; Brit. informal tea leaf; N. Amer. informal yegg; literary brigand.

**robbery** **noun** **1** *they were arrested for the robbery:* burglary, theft, thievery, stealing,

breaking and entering, housebreaking, larceny, shoplifting; embezzlement, fraud; hold-up, break-in, raid; informal mugging, smash-and-grab, stick-up; Brit. informal blag; N. Amer. informal heist. **2** (informal) *Six quid? That's robbery.*: a swindle; informal a con, a rip-off; Brit. informal daylight robbery.

**robe** **noun** **1** *the women wore black robes:* cloak, kaftan, djellaba, wrap, mantle, cape; N. Amer. wrapper. **2** *coronation robes:* garb, regalia, costume, finery; garments, clothes; formal apparel; old use raiment, habiliments, vestments. **3** *priestly robes:* vestment, surplice, cassock, rochet, alb, dalmatic, chasuble; canonicals. **4** *a towelling robe:* dressing gown, bathrobe, housecoat; N. Amer. wrapper.

• **verb** *he robed for Mass:* dress, clothe oneself; formal enrobe.

**robot** **noun** automaton, android, golem; informal bot, droid.

**robust** **adjective** **1** *a large, robust man:* strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful, solid, muscular, sinewy, rugged, hardy, strapping, brawny, burly, husky; healthy, (fighting) fit, hale and hearty, lusty, in fine fettle; informal beefy, hunky. **2** *these knives are robust:* durable, resilient, tough, hard-wearing, long-lasting, sturdy, strong. **3** *her usual robust view of things:* down-to-earth, practical, realistic, pragmatic, common-sense, commonsensical, matter-of-fact, businesslike, sensible, unromantic, unsentimental; informal no-nonsense. **4** *a robust red wine:* strong, full-bodied, flavourful, flavoursome, rich.

– OPPOSITES frail, fragile, romantic, insipid.

**rock**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *the ship rocked on the water:* move to and fro, move back and forth, sway, see-saw; roll, pitch, plunge, toss, lurch, reel, list; wobble, oscillate. **2** *the building began to rock:* shake, vibrate, quake, tremble. **3** *Wall Street was rocked by the news:* stun, shock, stagger, astonish, startle, surprise, shake (up), take aback, throw, unnerve, disconcert.

**rock**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a gully strewn with rocks:* boulder, stone, pebble; Austral. informal goolie. **2** *a castle built on a rock:* crag, cliff, outcrop. **3** *he was the rock on which they relied:* foundation, cornerstone, support, prop, mainstay; tower of strength, bulwark, anchor. **4** (informal) *she wore a massive rock:* diamond (ring), jewel, precious stone. ■ **on the rocks** (informal) **1** *her marriage is on the rocks:* in difficulty, in trouble, breaking up, over; in tatters, in ruins, ruined. **2** *a Scotch on the rocks:* with ice, on ice.

#### WORD LINKS

petrography, petrology, lithology the scientific study of rocks  
moraine a mass of rocks deposited by a glacier  
stratum a layer of rock

**rocket** **noun** **1** *guerrillas fired rockets at them:* missile, projectile. **2** *they lit some colourful rockets:* firework, Roman candle, banger. **3** (Brit. informal) *he got a rocket from the boss.*

See **LECTURE** noun sense 2.

• **verb 1** *prices have rocketed*: shoot up, soar, increase, rise, escalate, spiral; informal go through the roof. **2** *they rocketed into the alley*: speed, zoom, shoot, whizz, tear, career; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal barrel, hightail it.

– **OPPOSITES** plummet.

**rocky**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** *a rocky path*: stony, pebbly, shingly; rough, bumpy; craggy, mountainous.

**rocky**<sup>2</sup> **adjective 1** *that table's rocky*: unsteady, shaky, unstable, wobbly, tottery, rickety, flimsy. **2** *a rocky marriage*: difficult, problematic, precarious, unstable, unreliable, undependable; informal iffy, up and down.

– **OPPOSITES** steady, stable.

**rococo** **adjective** *ornate, fancy, elaborate, extravagant, baroque*; fussy, busy, ostentatious, showy; flowery, florid, flamboyant, high-flown, magniloquent, orotund, bombastic, overwrought, overblown, inflated, turgid; informal highfalutin.

– **OPPOSITES** plain.

**rod** **noun 1** *an iron rod*: bar, stick, pole, baton, staff; shaft, strut, rail, spoke. **2** *the ceremonial rod*: staff, mace, sceptre.

**3** *instruction was accompanied by the rod*: corporal punishment, the cane, the lash, the birch; beating, flogging, caning, birching.

**rogue** **noun 1** *a rogue without ethics*: scoundrel, villain, miscreant, reprobate, rascal, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, wretch; informal rat, dog, louse, crook; informal, dated rotter, bounder, blighter; dated cad; old use blackguard, knave. **2** *your boy's a little rogue*: rascal, imp, devil, monkey; informal scamp, scallywag, monster, horror, terror, tyke; Brit. informal perisher; N. Amer. informal hellion.

**roguish** **adjective 1** *a roguish character*: unprincipled, dishonest, deceitful, unscrupulous, untrustworthy, shameless; wicked, villainous; informal shady, scoundrelly, rascally; old use knavish. **2** *a roguish grin*: mischievous, playful, teasing, cheeky, naughty, wicked, impish, devilish, arch; informal waggish.

**roister** **verb** *enjoy oneself, celebrate, revel, carouse, frolic, romp, have fun, make merry*, rollick; informal party, live it up, whoop it up, have a ball, make whoopee.

**role** **noun 1** *a small role in the film*: part; character. **2** *his role as President of the EC*: capacity, position, job, post, office, duty, responsibility, mantle, place; function, part.

**roll** **verb 1** *the bottle rolled down the table*: bowl, turn over and over, spin, rotate. **2** *waiters rolled in the trolleys*: wheel, push, trundle. **3** *we rolled past fields*: travel, go, move, pass, cruise, sweep. **4** *the months rolled by*: pass, go by, slip by, fly by, elapse, wear on, march on. **5** *tears rolled down her cheeks*: flow, run, course, stream, pour, spill, trickle. **6** *the mist rolled in*: billow, undulate,

tumble. **7** *he rolled his handkerchief into a ball*: wind, coil, fold, curl; twist. **8** *roll out the pastry*: flatten, level; even out. **9** *they rolled about with laughter*: stagger, lurch, reel, totter, teeter, wobble. **10** *the ship began to roll*: lurch, toss, rock, pitch, plunge, sway, reel, list, keel. **11** *thunder rolled*: rumble, reverberate, echo, resound, boom, roar, grumble.

• **noun 1** *a roll of wrapping paper*: cylinder, tube, scroll; bolt. **2** *a roll of film*: reel, spool. **3** *a roll of notes*: wad, bundle. **4** *a roll of the dice*: throw, toss, turn, spin. **5** *crusty rolls*: bread roll, bun, bagel; Brit. bap, muffin; N. English barm; N. Amer. hoagie; Military slang wad.

**6** *the electoral roll*: list, register, directory, record, file, index, catalogue, inventory; census. **7** *a roll of thunder*: rumble, reverberation, echo, boom, clap, crack, roar, grumble.

■ **roll in** (informal) **1** *money has been rolling in*: pour in, flood in, flow in. **2** *he rolled in at nine o'clock*: arrive, turn up, appear, show one's face; informal show up, roll up, blow in.

■ **roll something out** unroll, spread out, unfurl, unfold, open (out), unwind, uncoil.

■ **roll something up** fold (up), furl, wind up, coil (up), bundle up.

**rollicking**<sup>1</sup> **noun** (Brit. informal) *I got a rollicking for being late*. See **LECTURE** noun sense 2.

**rollicking**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** *a rollicking party*: lively, boisterous, exuberant, spirited; riotous, noisy, wild, rowdy, roisterous; informal rumbustious; N. Amer. informal rambunctious.

**roly-poly** **adjective** (informal) *chubby, plump, fat, stout, rotund, round, dumpy, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent*; informal tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed.

– **OPPOSITES** skinny.

**romance** **noun 1** *their romance blossomed*: love, passion, ardour, adoration, devotion; affection, fondness, attachment. **2** *he's had many romances*: love affair, relationship, liaison, courtship, attachment; flirtation, dalliance. **3** *an author of historical romances*: love story, novel; romantic fiction; informal tear-jerker. **4** *the romance of the Far East*: mystery, glamour, excitement, exoticism, mystique; appeal, allure, charm.

• **verb 1** (dated) *he was romancing Meg*: woo, chase, pursue; go out with, pay court to; informal see, go steady with, date; dated court, make love to. **2** *I am romancing the past*: romanticize, idealize, paint a rosy picture of.

**romantic** **adjective 1** *he's so romantic*: loving, amorous, passionate, tender, affectionate; informal lovey-dovey. **2** *romantic songs*: sentimental, hearts-and-flowers, slushy, mushy, sloppy; mawkish, sickly, saccharine, syrupy; informal schmaltzy, gooey, treacly, cheesy, corny; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy. **3** *a romantic setting*: idyllic, picturesque, fairy-tale; beautiful, lovely, charming, pretty. **4** *romantic notions*

of rural communities: idealistic, idealized, unrealistic, fanciful, impractical; head-in-the-clouds, starry-eyed, optimistic, hopeful, visionary, utopian, fairy-tale.

– OPPOSITES unsentimental, realistic.

• **noun** *an incurable romantic*: idealist, sentimentalist, romanticist; dreamer, visionary, utopian, Don Quixote, fantasist; N. Amer. fantast.

– OPPOSITES realist.

**Romeo** **noun** *ladies' man*, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, womanizer, playboy, lover, seducer, philanderer, flirt; gigolo; informal ladykiller, stud.

**romp** **verb** **1** *two fox cubs romped playfully*: play, frolic, frisk, gambol, skip, prance, caper, cavort, rollick; dated sport. **2** *South Africa romped to a win*: sail, coast, sweep; win hands down, run away with it; informal win by a mile, walk it.

**room** **noun** **1** *there isn't much room*: space; headroom, legroom; area, expanse, extent; informal elbow room. **2** *there's room for improvement*: scope, capacity, leeway, latitude, freedom; opportunity, chance; informal wiggle room. **3** *he had rooms in the Pepys building*: lodgings, quarters; accommodation; a suite, an apartment; informal a pad, digs.

• **verb** *he roomed there in September*: lodge, board, live, stay; be quartered, be housed; formal dwell, reside, sojourn.

**roomy** **adjective** spacious, capacious, sizeable, generous, big, large, extensive; voluminous, ample; formal commodious.

– OPPOSITES cramped.

**root** **noun** **1** *a plant's roots*: rootstock, tuber, rootlet; taproot; Botany rhizome, radicle. **2** *the root of the problem*: source, origin, germ, beginnings, genesis; cause, reason, basis, foundation, bottom, seat; core, heart, nub, essence; formal radix. **3** *he rejected his roots*: origins, beginnings, family, ancestors, predecessors, heritage; birthplace, homeland.

• **verb** **1** *has the shoot rooted?* take root, grow roots, establish, strike, take. **2** *root the cuttings*: plant, bed out, sow. **3** *he rooted around in the cupboard*: rummage, hunt, search, rifle, delve, forage, dig, nose, poke; Brit. informal rootle.

■ **root and branch** **1** *the firm should be eradicated, root and branch*: completely, entirely, wholly, totally, thoroughly. **2** *a root-and-branch reform*: complete, total, thorough, radical.

■ **root for** (informal) cheer (on), applaud, support, encourage.

■ **root something out** **1** *the hedge was rooted out*: uproot, deracinate, pull up, grub out. **2** *a campaign to root out corruption*: eradicate, eliminate, weed out, destroy, wipe out, stamp out, extirpate, abolish, end, put a stop to.

■ **take root** **1** *leave the plants to take root*: germinate, sprout, establish, strike, take. **2** *Christianity took root in Persia*: become established, take hold; develop, thrive, flourish.

#### WORD LINKS

radical relating to the root of a plant

**rooted** **adjective** **1** *views rooted in Indian culture*: embedded, fixed, established, entrenched, ingrained. **2** *Neil was rooted to the spot*: frozen, riveted, paralysed, glued, fixed; stock-still, motionless, unmoving.

**rootless** **adjective** *itinerant*, unsettled, drifting, roving, footloose; homeless, of no fixed abode.

**rope** **noun** *cord*, cable, line, hawser; string. • **verb** *his feet were roped together*: tie, bind, lash, truss; secure, moor, fasten, attach; hitch, tether, lasso.

■ **rope someone in/into** persuade to/into, talk into, inveigle into; enlist, engage.

#### WORD LINKS

funicular relating to a rope

splice join a rope or ropes by interweaving the strands at the ends

belay fix a rope round an object to secure it  
cleat a projection to which a rope may be attached

marlinspike a tool used to separate strands of rope

oakum loose fibre obtained by untwisting old rope

**ropy** **adjective** **1** *ropy strands of lava*: stringy, thready, fibrous, filamentous; viscous, sticky, mucilaginous, thick. **2** (Brit. informal) *I feel a bit ropy*. See **ILL** adjective sense 1. **3** (Brit. informal) *ropy defending from the home team*. See **SUBSTANDARD**.

**roster** **noun** *schedule*, list, listing, register, agenda, calendar, table; Brit. rota.

**rostrum** **noun** *dais*, platform, podium, stage; soapbox.

**rosy** **adjective** **1** *a rosy complexion*: pink, pinkish, roseate, reddish; glowing, healthy, fresh, radiant, blooming; blushing, flushed; ruddy, high-coloured, florid. **2** *his future looks rosy*: promising, optimistic, auspicious, hopeful, encouraging, favourable, bright, golden; informal upbeat.

– OPPOSITES pale, bleak.

**rot** **verb** **1** *the floorboards rotted*: decay, decompose, become rotten; disintegrate, crumble, perish. **2** *the meat began to rot*: go bad, go off, spoil; moulder, putrefy, fester. **3** *poor neighbourhoods have been left to rot*: deteriorate, degenerate, decline, decay, go to rack and ruin, go to seed, go downhill; informal go to pot, go to the dogs.

– OPPOSITES improve.

• **noun** **1** *the leaves turned black with rot*: decay, decomposition, mould, mouldiness, mildew, blight, canker; putrefaction, putrescence. **2** *traditionalists said the rot had set in*: deterioration, decline; corruption, cancer. **3** (informal) *stop talking rot*. See **NONSENSE** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES sense.

#### WORD LINKS

putrid, putrescent rotting and smelling very unpleasant



**carion** the rotting flesh of dead animals  
**saprophyte** a plant or organism that lives on rotting matter

**rota** noun (Brit.). See **ROSTER**.

**rotary** adjective **rotating**, rotatory, rotational, revolving, turning, spinning, gyrating, gyratory.

**rotate** verb **1** *the wheels rotate continually*: revolve, go round, turn (round), spin, gyrate, whirl, twirl, swivel, circle, pivot. **2** *many nurses rotate jobs*: **alternate**, take turns, change, switch, interchange, exchange, swap; move around.

**rotation** noun **1** *the rotation of the wheels*: revolving, turning, spinning, gyration, circling. **2** *a rotation of the Earth*: **turn**, revolution, orbit, spin. **3** *each member is chair for six months in rotation*: **sequence**, succession; alternation, cycle.

**rote** noun

■ **by rote** mechanically, automatically, parrot-fashion, unthinkingly, mindlessly; from memory, by heart.

**rotten** adjective **1** *rotten meat*: decaying, rotting, bad, off, decomposing, putrid, putrescent, perished, mouldy, mouldering, mildewy, rancid, festering, fetid; addled; maggoty, wormy, flyblown. **2** *rotten teeth*: decaying, decayed, carious, black; disintegrating, crumbling. **3** *he's rotten to the core*: **corrupt**, unprincipled, dishonest, dishonourable, unscrupulous, untrustworthy, immoral; villainous, bad, wicked, evil, iniquitous, venal; informal crooked, warped; Brit. informal bent. **4** (informal) *a rotten thing to do*: **nasty**, unkind, unpleasant, obnoxious, vile, contemptible, despicable, shabby; spiteful, mean, malicious, hateful, hurtful; unfair, uncharitable, uncalled for; informal dirty, low-down; Brit. informal out of order. **5** (informal) *he was a rotten singer*: **bad**, poor, dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, appalling, abysmal, hopeless, inadequate, inferior, substandard; informal crummy, pathetic, useless, lousy, dire; Brit. informal duff, rubbish, pants. **6** (informal) *I feel rotten about it*: **guilty**, conscience-stricken, remorseful, ashamed, shamefaced, chastened, contrite, sorry, regretful, repentant, penitent. **7** (informal) *I felt rotten with that cold*. See **ILL** adjective sense 1.

– **OPPOSITES** fresh, honourable, kind, good, well.

**rotter** noun (informal, dated). See **SCOUNDREL**.

**rotund** adjective **1** *a small, rotund man*: **plump**, chubby, fat, stout, portly, dumpy, round, chunky, overweight, heavy, paunchy, ample; flabby, fleshy, bulky, corpulent, obese; informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed. **2** *rotund cauldrons*: **round**, bulbous, spherical, spheric; literary orbicular.

– **OPPOSITES** thin.

**roué** noun **libertine**, rake, debauchee, degenerate, profligate; lecher, seducer,

womanizer, philanderer, adulterer, Don Juan, Lothario; informal ladykiller, lech, dirty old man.

**rough** adjective **1** *rough ground*: uneven, irregular, bumpy, lumpy, knobbly, stony, rocky, rugged, rutted, pitted, rutty. **2** *the terrier's rough coat*: **coarse**, bristly, scratchy, prickly; shaggy, hairy, bushy. **3** *rough skin*: **dry**, leathery, weather-beaten; chapped, calloused, scaly, scabrous. **4** *his voice was rough*: **gruff**, hoarse, harsh, rasping, raspy, husky, throaty, gravelly, guttural. **5** *rough red wine*: **sharp**, sour, acidic, acid, vinegary, acidulous. **6** *he gets rough when he's drunk*: **violent**, brutal, vicious; aggressive, belligerent, pugnacious, thuggish; boisterous, rowdy, disorderly, unruly, riotous. **7** *a machine that can take rough handling*: **careless**, clumsy, inept, unskilful. **8** *rough manners*: **boorish**, loutish, oafish, brutish, coarse, crude, uncouth, vulgar, unrefined, unladylike, ungentelemanly, uncultured; unmannerly, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious, rude. **9** *rough seas*: **turbulent**, stormy, tempestuous, violent, heavy, heaving, choppy. **10** (informal) *I've had a rough time*: **difficult**, hard, tough, bad, unpleasant; demanding, arduous. **11** (informal) *you were a bit rough on her*: **harsh**, hard, tough, stern, severe, unfair, unjust; insensitive, nasty, cruel, unkind, unsympathetic, brutal, heartless, merciless. **12** (informal) *I'm feeling rough*. See **ILL** adjective sense 1. **13** *a rough draft*: **preliminary**, hasty, quick, sketchy, cursory, basic, crude, rudimentary, raw, unpolished; incomplete, unfinished. **14** *a rough estimate*: **approximate**, inexact, imprecise, vague, estimated, hazy; N. Amer. informal ballpark. **15** *the accommodation is rather rough*: **plain**, **basic**, simple, rough and ready, rude, crude, primitive, spartan.

– **OPPOSITES** smooth, sleek, soft, dulcet, sweet, gentle, careful, refined, calm, easy, kind, well, exact, luxurious.

● **noun 1** *the artist's initial roughs*: **sketch**, draft, outline, mock-up. **2** (Brit.) *a bunch of roughs attacked him*: **ruffian**, thug, lout, hooligan, hoodlum, rowdy; informal tough, roughneck, bruiser, gorilla, yahoo; Brit. informal yob, yobbo.

● **verb** *rough the surface with sandpaper*: **roughen**.

■ **rough something out** draft, sketch out, outline, block out, mock up; formal adumbrate.

■ **rough someone up** (informal) beat up, attack, assault, knock about/around, batter, manhandle; informal do over, beat the living daylight out of; Brit. informal duff up.

**rough and ready** adjective **basic**, simple, crude, unrefined, unsophisticated; makeshift, provisional, stopgap, improvised, extemporary, ad hoc; hurried, sketchy.

**rough and tumble** noun scuffle, fight, brawl, melee, free-for-all, fracas, rumpus; horseplay; Law, dated affray; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, shindy; N. Amer. informal rough house.

**roughly** adverb **1** *he shoved her roughly away: violently, forcefully, forcibly, abruptly, unceremoniously.* **2** *they treated him roughly: harshly, unkindly, unsympathetically; brutally, savagely, mercilessly, cruelly, heartlessly.* **3** *roughly £2.4 million: approximately, (round) about, around, circa, in the region of, something like, of the order of, or so, or thereabouts, more or less, give or take; nearly, close to, approaching; Brit. getting on for.*

**roughneck** noun (informal). See **RUFFIAN**.

**round** adjective **1** *a round window: circular, disc-shaped, ring-shaped, hoop-shaped; spherical, spheroidal, globular, globe-shaped, orb-shaped; cylindrical; bulbous, rounded, rotund; technical annular, discoid, discoidal; literary orbicular.* **2** *a short, round man: plump, chubby, fat, stout, rotund, portly, dumpy, chunky, overweight, pot-bellied, paunchy; flabby, corpulent, fleshy, bulky, obese; informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed.* **3** *his deep, round voice: sonorous, resonant, rich, full, mellow, mellifluous, orotund.* **4** *a round dozen: complete, entire, whole, full.* **5** *she berated him in round terms: candid, frank, direct, honest, truthful, straightforward, plain, blunt, forthright, bald, explicit, unequivocal.*

— **OPPOSITES** thin, reedy.

• **noun** **1** *mould the dough into rounds: ball, sphere, globe, orb, circle, disc, ring, hoop; technical annulus.* **2** *a policeman on his rounds: circuit, beat, route, tour.* **3** *the first round of the contest: stage, level; heat, game, bout, contest.* **4** *an endless round of parties: succession, sequence, series, cycle.* **5** *the gun fires thirty rounds a second: bullet, cartridge, shell, shot.*

• **preposition & adverb** **1** *the alleys round the station: around, about, encircling; near, in the vicinity of; orbiting.* **2** *casinos dotted round France: throughout, all over, here and there in.*

• **verb** *the ship rounded the point: go round, travel round, skirt, circumnavigate, orbit.*

■ **round about** approximately, about, around, circa, roughly, of the order of, something like, more or less, as near as dammit to, close to, near to, practically; or so, or thereabouts, give or take a few; not far off, nearly, almost, approaching; Brit. getting on for.

■ **round the bend** (informal). See **MAD** sense 1.

■ **round the clock** **1** *we're working round the clock: day and night, night and day, all the time, {morning, noon, and night}, continuously, non-stop, steadily, unremittingly; informal 24-7.* **2** *round-the-clock supervision: continuous, constant, non-stop, continual, uninterrupted.*

■ **round something off** **1** *the square edges were rounded off: smooth off, plane off, sand off, level off.* **2** *the party rounded off a successful year: complete, finish off, crown, cap, top; conclude, close, end.*

■ **round on someone** snap at, attack, turn on, weigh into, let fly at, lash out at, hit

out at; informal bite someone's head off, jump down someone's throat, lay into, tear into; Brit. informal have a go at; N. Amer. informal light into.

■ **round someone/something up** gather together, herd together, muster, marshal, rally, assemble, collect, group; N. Amer. corral.

**roundabout** adjective **1** *a roundabout route: circuitous, indirect, meandering, serpentine, tortuous.* **2** *I asked in a roundabout sort of way: indirect, oblique, circuitous, circumlocutory, periphrastic, digressive, long-winded; evasive.*

— **OPPOSITES** direct.

• **noun** (Brit.) **1** *go straight on at the roundabout: N. Amer. rotary, traffic circle.* **2** *a roundabout with wooden horses: merry-go-round, carousel; old use whirligig.*

**roundly** adverb **1** *he was roundly condemned: vehemently, emphatically, fiercely, forcefully, severely; plainly, frankly, candidly.* **2** *she was roundly defeated: utterly, completely, thoroughly, decisively, conclusively, heavily, soundly.*

**round-up** noun **1** *a cattle round-up:*

*assembly, muster, rally; N. Amer. rodeo.*

**2** *the sports round-up: summary, synopsis, overview, review, outline, digest, precis; N. Amer. wrap-up; informal recap.*

**rouse** verb **1** *he roused Ralph at dawn: wake (up), awaken, arouse; Brit. informal knock up; formal waken.* **2** *she roused and looked around: wake up, awake, awaken, come to, get up, rise, bestir oneself; formal arise.* **3** *he roused the crowd: stir up, excite, galvanize,*

*electrify, stimulate, inspire, inspirit, move, inflame, agitate, goad, provoke; incite, spur on; N. Amer. light a fire under.* **4** *he's got a temper when he's roused: provoke, annoy, anger, infuriate, madden, incense, vex, irk; informal aggravate.* **5** *her disappearance roused my suspicions: arouse, awaken, prompt, provoke, stimulate, pique, trigger, spark off, touch off, kindle, elicit.*

— **OPPOSITES** calm, pacify, allay.

**rousing** adjective stirring, inspiring, exciting, stimulating, moving, electrifying, invigorating, energizing, exhilarating; enthusiastic, vigorous, spirited; inflammatory.

**rout** noun **1** *the army's ignominious rout: retreat, flight.* **2** *Newcastle scored 13 tries in the rout: crushing defeat, trouncing, annihilation; debacle, fiasco; informal licking, hammering, thrashing, pasting, drubbing, massacre.*

— **OPPOSITES** victory.

• **verb** **1** *his army was routed: put to flight, drive off, scatter; defeat, beat, conquer, vanquish, crush, overpower.* **2** *he routed the defending champion: beat hollow, trounce, defeat, get the better of; informal lick, hammer, clobber, thrash, paste, demolish, annihilate, drub, cane, wipe the floor with, walk all over, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal cream, shellac, skunk.*

**route** noun *a different route to the shops:*

way, course, road, path, direction; passage, journey.

• **verb** *enquiries are routed to the relevant desk*: direct, send, convey, dispatch, forward.

**routine** **noun** **1** *his morning routine*:

procedure, practice, pattern, drill, regime, regimen; programme, schedule, plan; formula, method, system; customs, habits; formal wont. **2** *a stand-up routine*: act, performance, number, turn, piece; informal spiel, patter.

• **adjective** **1** *a routine health check*: standard, regular, customary, normal, usual, ordinary, typical; everyday, common, commonplace, conventional, habitual; literary wonted. **2** *a routine action movie*: boring, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, monotonous, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, prosaic, dreary, pedestrian; predictable, hackneyed, stock, unimaginative, unoriginal, banal, trite.

– **OPPOSITES** unusual.

**rove** **verb** wander, roam, ramble, drift, meander; range, travel; Scottish stravaig; old use peregrinate.

**rover** **noun** wanderer, traveller, globetrotter, drifter, bird of passage, roamer, itinerant, transient; nomad, Gypsy, Romany; tramp, vagrant, vagabond; N. Amer. hobo.

**row**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *rows of children*: line, column, file, queue; procession, chain, string, succession; informal crocodile. **2** *the middle row of seats*: tier, line, rank, bank.

■ **in a row three days in a row**: consecutively, in succession; running, straight; informal on the trot.

**row**<sup>2</sup> (Brit. informal) **noun** **1** *have you two had a row?* argument, quarrel, squabble, fight,

contretemps, falling-out, disagreement, dispute, clash, altercation, shouting match; informal tiff, set-to, run-in, slanging match, spat; Brit. informal barney, bust-up.

**2** *the row the crowd was making*: din, noise, racket, clamour, uproar, tumult, hubbub, commotion, brouhaha, rumpus, pandemonium, babel; informal hullabaloo.

**3** *Mum give me a row*: reprimand, rebuke, reproof, admonition, reproach, remonstrance, lecture, criticism; informal telling-off, slap on the wrist, dressing-down, roasting, tongue-lashing; Brit. informal ticking-off, carpeting, rollicking, rocket.

• **verb** *they rowed about money*: argue, quarrel, squabble, bicker, fight, fall out, disagree, have words, dispute, wrangle, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads; informal scrap, argufy.

**rowdy** **adjective** *rowdy youths*: unruly,

disorderly, obstreperous, riotous, undisciplined, uncontrollable, ungovernable, disruptive, out of control, rough, wild, lawless; boisterous, uproarious, noisy, loud, clamorous; informal rumbustious; N. Amer. informal rambunctious.

– **OPPOSITES** peaceful.

• **noun** *the pub filled up with rowdies*:

ruffian, troublemaker, lout, hooligan, thug, hoodlum; Brit. tearaway; informal tough, bruiser, yahoo; Brit. informal rough, yob, yobbo.

**royal** **adjective** **1** *the royal prerogative*:

regal, kingly, queenly, princely; sovereign, monarchical. **2** *a royal welcome*: excellent, fine, magnificent, splendid, superb, wonderful, first-rate, first-class; informal fantastic, great, tremendous.

**rub** **verb** **1** *Polly rubbed her arm*: massage, knead; stroke, pat. **2** *he rubbed sun lotion on her back*: apply, smear, spread, work in. **3** *my shoes rub painfully*: chafe, pinch; hurt, be painful.

• **noun** **1** *she gave his back a rub*: massage, rub-down. **2** *I gave my shoes a rub*: polish, wipe, clean. **3** *it's too complicated—that's the rub*: problem, difficulty, trouble, drawback, hindrance, impediment; snag, hitch, catch.

■ **rub along** (Brit. informal) manage, cope, get by, make do, muddle along/through; informal make out.

■ **rub something down** clean, sponge, wash; groom.

■ **rub it in** (informal) emphasize, stress, underline, highlight; go on, harp on; informal rub someone's nose in it.

■ **rub off** on be transferred to, be passed on to, be transmitted to, be communicated to; affect, influence.

■ **rub something out** erase, delete, remove, efface, obliterate, expunge.

■ **rub shoulders with** associate with, mingle with, fraternize with, socialize with, mix with, keep company with, consort with; N. Amer. rub elbows with; informal hang around/out with, hobnob with, knock about/around with.

■ **rub something up** polish, buff up, burnish, shine, wax; clean, wipe.

■ **rub someone up the wrong way** (Brit.).

See ANNOY.

**rubbish** **noun** **1** *throw away that rubbish*:

refuse, waste, litter, debris, detritus, scrap, dross; flotsam and jetsam, lumber; sweepings, scraps, dregs; N. Amer. garbage, trash; informal dreck, junk. **2** *she's talking rubbish*: nonsense, balderdash, gibberish, claptrap, blarney, moonshine, garbage; informal hogwash, baloney, tripe, drivel, bilge, bunk, piffle, poppycock, phooey, twaddle, gobbledegook; Brit. informal codswallop, cobblers, tosh, cack; Scottish & N. English informal havers; N. Amer. informal bushwa, applesauce.

• **verb** (Brit. informal) *they often rubbish trade unions*. See CRITICIZE.

• **adjective** (Brit. informal) *a rubbish team*. See HOPELESS sense 3.

**rubbishy** **adjective** (informal) worthless,

substandard, trashy, inferior, second-rate, third-rate, poor-quality, cheap, shoddy; bad, poor, dreadful, awful, terrible, appalling; informal crummy, lousy, dire, tacky; Brit. informal duff, chronic, rubbish.

**rubble** **noun** debris, remains, ruins, wreckage.

**ruccion** **noun** (informal) disturbance, noise, racket, din, commotion, fuss, uproar, furore, hue and cry, rumpus, fracas; (ruccions) trouble, hell to pay; informal to-do, hullabaloo,



hoo-ha, ballyhoo, stink, kerfuffle; Brit. informal row, carry-on.

**ruddy** adjective **1** *a ruddy complexion*: rosy, red, pink, roseate, rubicund; healthy, glowing, fresh; flushed, blushing; florid, high-coloured; literary rufescent. **2** (Brit. informal) *you ruddy idiot!* See **DAMNED** sense 2.

— **OPPOSITES** pale.

**rude** adjective **1** *a rude man*: ill-mannered, bad-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, unmannerly, mannerless; impertinent, insolent, impudent, disrespectful, cheeky; churlish, curt, brusque, brash, offhand, short, sharp; offensive, insulting, derogatory, disparaging, abusive; tactless, undiplomatic, uncomplimentary. **2** *rude jokes*: vulgar, coarse, smutty, dirty, filthy, crude, lewd, obscene, off colour, offensive, indelicate, tasteless; risqué, naughty, ribald, bawdy, racy; informal blue; Brit. informal near the knuckle; N. Amer. informal gamy; euphemistic adult. **3** *a rude awakening*: abrupt, sudden, sharp, startling; unpleasant, nasty, harsh. **4** (dated) *a rude cabin*: primitive, crude, rudimentary, rough, simple, basic. **5** (old use) *a rude and barbarous people*: uneducated, ignorant, illiterate; uncultured, uncivilized, unrefined; rough, coarse, uncouth, boorish.

— **OPPOSITES** polite, clean, luxurious, civilized.

**rudimentary** adjective **1** *rudimentary carpentry skills*: basic, elementary, primary, fundamental, essential. **2** *the equipment was rudimentary*: primitive, crude, simple, unsophisticated, rough (and ready), makeshift. **3** *a rudimentary thumb*: vestigial, undeveloped, incomplete; Biology abortive, primitive.

— **OPPOSITES** advanced, sophisticated, developed.

**rudiments** plural noun basics, fundamentals, essentials, first principles, foundation; informal nuts and bolts, ABC.

**rue** verb regret, be sorry about, feel remorseful about, repent of, reproach oneself for; deplore, lament, bemoan, bewail.

**rueful** adjective regretful, apologetic, sorry, remorseful, shamefaced, sheepish, hangdog, contrite, repentant, penitent, conscience-stricken, self-reproachful; sorrowful, sad.

**ruffian** noun thug, lout, hooligan, hoodlum, vandal, delinquent, rowdy, scoundrel, villain, rogue, bully boy, brute; informal tough, bruiser, heavy, yahoo; Brit. informal rough, yob, yobbo; N. Amer. informal goon.

**ruffle** verb **1** *he ruffled her hair*: disarrange, tousle, dishevel, rumple, ruffle, disorder, mess up, tangle; N. Amer. informal muss up. **2** *the wind ruffled the water*: ripple, riffle. **3** *don't let him ruffle you*: annoy, irritate, vex, nettle, anger, exasperate; disconcert, unnerve, fluster, agitate, harass, upset, disturb, discomfit, put off, perturb, unsettle, bother, worry, trouble; informal rattle, faze, throw, get to, rile, needle, aggravate, bug, peeve; Brit. informal wind up, nark.

— **OPPOSITES** smooth, soothe.

• noun *a shirt with ruffles*: frill, flounce, ruff, ruche, jabot, furbelow.

**rug** noun **1** *they sat on the rug*: mat, carpet. **2** *he was wrapped in a tartan rug*: blanket, coverlet, throw, wrap; N. Amer. lap robe.

**rugged** adjective **1** *the rugged coast path*: rough, uneven, bumpy, rocky, stony, pitted, jagged, craggy. **2** *a rugged vehicle*: robust, durable, sturdy, strong, tough, resilient. **3** *rugged manly types*: well built, burly, strong, muscular, muscly, brawny, strapping, husky, hulking; tough, hardy, robust, sturdy, lusty, solid; informal hunky, beefy. **4** *his rugged features*: strong, craggy, rough-hewn; manly, masculine; irregular, weathered.

— **OPPOSITES** smooth, flimsy, weedy, delicate.

**ruin** noun **1** *the buildings were saved from ruin*: disintegration, decay, disrepair, dilapidation, ruination; destruction, demolition, wreckage. **2** *the ruins of a church*: remains, remnants, fragments, relics; rubble, debris, wreckage. **3** *electoral ruin for Labour*: downfall, collapse, defeat, undoing, failure, breakdown, ruination; Waterloo. **4** *shopkeepers are facing ruin*: bankruptcy, insolvency, penury, poverty, destitution, impoverishment, indigence; failure.

— **OPPOSITES** preservation, triumph, wealth.

• verb **1** *don't ruin my plans*: wreck, destroy, spoil, mar, blight, shatter, dash, torpedo, scotch, mess up; sabotage; informal screw up, foul up, put the kibosh on, do for, nix, queer; Brit. informal scupper. **2** *the bank's collapse ruined them all*: bankrupt, make insolvent, impoverish, pauperize, wipe out, break, cripple; bring someone to their knees. **3** *a country ruined by civil war*: destroy, devastate, lay waste, ravage; raze, demolish, wreck, wipe out, flatten.

— **OPPOSITES** save, rebuild.

■ in ruins **1** *the abbey is in ruins*: derelict, ruined, in disrepair, falling to pieces, dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, decrepit, decaying, ruinous. **2** *his career is in ruins*: destroyed, ruined, in pieces, in ashes; over, finished; informal in tatters, on the rocks, done for.

**ruined** adjective derelict, in ruins, dilapidated, ruinous, tumbledown, ramshackle, decrepit, falling to pieces, crumbling, decaying, disintegrating; informal shambly.

**ruinous** adjective **1** *a ruinous trade war*: disastrous, devastating, catastrophic, calamitous, crippling, crushing, damaging, destructive, harmful; costly. **2** *ruinous interest rates*: extortionate, exorbitant, excessive, sky-high, outrageous, inflated; Brit. over the odds; informal criminal, steep. **3** *a ruinous chapel*. See **RUINED**.

**rule** noun **1** *health and safety rules*: regulation, ruling, directive, order, act, law, statute, edict, canon, mandate, command, dictate, decree, fiat, injunction, commandment, stipulation, requirement, guideline, direction; formal ordinance. **2** *church attendance on Sunday was the*

**general rule:** procedure, practice, protocol, convention, norm, routine, custom, habit; formal praxis, wont. **3 moderation is the golden rule:** precept, principle, standard, axiom, truth, maxim. **4 Punjab came under British rule:** control, jurisdiction, command, power, dominion; government, administration, sovereignty, leadership, supremacy, authority; raj.

• **verb 1 El Salvador was ruled by Spain:**

**govern**, preside over, control, lead, dominate, run, head, administer, manage.

**2 Mary ruled for six years: be in power**, be in control, be in command, be in charge, govern; reign, be monarch, be sovereign.

**3 the judge ruled that they be set free: decree**, order, pronounce, judge, adjudge, ordain; decide, find, determine, resolve, settle.

**4 subversion ruled: prevail**, predominate, be the order of the day, reign supreme; formal obtain.

■ **as a rule** usually, generally, in general, normally, ordinarily, customarily, for the most part, on the whole, by and large, in the main, mainly, mostly, commonly, typically.

■ **rule something out** exclude, eliminate, disregard; preclude, prohibit, prevent, disallow.

**ruler noun leader**, sovereign, monarch, potentate, king, queen, emperor, empress, prince, princess; crowned head, head of state, president, premier, governor; overlord, chief, chieftain, lord; dictator, autocrat.

– OPPOSITES subject.

**ruling noun the judge's ruling: judgement**, decision, adjudication, finding, verdict; pronouncement, resolution, decree, injunction.

• **adjective 1 the ruling monarch:** reigning, sovereign, regnant. **2 Japan's ruling party:** governing, controlling, commanding, supreme, leading, dominant, ascendant.

**3 football was their ruling passion: main**, chief, principal, major, prime, dominating, foremost; predominant, central, focal; informal number-one.

**rum adjective** (Brit. informal, dated). See **PECULIAR** sense 1.

**rumble verb boom**, thunder, roll, roar, resound, reverberate, echo, grumble.

**rumbustious adjective** (informal). See **BOISTEROUS** sense 1.

**ruminate verb 1 we ruminated on life: think about**, contemplate, consider, meditate on, muse on, mull over, ponder on/over, deliberate about/on, chew over, puzzle over; formal cogitate about. **2 cows ruminating: chew the cud**.

**rummage verb search**, hunt, root about/around, ferret about/around, fish about/around, poke around in, dig, delve, go through, explore, sift through, rifle through; Brit. informal rootle around.

**rumour noun gossip**, hearsay, talk, tittle-tattle, speculation, word, on dit; (rumours) reports, stories, whispers, canards; informal the grapevine, the word on the street, the

buzz; N. Amer. informal scuttlebutt.

**rump noun 1 a smack on the rump: rear (end)**, seat; buttocks, cheeks; Brit. bottom; Scottish bahookie; informal backside, behind, BTM, sit-upon, derrière; Brit. informal bum, botty, jackie; N. Amer. informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heinie, bippy; humorous fundament, posterior, stern; Anatomy nates.

**2 the rump of the army: remainder**, rest, remnant, remains.

**rumple verb 1 the sheet was rumpled:**

**crumple**, crease, wrinkle, crinkle, ruck (up), scrunch up; Brit. ruckle. **2 Ian rumpled her hair: ruffle**, disarrange, tousle, dishevel, ruffle; mess up; N. Amer. informal muss up.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**rumpus noun disturbance**, commotion, uproar, furore, brouhaha, hue and cry, ruckus; fracas, melee, tumult, noise, racket, din; informal to-do, hullabaloo, kerfuffle, ballyhoo; Brit. informal row, carry-on.

**run verb 1 she ran across the road: sprint**, race, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, scurry, scamper, hare, bolt, fly, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, zoom, go like lightning, go hell for leather, go like the wind; jog, trot; informal tear, pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, belt, zip, whip; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it, barrel. **2 the robbers turned and ran: flee**, run away, run off, run for it, take flight, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, make one's getaway, escape; informal beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, scam; Brit. informal do a runner, scarper, do a bunk; N. Amer. informal light out, take a powder, skidoo; Austral. informal shoot through. **3 he ran in the marathon: compete**, take part, participate. **4 a shiver ran down my spine: go**, pass, slide, move, travel. **5 he ran his eye down the list: cast**, pass, skim, flick. **6 the road runs the length of the valley: extend**, stretch, reach, continue. **7 water ran from the eaves: flow**, pour, stream, gush, flood, cascade, roll, course, spill, trickle, drip, dribble, leak. **8 a bus runs to Sorrento: travel**, shuttle, go. **9 I'll run you home: drive**, take, bring, ferry, chauffeur, give someone a lift. **10 he runs a transport company: be in charge of**, manage, direct, control, head, govern, supervise, superintend, oversee; operate, conduct, own. **11 it's expensive to run a car: maintain**, keep, own, possess, have; drive. **12 they ran some tests: carry out**, do, perform, execute. **13 he left the engine running: operate**, function, work, go; tick over, idle. **14 the lease runs for twenty years: be valid**, last, be in effect, be operative, continue, be effective. **15 the show ran for two years: be staged**, be performed, be on, be mounted, be screened. **16 he ran for president: stand for**, be a candidate for, be a contender for. **17 the paper ran the story: publish**, print, feature, carry, put out, release, issue. **18 they run drugs: smuggle**, traffic in, deal in. **19 they were run out of town: chase**, drive, hound.

• **noun 1 his morning run: sprint**, jog, dash, gallop, trot. **2 she did the school run: route**,

journey; circuit, round, beat. **3** *a run in the car*: drive, ride, turn; trip, excursion, outing, jaunt, airing; informal spin, tootle; Scottish informal hurl. **4** *an unbeaten run of victories*: series, succession, sequence, string, chain, streak, spell, stretch, spate. **5** *a run on sterling*: demand for, rush on. **6** *they had the run of her home*: free use of, unrestricted access to. **7** *the usual run of cafes*: type, kind, sort, variety, class. **8** *against the run of play*, *he scored again*: trend, tendency, course, direction, movement, drift, tide. **9** *a chicken run*: enclosure, pen, coop. **10** *a ski run*: slope, track, piste; N. Amer. trail. **11** *a run in her tights*: ladder, rip, tear, snag, hole. ■ *in the long run* eventually, in the end, ultimately, when all is said and done, in the fullness of time; Brit. informal at the end of the day.

■ *on the run on the loose*, at large, loose; running away, fleeing, fugitive; informal AWOL; N. Amer. informal on the lam.

■ *run across* meet (by chance), come across, run into, chance on, stumble on, happen on; informal bump into.

■ *run after* (informal) pursue, chase; make advances to, flirt with; informal make up to, come on to, be all over, vamp; dated set one's cap at.

■ *run along* (informal) go away, be off with you, shoo; informal scam, buzz off, skedaddle, scat, beat it, get lost, shove off, clear off; Brit. informal hop it; literary begone.

■ *run away 1 her attacker ran away*. See **RUN** verb sense 2. **2** *she ran away with the championship*: win easily, win hands down; informal win by a mile, walk it, romp home.

■ *run down* decline, degenerate, go downhill, go to seed, decay, go to rack and ruin; informal go to pot, go to the dogs.

■ *run someone down 1 he was run down by joyriders*: run over, knock down/over; hit, strike. **2** *she ran him down in front of other people*: criticize, denigrate, belittle, disparage, deprecate, find fault with; informal put down, knock, bad-mouth; Brit. informal rubbish, slag off; formal derogate.

■ *run something down 1 she finally ran a copy of the book down*: find, discover, locate, track down, trace, unearth. **2** *employers ran down their workforces gradually*: reduce, cut back on, downsize, decrease, trim; phase out, wind down/up.

■ *run high feelings were running high*: be strong, be fervent, be passionate, be intense.

■ *run into 1 a car ran into his van*: collide with, hit, strike, crash into, smash into, plough into, ram, impact. **2** *I ran into Hugo the other day*: meet (by chance), run across, chance on, stumble on, happen on; informal bump into. **3** *we ran into a problem*: experience, encounter, meet with, be faced with, be confronted with. **4** *his debts run into six figures*: reach, extend to, be as much as.

■ *run low supplies were running low*: dwindle, diminish, become depleted, be used up, be in short supply, be tight.

■ *run off 1 the youths ran off*. See **RUN** verb sense 2. **2** (informal) *he ran off with her money*.

See **STEAL** verb sense 1.

■ *run something off 1 would you run off that list for me?* copy, photocopy, xerox, duplicate, print, produce, do. **2** *run off some of the excess water*: drain, bleed, draw off, pump out.

■ *run on 1 the call ran on for hours*: continue, go on, carry on, last, keep going, stretch.

**2** *your mother does run on*: talk incessantly, talk a lot, go on, chatter on, ramble on; informal yak, gab, yabber; Brit. informal rabbit on, witter on, chunter on, talk the hind leg off a donkey; N. Amer. informal run off at the mouth.

■ *run out 1 supplies ran out*: be used up, dry up, be exhausted, be finished, peter out. **2** *they ran out of cash*: be out of; use up, consume, eat up; informal be fresh out of, be cleaned out of. **3** *her contract ran out*: expire, end, terminate, finish; lapse.

■ *run over 1 the bathwater ran over*: overflow, spill over, brim over; old use overbrim. **2** *the project ran over budget*: exceed, go over, overshoot, overreach. **3** *he quickly ran over the story*: recapitulate, repeat, run through, go over, reiterate, review; look over, read through; informal recap on.

■ *run someone over*. See **RUN SOMEONE DOWN** sense 1.

■ *run through 1 they quickly ran through their money*: squander, spend, fritter away, dissipate, waste, go through, consume, use up; informal blow. **2** *the attitude that runs through his writing*: pervade, permeate, suffuse, imbue, inform. **3** *he ran through his notes*. See **RUN OVER** sense 3. **4** *let's run through scene three*: rehearse, practise, go over, repeat; N. Amer. run down; informal recap on.

■ *run to 1 the bill ran to £22,000*: amount to, add up to, total, come to, equal, reach, be as much as. **2** *we can't run to champagne*: afford, stretch to, manage. **3** *he was running to fat*: tend to, become, get, grow.

**runaway** noun *a teenage runaway*: fugitive, escaper, escapee; refugee; truant; absconder, deserter.

• adjective **1** *a runaway horse*: out of control, escaped, loose, on the loose. **2** *a runaway victory*: easy, effortless; informal as easy as pie. **3** *runaway inflation*: rampant, out of control, unchecked, unbridled.

**rundown** noun summary, synopsis, precis, run-through, summarization, summation, review, overview, briefing, sketch, outline; informal low-down, recap.

**run down** adjective **1** *a run-down area of London*: dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, derelict, ruinous, in ruins, crumbling; neglected, uncared-for, depressed, seedy, shabby, slummy, squalid; informal shambly; Brit. informal grotty. **2** *she was feeling rather run down*: unwell, ill, poorly, unhealthy, peaky; tired, drained, exhausted, fatigued, worn out, below par, washed out; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather; Brit. informal off, ropy, knackered; Scottish informal wabbit; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated seedy.

**run-in** noun (informal) disagreement,



argument, dispute, altercation, confrontation, contretemps, quarrel; brush, encounter, tangle, fight, clash; informal set-to, spat, scrap; Brit. informal row.

**runner** noun **1** *the runners were limbering up:* athlete, sprinter, hurdler, racer, jogger. **2** *a strawberry runner:* shoot, offshoot, sprout, tendril; Botany stolon. **3** *the bookmaker employed runners:* messenger, courier, errand boy; informal gofer.

■ **do a runner** (Brit. informal). See **ABSCOND**.

**running** noun **1** *his running was particularly fast:* sprinting, sprint, racing, jogging, jog.

**2** *the running of the school:* administration, management, organization, coordination, orchestration, handling, direction, control, regulation, supervision. **3** *the smooth running of her department:* operation, working, function, performance.

• **adjective** **1** *running water:* flowing, gushing, rushing, moving. **2** *a running argument:* ongoing, sustained, continuous, incessant, ceaseless, constant, perpetual; recurrent, recurring. **3** *she was late two days running:* in succession, in a row, in sequence, consecutively; straight, together; informal on the trot.

■ **in the running** *he's in the running for a prize:* likely to get, a candidate for, in line for, on the shortlist for, up for.

**runny** adjective liquefied, liquid, fluid, melted, molten; watery, thin.

– **OPPOSITES** solid.

**run-of-the-mill** adjective ordinary, average, middle-of-the-road, commonplace, humdrum, mundane, standard, nondescript, characterless, conventional; unremarkable, unexceptional, uninteresting, dull, boring, routine, bland, lacklustre; N. Amer. garden-variety; informal bog-standard, nothing to write home about, nothing special, a dime a dozen; Brit. informal common or garden.

– **OPPOSITES** exceptional.

**rupture** noun **1** *pipeline ruptures:* break, fracture, crack, burst, split, fissure. **2** *a rupture due to personal differences:* rift, estrangement, falling-out, break-up, breach, split, separation, parting, division, schism; informal bust-up. **3** *an abdominal rupture:* hernia.

• **verb** **1** *the reactor core might rupture:* break, fracture, crack, breach, burst, split; informal bust. **2** *the problem ruptured their relationships:* sever, break off, breach, disrupt; literary sunder.

**rural** adjective country, countryside, bucolic, rustic, pastoral; agricultural, agrarian; literary sylvan, georgic.

– **OPPOSITES** urban.

**ruse** noun ploy, stratagem, tactic, scheme, trick, gambit, cunning plan, dodge, subterfuge, machination, wile; Brit. informal wheeze.

**rush** verb **1** *she rushed home:* hurry, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, hasten; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip,

hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it. **2** *water rushed along gutters:* flow, pour, gush, surge, stream, cascade, run, course. **3** *the tax was rushed through parliament:* push, hurry, hasten, speed, hustle, press, force. **4** *they rushed the cordon of troops:* attack, charge, run at, assail, storm.

• **noun** **1** *Tim made a rush for the exit:* dash, run, sprint, dart, bolt, charge, scramble, break. **2** *the lunchtime rush:* hustle and bustle, commotion, hubbub, hurly-burly, stir. **3** *a last minute rush for flights:* demand, clamour, call, request; run on. **4** *he was in no rush to leave:* hurry, haste, urgency. **5** *a rush of adrenalin:* surge, flow, flood, spurt, stream; dart, thrill, flash. **6** *a rush of cold air:* gust, draught, flurry. **7** *I made a sudden rush at him:* charge, onslaught, attack, assault, onrush.

• **adjective** *a rush job:* urgent, high-priority, emergency; hurried, hasty, fast, quick, swift; N. Amer. informal hurry-up.

**rushed** adjective **1** *a rushed divorce:* hasty, fast, speedy, quick, swift, rapid, hurried. **2** *he was too rushed to enjoy his stay:* pushed for time, pressed for time, busy, in a hurry, run off one's feet.

**rust** verb corrode, oxidize, become rusty, tarnish.

#### WORD LINKS

ferruginous rust-coloured

**rustic** adjective **1** *a rustic setting:* rural, country, countryside, countrified, pastoral, bucolic; agricultural, agrarian; literary sylvan, georgic. **2** *rustic wooden tables:* plain, simple, homely, unsophisticated; rough, rude, crude. **3** *rustic peasants:* unsophisticated, uncultured, unrefined, simple; artless, unassuming, guileless, naive, ingenuous; coarse, rough, uncouth, boorish; N. Amer. informal hillbilly, hick.

– **OPPOSITES** urban, ornate, sophisticated.

• **noun** *the rustics were carousing:* peasant, countryman, countrywoman, bumpkin, yokel, country cousin; N. Amer. informal hillbilly, hayseed, hick; Austral./NZ informal bushy; old use swain, cottier.

**rustle** verb **1** *her dress rustled as she moved:* swish, whoosh, whisper, sigh. **2** *he was rustling cattle:* steal, thief, take; abduct, kidnap.

• **noun** *the rustle of the leaves:* swish, whisper, rustling; literary susurration, susurrus.

■ **rustle something up** (informal) prepare hastily, throw together, make; informal fix; Brit. informal knock up.

**rusty** adjective **1** *rusty wire:* rusted, rust-covered, corroded, oxidized; tarnished, discoloured. **2** *his hair was a rusty colour:* reddish-brown, chestnut, auburn, tawny, russet, coppery, copper, Titian, red. **3** *my French is a little rusty:* out of practice, below par; unpractised, deficient, impaired, weak.

**rut** noun **1** *the car bumped across the ruts:* furrow, groove, trough, ditch, hollow,

pothole, crater. **2** *he was stuck in a rut*:  
**boring routine**, humdrum existence, groove,  
dead end.

**ruthless** adjective **merciless**, pitiless, cruel,  
heartless, hard-hearted, cold-hearted,  
cold-blooded, harsh, callous, unmerciful,

unforgiving, uncaring, unsympathetic,  
uncharitable; remorseless, unbending,  
inflexible, implacable; brutal, inhuman,  
inhumane, barbarous, barbaric, savage,  
sadistic, vicious.  
– OPPOSITES merciful.

# Ss

**sable** adjective **black**, jet-black, pitch-black, ebony, raven, sooty, dusky, inky, coal-black.

**sabotage** noun **vandalism**, wrecking, destruction, impairment, incapacitation, damage; subversion, obstruction, disruption, spoiling, undermining; Brit. a spanner in the works.

• **verb** **vandalize**, wreck, damage, destroy, cripple, impair, incapacitate; obstruct, disrupt, spoil, ruin, undermine, threaten, subvert.

**sac** noun **bag**, pouch; Medicine **blister**, cyst; Anatomy **bladder**, bursa, **saccul**, vesicle.

**saccharine** adjective **sentimental**, sickly, mawkish, mushy, slushy, cloying, sugary, sickening, nauseating; informal **schmaltzy**, weepy, gooey, drippy, cheesy, corny, toe-curling; Brit. informal **soppy**, twee; N. Amer. informal **cornball**, **sappy**.

**sack**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a sack of flour*: **bag**, pouch, pocket, pack. **2** (informal) *work hard or you'll get the sack*: **dismissal**, discharge, redundancy; informal the boot, the bullet, the axe, the heave-ho, the elbow, the push.

**3** (informal) *she stayed in the sack*: **bed**; informal kip; Brit. informal pit.

• **verb** (informal) *she was sacked for stealing*:

**dismiss**, discharge, lay off, make redundant, let go, throw out; Military **cashier**; informal fire, kick out, boot out, give someone the bullet, give someone the sack, give someone their marching orders, show someone the door, send packing; Brit. informal give someone their cards.

■ **hit the sack** (informal) go to bed, retire, go to sleep; informal turn in, hit the hay, crash (out).

**sack**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *raiders sacked the town*: **ravage**, lay waste, devastate, raid, ransack, strip, plunder, despoil, pillage, loot, rob.

**sackcloth** noun **hessian**, sacking, hopsack, burlap; N. Amer. **gunny**.

■ **wearing sackcloth and ashes** penitent, contrite, regretful, sorrowful, rueful, remorseful, apologetic, ashamed, guilt-ridden, chastened, shamefaced, self-reproachful, guilty.

**sacred** adjective **1** *the priest entered the sacred place*: **holy**, hallowed, blessed, consecrated, sanctified, venerated, revered; old use **blest**. **2** *sacred music*: **religious**, spiritual, devotional, tribe, ecclesiastical. **3** *the hill is sacred to the tribe*: **sacrosanct**,

inviolable, inviolate, untouchable, protected, defended, secure.

– **OPPOSITES** secular, profane.

## WORD LINKS

**blaspheme** speak disrespectfully about sacred things

**desecrate**, **violate** treat something sacred with violent disrespect

**sacrilege** the treating of something sacred with great disrespect

**consecrate**, **sanctify** declare that something is sacred or holy

**sanctum** a sacred or holy place

**scriptures** the sacred writings of Christianity or another religion

**hierophant** a person who interprets sacred mysteries

**sacrifice** noun **1** *the sacrifice of animals*:

**ritual slaughter**, offering, oblation,

**immolation**. **2** *the calf was a sacrifice*:

(**votive**) **offering**, burnt offering, gift,

**oblation**. **3** *the sacrifice of sovereignty*:

**surrender**, giving up, abandonment,

**renunciation**, forfeiture, relinquishment,

**resignation**, abdication.

• **verb** **1** *two goats were sacrificed*: **offer up**,

**immolate**, slaughter. **2** *he sacrificed his*

*principles*: **give up**, abandon, surrender,

**forgo**, renounce, forfeit, relinquish, resign,

**abdicate**; betray.

**sacrificial** adjective **votive**, oblatory, oblatinal; expiatory, propitiatory.

**sacrilege** noun **desecration**, profanity,

profanation, blasphemy, impiety, irreligion,

unholiness, irreverence, disrespect.

– **OPPOSITES** piety.

**sacrilegious** adjective **profane**,

blasphemous, impious, sinful, irreverent,

irreligious, unholy, disrespectful.

**sacrosanct** adjective **sacred**, hallowed,

respected, inviolable, inviolate,

unimpeachable, invulnerable, untouchable,

inalienable; protected, defended,

secure, safe.

**sad** adjective **1** *we felt sad when we left*:

**unhappy**, sorrowful, dejected, depressed,

downcast, miserable, down, despondent,

despairing, disconsolate, desolate,

wretched, glum, gloomy, doleful, dismal,

melancholy, mournful, woebegone, forlorn,

crestfallen, heartbroken, inconsolable;



informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps. **2** *they knew her sad story*: tragic, unhappy, unfortunate, awful, miserable, wretched, sorry, pitiful, pathetic, traumatic, heartbreaking, heart-rending, harrowing.

**3** *a sad state of affairs*: **unfortunate**, regrettable, sorry, deplorable, lamentable, pitiful, shameful, disgraceful.

— **OPPOSITES** happy, cheerful, fortunate.

**sadden** **verb** depress, dispirit, deject, dishearten, grieve, desolate, discourage, upset, get down, bring down, break someone's heart.

**saddle** **verb** *they were saddled with the children*: **burden**, encumber, lumber, hamper; land, charge; impose something on, thrust something on, fob something off on to.

**sadism** **noun** callousness, barbarity, brutality, cruelty, cold-bloodedness, inhumanity, ruthlessness, heartlessness; perversion.

**sadistic** **adjective** callous, barbarous, vicious, brutal, cruel, fiendish, cold-blooded, inhuman, ruthless, heartless; perverted.

**sadness** **noun** unhappiness, sorrow, dejection, depression, misery, despondency, despair, desolation, wretchedness, gloom, gloominess, dolefulness, melancholy, mournfulness, woe, heartache, grief.

**safe** **adjective** **1** *the jewels are safe in the bank*: **secure**, protected, shielded, sheltered, guarded, out of harm's way. **2** *the lost children are all safe*: **unharm**ed, unhurt, uninjured, unscathed, all right, well, in one piece, out of danger; informal OK. **3** *a safe place to hide*: **secure**, sound, impregnable, unassailable, invulnerable. **4** *a safe driver*: **cautious**, circumspect, prudent, attentive; unadventurous, conservative, unenterprising. **5** *the drug is safe*: **harmless**, innocuous, benign, non-toxic, non-poisonous.

— **OPPOSITES** insecure, dangerous, reckless, harmful.

• **noun** *I keep the ring in a safe*: **strongbox**, safety-deposit box, safe-deposit box, coffer, casket; strongroom, vault.

**S** **safeguard** **noun** *a safeguard against crises*: **protection**, defence, guard, screen, buffer, preventive, precaution, provision, security; surety, cover, insurance, indemnity.

• **verb** *the contract will safeguard 1000 jobs*: **protect**, preserve, conserve, save, secure, shield, guard, keep safe.

— **OPPOSITES** jeopardize.

**safety** **noun** **1** *the safety of the residents*: **welfare**, well-being, protection, security. **2** *the safety of ferries*: **security**, soundness, dependability, reliability. **3** *we reached the safety of the shore*: **shelter**, sanctuary, refuge, haven.

**sag** **verb** **1** *he sagged back in his chair*: **sink**, slump, loll, flop, crumple. **2** *the floors all sag*: **dip**, droop; bulge, bag. **3** *production has sagged*: **decline**, fall (off), drop, decrease, diminish, slump, plummet; informal nosedive.

**saga** **noun** **1** *Celtic tribal sagas*: **epic**, tale, folk

tale, chronicle, legend, romance, history, narrative, adventure, myth, fairy story. **2** *the saga of how they met*: **long story**, rigmarole; informal spiel.

**sagacious** **adjective** **wise**, clever, intelligent, knowledgeable, sensible, sage; discerning, judicious, canny, perceptive, astute, shrewd, prudent, thoughtful, insightful, perspicacious; informal streetwise; formal sapient.

— **OPPOSITES** foolish.

**sage** **noun** *the Chinese sage Confucius*: **wise man/woman**, learned person, philosopher, thinker, scholar, savant; authority, expert, guru.

• **adjective** *some very sage comments*. See **SAGACIOUS**.

**sail** **verb** **1** *we sailed across the Atlantic*: **voyage**, steam, navigate, cruise. **2** *you can learn to sail here*: **yacht**, boat, go sailing; crew, helm. **3** *we sail tonight*: **set sail**, put to sea, leave port, hoist sail, weigh anchor, shove off. **4** *he is sailing the ship*: **steer**, pilot, navigate, con, helm, captain; informal skipper. **5** *clouds were sailing past*: **glide**, float, flow, sweep, skim, coast, flit. **6** *a pencil sailed past his ear*: **whizz**, speed, streak, shoot, whip, buzz, zoom, flash; fly, wing, soar; informal zip.

■ **sail through** succeed easily at, pass easily, romp through, walk through.

**sailor** **noun** seaman, seafarer, mariner; boatman, yachtsman, yachtswoman; hand; informal (old) salt, sea dog, bluejacket; Brit. informal matelot; Brit. informal, dated Jack tar.

**saint** **noun**

#### WORD LINKS

**hagiography** literature concerning the lives of saints

**beatify** declare a dead person to be in a state of bliss, the first step towards canonizing them

**canonize** officially declare a dead person to be a saint

**saintly** **adjective** **holy**, godly, pious, religious, devout, spiritual, prayerful; virtuous, righteous, good, moral, innocent, sinless, guiltless, irreproachable, spotless, uncorrupted, pure, angelic.

— **OPPOSITES** ungodly.

**sake** **noun** **1** *this is simplified for the sake of clarity*: **purpose**, reason, aim, end, objective, object, goal, motive. **2** *she had to be brave for the her daughter's sake*: **benefit**, advantage, good, well-being, welfare, interest, profit.

**salacious** **adjective** **1** *salacious writing*: **pornographic**, obscene, indecent, crude, lewd, vulgar, dirty, filthy; erotic, titillating, arousing, suggestive, sexy, risqué, ribald, smutty, bawdy; X-rated; informal porn, porno, blue; euphemistic adult. **2** *salacious women*: **lustful**, lecherous, licentious, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lewd; debauched, wanton, loose, fast, impure, unchaste, degenerate, sinful, depraved, promiscuous; informal randy, horny, raunchy, pervy.

**salary** **noun** pay, wages, earnings, payment,

remuneration, fee(s), stipend, income; formal emolument.

**sale** noun **1** *the sale of firearms: selling, vending; dealing, trading.* **2** *they make a sale every minute: deal, transaction, bargain.*

– OPPOSITES purchase.

■ **for sale** on the market, on sale, on offer, available, purchasable, obtainable.

**salesperson** noun **sales assistant**, salesman, saleswoman, shop assistant, seller, agent; shopkeeper, trader, merchant, dealer, pedlar, hawker; N. Amer. clerk; informal counter-jumper, rep.

**salient** adjective **important**, main, principal, major, chief, primary; notable, noteworthy, outstanding, conspicuous, striking, noticeable, obvious, remarkable, prominent, predominant, dominant; key, crucial, vital, essential, pivotal, prime, central, paramount.

– OPPOSITES minor.

**saliva** noun **spit**, spittle, dribble, drool, slaver, slobber, sputum.

**sallow** adjective **yellowish**, jaundiced, pallid, wan, pale, anaemic, bloodless, pasty; unhealthy, sickly, washed out, peaky; informal like death warmed up.

**sally** noun **1** *the garrison made a sally against us: sortie, charge, foray, thrust, drive, offensive, attack, assault, raid, incursion, invasion, onslaught; old use onset.* **2** *a fruitless sally into Wales: expedition, excursion, trip, outing, jaunt, visit.* **3** *he was delighted with his sally: witticism, smart remark, quip, barb, pleasantry, joke, pun, jest, bon mot; retort, riposte, counter, rejoinder; informal gag, wisecrack, comeback.*

**salon** noun **1** *a hairdressing salon: shop, parlour, establishment, premises; boutique, store.* **2** *the chateau's mirrored salon: reception room, drawing room, sitting room, living room, lounge; dated parlour.*

**salt** noun **1** *the potatoes need salt: sodium chloride.* **2** (literary) *danger is the salt of pleasure: zest, spice, piquancy, bite, edge; vitality, spirit, sparkle; informal zing, punch.* • adjective **salt water: salty**, saline, briny, brackish.

■ **salt something away** (informal) **save**, put aside, put by, set aside, reserve, keep, store, stockpile, hoard, stow away; informal squirrel away, stash away.

#### WORD LINKS

saline containing salt

desalinate remove salt from seawater

**salty** adjective **1** *salty water: salt, salted, saline, briny, brackish.* **2** *a salty sense of humour: earthy, colourful, spicy, racy, naughty, vulgar, rude; piquant, biting.*

**salubrious** adjective **1** *I found the climate salubrious: healthy, health-giving, healthful, beneficial, wholesome; old use salutary.* **2** *a salubrious area of London: pleasant, agreeable, nice, select, high-class; Brit. upmarket; informal posh, swanky, classy; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank.*

– OPPOSITES unhealthy, unpleasant.

**salutary** adjective **1** *a salutary lesson on the fragility of nature: beneficial, advantageous, good, profitable, productive, helpful, useful, valuable, worthwhile; timely.* **2** (old use) *the salutary Atlantic air: healthy, health-giving, healthful, salubrious, beneficial.*

– OPPOSITES unwelcome, unhealthy.

**salutation** noun **greeting**, salute, address, welcome.

**salute** noun **1** *he gave the Brigadier a salute: greeting, salutation, gesture of respect, obeisance, acknowledgement, welcome, address.* **2** *a salute to British courage: tribute, testimonial, homage, toast, honour, eulogy; celebration of, acknowledgement of.*

• verb **1** *he saluted the ambassadors: greet, address, hail, welcome, acknowledge, toast; make obeisance to.* **2** *we salute a great photographer: pay tribute to, pay homage to, honour, celebrate, acknowledge, take one's hat off to.*

**salvage** verb **1** *an attempt to salvage the vessel: rescue, save, recover, retrieve, raise, reclaim.* **2** *he salvaged a precious point for his club: retain, preserve, conserve; regain, recoup, redeem, snatch.*

• noun *the salvage is taking place off the coast: rescue, recovery, reclamation.*

**salvation** noun **1** *salvation by way of repentance: redemption, deliverance, reclamation.* **2** *that conviction was her salvation: lifeline, preservation; means of escape.*

– OPPOSITES damnation.

**salve** noun **lip salve: ointment**, cream, balm, unguent, emollient; embrocation, liniment; old use unction.

• verb *she did it to salve her conscience: soothe, assuage, ease, allay, lighten, alleviate, comfort, mollify.*

**salver** noun **platter**, plate, dish, paten, tray; old use charger.

**same** adjective **1** *we stayed at the same hotel: identical, selfsame, very same, one and the same.* **2** *they had the same symptoms: matching, identical, alike, duplicate, carbon-copy, twin; indistinguishable, interchangeable, corresponding, equivalent, parallel, like, comparable, similar, congruent, concordant, consonant.* **3** *it happened that same month: selfsame; aforesaid, aforementioned.* **4** *they provide the same menu worldwide: unchanging, unvarying, unvaried, invariable, consistent, uniform, regular.*

– OPPOSITES another, different, dissimilar, varying.

• noun *Louise said the same: the same thing, the aforementioned, the aforesaid, the above-mentioned.*

■ **all the same** **1** *I was frightened all the same: in spite of everything, despite that, nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, be that as it may, just the same, at the same time, in any event, notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow; informal still and all.* **2** *it's all the same to me: immaterial, of no importance, of no*

consequence, inconsequential, unimportant, of little account, irrelevant.

## WORD LINKS

- contemporary**, **coeval** having the same age or date of origin
- coterminous** having the same boundaries or extent
- homogeneous** of the same kind, or consisting of parts all of the same kind
- synonymous** having the same meaning
- tautology** saying the same thing again in different words

**sample** noun **1** *a sample of the fabric:*

**specimen**, example, bit, snippet, swatch, exemplification, representative piece; prototype, test piece, dummy, pilot, trial, taste, taster, tester. **2** *a sample of 10,000 people nationwide:* **cross section**, variety, sampling, test.

• **verb** *we sampled the culinary offerings: try (out)*, taste, test, put to the test, experiment with; appraise, evaluate; informal check out.

• **adjective 1** *the sample group is small:* **representative**, illustrative, selected, specimen, test, trial, typical. **2** *a sample copy can be obtained:* **specimen**, test, trial, pilot, dummy.

**sanatorium** noun **infirm**ary, clinic, hospital, medical centre, hospice; sickbay, sickroom; N. Amer. **sanitarium**; informal **san**.

**sanctify** verb **1** *he came to sanctify the site:*

**consecrate**, bless, make holy, hallow, make sacred, dedicate to God. **2** *they sanctified themselves:* **purify**, cleanse, free from sin, absolve, unburden, redeem; rare **lustrate**. **3** *we must not sanctify this outrage:* **approve**, sanction, condone, vindicate, endorse, support, back, permit, allow, authorize, legitimize, legitimize.

**sanctimonious** adjective **self-righteous**, holier-than-thou, pious, pietistic, churchy, moralizing, smug, superior, griggish, hypocritical, insincere; informal **goody-goody**, **pi**.

**sanction** noun **1** *trade sanctions:* **penalty**, punishment, deterrent; punitive action, discipline, penalization, restriction; embargo, ban, prohibition, boycott. **2** *the scheme has the sanction of the court:* **authorization**, consent, leave, permission, authority, warrant, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, approbation, endorsement, accreditation, ratification, validation, imprimatur, blessing; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light.

– **OPPOSITES** reward, prohibition.

• **verb 1** *the rally was sanctioned by the government:* **authorize**, permit, allow, warrant, accredit, license, endorse, approve, accept, back, support; informal OK. **2** *the penalties available to sanction crime:* **punish**, discipline someone for.

– **OPPOSITES** prohibit.

**sanctity** noun **1** *the sanctity of St Francis:*

**holiness**, godliness, blessedness, saintliness, spirituality, piety, piousness, devoutness,

righteousness, goodness, virtue, purity; formal sanctitude. **2** *the sanctity of the family meal:* **sacrosanctity**, inviolability; importance, paramountcy.

**sanctuary** noun **1** *the sanctuary at Delphi:*

**holy place**, temple; shrine, altar; sanctum, sacrarium, holy of holies, sanctum sanctorum. **2** *the island is our sanctuary:* refuge, haven, harbour, port in a storm, oasis, shelter, retreat, bolt-hole, hideaway, fastness. **3** *he was given sanctuary in the embassy:* **safety**, protection, shelter, immunity, asylum. **4** *a bird sanctuary:* reserve, park, reservation, preserve.

**sanctum** noun **1** *the sanctum in the temple:*

**holy place**, shrine, sanctuary, holy of holies, sanctum sanctorum. **2** *a private sanctum for the bar's regulars:* **refuge**, retreat, bolt-hole, hideout, hideaway, den.

**sand** noun *she ran across the sand:* **beach**, sands, shore, seashore; (sand) dunes; literary strand.

**sane** adjective **1** *the accused is presumed to be sane:* of **sound mind**, in one's right mind, compos mentis, lucid, rational, balanced, stable, normal; informal all there. **2** *it isn't sane to use nuclear weapons:* **sensible**, practical, advisable, responsible, realistic, prudent, wise, reasonable, rational, level-headed, commonsensical, judicious, politic. – **OPPOSITES** mad, foolish.

**sangfroid** noun **composure**, equanimity, self-possession, equilibrium, aplomb, poise, self-assurance, self-control, nerve, calm, presence of mind; informal cool, unflappability.

**sanguine** adjective **1** *he is sanguine about the advance of technology:* **optimistic**, bullish, hopeful, buoyant, positive, confident, cheerful, cheery; informal upbeat. **2** (old use) *a sanguine complexion.* See **FLORID** sense 1. – **OPPOSITES** gloomy.

**sanitary** adjective **hygienic**, clean, antiseptic, aseptic, sterile, uninfected, disinfected, unpolluted, uncontaminated; salubrious, healthy, wholesome.

**sanitize** verb **1** *the best way to sanitize a bottle:* **sterilize**, disinfect, clean, cleanse, purify, fumigate, decontaminate. **2** *the diaries have not been sanitized:* **make presentable**, make acceptable, make palatable, clean up; expurgate, bowdlerize, censor.

**sanity** noun **1** *she was losing her sanity:* **mental health**, faculties, reason, rationality, saneness, stability, lucidity; sense, wits, mind. **2** *sanity has prevailed:* (common) sense, wisdom, prudence, judiciousness, rationality, soundness, sensibleness.

**sap**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *sap from the roots of trees:*

**juice**, secretion, fluid, liquid. **2** *they're full of youthful sap:* **vigour**, energy, drive, dynamism, life, spirit, liveliness, sparkle, verve, ebullience, enthusiasm, gusto, vitality, vivacity, fire, zest, zeal, exuberance; informal get-up-and-go, oomph, vim.

• **verb** *they sapped the will of the troops:* **erode**, wear away/down, deplete, reduce,



lessen, attenuate, undermine, exhaust, drain, bleed.

**sap**<sup>2</sup> **noun** (N. Amer. informal) *he fell for it—what a sap!* See **IDIOT**.

**sarcasm** **noun** derision, mockery, ridicule, scorn, sneering, scoffing; irony.

**sarcastic** **adjective** sardonic, ironic, ironical; derisive, snide, scornful, contemptuous, mocking, sneering, jeering; caustic, scathing, trenchant, cutting, sharp, acerbic; Brit. informal sarky; N. Amer. informal snarky.

**sardonic** **adjective** mocking, satirical, sarcastic, ironical, ironic; cynical, scornful, contemptuous, derisive, derisory, sneering, jeering; scathing, caustic, trenchant, cutting, sharp, acerbic; Brit. informal sarky.

**sash** **noun** belt, cummerbund, waistband, girdle, obi; literary cincture.

**Satan** **noun**. See **DEVIL** sense 1.

**satanic** **adjective** diabolical, fiendish, devilish, demonic, demoniacal, ungodly, hellish, infernal, wicked, evil, sinful, iniquitous, nefarious, vile, foul, abominable, unspeakable, loathsome, monstrous, heinous, hideous, horrible, horrifying, shocking, appalling, dreadful, awful, terrible, ghastly, abhorrent, despicable, damnable.

**sate** **verb**. See **SATIATE**.

**satellite** **noun** **1** *the European Space Agency's ERS-1 satellite: space station*, space capsule, spacecraft; sputnik. **2** *the two small satellites of Mars: moon*, secondary planet. **3** *Bulgaria was then a Russian satellite: dependency*, colony, protectorate, possession, holding; historical fief, vassal.

• **adjective** *a satellite state: dependent*, subordinate, subsidiary; puppet.

**satiare** **verb** fill, satisfy, sate; slake, quench; gorge, stuff, surfeit, glut, cloy, sicken, nauseate.

**satiety** **noun** satiation, satisfaction, repleteness, repletion, fullness; surfeit.

**sating** **adjective** smooth, shiny, glossy, shining, gleaming, lustrous, sleek, silky.

**satire** **noun** **1** *a satire on American politics: parody*, burlesque, caricature, lampoon, skit, pasquinade; informal spoof, take-off, send-up. **2** *he has become the subject of satire: mockery*, ridicule, derision, scorn, caricature; irony, sarcasm.

**satirical** **adjective** mocking, ironic, ironical, satiric, sarcastic, sardonic; caustic, trenchant, mordant, biting, cutting, stinging, acerbic; critical, irreverent, disparaging, disrespectful.

**satisfire** **verb** mock, ridicule, deride, make fun of, poke fun at, parody, lampoon, burlesque, caricature, take off; criticize; informal send up, take the mickey out of.

**satisfaction** **noun** **1** *he derived great satisfaction from his work: contentment*, content, pleasure, gratification, fulfilment, enjoyment, happiness, pride; self-satisfaction, smugness, complacency.

**2** *the satisfaction of consumer needs:*

fulfilment, gratification; appeasement, assuaging. **3** *investors turned to the courts for satisfaction: compensation*, recompense, redress, reparation, restitution, repayment, payment, settlement, reimbursement, indemnification, indemnity.

**satisfactory** **adjective** adequate, all right, acceptable, good enough, sufficient, reasonable, quite good, competent, fair, decent, average, passable; fine, in order, up to scratch, up to the mark, up to standard, up to par; informal OK, so-so.

– **OPPOSITES** inadequate, poor.

**satisfied** **adjective** **1** *a satisfied smile:*

pleased, well pleased, content, contented, happy, proud, triumphant; smug, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, complacent; Brit. informal like the cat that's got the cream.

**2** *the pleasure of satisfied desire: fulfilled*, gratified. **3** *I am satisfied that she is happy with the decision: convinced*, certain, sure, positive, persuaded, easy in one's mind.

– **OPPOSITES** discontented, unhappy.

**satisfy** **verb** **1** *a last chance to satisfy his*

*hunger for romance: fulfil*, gratify, meet, fill; indulge, cater to, pander to; appease, assuage; quench, slake, satiate, sate, take the edge off. **2** *she satisfied herself that it had been an accident: convince*, persuade, assure; reassure, put someone's mind at rest. **3** *products which satisfy the EC's criteria: comply with*, meet, fulfil, answer, conform to; measure up to, come up to; suffice, be good enough, fit/fill the bill.

**4** *there was insufficient collateral to satisfy the loan: repay*, pay (off), settle, make good, discharge, square, liquidate, clear.

– **OPPOSITES** frustrate.

**satisfying** **adjective** fulfilling, rewarding, gratifying, pleasing, enjoyable, pleasurable, to one's liking.

**saturate** **verb** **1** *heavy rain saturated the ground: soak*, drench, waterlog, wet through; souse, steep, douse. **2** *the air was saturated with the stench of joss sticks: permeate*, suffuse, imbue, pervade, charge, infuse, fill. **3** *the company has saturated the market: flood*, glut, oversupply, overfill, overload.

**saturated** **adjective** **1** *his trousers were saturated: soaked*, soaking (wet), wet through, sopping (wet), sodden, dripping, wringing wet, drenched; soaked to the skin, like a drowned rat. **2** *the saturated ground: waterlogged*, soggy, squelchy, heavy, muddy, boggy.

– **OPPOSITES** dry.

**saturnine** **adjective** **1** *a saturnine*

*temperament: gloomy*, sombre, melancholy, moody, lugubrious, dour, glum, morose, unsmiling, humourless. **2** *his saturnine good looks: swarthy*, dark, dark-skinned, dark-complexioned; mysterious, mercurial, moody.

– **OPPOSITES** cheerful.

**sauce** **noun** *a piquant sauce: relish*, gravy, condiment; dip, dressing; jus, coulis.

**saucepan** **noun** pan, pot, casserole, skillet, stockpot, stewpot; billy, billycan.

**saucy** adjective (informal) **1** (Brit.) *saucy postcards: suggestive, titillating, risqué, rude, bawdy, racy, ribald, spicy; informal raunchy, smutty, nudge-nudge; Brit. informal fruity; N. Amer. informal gamy.* **2** *you saucy little minx!* **cheeky, impudent, impertinent, irreverent, forward, disrespectful, bold, as bold as brass, brazen; informal fresh, lippy, mouthy; N. Amer. informal sassy; old use malapert.** **3** (N. Amer.) *the cap sat at a saucy angle on her black hair: jaunty, rakish, sporty, raffish.*  
 – **OPPOSITES** demure, polite.

**saunter** verb *stroll, amble, wander, meander, drift, walk; stretch one's legs, take the air; informal mosey, tootle; Brit. informal pootle; formal promenade.*

**savage** adjective **1** *savage dogs: ferocious, fierce; wild, untamed, undomesticated, feral.* **2** *a savage assault: vicious, brutal, cruel, sadistic, ferocious, fierce, violent, bloody, murderous, homicidal, bloodthirsty; literary fell; old use sanguinary.* **3** *a savage attack on European free-trade policy: fierce, blistering, scathing, searing, stinging, devastating, mordant, trenchant, caustic, cutting, biting, withering, virulent, vitriolic.* **4** *a savage race: primitive, uncivilized, unenlightened, non-literate, in a state of nature.* **5** *a savage landscape: rugged, rough, wild, inhospitable, uninhabitable.* **6** *a savage blow for the town: severe, crushing, devastating, crippling, terrible, awful, dreadful, dire, catastrophic, calamitous, ruinous.*

– **OPPOSITES** tame, mild, civilized.  
 • **noun 1** *she'd expected mud huts and savages: barbarian, wild man, wild woman, primitive.* **2** *she described her son's assailants as savages: brute, beast, monster, barbarian, sadist, animal.*  
 • **verb 1** *he was savaged by a dog: maul, attack, tear to pieces, lacerate, claw, bite.* **2** *critics savaged the film: criticize severely, attack, lambaste, condemn, denounce, pillory, revile; informal pan, tear to pieces, hammer, slam, do a hatchet job on, crucify; Brit. informal slate, rubbish; N. Amer. informal trash; Austral./NZ informal bag, monster; formal excoriate.*

**savant** noun *intellectual, scholar, sage, philosopher, thinker, wise/learned person; guru, master, pandit.*  
 – **OPPOSITES** ignoramus.

**save** verb **1** *the captain was saved by his crew: rescue, come to someone's rescue, save someone's life; set free, free, liberate, deliver, extricate; bail out; informal save someone's bacon/neck/skin.* **2** *the farmhouse has been saved from demolition: preserve, keep safe, keep, protect, safeguard; salvage, retrieve, reclaim, rescue.* **3** *start saving old newspapers for wrapping china: put aside, set aside, put by, put to one side, save up, keep, retain, reserve, conserve, stockpile, store, hoard, save for a rainy day; informal salt away, squirrel away, stash away, hang on to.* **4** *asking me first would have saved a lot of trouble: prevent, obviate, forestall, spare; stop; avoid, avert.*  
 • **preposition & conjunction** (formal) *no one needed to know save herself: except, apart from, but,*

*other than, besides, aside from, bar, barring, excluding, leaving out, saving; informal outside of.*

**saving** noun **1** *a considerable saving in development costs: reduction, cut, decrease, economy.* **2** *I'll have to use some of my savings: nest egg, money put by for a rainy day, life savings; capital, assets, funds, resources, reserves.*

**saving grace** noun *redeeming feature, good point, thing in its/one's favour, advantage, asset, selling point.*

**saviour** noun **1** *the country's saviour: rescuer, liberator, deliverer, emancipator; champion, knight in shining armour, friend in need, good Samaritan.* **2** *the Saviour is depicted with two archangels: Christ, Jesus (Christ), the Redeemer, the Messiah, Our Lord, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Prince of Peace.*

**savoir faire** noun *social skill, social grace(s), urbanity, suavity, finesse, sophistication, poise, aplomb, adroitness, polish, style, smoothness, tact, tactfulness, diplomacy, discretion, delicacy, sensitivity; informal savvy.*  
 – **OPPOSITES** gaucheness.

**savour** verb **1** *she wanted to savour every moment: relish, enjoy (to the full), appreciate, delight in, revel in, smack one's lips over, luxuriate in, bask in.* **2** *such a declaration savoured of immodesty: suggest, smack of, have the hallmarks of, seem like, have the air of, show signs of.*  
 • **noun 1** *the subtle savour of wood smoke: smell, aroma, fragrance, scent, perfume, bouquet; taste, flavour, tang, smack.* **2** *a savour of bitterness seasoned my feelings for him: trace, hint, suggestion, touch, smack.* **3** *her usual diversions had lost their savour: piquancy, interest, attraction, flavour, spice, zest, excitement, enjoyment; informal zing.*

**savoury** adjective **1** *sweet or savoury dishes: salty, spicy, piquant, tangy.* **2** *a rich, savoury aroma: appetizing, mouth-watering, delicious, delectable, luscious; tasty, flavoursome, flavourful, palatable, toothsome; informal scrumptious, finger-licking, yummy, scrummy, moreish.* **3** *one of the less savoury aspects of the affair: acceptable, pleasant, respectable, wholesome, honourable, proper, seemly.*  
 – **OPPOSITES** sweet, unappetizing.  
 • **noun** *cocktail savouries: canapé, hors d'oeuvre, appetizer, titbit.*

**savvy** (informal) noun *his political savvy.* See ACUMEN.  
 • **adjective** *a savvy investor.* See SHREWD.

**saw** noun *saying, maxim, proverb, aphorism, axiom, adage, apophthegm, epigram, gnome.*

**say** verb **1** *she felt her stomach flutter as he said her name: speak, utter, voice, pronounce, give voice to, vocalize.* **2** *'I must go,' she said: declare, state, announce, remark, observe, mention, comment, note, add; reply, respond, answer, rejoin; informal come out with.* **3** *Newall says he's innocent: claim, maintain, assert, hold, insist,*

contend; allege, profess; formal opine, aver; rare asseverate. **4** *I can't conjure up the words to say how I feel:* **express**, put into words, phrase, articulate, communicate, make known, put/get across, convey, verbalize; reveal, divulge, impart, disclose; imply, suggest. **5** *they sang hymns and said a prayer:* **recite**, repeat, utter, deliver, perform, declaim, orate. **6** *the dial of her watch said one twenty:* **indicate**, show, read. **7** *I'd say it's about five miles:* **estimate**, judge, guess, hazard a guess, predict, speculate, surmise, conjecture, venture; informal reckon. **8** *let's say you'd just won a million pounds:* **suppose**, assume, imagine, presume, hypothesize, postulate, posit.

• **noun 1** *everyone is entitled to their say:* **chance to speak**, turn to speak, opinion, view, voice; informal twopence worth, twopenn'orth. **2** *don't I have any say in the matter?* **influence**, sway, weight, voice, input, share, part.  
■ **that is to say** in other words, to put it another way; i.e., that is, to wit, viz, namely.

**saying** **noun** **proverb**, maxim, aphorism, axiom, adage, saw, tag, motto, apophthegm, epigram, dictum, gnome; expression, phrase, formula; slogan, catchphrase; platitude, cliché, commonplace, truism.

**say-so** **noun** (informal) **authorization**, (seal of) approval, agreement, consent, assent, permission, endorsement, sanction, ratification, approbation, acquiescence, blessing, leave; informal the OK, the go-ahead, the green light, the thumbs up.  
– **OPPOSITES** refusal, denial.

**scalding** **adjective** **extremely hot**, burning, blistering, searing, red-hot; piping hot; informal boiling (hot), sizzling.

**scale**<sup>1</sup> **noun 1** *the reptile's scales:* plate; technical lamella, lamina, squama, scute, scutum. **2** *scales on the skin:* **flake**; (scales) scurf, dandruff. **3** *scale in kettles:* **limescale**, deposit, encrustation; Brit. fur.

**scale**<sup>2</sup> **noun 1** *the Celsius scale of temperature:* **calibrated system**, graduated system, system of measurement. **2** *opposite ends of the social scale:* **hierarchy**, ladder, ranking, order, pecking order, spectrum; succession, sequence, series. **3** *the scale of the map:* **ratio**, proportion, relative size. **4** *no one foresaw the scale of the disaster:* **extent**, size, scope, magnitude, dimensions, range, breadth, compass, degree, reach.

• **verb** *thieves scaled an 8ft high fence:* **climb**, ascend, clamber up, shin (up), scramble up, mount; N. Amer. shinny (up).

■ **scale something down** reduce, cut down, cut back, cut, decrease, lessen, lower, trim, slim down, prune.

■ **scale something up** increase, expand, augment, build up, add to; step up, boost, escalate.

**scaly** **adjective 1** *the dragon's scaly hide:* technical squamous, squamulose, squamate, lamellate. **2** *scaly patches of dead skin:* **dry**, flaky, flaking, scurfy, rough, scabrous, mangy, scabious; technical furfuraceous.

**scam** **noun** (informal) **fraud**, swindle, racket, trick, diddle; informal con (trick); Brit. informal ramp; N. Amer. informal hustle, grift, bunco.

**scamp** **noun** (informal) **rascal**, monkey, devil, imp, wretch, mischief-maker; informal scallywag, horror, monster, tyke; Brit. informal perisher; N. English informal scally; N. Amer. informal varmint; old use rapscallion, scapegrace.

**scamp** **verb** **scurry**, scuttle, dart, run, rush, race, dash, hurry, hasten; informal scoot; dated make haste.

**scan** **verb 1** *Adam scanned the horizon:*

**scrutinize**, examine, study, inspect, survey, search, scour, sweep, rake; look at, stare at, gaze at, eye, watch; informal check out; N. Amer. informal scope. **2** *I scanned the papers:* **glance through**, look through, have a look at, run/cast one's eye over, skim through, flick through, flip through, leaf through, thumb through.

• **noun 1** *a careful scan of the terrain:* **inspection**, scrutiny, examination, survey. **2** *a quick scan through the report:* **glance**, look, flick, browse. **3** *a brain scan:* **examination**, screening.

**scandal** **noun 1** *revelation of the sex scandal forced him to resign:* **wrongdoing**, impropriety, misconduct, immoral behaviour, unethical behaviour; offence, transgression, crime, sin; skeleton in the closet; informal -gate. **2** *it's a scandal that the disease is not adequately treated:* **disgrace**, outrage, injustice; (crying) shame. **3** *no scandal attached to her name:* **malicious gossip**, malicious rumour(s), slander, libel, calumny, defamation, aspersions, muckraking; informal dirt.

**scandalize** **verb** **shock**, appal, outrage, horrify, disgust; offend, affront, insult.

– **OPPOSITES** impress.

**scandalous** **adjective 1** *a scandalous waste of taxpayers' money:* **disgraceful**, shocking, outrageous, monstrous, criminal, wicked, shameful, appalling, deplorable, reprehensible, inexcusable, intolerable, insupportable, unforgivable, unpardonable. **2** *a series of scandalous liaisons:* **discreditable**, disreputable, dishonourable, improper, unseemly, sordid. **3** *scandalous rumours:* **scurrilous**, malicious, slanderous, libellous, defamatory.

**scant** **adjective** **little**, little or no, minimal, limited, negligible, meagre; insufficient, inadequate, deficient; formal exiguous.

– **OPPOSITES** abundant, ample.

**scanty** **adjective 1** *their scanty wages:* **meagre**, scant, minimal, limited, modest, restricted, sparse; tiny, small, paltry, negligible, insufficient, inadequate, deficient; scarce, in short supply, thin on the ground, few and far between; informal measly, piddling, mingy, pathetic; formal exiguous. **2** *her scanty nightdress:* **skimpy**, revealing, short, brief; low, low-cut; indecent.

– **OPPOSITES** ample, plentiful.

**scapegoat** **noun** **whipping boy**, Aunt Sally; informal fall guy; N. Amer. informal patsy.



**scar** noun **1** *the scar on his left cheek*: cicatrix, mark, blemish, disfigurement, discoloration; pockmark, pock, pit; lesion, stigma; birthmark, naevus. **2** *deep psychological scars*: trauma, damage, injury.

• **verb** **1** *he's likely to be scarred for life*:

disfigure, mark, blemish; pockmark, pit; Christianity stigmatize. **2** *a landscape which has been scarred by strip mining*: damage, spoil, mar, deface, injure. **3** *she was profoundly scarred by the incident*: traumatize, damage, injure; distress, disturb, upset.

**scarce** adjective **1** *food was scarce*: in short supply, scant, scanty, meagre, sparse, hard to find, hard to come by, insufficient, deficient, inadequate; at a premium, like gold dust; paltry, negligible; informal not to be had for love nor money; formal exiguous. **2** *birds that prefer dense forest are becoming scarcer*: rare, few and far between, thin on the ground; uncommon, unusual; Brit. out of the common.

– OPPOSITES plentiful.

**scarcely** adverb **1** *she could scarcely hear what he was saying*: hardly, barely, only just; almost not. **2** *I scarcely ever see him*: rarely, seldom, infrequently, not often, hardly ever, every once in a while; informal once in a blue moon. **3** *this could scarcely be accidental*: surely not, not, hardly, certainly not, not at all, on no account, under no circumstances, by no means; N. Amer. noway.

– OPPOSITES often.

**scarcity** noun shortage, dearth, lack, undersupply, insufficiency, paucity, scantness, meagreness, sparseness, poverty; deficiency, inadequacy; unavailability, absence; formal exiguity.

**scare** verb *stop it, you're scaring me*: frighten, startle, alarm, terrify, petrify, unnerve, intimidate, terrorize, cow; strike terror into, put the fear of God into, chill someone to the bone/marrow, make someone's blood run cold; informal frighten/scare the living daylights out of, scare stiff, frighten/scare someone out of their wits, scare witless, frighten/scare to death, scare the pants off, make someone's hair stand on end, make someone jump out of their skin; Brit. informal put the wind up, make someone's hair curl; N. Amer. informal spook; Irish informal scare the bejesus out of; old use affright.

• **noun** *you gave me a scare—how did you get here?* fright, shock, start, turn, jump.

**scared** adjective frightened, afraid, fearful, nervous, panicky; terrified, petrified, horrified, panic-stricken, scared stiff, frightened/scared out of one's wits, scared witless, frightened/scared to death; Scottish feart; informal in a cold sweat, in a (blue) funk; Brit. informal funky, windy; N. Amer. informal spooked; dialect frit; old use afeared, affrighted.

**scaremonger** noun alarmist, prophet of doom, Cassandra, voice of doom, doom-monger; informal doom (and gloom) merchant.

**scarf** noun muffler, headscarf, headsquare,

square; mantilla, stole, tippet; N. Amer. babushka.

**scarper** verb (Brit. informal). See **RUN** verb sense 2.

**scary** adjective (informal) **frightening**, alarming, terrifying, hair-raising, spine-chilling, blood-curdling, horrifying, nerve-racking, unnerving, eerie, sinister; informal creepy, spine-tingling, spooky, hairy.

**scathing** adjective **withering**, blistering, searing, devastating, fierce, ferocious, savage, severe, stinging, biting, cutting, mordant, trenchant, virulent, caustic, vitriolic, scornful, sharp, bitter, harsh, unsparing; formal mordacious.

– OPPOSITES mild.

**scatter** verb **1** *scatter the seeds as evenly as possible*: throw, strew, toss, fling; sprinkle, spread, distribute, sow, broadcast, disseminate. **2** *the crowd scattered* | *onlookers were scattered in all directions*: disperse, break up, disband, separate, go separate ways, dissolve; drive, send, put to flight, chase. **3** *the sky was scattered with stars*: fleck, stud, dot, cover, sprinkle, stipple, spot, pepper; literary bestrew.

– OPPOSITES gather, assemble.

**scatterbrained** adjective **absent-minded**, forgetful, disorganized; dreamy, wool-gathering, with one's head in the clouds, feather-brained, giddy; informal scatty, with a mind/memory like a sieve, dizzy, dippy.

**scavenge** verb search, hunt, look, forage, rummage, root about/around, grub about/around.

**scenario** noun **1** *Walt wrote scenarios for a major Hollywood studio*: plot, outline, storyline, framework; screenplay, script; formal diegesis. **2** *every possible scenario must be explored*: **sequence of events**, course of events, chain of events, situation. **3** *this film has a more contemporary scenario*: **setting**, background, context, scene, milieu.

**scene** noun **1** *the scene of the accident*: location, site, place, position, point, spot; locale, whereabouts; technical locus.

**2** *the scene is London, in the late 1890s*: **background**, setting, context, milieu, backdrop, mise en scène. **3** *terrible scenes of violence*: **incident**, event, episode, happening. **4** *an impressive mountain scene*: **view**, vista, outlook, panorama, sight; landscape, scenery. **5** *she made an embarrassing scene*: **fuss**, exhibition of oneself, performance, tantrum, commotion, disturbance, row, upset, furore, brouhaha; informal to-do; Brit. informal carry-on. **6** *the political scene*: **arena**, stage, sphere, world, milieu, realm, domain; area of interest, field, province, preserve. **7** *a scene from a Laurel and Hardy film*: **clip**, section, segment, part, sequence.

■ **behind the scenes** secretly, in secret, privately, in private, behind closed doors, surreptitiously; informal on the quiet, on the q.t.; formal sub rosa.

**scenery** noun **1** *the beautiful scenery of west Wales*: **landscape**, countryside, country,

terrain, topography, setting, surroundings, environment; view, vista, panorama. **2** *we all helped with the scenery and costumes: stage set, set, mise en scène, flats, backdrop, drop curtain; Brit. backcloth.*

**scenic** adjective picturesque, pretty, pleasing, attractive, lovely, beautiful, charming, pretty as a picture, easy on the eye; impressive, striking, spectacular, breathtaking; panoramic.

**scent** noun **1** *the scent of freshly cut hay: smell, fragrance, aroma, perfume, redolence, savour, odour; bouquet, nose.* **2** *a bottle of scent: perfume, fragrance, toilet water, eau de toilette, cologne; eau de cologne.* **3** *the hounds picked up the scent of a hare: spoor, trail, track; Hunting foil, wind.*

•verb **1** *a shark can scent blood from over half a kilometre away: smell, detect the smell of, get a whiff of.* **2** *Rose looked at him, scenting a threat: sense, become aware of, detect, discern, recognize, get wind of.*

**scented** adjective perfumed, fragranced, perfumy; sweet-smelling, fragrant, aromatic.

**sceptic** noun **1** *sceptics said the marriage wouldn't last: cynic, doubter; pessimist, prophet of doom.* **2** *sceptics who have found faith: agnostic, atheist, unbeliever, non-believer, disbeliever, doubting Thomas; rare nullifidian.*

**sceptical** adjective dubious, doubtful, taking something with a pinch of salt, doubting; cynical, distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, disbelieving, unconvinced, incredulous, scoffing; pessimistic, defeatist.

– OPPOSITES certain, convinced.

**scepticism** noun **1** *his ideas were met with scepticism: doubt, doubtfulness, a pinch of salt; disbelief, cynicism, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, incredulity; pessimism, defeatism; formal dubiety.* **2** *he passed from scepticism to religious belief: agnosticism, doubt; atheism, unbelief, non-belief.*

**schedule** noun **1** *we need to draw up a production schedule: plan, programme, timetable, scheme.* **2** *I have a very busy schedule: timetable, agenda, diary, calendar; itinerary.*

•verb *another meeting has been scheduled for April 20: arrange, organize, plan, set up, programme, timetable, line up; N. Amer. slate.*

■ *behind schedule late, running late, overdue, behind time, behind, behindhand.*

**scheme** noun **1** *adventurous fund-raising schemes: plan, project, plan of action, programme, strategy, stratagem, tactic; game plan, course/line of action; system, procedure, design, formula, recipe; Brit. informal wheeze; old use shift.* **2** *police uncovered a scheme to steal the paintings: plot, intrigue, conspiracy; ruse, ploy, stratagem, manoeuvre, subterfuge; machinations; informal game, racket.* **3** *the sonnet's rhyme scheme: arrangement, system, organization, configuration, pattern, format; technical schema.*

•verb *he schemed to bring about the collapse of the government: plot, hatch a plot, conspire, intrigue, connive, manoeuvre, plan.*

**scheming** adjective cunning, crafty, calculating, devious, designing, conniving, wily, sly, tricky, artful, guileful, slippery, slick, manipulative, Machiavellian, unscrupulous, disingenuous; duplicitous, deceitful, underhand, treacherous.

– OPPOSITES ingenuous, honest.

**schism** noun division, split, rift, breach, rupture, break, separation, severance; chasm, gulf; discord, disagreement, dissension.

**schismatic** adjective separatist, heterodox, dissident, dissentient, dissenting, heretical; breakaway, splinter.

– OPPOSITES orthodox.

**schmaltzy** adjective (informal). See SENTIMENTAL sense 2.

**scholar** noun **1** *a leading biblical scholar:*

*academic, intellectual, learned person, man/woman of letters, mind, intellect, savant, polymath, highbrow, bluestocking; authority, expert; informal egghead; N. Amer. informal pointy-head; old use bookman.* **2** (old use) *the school had 28 scholars: pupil, student, schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl.*

**scholarly** adjective **1** *an earnest, scholarly man: learned, erudit, academic, well read, widely read, intellectual, literary, lettered, educated, knowledgeable, highbrow; studious, bookish, donnish, bluestocking, cerebral; N. Amer. informal pointy-headed; old use clerkly.* **2** *a scholarly career: academic, scholastic, pedagogic.*

– OPPOSITES uneducated, illiterate.

**scholarship** noun **1** *a centre of medieval scholarship: learning, book learning, knowledge, erudition, education, letters, culture, academic study, academic achievement.* **2** *a scholarship of £200 per term: grant, award, endowment, payment; Brit. bursary, exhibition.*

**scholastic** adjective academic, educational, school, scholarly.

**school** noun **1** *the village school: educational institution; academy, college; seminary; alma mater.* **2** *the university's School of English: department, faculty, division.* **3** *the Barbizon school: group, set, circle; followers, following, disciples, apostles, admirers, devotees, votaries; proponents, adherents.*

**4** *a school of linguistics: way of thinking, school of thought, persuasion, creed, credo, doctrine, belief, faith, opinion, point of view; approach, method, style.*

•verb **1** *he was schooled in Lyon: educate, teach, instruct.* **2** *he schooled her in horsemanship: train, teach, tutor, coach, instruct, drill, discipline, direct, guide, prepare, groom; prime, verse.*

#### WORD LINKS

**scholastic** relating to schools and education  
**alma mater** the school that a person attended

**alumnus, alumna** a former student of a particular school

**schooling** **noun** **1** *his parents paid for his schooling: education, teaching, tuition, instruction, tutoring, tutelage; lessons; (book) learning.* **2** *the schooling of horses: training, coaching, instruction, drill, drilling, discipline, disciplining.*

**schoolteacher** **noun** **teacher**, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, tutor, educationist; Brit. master, mistress; N. Amer. informal schoolmarm; Austral./NZ informal chalkie, schoolie; formal pedagogue.

**scientific** **adjective** **1** *scientific research: technological, technical; research-based, knowledge-based, empirical.* **2** *you need to approach it in a more scientific way: systematic, methodical, organized, well organized, ordered, orderly, meticulous, rigorous; exact, precise, accurate, mathematical; analytical, rational.*

**scientist** **noun** **researcher**, technologist; Brit. informal boffin.

**scintilla** **noun** **particle**, iota, jot, whit, atom, speck, bit, trace, ounce, shred, crumb, fragment, grain, drop, spot, mite, modicum, hint, touch, suggestion, whisper, suspicion; informal smidgen, tad; old use scantling.

**scintillate** **verb** **sparkle**, shine, gleam, glitter, flash, shimmer, twinkle, glint, glisten, wink; literary glister, coruscate.

**scintillating** **adjective** **1** *a scintillating diamond necklace: sparkling, shining, bright, brilliant, gleaming, glittering, twinkling, shimmering.* **2** *a scintillating second-half performance: brilliant, dazzling, exciting, exhilarating, stimulating; sparkling, lively, vivacious, vibrant, animated, ebullient, effervescent; witty, clever; literary coruscating.*

– OPPOSITES dull, boring.

**scion** **noun** **1** *a scion of the tree: cutting, graft, slip; shoot, offshoot, twig.* **2** *the scion of an aristocratic family: descendant; heir, successor; child, offspring; law issue.*

**scoff**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *they scoffed at her article: mock, deride, ridicule, sneer at, jeer at, jibe at, taunt, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, scorn, laugh to scorn, dismiss, make light of, belittle; informal pooh-pooh.*

**scoff**<sup>2</sup> **verb** (informal) *the bears scoffed our packed lunch: eat, devour, consume, guzzle, gobble, wolf down, bolt; informal put away, nosh, polish off, Hoover up, demolish, shovel down, stuff one's face with, pig oneself on, pig out on, trough; Brit. informal gollop, shift; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).*

**scold** **verb** *Mum took Anna away, scolding her for her bad behaviour: rebuke, reprimand, reproach, reprove, admonish, remonstrate with, chastise, chide, upbraid, berate, take to task, read someone the Riot Act, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals; informal tell off, dress down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, let someone have it, bawl out, give someone hell; Brit. informal tick*

*off, have a go at, carpet, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone some stick, give someone a rollicking/rocket/row; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate.*

– OPPOSITES praise.

• **noun** (old use) *she is turning into a scold: nag, shrew, fishwife, harpy, termagant, harridan; complainer, moaner, grumbler; N. Amer. informal kvetch.*

**scolding** **noun** **rebuke**, reprimand, reproach, reproof, admonishment, remonstrance, lecture, upbraiding; informal telling-off, talking-to, rap over the knuckles, dressing-down, earful, roasting; Brit. informal ticking-off, carpeting, rocket, rollicking; formal castigation.

**scoop** **noun** **1** *a measuring scoop: spoon, ladle, dipper; bailer.* **2** *a scoop of vanilla ice cream: spoonful, ladleful, portion, lump, ball; informal dollop.* **3** (informal) *reporters competed for scoops: exclusive (story), inside story, exposé, revelation.*

• **verb** **1** *a hole was scooped out in the floor: hollow out, gouge out, dig, excavate, cut out.* **2** *cut the tomatoes in half and scoop out the flesh: remove, take out, spoon out, scrape out.* **3** *she scooped up armfuls of clothes: pick up, gather up, lift, take up; snatch up, grab.*

**scoot** **verb** (informal). See DASH verb sense 1.

**scope** **noun** **1** *the scope of the investigation: extent, range, breadth, width, reach, sweep, purview, span, horizon; area, sphere, field, realm, compass, orbit, ambit, terms/field of reference, jurisdiction, remit; confine, limit; gamut.* **2** *the scope for change is limited by political realities: opportunity, freedom, latitude, leeway, capacity, liberty, room (to manoeuvre), elbow room; possibility, chance; informal wiggle room.*

**scorch** **verb** **1** *the buildings were scorched by the fire: burn, sear, singe, char, blacken, discolour.* **2** *grass scorched by the sun: dry up, desiccate, parch, wither, shrivel; burn, bake.*

**scorching** **adjective** **1** *the scorching July sun: extremely hot, red-hot, blazing, flaming, fiery, burning, blistering, searing, sweltering, torrid; N. Amer. broiling; informal boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling.* **2** *scorching criticism: fierce, savage, scathing, withering, blistering, searing, devastating, stringent, severe, harsh, stinging, biting, mordant, trenchant, caustic, virulent, vitriolic.*

– OPPOSITES freezing, mild.

**score** **noun** **1** *the final score was 4–3: result, outcome; total, sum total, tally, count.* **2** *an IQ score of 161: rating, grade, mark, percentage.* **3** *I've got a score to settle with you: grievance, bone to pick, axe to grind, grudge, complaint; dispute, bone of contention.* **4** (informal) *he knew the score before he got here: the situation, the position, the facts, the truth of the matter, the (true) state of affairs, the picture, how things stand, the lie of the land; Brit. the state of play; N. Amer. the lay of the land; informal the set-up, what's what.* **5** *scores of complaints:*



a great many, a lot, a great/good deal, large quantities, plenty; informal lots, umpteen, a slew, loads, masses, stacks, scads, heaps, piles, bags, tons, oodles, dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions, billions; Brit. informal shedloads; N. Amer. informal a bunch, gazillions; Austral./NZ informal a swag.

• **verb 1** *he's already scored 13 goals this season*: get, gain, chalk up, achieve, make; record, rack up, notch up; informal bag, knock up. **2** *the piece was scored for flute, violin, and continuo*: **orchestrate**, arrange, set, adapt; write, compose. **3** *score the wood in criss-cross patterns*: **scratch**, cut, notch, incise, scrape, nick, snick, chip, gouge; mark; old use scotch.

■ **score points off** get the better of, gain the advantage over, outdo, worst, have the edge over; have the last laugh on, make a fool of, humiliate; informal get/be one up on, get one over on, best.

■ **score something out/through** cross out, strike out, put a line through, ink out, blue-pencil, scratch out; delete, obliterate, expunge.

**scorn** noun *he was unable to hide the scorn in his voice*: **contempt**, derision, contemptuousness, disdain, derisiveness, mockery, sneering; old use contumely, despite.

– OPPOSITES admiration, respect.

• **verb 1** *critics scorned the painting*: **deride**, hold in contempt, treat with contempt, pour/heap scorn on, look down on, look down one's nose at, disdain, curl one's lip at, mock, scoff at, sneer at, jeer at, laugh at, laugh out of court; disparage, slight; dismiss, cock a snook at, thumb one's nose at; informal turn one's nose up at; old use contemn. **2** *'I am a woman scorned,' she thought*: **spurn**, rebuff, reject, ignore, shun, snub. **3** *she would have scorned to stoop to such tactics*: **refuse to**, refrain from, not lower oneself to; be above, consider it beneath one.

– OPPOSITES admire, respect.

**scornful** adjective **contemptuous**, derisive, withering, mocking, scoffing, sneering, jeering, scathing, snide, disparaging, supercilious, disdainful, superior; old use contumelious.

– OPPOSITES admiring, respectful.

**scotch** verb **put an end to**, put a stop to, nip in the bud, put the lid on; ruin, wreck, destroy, smash, shatter, demolish, queer; frustrate, thwart; informal put paid to, put the kibosh on; Brit. informal scupper.

**scot-free** adverb **unpunished**, without punishment; unscathed, unhurt, unharmed, without a scratch.

**Scotland** noun Caledonia; Brit. north of the border; informal the land of cakes.

**scoundrel** noun **rogue**, rascal, miscreant, good-for-nothing, reprobate; cheat, swindler, fraudster, trickster, charlatan; informal villain, bastard, beast, son of a bitch, SOB, rat, louse, swine, dog, skunk, heel, snake (in the grass), wretch, scumbag; Irish informal sleeveen, spalpeen; N. Amer. informal rat

fink; informal, dated rotter, hound, bounder, blighter; dated cad; old use blackguard, knave, varlet, whoreson.

**scour**<sup>1</sup> verb *she scoured the cooker and cleaned out the cupboards*: **scrub**, rub, clean, wash, cleanse, wipe; polish, buff (up), shine, burnish; abrade.

**scour**<sup>2</sup> verb *Christine scoured the shops for a gift*: **search**, comb, hunt through, rummage through, go through with a fine-tooth comb, root through, rake through, leave no stone unturned, look high and low in; ransack, turn upside-down; Austral./NZ informal fossick through.

**scourge** noun **1** (historical) *he was beaten with a scourge*: **whip**, horsewhip, lash, strap, birch, switch; N. Amer. bullwhip, rawhide; historical cat-o'-nine-tails. **2** *inflation was the scourge of the mid-1970s*: **affliction**, bane, curse, plague, menace, evil, misfortune, burden, cross to bear; blight, cancer, canker.

– OPPOSITES blessing, godsend.

• **verb 1** (historical) *he was publicly scourged*: **flog**, whip, beat, horsewhip, lash, flagellate, strap, birch, cane, thrash, belt, leather; informal tan someone's hide. **2** *a disease which scourged the English for centuries*: **afflict**, plague, torment, torture, curse, oppress, burden, bedevil, beset.

**scout** noun **1** *scouts reported that the enemy were massing ahead*: **lookout**, outrider, advance guard, vanguard; spy. **2** *a lengthy scout round the area*: **reconnaissance**, reconnoitre; exploration, search, expedition; informal recce; Brit. informal shufti; N. Amer. informal recon. **3** *a record company scout*: **talent spotter**, talent scout; N. Amer. informal bird dog.

• **verb 1** *I scouted around for some logs*: **search**, look, hunt, ferret about/around, root about/around. **2** *a night patrol was sent to scout out the area*: **reconnoitre**, explore, make a reconnaissance of, inspect, investigate, spy out, survey; examine, scan, study, observe; informal make a recce of, check out, case; Brit. informal take a shufti round; N. Amer. informal recon.

**scowl** verb **glower**, frown, glare, grimace, lour, look daggers at, give someone a black look; make a face, pull a face, pout; informal give someone a dirty look.

– OPPOSITES smile, grin.

**scrappy** adjective **scrawny**, thin, as thin as a rake, skinny, skin and bone, gaunt, bony, angular, gawky, raw-boned; dated spindle-shanked.

– OPPOSITES fat.

**scramble** verb **1** *we scrambled over the boulders*: **clamber**, climb, crawl, claw one's way, scrabble, grope one's way, struggle; N. Amer. shinny. **2** *small children scrambled for the scattered coins*: **jostle**, scuffle, tussle, struggle, strive, compete, contend, vie, jockey. **3** *scramble the letters and pick seven*: **mix up**, jumble (up), disarrange, disorganize, disorder, muddle, confuse, disturb, mess up.

• **noun 1** *a short scramble over the rocks*: **clamber**, climb, trek. **2** *I lost Tommy in the*

*scramble for a seat:* tussle, jostle, scrimmage, scuffle, struggle, free-for-all, competition, contention, vying, jockeying; muddle, confusion, melee.

**scrap**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *a scrap of paper:* fragment, piece, bit, snippet, shred; offcut, oddment, remnant. **2** *there wasn't a scrap of evidence:* bit, speck, iota, particle, ounce, whit, jot, atom, shred, scintilla, tittle, jot or tittle; informal smidgen, tad. **3** *he slept rough and lived on scraps:* leftovers, leavings, crumbs, scrapings, remains, remnants, residue, odds and ends, bits and pieces. **4** *the whole thing was made from bits of scrap:* waste, rubbish, refuse, litter, debris, detritus; flotsam and jetsam; N. Amer. garbage, trash; informal junk. **• verb** **1** *old cars which are due to be scrapped:* throw away, throw out, dispose of, get rid of, toss out, throw on the scrap heap, discard, remove, dispense with, lose, bin; decommission, recycle, break up, demolish; informal chuck (away/out), ditch, dump, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal trash. **2** *campaigners called for the plans to be scrapped:* abandon, drop, abolish, withdraw, throw out, do away with, put an end to, cancel, axe, jettison; informal ditch, dump, junk.

– OPPOSITES keep, preserve.

**scrap**<sup>2</sup> (informal) **noun** *he and Joe had several scraps:* quarrel, argument, row, fight, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, squabble, contretemps, clash, altercation, brawl, tussle, conflict, shouting match; informal tiff, set-to, run-in, slang match, shindy, spat, dust-up, ruction; Brit. informal barney, ding-dong, bust-up. **• verb** *the older boys started scrapping with me:* quarrel, argue, row, fight, squabble, brawl, bicker, spar, wrangle, lock horns, be at each other's throats.

**scrape** **verb** **1** *we scraped all the paint off the windows:* abrade, grate, sand, sandpaper, scour, scratch, rub, file, rasp. **2** *their boots scraped along the floor:* grate, creak, rasp, grind, scratch. **3** *she scraped her hair back behind her ears:* rake, drag, pull, tug, draw. **4** *he scraped a hole in the ground:* scoop out, hollow out, dig (out), excavate, gouge out. **5** *Ellen had scraped her shins on the wall:* graze, scratch, abrade, scuff, rasp, skin, rub raw, cut, lacerate, bark, chafe; Medicine excoriate.

**• noun** **1** *the scrape of her key in the lock:* grating, creaking, grinding, rasp, rasping, scratch, scratching. **2** *there was a long scrape on his shin:* graze, scratch, abrasion, cut, laceration, wound. **3** (informal) *he's always getting into scrapes:* predicament, plight, tight corner/spot, ticklish/tricky situation, problem, crisis, mess, muddle; informal jam, fix, stew, bind, hole, hot water, a pretty/fine kettle of fish; Brit. informal spot of bother.

**■ scrape by** manage, cope, survive, muddle through/along, make ends meet, get by/along, make do, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water, eke out a living; informal make out.

**scrappy** **adjective** disorganized, untidy,

disjointed, unsystematic, uneven, bitty, sketchy; piecemeal; fragmentary, incomplete, unfinished.

**scratch** **verb** **1** *the paintwork was scratched:* score, abrade, scrape, scuff. **2** *thorns scratched her skin:* graze, scrape, abrade, skin, rub raw, cut, lacerate, bark, chafe; wound; Medicine excoriate. **3** *many names had been scratched out:* cross out, strike out, score out, delete, erase, remove, eliminate, expunge, obliterate. **4** *she was forced to scratch from the race:* withdraw, pull out of, back out of, bow out of, stand down.

**• noun** **1** *he had two scratches on his cheek:* graze, scrape, abrasion, cut, laceration, wound. **2** *a scratch on the paintwork:* score, mark, line, scrape.

**■ up to scratch** good enough, up to the mark, up to standard, up to par, satisfactory, acceptable, adequate, passable, sufficient, all right; informal OK, up to snuff.

**scrawl** **verb** *he scrawled his name at the bottom of the page:* scribble, write hurriedly, write untidily, dash off.

**• noun** *pages of handwritten scrawl:* scribble, squiggle(s), hieroglyphics; rare cacography.

**scrawny** **adjective** *skinny*, thin, as thin as a rake, skin and bone, gaunt, bony, angular, gawky, scraggy, raw-boned; dated spindle-shanked.

– OPPOSITES fat.

**scream** **verb** *he screamed in pain:* shriek, screech, yell, howl, shout, bellow, bawl, cry out, call out, yelp, squeal, wail, squawk; informal holler.

**• noun** **1** *a scream of pain:* shriek, screech, yell, howl, shout, bellow, bawl, cry, yelp, squeal, wail, squawk; informal holler. **2** (informal) *the whole thing's a scream:* laugh, hoot; informal gas, giggle, riot, bundle of fun/laughs. **3** (informal) *he's an absolute scream:* wit, hoot, comedian, comic, entertainer, joker, clown, character; informal gas, giggle, riot; informal, dated caution, case, card.

**screech** **verb.** See **SCREAM** verb.

**screen** **noun** **1** *he dressed hurriedly behind the screen:* partition, (room) divider; windbreak. **2** *a computer with a 15-inch screen:* display, monitor, visual display unit, VDU; cathode ray tube, CRT. **3** *every window has a screen because of mosquitoes:* mesh, net, netting. **4** *the hedge acts as a screen against the wind:* buffer, protection, shield, shelter, guard. **5** *the earth must be put through a screen:* sieve, riddle, strainer, colander, filter.

**• verb** **1** *the end of the hall had been screened off:* partition off, divide off, separate off, curtain off. **2** *the cottage was screened by the trees:* conceal, hide, veil; shield, shelter, shade, protect, guard, safeguard. **3** *the prospective candidates will have to be screened:* vet, check, check up on, investigate; informal check out. **4** *all donated blood is screened for the virus:* check, test, examine, investigate. **5** *coal used to be screened by hand:* sieve, riddle, sift, strain, filter, winnow. **6** *the programme is screened*

on *Thursday evenings*: **show**, broadcast, transmit, televise, put out, put on the air.

**screw** **noun** **1** *stainless steel screws*: bolt, fastener; nail, pin, tack, spike, rivet, brad.

**2** *the handle needs a couple of screws to tighten it*: turn, twist, wrench. **3** *the ship's twin screws*: propeller, rotor.

• **verb** **1** *he screwed the lid back on the jar*: tighten, turn, twist, wind. **2** *the bracket was screwed in place*: fasten, secure, fix, attach. **3** (informal) *she intended to screw money out of them*: extort, force, extract, wrest, wring, squeeze; informal bleed.

■ **put the screws on** (informal) pressurize, put pressure on, pressure, coerce, browbeat, use strong-arm tactics on; hold a gun to someone's head; informal put the heat on, lean on.

■ **screw something up** **1** *Christina screwed up her face in disgust*: wrinkle (up), pucker, crumple, crease, furrow, contort, distort, twist, purse. **2** (informal) *they'll screw up the whole economy*: wreck, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, damage, spoil, mar; dash, shatter, scotch, make a mess of, mess up; informal louse up, foul up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, nix, queer; Brit. informal scupper, cock up.

**scribble** **verb** *he scribbled a few lines on a piece of paper*: scrawl, write hurriedly, write untidily, scratch, dash off, jot (down); doodle.

• **noun** *a page of scribble*: scrawl, squiggle(s), jottings; doodle, doodlings; rare cacography.

**scribe** **noun** **1** (historical) *a medieval scribe*: clerk, secretary, copyist, transcriber, amanuensis; historical penman, scribe.

**2** (informal) *a local cricket scribe*: writer, author, penman; journalist, reporter; informal hack.

**scrimmage** **noun** *fight, tussle, brawl, struggle, fracas, free-for-all, rough and tumble*; Law, dated affray; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindy; Brit. informal scrum; N. Amer. informal rough house.

**scrimp** **verb** *economize, skimp, scrimp and save, save*; be thrifty, be frugal, tighten one's belt, cut back, husband one's resources, draw in one's horns, watch one's pennies; N. Amer. pinch the pennies.

**script** **noun** **1** *her neat, tidy script*: handwriting, writing, hand, pen, penmanship, calligraphy. **2** *the script of the play*: text, screenplay; libretto, score; lines, dialogue, words.

**Scrooge** **noun** *miser, penny-pincher, pinchpenny, niggard*; informal skinflint, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate; N. Amer. informal tightwad.

– OPPOSITES spendthrift.

**scrounge** **verb** (informal) *beg, borrow*; informal cadge, sponge, bum, touch someone for; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge.

**scrounger** **noun** (informal) *beggar, borrower, parasite, cadger*; informal sponger, freeloader; N. Amer. informal mooch, moocher, schnorrer; Austral./NZ informal bludger.

**scrub**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *he scrubbed the kitchen floor*: scour, rub; clean, cleanse, wash, wipe.

**2** (informal) *the plans were scrubbed*: abandon, scrap, drop, cancel, call off, axe, jettison, discard, discontinue, abort; informal ditch, dump, junk.

**scrub**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *there the buildings ended and the scrub began*: brush, brushwood, scrubland, undergrowth.

**scruffy** **adjective** *shabby, worn, down at heel, ragged, tattered, mangy, dirty*; untidy, unkempt, bedraggled, messy, dishevelled, ill-groomed; informal tatty, the worse for wear; N. Amer. informal raggedy.

– OPPOSITES smart, tidy.

**scrumptious** **adjective** (informal) *delicious, delectable, mouth-watering, tasty, appetizing, rich, savoury, flavoursome, flavourful, toothsome; succulent, luscious*; informal scrummy, yummy; Brit. informal moreish; N. Amer. informal finger-licking, nummy.

– OPPOSITES unpalatable.

**screw** **verb** *crumple, crunch, crush, rumple, screw up, squash, squeeze, compress*; informal squidge.

**scruple** **verb** *she would not scruple to ask them for money*: hesitate, be reluctant, be loath, have qualms, have scruples, have misgivings, have reservations, think twice, balk, demur, recoil from, shrink from, shy away from, flinch from.

**scruples** **plural noun** *he had no scruples about eavesdropping*: qualms, compunction, pangs/twinges of conscience, hesitation, reservations, second thoughts, doubt(s), misgivings, uneasiness, reluctance.

**scrupulous** **adjective** **1** *scrupulous attention to detail*: careful, meticulous, painstaking, thorough, assiduous, sedulous, attentive, conscientious, punctilious, searching, close, minute, rigorous, particular, strict. **2** *a scrupulous man*: honest, honourable, upright, upstanding, high-minded, right-minded, moral, ethical, good, virtuous, principled, incorruptible.

– OPPOSITES careless, dishonest.

**scrutinize** **verb** *examine, inspect, survey, study, look at, peruse*; investigate, explore, probe, inquire into, go into, check.

**scrutiny** **noun** *examination, inspection, survey, study, perusal*; investigation, exploration, probe, inquiry; informal going-over.

**scud** **verb** *speed, race, rush, sail, shoot, sweep, skim, whip, whizz, flash, fly, scurry, flit, scutter*.

**scuff** **verb** *scrape, scratch, rub, abrade*; mark.

**scuffle** **noun** *there was a scuffle outside the pub*: fight, struggle, tussle, brawl, fracas, free-for-all, rough and tumble, scrimmage; Law, dated affray; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindy; N. Amer. informal rough house.

• **verb** *demonstrators scuffled with police*: fight, struggle, tussle, exchange blows, come to blows, brawl, clash; informal scrap.



**sculpt** verb carve, model, chisel, sculpture, fashion, form, shape, cast, cut, hew.

**sculpture** noun *a bronze sculpture: model, carving, statue, statuette, figure, figurine, effigy, bust, head, likeness.*

•verb *the choir stalls were carefully sculptured.* See **SCULPT**.

**scum** noun **1** *the water was covered with a thick green scum: film, layer, covering, froth; filth, dross, dirt.* **2** (informal) *drug dealers are scum: despicable people, the lowest of the low, the dregs of society, vermin, riff-raff; informal the scum of the earth.*

**scupper** (Brit.) verb **1** *the captain decided to scupper the ship: sink, scuttle, submerge, send to the bottom.* **2** (informal) *he denied trying to scupper the agreement: ruin, wreck, destroy, sabotage, torpedo, spoil, mess up; informal screw up, foul up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for; old use bring to naught.*

**scurrilous** adjective defamatory, slanderous, libellous, scandalous, insulting, offensive, gross; abusive, vituperative, malicious; informal bitchy.

**scurry** verb *pedestrians scurried for cover: hurry, hasten, run, rush, dash; scamper, scuttle, scramble; Brit. scutter; informal scoot, beetle; dated make haste.*

– OPPOSITES amble.

•noun *there was a scurry to get out: rush, race, dash, run, hurry; scramble, bustle.*

**scuttle** verb. See **SCURRY** verb.

**sea** noun **1** *the sea sparkled in the sun: (the) ocean, the waves; informal the drink; Brit. informal the briny; literary the deep, the main, the foam.* **2** *the boat overturned in the heavy seas: waves, swell, breakers, rollers, combers; informal boomers.* **3** *a sea of roofs and turrets: expanse, stretch, area, tract, sweep, blanket, sheet, carpet, mass; multitude, host, profusion, abundance, plethora.*

– OPPOSITES land.

•adjective *sea creatures: marine, ocean, oceanic; saltwater, seawater; ocean-going, seagoing, seafaring; maritime, naval, nautical; technical pelagic, thalassic.*

■ *at sea* confused, perplexed, puzzled, baffled, mystified, bemused, bewildered, nonplussed, disconcerted, disoriented, dumbfounded, at a loss, at sixes and sevens; informal flummoxed, bamboozled, fazed; N. Amer. informal discombobulated; old use wildered, mazed.

#### WORD LINKS

**marine, maritime, nautical** relating to the sea

**pelagic** relating to the open sea

**oceanography** the branch of science concerned with the study of the sea

**thalassotherapy** the use of seawater in cosmetic and health treatment

**seafaring** adjective maritime, nautical, naval, seagoing, sea.

**seal** noun **1** *the seal round the bath: sealant, sealer, adhesive.* **2** *the king put his seal on the letter: emblem, symbol, insignia, device, badge, crest, coat of arms, mark,*

*monogram, stamp.* **3** *the Minister gave his seal of approval to the project: ratification, approval, blessing, consent, agreement, permission, sanction, endorsement, clearance.*

•verb **1** *she quietly sealed the door behind her: fasten, secure, shut, close, lock, bolt.*

**2** *seal each bottle while it is hot: stop up, seal up, make airtight/watertight, cork, stopper, plug.* **3** *police sealed off the High Street: close off, shut off, cordon off, fence off, isolate.* **4** *he held out his hand to seal the bargain: clinch, secure, settle, conclude, complete, establish, set the seal on, confirm, guarantee; informal sew up.*

**seam** noun **1** *the seam was coming undone: join, stitching; Surgery suture.* **2** *a seam of coal: layer, stratum, vein, lode.* **3** *the seams of his face: wrinkle, line, crow's foot, furrow, crease, corrugation, crinkle, pucker, groove, ridge.*

**seaman** noun sailor, seafarer, mariner, boatman, hand; informal (old) salt, sea dog, bluejacket; Brit. informal matelot; informal, dated tar, Jack Tar.

– OPPOSITES landlubber.

**seamy** adjective sordid, disreputable, seedy, sleazy, squalid, insalubrious, unwholesome, unsavoury, rough, unpleasant.

– OPPOSITES salubrious.

**sear** verb **1** *the heat of the blast seared his face: scorch, burn, singe, char.* **2** *sear the meat before adding the other ingredients: flash-fry, seal, brown.* **3** *his betrayal had seared her terribly: hurt, wound, pain, cut to the quick, sting; distress, grieve, upset, trouble, harrow, torment, torture.*

**search** verb **1** *I searched for the key in my handbag: hunt, look, seek, forage, fish about/around, look high and low, cast about/around, ferret about/around, root about/around, rummage about/around; Brit. informal rootle about/around.* **2** *he searched the house thoroughly: look through, hunt through, explore, scour, rifle through, go through, sift through, comb, go through with a fine-tooth comb; turn upside down, turn inside out, leave no stone unturned in; Austral./NZ informal fossick through.* **3** *the guards searched him for weapons: examine, inspect, check, frisk.*

•noun *we continued our search for a hotel: hunt, look, quest; pursuit.*

■ *in search of* searching for, hunting for, seeking, looking for, on the lookout for, in pursuit of.

**searching** adjective penetrating, piercing, probing, keen, shrewd, sharp, intent.

**searing** adjective **1** *the searing heat: scorching, blistering, sweltering, blazing (hot), burning, fiery, torrid; informal boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling, roasting.* **2** *a searing pain: intense, excruciating, agonizing, sharp, stabbing, shooting, stinging, severe, extreme, racking.* **3** *a searing attack: fierce, savage, blistering, scathing, stinging, devastating, mordant, trenchant, caustic, cutting, biting, withering.*

**seaside** noun coast, shore, seashore, waterside; beach, sand, sands, littoral; literary strand.

**season** noun *the rainy season* | *the opera season*: period, time, time of year, spell, term.

• verb 1 *season the casserole to taste*: flavour, add flavouring to, add salt/pepper to, spice.

2 *his albums include standard numbers seasoned with a few of his own tunes*:

enliven, leaven, spice (up), liven up; informal pep up.

■ in season available, obtainable, to be had, on offer, on the market; plentiful, abundant.

**seasonable** adjective usual, expected, predictable, normal for the time of year.

**seasoned** adjective experienced, practised, well versed, knowledgeable, established, habituated, veteran, hardened, battle-scarred.

– OPPOSITES inexperienced.

**seasoning** noun flavouring, salt and pepper, herbs, spices, condiments.

**seat** noun 1 *a wooden seat*: chair, bench, stool, settle, stall; (**seats**) seating, room; Brit. informal pew. 2 *the seat of government*: headquarters, base, centre, nerve centre, hub, heart; location, site, whereabouts, place. 3 *the family's country seat*: residence, ancestral home, mansion, stately home; formal abode.

• verb 1 *they seated themselves round the table*: position, put, place; ensconce, install, settle; informal plonk, park. 2 *the hall seats 500*: have room for, contain, take, sit, hold, accommodate.

**seating** noun seats, room, places, chairs, accommodation.

**secede** verb *the Kingdom of Belgium seceded from the Netherlands in 1830*: withdraw from, break away from, break with, separate (oneself) from, leave, split with, split off from, disaffiliate from, resign from, pull out of; informal quit.

– OPPOSITES join.

**secluded** adjective sheltered, private, concealed, hidden, unfrequented, sequestered, tucked away.

– OPPOSITES busy.

**seclusion** noun isolation, solitude, retreat, privacy, retirement, withdrawal, purdah, concealment, hiding, secrecy.

**second**<sup>1</sup> adjective 1 *the second day of the trial*: next, following, subsequent, succeeding.

2 *he keeps a second pair of glasses in his office*: additional, extra, alternative, another, spare, back-up, relief, fallback; N. Amer. alternate. 3 *he dropped down to captain the second team*: secondary, lower, subordinate, subsidiary, lesser, inferior. 4 *the conflict could turn into a second Vietnam*: another,

new; repeat of, copy of, carbon copy of.

– OPPOSITES first.

• noun 1 *Eva had been working as his second*: assistant, attendant, helper, aide, supporter, auxiliary, right-hand man/woman, girl/man Friday, second in command, number two, deputy, understudy, subordinate; informal

sidekick. 2 (informal) *he enjoyed the pie and asked for seconds*: a second helping, a further helping, more.

• verb *George Beale seconded the motion*: formally support, give one's support to, vote for, back, approve, endorse.

■ second to none incomparable, matchless, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/ comparison, unparalleled, without parallel, unequalled, without equal, in a class of its own, peerless, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil, unique; perfect, consummate, transcendent, surpassing, superlative, supreme; formal unexampled.

**second**<sup>2</sup> noun *I'll only be gone for a second*: moment, bit, little while, short time, instant, split second; informal sec, jiffy; Brit. informal mo, tick, two ticks.

■ in a second very soon, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in the twinkling of an eye, in (less than) no time, in no time at all; N. Amer. momentarily; informal in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, in the blink of an eye; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap; literary ere long.

**second**<sup>3</sup> verb *he was seconded to their Welsh office*: assign temporarily, lend; transfer, move, shift, relocate, assign, reassign, send.

**secondary** adjective 1 *a secondary issue*: less important, subordinate, lesser, minor, peripheral, incidental, ancillary, subsidiary, non-essential, inessential, of little account, unimportant. 2 *secondary infections*: accompanying, attendant, concomitant, consequential, resulting, resultant.

– OPPOSITES primary, main.

**second-class** adjective second-rate, second-best, inferior, lesser, unimportant.

**second-hand** adjective 1 *second-hand clothes*: used, old, worn, pre-owned, handed-down, hand-me-down, cast-off; Brit. informal reach-me-down. 2 *second-hand information*: indirect, derivative; vicarious.

– OPPOSITES new, direct.

• adverb 1 *I was discounting anything I heard second-hand*: indirectly, at second-hand, on the bush telegraph; informal on the grapevine.

– OPPOSITES directly.

**second in command** noun deputy, number two, subordinate, right-hand man/ woman; understudy.

**secondly** adverb furthermore, also, moreover; second, in the second place, next; secondarily.

**second-rate** adjective inferior, substandard, low-quality, below par, bad, poor, deficient, defective, faulty, imperfect, shoddy, inadequate, insufficient, unacceptable; Brit. informal ropy, duff, rubbish.

– OPPOSITES first-rate, excellent.

**secrecy** noun 1 *the secrecy of the material*: confidentiality, classified nature. 2 *a government which thrived on secrecy*: secretiveness, covertness, furtiveness, surreptitiousness, stealth, stealthiness.

**secret** adjective 1 *a secret plan*: confidential,

top secret, classified, undisclosed, unknown, private, under wraps; informal hush-hush; formal sub rosa. **2** *a secret drawer in the table: hidden, concealed, disguised; invisible.* **3** *a secret operation to infiltrate terrorist groups: clandestine, covert, undercover, underground, surreptitious, stealthy, furtive, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, closet; informal hush-hush.* **4** *a secret message | a secret code: cryptic, encoded, coded; mysterious, abstruse, recondite, arcane, esoteric, cabballistic.* **5** *a secret place: secluded, private, concealed, hidden, unfrequented, out of the way, tucked away.* **6** *a very secret person.* See **SECRETIVE**.

– **OPPOSITES** public, open.

• **noun** **1** *he just can't keep a secret: confidential matter, confidence, private affair; skeleton in the cupboard.* **2** *the secrets of the universe: mystery, enigma, paradox, puzzle, conundrum, poser, riddle.* **3** *the secret of their success: recipe, (magic) formula, blueprint, key, answer, solution.* ■ **in secret** secretly, in private, privately, behind closed doors, behind the scenes, in camera, under cover, under the counter, discreetly, behind someone's back, furtively, stealthily, on the sly, on the quiet, conspiratorially, covertly, clandestinely, on the side; informal on the q.t.; formal sub rosa.

**secret agent** **noun** *spy, double agent, counterspy, undercover agent, operative, plant, mole; N. Amer. informal spook.*

**secretary** **noun** *assistant, personal assistant, PA, administrator, amanuensis, girl/man Friday.*

**secrete**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *a substance secreted by the prostate gland: produce, discharge, emit, excrete, release, send out.*

– **OPPOSITES** absorb.

**secrete**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *we secreted ourselves in the bushes: conceal, hide, cover up, veil, shroud, screen, stow away; bury, cache; informal stash away.*

– **OPPOSITES** reveal.

**secretive** **adjective** *uncommunicative, secret, unforthcoming, playing one's cards close to one's chest, reticent, reserved, silent, non-communicative, quiet, tight-lipped, close-mouthed, taciturn.*

– **OPPOSITES** open, communicative.

**secretly** **adverb** **1** *they met secretly for a year: in secret, in private, privately, behind closed doors, in camera, behind the scenes, under cover, under the counter, behind someone's back, furtively, stealthily, on the sly, on the quiet, conspiratorially, covertly, clandestinely, on the side; informal on the q.t.; formal sub rosa.* **2** *he was secretly jealous of Bartholomew: privately, in one's heart (of hearts), deep down.*

**sect** **noun** (religious) *cult, religious group, denomination, persuasion, religious order; splinter group, faction.*

**sectarian** **adjective** *factional, separatist, partisan, parti pris; doctrinaire, dogmatic, extreme, fanatical, rigid, inflexible, bigoted, hidebound, narrow-minded.*

– **OPPOSITES** tolerant, liberal.

**section** **noun** **1** *the separate sections of a train: part, piece, bit, segment, component, division, portion, element, unit, constituent.* **2** *the last section of the questionnaire: subdivision, part, subsection, division, portion, bit, chapter, passage, clause.* **3** *the reference section of the library: department, area, part, division.* **4** *a residential section of the capital.* See **SECTOR** sense 2.

**sector** **adjective** **1** *every sector of the industry is affected: part, branch, arm, division, area, department, field, sphere.* **2** *the north-eastern sector of the town: district, quarter, part, section, zone, region, area, belt.*

**secular** **adjective** *non-religious, lay, temporal, worldly, earthly, profane; formal laic.*

– **OPPOSITES** holy, religious.

**secure** **adjective** **1** *check to make sure that all the bolts are secure: fastened, fixed, secured, done up; closed, shut, locked.* **2** *an environment in which children can feel secure: safe, protected from harm/danger, out of danger, sheltered, safe and sound, out of harm's way, in a safe place, in safe hands, invulnerable; at ease, unworried, relaxed, happy, confident.* **3** *a secure future: certain, assured, reliable, dependable, settled, fixed.*

– **OPPOSITES** loose, vulnerable, uncertain.

• **verb** **1** *pins secure the handle to the main body: fix, attach, fasten, affix, connect, couple.* **2** *the doors had not been properly secured: fasten, close, shut, lock, bolt, chain, seal.* **3** *he leapt out to secure the boat: tie up, moor, make fast; anchor.* **4** *they sought to secure the country against attack: protect, make safe, fortify, strengthen.* **5** *a written constitution would secure the rights of the individual: assure, ensure, guarantee, protect, confirm, establish.* **6** *the division secured a major contract: obtain, acquire, gain, get, get possession of; informal get hold of, land.*

**security** **noun** **1** *the security of the nation's citizens: safety, freedom from danger, protection, invulnerability.* **2** *he could give her the security she needed: peace of mind, feeling of safety, stability, certainty, happiness, confidence.* **3** *security at the court was tight: safety measures, safeguards, surveillance, defence, protection.*

**4** *additional security for your loan may be required: guarantee, collateral, surety, pledge, bond; old use gage.*

– **OPPOSITES** vulnerability, danger.

**sedate**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *the patient had to be sedated: tranquillize, put under sedation, drug.*

**sedate**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** **1** *a sedate pace: slow, steady, dignified, unhurried, relaxed, measured, leisurely, slow-moving, easy, easy-going, gentle.* **2** *he had lived a very sedate and straightforward life: calm, placid, tranquil, quiet, uneventful; boring, dull.*

– **OPPOSITES** exciting, fast.

**sedative** **adjective** *sedative drugs:*



**tranquillizing**, calming, calmativ, relaxing, soporific; depressant; Medicine neuroleptic.

• **noun** *the doctor gave him a sedative*:

**tranquillizer**, calmativ, sleeping pill, narcotic, opiate; depressant; informal *trank*, sleeper, downer.

**sedentary** **adjective** *sitting, seated, desk-bound; inactive.*

– **OPPOSITES** *active.*

**sediment** **noun** *dregs, lees, precipitate, deposit, grounds, settlings, residue, remains; silt, alluvium; technical residuum; old use grouts.*

**sedition** **noun** *rabble-rousing, subversion, troublemaking, provocation; rebellion, insurrection, mutiny, insurgence, civil disorder.*

**seditious** **adjective** *rabble-rousing, provocative, inflammatory, subversive, troublemaking; rebellious, insurrectionist, mutinous, insurgent.*

**seduce** **verb** **1** *he took her to his hotel room and tried to seduce her*: persuade to have sex; euphemistic have one's (wicked) way with, take advantage of; dated *debauch*. **2** *a firm which had seduced customers into buying worthless products*: attract, allure, lure, tempt, entice, beguile, inveigle, manoeuvre.

**seducer** **noun** *womanizer, philanderer, Romeo, Don Juan, Lothario, Casanova, playboy, ladies' man; informal ladykiller, wolf, skirt-chaser.*

**seductive** **adjective** *sexy, alluring, tempting, exciting, provocative, sultry, slinky; coquettish, flirtatious; informal vampish, come-hither, come-to-bed.*

**seductress** **noun** *temptress, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari; flirt, coquette; informal vamp.*

**sedulous** **adjective** *diligent, careful, meticulous, thorough, assiduous, attentive, industrious, conscientious, ultra-careful, punctilious, scrupulous, painstaking, minute, rigorous, particular.*

**see** **verb** **1** *he saw her running across the road*: discern, spot, notice, catch sight of, glimpse, catch/get a glimpse of, make out, pick out, spy, distinguish, detect, perceive, note; informal *clap/lay/set eyes on*, clock; literary behold, descry, espy. **2** *I saw a documentary about it last week*: watch, look at, view; catch. **3** *would you like to see over the house?* inspect, view, look round, tour, survey, examine, scrutinize; informal give something a/the once-over. **4** *I finally saw what she meant*: understand, grasp, comprehend, follow, take in, realize, appreciate, recognize, work out, get the drift of, perceive, fathom (out); informal get, latch on to, cotton on to, catch on to, tumble to, savvy, figure out, get a fix on; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **5** *I must go and see what Victor is up to*: find out, discover, learn, ascertain, determine, establish. **6** *see that no harm comes to him*: ensure, make sure/certain, see to it, take care, mind. **7** *I see trouble ahead*: foresee, predict, forecast, prophesy, anticipate, envisage, picture,

visualize. **8** *about a year later, I saw him in town*: encounter, meet, run into/across, come across, stumble on/across, happen on, chance on; informal bump into; old use run against. **9** *they see each other from time to time*: meet, meet up with, get together with, socialize with. **10** *you'd better see a doctor*: consult, confer with, talk to, speak to, have recourse to, call on, call in, turn to, ask. **11** *he's seeing someone else now*: go out with, date, take out, be involved with; informal go steady with; Brit. informal, dated walk out with; N. Amer. informal, dated step out with; dated court. **12** *he saw her to her car*: escort, accompany, show, walk, conduct, lead, take, usher, attend.

■ **see through** understand, get/have the measure of, read like a book; informal be wise to, have someone's number, know someone's (little) game.

■ **see something through** persevere with, persist with, continue (with), carry on with, keep at, follow through, stay with; informal stick at, stick it out, hang in there.

■ **see to** attend to, deal with, see about, take care of, look after, sort out, fix, organize, arrange.

**see** **2** **noun** *a bishop's see*: diocese, bishopric.

**seed** **noun** **1** *sow the seeds in trays or pots*: pip, stone, kernel; ovule. **2** *each war contains within it the seeds of a fresh war*: genesis, source, origin, root, starting point, germ, beginnings, potential (for); cause, reason, motivation, motive, grounds. **3** (old use) *Abraham and his seed*: descendants, heirs, successors, scions; offspring, children, sons and daughters, progeny, family; Law issue; derogatory spawn; old use fruit of someone's loins.

■ **go/run to seed** deteriorate, degenerate, decline, decay, fall into decay, go to rack and ruin, go downhill, moulder, rot; informal go to pot, go to the dogs.

#### WORD LINKS

**seminal** relating to the seed of a plant  
**germinate** (of a seed) begin to grow  
**cotyledon** the first leaf to grow from a germinating seed

**seedy** **adjective** **1** *the seedy world of prostitution*: sordid, disreputable, seamy, sleazy, squalid, unwholesome, unsavoury. **2** *a seedy block of flats*: dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, falling to pieces, decrepit, gone to rack and ruin, run down, down at heel, shabby, dingy, slummy, insalubrious, squalid; informal crummy; Brit. informal grotty.

– **OPPOSITES** *high-class.*

**seek** **verb** **1** *they sought shelter from the winter snows*: search for, try to find, look for, be on the lookout for, be after, hunt for, be in quest of. **2** *the company is seeking a judicial review of the decision*: try to obtain, work towards, be intent on, aim at/for. **3** *he sought help from the police*: ask for, request, solicit, call for, entreat, beg for, petition for, appeal for, apply for, put in for. **4** *we constantly seek to improve the service*: try,

attempt, endeavour, strive, work, do one's best; formal essay.

**seem** verb **appear (to be)**, have the appearance/air of being, give the impression of being, look, look as though one is, look like, show signs of, look to be; come across as, strike someone as, sound.

**seeming** adjective **apparent**, ostensible, supposed, outward, surface, superficial; pretended, feigned.

– OPPOSITES actual, genuine.

**seemingly** adverb **apparently**, on the face of it, to all appearances, as far as one can see/tell, on the surface, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, supposedly.

**seemly** adjective **decorous**, proper, decent, becoming, fitting, suitable, appropriate, apt, apposite, meet, in good taste, genteel, polite, the done thing, right, correct, acceptable, comme il faut.

– OPPOSITES unseemly, unbecoming.

**seep** verb **ooze**, trickle, exude, drip, dribble, flow, issue, escape, leak, drain, bleed, filter, percolate, soak.

**seer** noun **soothsayer**, oracle, prophet(ess), augur, prognosticator, diviner, fortune teller, crystal-gazer, clairvoyant, psychic; Scottish spaewife; literary sibyl.

**see-saw** verb **fluctuate**, swing, go up and down, rise and fall, oscillate, alternate, yo-yo, vary.

**seethe** verb **1** *the brew seethed*: boil, bubble, simmer, foam, froth, fizz, effervesce. **2** *the water seethed with fish*: teem, swarm, boil, swirl, churn, surge. **3** *I seethed at the injustice of it all*: be angry, be furious, be enraged, be incensed, be beside oneself, simmer, fume, smoulder; informal be hot under the collar.

**see-through** adjective **transparent**, translucent, clear, limpid, pellucid; thin, lightweight, flimsy, sheer, diaphanous, filmy, gossamer, chiffony, gauzy.

– OPPOSITES opaque.

**segment** noun **1** *orange segments*: piece, bit, section, part, chunk, portion, division, slice; fragment, wedge, lump, tranche. **2** *all segments of society*: part, section, sector, division, portion, constituent, element, unit, compartment; branch, wing.

• verb *they plan to segment their market share*: divide (up), subdivide, separate, split, cut up, carve up, slice up, break up; segregate, partition, section.

– OPPOSITES amalgamate.

**segregate** verb **separate**, set apart, keep apart, isolate, quarantine, closet; partition, divide, detach, disconnect, sever, dissociate.

– OPPOSITES amalgamate.

**seize** verb **1** *she seized the microphone*: grab, grasp, snatch, take hold of, get one's hands on; grip, clutch; Brit. informal nab. **2** *rebels seized the air base*: capture, take, overrun, occupy, conquer, take over. **3** *the drugs were seized by customs*: confiscate, impound, commandeer, requisition, appropriate,

expropriate, take away; Law **distrain**; Scottish Law **poind**. **4** *terrorists seized his wife*: kidnap, abduct, take captive, take prisoner, take hostage, hold to ransom; informal **snatch**.  
– OPPOSITES **relinquish**, release.

■ **seize on** *they seized on the opportunity*: take advantage of, exploit, grasp with both hands, leap at, jump at, pounce on.

**seizure** noun **1** *Napoleon's seizure of Spain*: capture, takeover, annexation, invasion, occupation, colonization. **2** *the seizure of defaulters' property*: confiscation, appropriation, expropriation, sequestration; Law **distrain**; Scottish Law **poind**. **3** *the seizure of UN staff by rebels*: kidnapping, kidnap, abduction. **4** *the baby suffered a seizure*: convulsion, fit, spasm, paroxysm; Medicine **ictus**; dated **apoplexy**.

**seldom** adverb **rarely**, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely (ever), almost never; now and then, occasionally, sporadically; informal once in a blue moon.

– OPPOSITES often.

**select** verb *select the correct tool for the job*: choose, pick (out), single out, sort out, take; opt for, decide on, settle on, determine, nominate, appoint, elect.

• adjective **1** *a select group of SAS members*: choice, hand-picked, prime, first-rate, first-class, superior, finest, best, top-class, supreme, superb, excellent; informal A1, top-notch. **2** *a select clientele*: exclusive, elite, favoured, privileged; wealthy; informal posh.

– OPPOSITES inferior.

**selection** noun **1** *Jim made his selection of toys*: choice, pick; option, preference. **2** *a wide selection of dishes*: range, array, diversity, variety, assortment, mixture. **3** *a selection of his poems*: anthology, assortment, collection, assemblage; miscellany, medley, potpourri.

**selective** adjective **discerning**, discriminating, discriminatory, critical, exacting, demanding, particular; fussy, fastidious, faddish; informal choosy, pernickety, picky; Brit. informal faddy.

**self** noun **ego**, I, oneself, persona, person, identity, character, personality, psyche, soul, spirit, mind, inner self.

– OPPOSITES other.

**self-assemble** noun **kits for self-assembly**: do-it-yourself, DIY.

• adjective **self-assemble furniture**: flat-pack, kit, self-build, do-it-yourself, DIY.

**self-assurance** noun **self-confidence**, confidence, assertiveness, self-reliance, self-possession, composure, presence of mind, aplomb.

– OPPOSITES diffidence.

**self-assured** adjective **self-confident**, confident, assertive, assured, authoritative, commanding, self-reliant, self-possessed, poised.

**self-centred** adjective **egocentric**, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-interested, self-serving; narcissistic, vain; inconsiderate,

thoughtless; informal looking after number one.

**self-confidence** noun morale, confidence, self-assurance, assurance, assertiveness, self-reliance, self-possession, composure.

**self-conscious** adjective embarrassed, uncomfortable, uneasy, nervous; unnatural, inhibited, gauche, awkward; modest, shy, diffident, bashful, retiring, shrinking.

– OPPOSITES confident.

**self-contained** adjective 1 *each train was a self-contained unit*: complete, independent, separate, free-standing, enclosed. 2 *a very self-contained child*: independent, self-sufficient, self-reliant; introverted, quiet, private, aloof, insular, reserved, reticent, secretive.

**self-control** noun self-discipline, restraint, self-possession, will power, composure, coolness; moderation, temperance, abstemiousness; informal cool.

**self-denial** noun self-sacrifice, selflessness, unselfishness; self-discipline, asceticism, self-deprivation, abstemiousness, abstinence, abstention; moderation, temperance.

– OPPOSITES self-indulgence.

**self-discipline** noun self-control; restraint, self-restraint; will power, purposefulness, strong-mindedness, resolve, moral fibre; doggedness, persistence, determination, grit.

**self-employed** adjective freelance, independent, casual; consultant, consulting; temporary, jobbing, visiting, outside, external; informal one's own boss.

**self-esteem** noun self-respect, pride, dignity, self-regard, faith in oneself; morale, self-confidence, confidence, self-assurance.

**self-evident** adjective obvious, clear, plain, evident, apparent, manifest, patent; distinct, transparent, overt, conspicuous, palpable, unmistakable, undeniable.

– OPPOSITES unclear.

**self-explanatory** adjective easily understood, comprehensible, intelligible, straightforward, unambiguous, accessible, crystal clear, user-friendly, simple, self-evident, obvious.

– OPPOSITES impenetrable.

**self-governing** noun independent, free, sovereign, autonomous; self-legislating, self-determining.

– OPPOSITES dependent.

**self-important** adjective conceited, arrogant, bumptious, full of oneself, puffed up, swollen-headed, pompous, overbearing, opinionated, cocky, presumptuous, sententious, vain, overweening, proud, egotistical; informal snooty, uppity, uppish.

– OPPOSITES humble.

**self-indulgent** adjective hedonistic, pleasure-seeking, sybaritic, indulgent, luxurious, lotus-eating, epicurean; intemperate, immoderate, overindulgent, excessive, extravagant, licentious, dissolute, decadent.

– OPPOSITES abstemious.

**self-interest** noun self-seeking, self-serving, self-obsession, self-absorption, self-regard, egocentrism, egotism, egomania, selfishness; informal looking after number one.

– OPPOSITES altruism.

**self-interested** adjective self-seeking, self-serving, self-obsessed, self-absorbed, wrapped up in oneself, egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, selfish.

**selfish** adjective egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-centred, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-serving, wrapped up in oneself; inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking, uncaring, uncharitable; mean, miserly, grasping, greedy, mercenary, acquisitive, opportunistic; informal looking after number one.

– OPPOSITES altruistic.

**selfless** adjective unselfish, altruistic, self-sacrificing, self-denying; considerate, compassionate, kind, noble, generous, magnanimous, ungrudging, charitable, benevolent, open-handed.

– OPPOSITES inconsiderate.

**self-possessed** adjective assured, self-assured, calm, cool, composed, at ease, unperturbed, unruffled, confident, self-confident, poised, imperturbable; informal together, unfazed, unflappable.

– OPPOSITES unsure.

**self-possession** noun composure, assurance, self-assurance, self-control, imperturbability, impassivity, equanimity, nonchalance, confidence, self-confidence, poise, aplomb, presence of mind, nerve, sangfroid; informal cool.

**self-reliant** adjective self-sufficient, self-supporting, self-sustaining, able to stand on one's own two feet; independent, autarkic.

**self-respect** noun self-esteem, self-regard, amour propre, faith in oneself, pride, dignity, morale, self-confidence.

**self-restraint** noun self-control, restraint, self-discipline, self-possession, will power, moderation, temperance, abstemiousness, abstention.

– OPPOSITES self-indulgence.

**self-righteous** adjective sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, self-satisfied, smug, priggish, complacent, pious, moralizing, superior, hypocritical; informal goody-goody.

– OPPOSITES humble.

**self-sacrifice** noun self-denial, selflessness, unselfishness; self-discipline, asceticism, abnegation, self-deprivation, moderation, austerity, temperance, abstinence, abstention.

**self-satisfied** adjective complacent, self-congratulatory, smug, superior, puffed up, pleased with oneself; informal goody-goody, I'm-all-right-Jack; Brit. informal like the cat that's got the cream.

**self-seeking** adjective self-interested, self-serving, selfish; egocentric, egotistic,



egotistical, self-obsessed, self-absorbed; inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking; informal looking after number one.

– OPPOSITES altruistic.

**self-styled** adjective *would-be*, so-called, self-appointed, self-titled, professed, self-confessed, *soi-disant*.

**self-sufficient** adjective *self-supporting*, self-reliant, self-sustaining, able to stand on one's own two feet; independent, autarkic.

**self-willed** adjective *wilful*, contrary, perverse, uncooperative, wayward, headstrong, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, pig-headed, mulish, intransigent, recalcitrant, intractable; Brit. informal bloody-minded; formal refractory.

– OPPOSITES biddable.

**sell** verb **1** *they are selling their house*: **put up for sale**, offer for sale, put on sale, dispose of, vend, auction (off); trade, barter. **2** *he sells cakes*: **trade in**, deal in, traffic in, stock, carry, offer for sale, peddle, hawk, retail, market. **3** *the book should sell well*: **go**, be bought, be purchased; move, be in demand. **4** *it sells for £79.95*: **cost**, be priced at, retail at, go for, be. **5** *he still has to sell the deal to Congress*: **promote**; persuade someone to accept, talk someone into, bring someone round to, win someone over to, win approval for.

– OPPOSITES buy.

■ **sell someone down the river** (informal). See **DOUBLE-CROSS**.

■ **sell out** **1** *we've sold out of petrol*: have none left, be out of stock, have run out; informal be fresh out, be cleaned out. **2** *the edition sold out quickly*: be bought up, be depleted, be exhausted. **3** *they say the band has sold out*: abandon one's principles, prostitute oneself, sell one's soul, betray one's ideals, be untrue to oneself; debase oneself, degrade oneself, demean oneself.

■ **sell someone out** betray, inform on; be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, double-cross, break faith with, stab in the back; informal tell on, sell down the river, blow the whistle on, squeal on, stitch up, peach on, do the dirty on; Brit. informal grass on, shop; N. Amer. informal finger.

■ **sell someone short** undervalue, underrate, underestimate, disparage, deprecate, belittle; formal derogate.

**seller** noun *vendor*, retailer, purveyor, supplier, stockist, trader, merchant, dealer; shopkeeper, salesperson, salesman, saleswoman, sales assistant, shop assistant, travelling salesperson, pedlar, hawker; auctioneer; N. Amer. clerk; informal counter-jumper.

**semblance** noun (outward) appearance, air, show, facade, front, veneer, guise, pretence.

**seminal** adjective *influential*, formative, groundbreaking, pioneering, original, innovative; major, important.

**seminar** noun **1** *a seminar for education officials*: **conference**, symposium, meeting, convention, forum, summit, discussion, consultation. **2** *teaching in the form of*

*seminars*: **study group**, workshop, tutorial, class, lesson.

**seminary** noun *theological college*, rabbinical college, Talmudical college; academy, training college, training institute, school.

**send** verb **1** *they sent a message to HQ*:

**dispatch**, post, mail, address, consign, direct, forward; transmit, convey, communicate; telephone, phone, broadcast, radio, fax, email; dated telegraph, wire, cable. **2** *we sent for a doctor*: **call**, summon, contact; ask for, request, order. **3** *the pump sent out a jet of petrol*: **propel**, project, eject, deliver, discharge, spout, fire, shoot, release; throw, let fly; informal chuck. **4** *the barrels send off nasty fumes*: **emit**, give off, discharge, exude, send out, release, leak. **5** *it's enough to send one mad*: **make**, drive, turn.

– OPPOSITES receive.

■ **send someone down** **1** (Brit.) *she was sent down from Cambridge*: expel, exclude; Brit. rusticate. **2** (informal) *he was sent down for life*: send to prison, imprison, jail, incarcerate, lock up, confine, detain, intern; informal put away; Brit. informal bang up.

■ **send someone off** (Sport) order off, dismiss; show someone the red card; informal red-card, send for an early bath, sin-bin.

■ **send someone/something up** (informal) satirize, ridicule, make fun of, parody, lampoon, mock, caricature, imitate, ape; informal take off, spoof, take the mickey out of.

**send-off** noun *farewell*, goodbye, adieu, leave-taking, valediction; funeral; old use vale.

– OPPOSITES welcome.

**send-up** noun (informal) *satire*, burlesque, lampoon, pastiche, caricature, imitation, impression, impersonation; mockery, mimicry, travesty; informal spoof, take-off, mickey-take.

**senile** adjective *doddering*, doddery, decrepit, senescent, declining, infirm, feeble; aged, long in the tooth, in one's dotage; informal past it, gaga.

**senior** adjective **1** *senior school pupils*: **older**, elder. **2** *a senior officer*: **superior**, higher-ranking, high-ranking, more important; top, chief; N. Amer. ranking. **3** *Albert Stone Senior: the Elder*; Brit. major; N. Amer. I, the First.

– OPPOSITES junior, subordinate.

**senior citizen** noun *retired person*, (old-age) pensioner, OAP; old person, elderly person, geriatric, dotard, Methuselah; N. Amer. senior, retiree, golden ager; informal old stager, old-timer, oldie, oldster, wrinkly, crumbly; Brit. informal buffer, josser.

**seniority** noun *rank*, superiority, standing, primacy, precedence, priority; age.

**sensation** noun **1** *a sensation of light*:

**feeling**, sense, awareness, consciousness, perception, impression. **2** *I caused a sensation by donating £1m*: **commotion**, stir, uproar, furor, scandal, impact; interest, excitement; informal splash, to-do, hullabaloo.

**3** *the new cars were a sensation*: **triumph**, success, sell-out; talking point; informal

S

smash (hit), hit, winner, crowd-puller, wow, knockout.

**sensational adjective** **1** *a sensational murder trial*: **shocking**, scandalous, appalling; amazing, startling, astonishing, staggering; stirring, exciting, thrilling, electrifying; fascinating, interesting, noteworthy, significant, remarkable, momentous, historic, newsworthy. **2** *sensational stories*: **overdramatized**, dramatic, melodramatic, exaggerated, sensationalist, sensationalistic; graphic, explicit, lurid; informal shock-horror, juicy. **3** (informal) *she looked sensational*: **gorgeous**, stunning, wonderful, exquisite, lovely, radiant, delightful, charming, enchanting, captivating; striking, spectacular, remarkable, outstanding, arresting, eye-catching; marvellous, superb, excellent, fine, first-class; informal great, terrific, tremendous, super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, heavenly, divine, knockout, delectable, scrumptious, awesome, magic, wicked, out of this world; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill.

– OPPOSITES dull, understated, unremarkable.

**sense noun** **1** *the sense of touch*: **sensory faculty**, feeling, sensation, perception; sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell. **2** *a sense of guilt*: **feeling**, awareness, sensation, consciousness, recognition. **3** *a sense of humour*: **appreciation**, awareness, understanding, comprehension, discernment. **4** *she had the sense to press the panic button*: **wisdom**, common sense, sagacity, discernment, perception; wit, intelligence, cleverness, shrewdness, judgement, reason, logic, brain(s); informal gumption, nous, horse sense, savvy; Brit. informal loaf, common; N. Amer. informal smarts. **5** *I can't see the sense in this*: **purpose**, point, reason, object, motive; use, value, advantage, benefit. **6** *the different senses of 'well'*: **meaning**, definition, import, signification, significance, purport, implication, nuance; drift, gist, thrust, tenor, message.

– OPPOSITES stupidity.

• **verb** *she sensed their hostility*: **discern**, feel, observe, notice, recognize, pick up, be aware of, distinguish, make out, identify; comprehend, apprehend, see, appreciate, realize; suspect, have a funny feeling about, have a hunch, divine, intuit; informal catch on to; Brit. informal twig.

**senseless adjective** **1** *they found him senseless on the floor*: **unconscious**, stunned, insensible, insensate, comatose, knocked out, out cold, out for the count; numb; informal KO'd, dead to the world; Brit. informal spark out. **2** *a senseless waste*: **pointless**, futile, useless, needless, unavailing, in vain, purposeless, meaningless, unprofitable; absurd, foolish, insane, stupid, idiotic, ridiculous, ludicrous, mindless, illogical.

– OPPOSITES conscious, wise.

**sensibility noun** **1** *study leads to the growth of sensibility*: **sensitivity**, finer feelings, delicacy, taste, discrimination, discernment; understanding, insight, empathy, appreciation; feeling,

intuition, responsiveness, receptiveness, perceptiveness, awareness. **2** *the wording might offend their sensibilities*: (**finer**) feelings, emotions, sensitivities, moral sense.

**sensible adjective** **practical**, realistic, responsible, reasonable, commonsensical, rational, logical, sound, balanced, sober, no-nonsense, pragmatic, level-headed, thoughtful, down-to-earth, wise, prudent, judicious, sagacious, shrewd.

– OPPOSITES foolish.

**sensitive adjective** **1** *she's sensitive to changes in temperature*: **responsive to**, reactive to, sentient of, sensitized to; aware of, conscious of, alive to; susceptible to, affected by, vulnerable to; attuned to. **2** *sensitive skin*: **delicate**, fragile; tender, sore, raw.

**3** *the matter needs sensitive handling*:

**tactful**, careful, thoughtful, diplomatic, delicate, subtle, kid-glove; sympathetic, compassionate, understanding, intuitive, responsive, insightful. **4** *he's sensitive about his bald patch*: **touchy**, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily offended, easily upset, easily hurt, thin-skinned, defensive; paranoid, neurotic; informal twitchy, uptight. **5** *a sensitive issue*: **difficult**, delicate, tricky, awkward, problematic, ticklish; controversial, emotive; informal sticky.

– OPPOSITES impervious, resilient, clumsy, thick-skinned, uncontroversional.

**sensitivity noun** **1** *the sensitivity of the skin*: **responsiveness**, sensitiveness, reactivity; susceptibility, vulnerability. **2** *the job calls for sensitivity*: **consideration**, care, thoughtfulness, tact, diplomacy, delicacy, subtlety, finer feelings; understanding, empathy, sensibility, feeling, intuition, responsiveness, receptiveness; perception, discernment, insight; savoir faire. **3** *her sensitivity on the subject of boyfriends*: **touchiness**, oversensitivity, hypersensitivity, defensiveness. **4** *the sensitivity of the issue*: **delicacy**, trickiness, awkwardness, ticklishness.

**sensual adjective** **1** *sensual pleasure*: **physical**, carnal, bodily, fleshly, animal; hedonistic, epicurean, sybaritic, voluptuary. **2** *a beautiful, sensual woman*: **sexually attractive**, sexy, voluptuous, sultry, seductive, passionate; sexually arousing, erotic, sexual.

– OPPOSITES spiritual, passionless.

**sensualist noun** **hedonist**, pleasure-seeker, sybarite, voluptuary; epicure, gastronome; bon vivant, bon viveur.

**sensuality noun** **sexiness**, sexual attractiveness, sultriness, seductiveness; sexuality, eroticism; physicality, carnality.

**sensuous adjective** **1** *big sensuous canvases*: **aesthetically pleasing**, gratifying, rich, sumptuous, luxurious; sensory, sensorial.

**2** *sensuous lips*: **sexually attractive**, sexy, seductive, voluptuous, luscious, lush.

**sentence noun** **prison term**, prison sentence; punishment; informal time, stretch, stint; Brit. informal porridge, bird.

•verb pass judgement on, punish, convict; condemn.

**sententious** adjective moralistic, moralizing, sanctimonious, self-righteous, pietistic, pious, priggish, judgemental; pompous, pontifical, self-important; informal preachifying, preachy; Brit. informal pi.

**sentient** adjective (capable of) feeling, living, live; conscious, aware, responsive, reactive.

**sentiment** noun **1** *the comments echo my own sentiments*: view, feeling, attitude, thought, opinion, belief. **2** *there's no room for sentiment in sport*: sentimentality, sentimentalism, mawkishness, emotionalism; emotion, sensibility, soft-heartedness, tender-heartedness; informal schmaltz, mush, slushiness, corniness, cheese; Brit. informal sopppiness; N. Amer. informal sappiness.

**sentimental** adjective **1** *she kept the vase for sentimental reasons*: nostalgic, tender, emotional, affectionate. **2** *the film is too sentimental*: mawkish, overemotional, cloying, slushy, mushy, sickly, saccharine, sugary; romantic, hearts-and-flowers, touching; Brit. twee; informal weepy, tear-jerking, schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, gooey, drippy, cheesy, corny; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy, hokey. **3** *she is sentimental about animals*: soft-hearted, tender-hearted, soft; informal soppy.

– OPPOSITES practical, gritty.

**sentry** noun guard, sentinel, lookout, watch, watchman, patrol.

**separable** adjective divisible, distinct, independent, distinguishable; detachable, removable.

**separate** adjective **1** *his personal life was separate from his job*: unconnected, unrelated, different, distinct, discrete; detached, divorced, disconnected, independent, autonomous. **2** *the infirmary was separate from the school*: set apart, detached, disjoined; fenced off, cut off, segregated, isolated; free-standing, self-contained.

– OPPOSITES linked, attached.

•verb **1** *they separated two rioting mobs*: split (up), break up, part, pull apart, divide; literary sunder. **2** *the connectors can be separated*: disconnect, detach, disengage, uncouple, unyoke, disunite, disjoin; split, divide, sever; disentangle. **3** *the wall that separated the two estates*: partition, divide, come between, keep apart; bisect, intersect. **4** *the south aisle was separated off*: isolate, partition off, section off; close off, shut off, cordon off, fence off, screen off. **5** *they separated at the airport*: part (company), go their separate ways, split up; say goodbye; disperse, disband, scatter. **6** *the road separated*: fork, divide, branch, bifurcate, diverge. **7** *her parents separated*: split up, break up, part, be estranged, divorce. **8** *separate fact from fiction*: isolate, set apart, segregate; distinguish, differentiate, dissociate; sort out, sift out, filter out, remove, weed out.

**9** *those who separate themselves from society*: break away from, break with, secede from, withdraw from, leave, quit, dissociate oneself from, resign from, drop out of, repudiate, reject.

– OPPOSITES unite, join, link, meet, merge, marry.

**separately** adverb individually, one by one, one at a time, singly, severally; apart, independently, alone, by oneself, on one's own.

**separation** noun **1** *the separation of the two companies*: disconnection, detachment, severance, dissociation, disunion, disaffiliation, segregation, partition. **2** *her parents' separation*: break-up, split, parting (of the ways), estrangement, rift, rupture, breach; divorce; Brit. informal bust-up. **3** *the separation between art and life*: distinction, difference, differentiation, division, dividing line; gulf, gap, chasm.

**septic** adjective infected, festering, suppurating, pus-filled, putrid, putrefying, poisoned, diseased; Medicine purulent.

**sepulchral** adjective gloomy, lugubrious, sombre, melancholy, melancholic, sad, sorrowful, mournful, doleful, dismal; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**sepulchre** noun tomb, vault, burial chamber, mausoleum, crypt, undercroft, catacomb; grave.

**sequel** noun **1** *the film inspired a sequel*: follow-up, continuation. **2** *the sequel was an armed uprising*: consequence, result, upshot, outcome, development, issue, postscript; effect, after-effect, aftermath; informal pay-off.

**sequence** noun **1** *the sequence of events*: succession, order, course, series, chain, train, string, progression, chronology; pattern, flow; formal concatenation. **2** *a sequence from his film*: excerpt, clip, extract, episode, section, scene.

**sequester** verb **1** *he sequestered himself from the world*: isolate oneself, hide away, shut oneself away, seclude oneself, cut oneself off, segregate oneself; closet oneself, withdraw, retire. **2** *the government sequestered his property*. See SEQUESTRATE.

**sequesterate** verb confiscate, seize, take, sequester, appropriate, expropriate, impound, commandeer; Law distrain; Scottish Law poind.

**seraphic** adjective blissful, beatific, sublime, rapturous, ecstatic, joyful, rapt; serene, ethereal; cherubic, saintly, angelic.

**serendipitous** adjective chance, accidental, coincidental; lucky, fluky, fortuitous; unexpected, unforeseen.

**serendipity** noun (happy) chance, (happy) accident, fluke; luck, good luck, good fortune, fortuity, providence; happy coincidence.

**serene** adjective **1** *on the surface she seemed serene*: calm, composed, tranquil, peaceful, untroubled, relaxed, at ease, unperturbed,



unruffled, unworried; placid, equable; N. Amer. centered; informal together, unflappable.

**2 serene valleys:** peaceful, tranquil, quiet, still, restful, relaxing, undisturbed.

– OPPOSITES agitated, turbulent.

**series** **noun** **1** *a series of lectures:* succession, sequence, string, chain, run, round; spate, wave, rash; set, course, cycle; row, line; formal concatenation. **2** *a new drama series:* serial, programme; soap opera; informal soap.

**serious** **adjective** **1** *a serious expression:* solemn, earnest, grave, sombre, sober, unsmiling, poker-faced, stern, grim, dour, humourless, stony-faced; thoughtful, preoccupied, pensive. **2** *serious decisions:* important, significant, consequential, momentous, weighty, far-reaching, major, grave; urgent, pressing, crucial, critical, vital, life-and-death, high-priority. **3** *give serious consideration to this:* careful, detailed, in-depth, deep, profound, meaningful. **4** *a serious play:* intellectual, highbrow, heavyweight, deep, profound, literary, learned, scholarly; informal heavy. **5** *serious injuries:* severe, grave, bad, critical, acute, terrible, dire, dangerous, perilous, parlous; formal grievous. **6** *we're serious about equality:* in earnest, earnest, sincere, wholehearted, genuine; committed, resolute, determined.

– OPPOSITES light-hearted, trivial, superficial, lowbrow, minor, half-hearted.

**seriously** **adverb** **1** *Faye nodded seriously:* solemnly, earnestly, gravely, soberly, sombrely, sternly, grimly, dourly, humourlessly; pensively, thoughtfully. **2** *she was seriously injured:* severely, gravely, badly, critically, acutely, dangerously; formal grievously. **3** *do you seriously expect me to come?* really, actually, honestly. **4** *seriously, I'm very pleased:* joking aside, to be serious, honestly, truthfully, truly, I mean it; informal Scout's honour; Brit. informal straight up. **5** (informal) *he was seriously rich.* See **EXTREMELY**.

**sermon** **noun** **1** *he preached a sermon:* homily, address, speech, talk, discourse, oration; lesson. **2** *the headmaster gave them a lengthy sermon:* lecture, tirade, harangue, diatribe; speech, disquisition, monologue; reprimand, reproach, reproof, admonishment, admonition, reproof, remonstrance, criticism; informal telling-off, talking-to, dressing-down, earful; Brit. informal ticking-off, row, rocket, rollicking; formal castigation.

**serpentine** **adjective** **1** *a serpentine path:* winding, windy, zigzag, twisty, twisting and turning, meandering, sinuous, snaky, tortuous. **2** *serpentine election rules:* complicated, complex, intricate, involved, tortuous, convoluted, elaborate, Byzantine, confusing, bewildering, baffling, impenetrable.

– OPPOSITES straight, simple.

**serrated** **adjective** jagged, sawtoothed, sawtooth, zigzag, notched, indented, toothed, denticulate, denticulated; Botany serrate; technical crenulated.

– OPPOSITES smooth.

**serried** **adjective** close together, packed together, close-set, dense, tight, compact.

**servant** **noun** **1** *servants were cleaning the hall:* attendant, retainer; domestic (worker), (hired) help, cleaner; lackey, flunkey, minion; maid, housemaid, footman, page (boy), valet, butler, batman, manservant; housekeeper, steward; drudge, menial, slave; Brit. informal Mrs Mop, daily (woman), skivvy, scout; Brit. dated charwoman, charlady, boots; old use abigail, scullion. **2** *a servant of the Labour Party:* helper, supporter, follower.

**serve** **verb** **1** *they served their masters faithfully:* work for, be in the service of, be employed by; obey. **2** *this job serves the community:* be of service to, be of use to, help, assist, aid, make a contribution to, do one's bit for, do something for, benefit. **3** *she served on the committee for years:* be a member of, work on, be on, sit on, have a place on. **4** *he served his apprenticeship in Scotland:* carry out, perform, do, fulfil, complete, discharge; spend. **5** *serve the soup hot:* dish up/out, give out, distribute; present, provide, supply; eat. **6** *she served another customer:* attend to, deal with, see to; assist, help, look after. **7** *they served him with a writ:* present, deliver, give, hand over. **8** *a saucer serving as an ashtray:* act as, function as, do the work of, be a substitute for. **9** *official forms will serve in most cases:* suffice, be adequate, be good enough, fit/fill the bill, do, answer, be useful, meet requirements, suit.

**service** **noun** **1** *your conditions of service:* work, employment, employ, labour. **2** *he has done us a service:* favour, kindness, good turn, helping hand; (services) assistance, help, aid, offices, ministrations. **3** *he took his car in for a service:* overhaul, maintenance check, servicing. **4** *a marriage service:* ceremony, ritual, rite, observance; liturgy, sacrament; formal ordinance. **5** *a range of local services:* amenity, facility, resource, utility. **6** *soldiers leaving the services:* (armed) forces, armed services, military; army, navy, air force.

• **verb** *the appliances are serviced regularly:*

**overhaul,** check, go over, maintain; repair, mend, recondition.

■ **be of service** help, assist, benefit, be of assistance, be beneficial, serve, be useful, be of use, be valuable; do someone a good turn.

■ **out of service** out of order, broken, broken-down, out of commission, unserviceable, faulty, defective, inoperative, in disrepair; down; informal conked out, bust, kaput, on the blink, acting up, shot; Brit. informal knackered.

**serviceable** **adjective** **1** *a serviceable heating system:* in working order, working, functioning, functional, operational, operative; usable, workable, viable.

**2** *serviceable lace-up shoes:* functional, utilitarian, sensible, practical; hard-wearing, durable, tough, robust.

– OPPOSITES unusable, impractical.

**servile** adjective obsequious, sycophantic, deferential, subservient, fawning, ingratiating, unctuous, grovelling, toadyish, slavish, humble, self-abasing; informal slimy, bootlicking, smarmy, sucky; N. Amer. informal apple-polishing.

– OPPOSITES assertive.

**serving** noun portion, helping, plateful, plate, bowlful; amount, quantity, ration.

**servitude** noun slavery, enslavement, bondage, subjugation, subjection, domination; historical serfdom.

– OPPOSITES liberty.

**session** noun **1** *a special session of the committee: meeting, sitting, assembly, conclave, plenary; hearing; conference, discussion, forum, symposium; Scottish sederunt, diet; N. Amer. & NZ caucus.* **2** *training sessions: period, time, spell, stretch, bout.* **3** *the next college session begins in August: academic year, school year; term, semester; N. Amer. trimester.*

**set**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *Beth set the bag on the table: put (down), place, lay, deposit, position, settle, leave, stand, plant, posit; informal stick, dump, bung, park, plonk, pop; N. Amer. informal plunk.* **2** *the cottage is set on a hill: be situated, be located, lie, stand, be sited, be perched.* **3** *the fence is set in concrete: fix, embed, insert; mount.* **4** *a ring set with precious stones: adorn, ornament, decorate, embellish; literary bejewel.* **5** *I'll go and set the table: lay, prepare, arrange.* **6** *we set them some easy tasks: assign, allocate, give, allot, prescribe.* **7** *just set your mind to it: apply, address, direct, aim, turn, focus, concentrate.* **8** *they set a date for the election: decide on, select, choose, arrange, schedule; fix (on), settle on, determine, designate, name, appoint, specify, stipulate.* **9** *he set his horse towards her: direct, steer, orientate, point, aim, train.* **10** *his jump set a national record: establish, create, institute.* **11** *he set his watch: adjust, regulate, synchronize; calibrate; put right, correct; programme, activate, turn on.* **12** *the adhesive will set in an hour: solidify, harden, stiffen, thicken, gel, gelatinize; cake, congeal, coagulate, clot; freeze, crystallize.* **13** *the sun was setting: go down, sink, dip; vanish, disappear.*

– OPPOSITES melt, rise.

■ **set about** **1** *Mike set about raising £5000: begin, start, commence, go about, get to work on, get down to, embark on, tackle, address oneself to, undertake.* **2** *the youths set about him: attack, assail, assault, hit, strike, beat, thrash, pummel, wallop, tear into, set upon, fall on; informal lay into, lace into, put into, let someone have it, do over, work over, rough up, knock about/around; Brit. informal duff up, have a go at; N. Amer. informal beat up on.*

■ **set someone apart** distinguish, differentiate, mark out, single out, separate, demarcate.

■ **set something apart** isolate, separate, segregate, put to one side.

■ **set something aside** **1** *set aside some money each month: save, put by, put aside, put*

*away, lay by, keep, reserve; store, stockpile, hoard, stow away, cache, withhold; informal salt away, squirrel away, stash away.* **2** *he set aside his cup: put down, cast aside, discard, abandon, dispense with.* **3** *set aside your differences: disregard, put aside, ignore, forget, discount, shrug off, bury.* **4** *the Appeal Court set aside the decision: overrule, overturn, reverse, revoke, countermand, nullify, annul, cancel, quash, dismiss, reject, repudiate; Law disaffirm; formal abrogate.*

■ **set someone/something back** delay, hold up, hold back, slow down/up, retard, check, decelerate; hinder, impede, obstruct, hamper, inhibit, frustrate, thwart.

■ **set something down** **1** *he set down his thoughts: write down, put in writing, jot down, note down, make a note of; record, register, log.* **2** *we set down a code of practice: formulate, draw up, establish, frame; lay down, determine, fix, stipulate, specify, prescribe, impose, ordain.* **3** *I set it down to the fact that he was drunk: attribute, put down, ascribe, assign, chalk up; blame on, impute.*

■ **set someone free** release, free, let go, turn loose, let out, liberate, deliver, emancipate.

■ **set in bad weather** set in: begin, start, arrive, come, develop.

■ **set off** set out, start out, sally forth, leave, depart, embark, set sail; informal hit the road.

■ **set something off** **1** *the bomb was set off: detonate, explode, blow up, touch off, trigger; ignite.* **2** *it set off a wave of protest: give rise to, cause, lead to, set in motion, occasion, bring about, initiate, precipitate, prompt, trigger (off), spark (off), touch off, provoke, incite.* **3** *the blue dress set off her auburn hair: enhance, bring out, emphasize, show off, throw into relief; complement.*

■ **set on/upon** attack, assail, assault, hit, strike, beat, thrash, pummel, wallop, set about, fall on; informal lay into, lace into, let someone have it, get stuck into, work over, rough up, knock about/around; Brit. informal duff up, have a go at; N. Amer. informal beat up on, light into.

■ **set one's heart on** want desperately, wish for, desire, long for, yearn for, hanker after, ache for, hunger for, thirst for, burn for; informal be itching for, be dying for.

■ **set out** **1** *he set out early.* See SET OFF.

**2** *you've done what you set out to achieve: aim, intend, mean, seek; hope, aspire, want.*

■ **set something out** **1** *the gifts were set out on tables: arrange, lay out, put out, array, dispose, display, exhibit.* **2** *they set out some guidelines: present, set forth, detail; state, declare, announce; submit, put forward, advance, propose, propound.*

■ **set someone up** **1** *his father set him up in business: establish, finance, fund, back, subsidize.* **2** (informal) *she set him up for Newley's murder: falsely incriminate, frame, entrap; Brit. informal fit up.*

■ **set something up** **1** *a monument to her memory was set up: erect, put up, construct, build, raise, elevate.* **2** *she set up her own business: establish, start, begin, initiate, institute, found, create.* **3** *we set*

*up a meeting:* arrange, organize, fix (up), schedule, timetable, line up.

**set<sup>2</sup> noun 1** *a set of colour postcards:* group, collection, series; assortment, selection, compendium, batch, number; arrangement, array. **2** *the literary set:* clique, coterie, circle, crowd, group, crew, band, company, ring, camp, fraternity, school, faction, league; informal gang, bunch. **3** *a chemistry set:* kit, apparatus, equipment, outfit. **4** *a set of cutlery:* canteen, box, case. **5** *a set of china:* service. **6** *he's in the bottom set at school:* class, form, group; stream, band. **7** *the set of his shoulders:* posture, position, cast, attitude; bearing, carriage. **8** *a stage set:* scenery, setting, backdrop, flats; mise en scène.

**set<sup>3</sup> adjective 1** *a set routine:* fixed, established, predetermined, hard and fast, prearranged, prescribed, specified, defined; unvarying, unchanging, invariable, unvaried, rigid, inflexible, cast-iron, strict, settled, predictable; routine, standard, customary, regular, usual, habitual, accustomed; literary wanted. **2** *she had set ideas:* inflexible, rigid, fixed, firm, deep-rooted, deep-seated, ingrained, entrenched. **3** *he had a set speech for such occasions:* stock, standard, routine, rehearsed, well worn, formulaic, conventional. **4** *I was all set for the evening:* ready, prepared, organized, equipped, primed; informal geared up, psyched up. **5** *he's set on marrying her:* determined to, intent on, (hell) bent on, resolute about, insistent about. **6** *you were dead set against the idea:* opposed to, averse to, hostile to, resistant to, antipathetic to, unsympathetic to; informal anti.

– OPPOSITES variable, flexible, original, unprepared, uncertain.

**setback noun** problem, difficulty, hitch, complication, upset, disappointment, misfortune, mishap, reversal; blow, stumbling block, hindrance, impediment, obstruction; delay, hold-up; informal glitch, hiccup.

– OPPOSITES breakthrough.

**settee noun** sofa, couch, divan, chaise longue, chesterfield; Brit. put-you-up; N. Amer. davenport, day bed.

**setting noun 1** *a rural setting:* surroundings, position, situation, environment, background, backdrop, milieu, environs, habitat; spot, place, location, locale, site, scene; area, region, district. **2** *a garnet in a gold setting:* mount, fixture, surround.

**settle verb 1** *they settled the dispute:* resolve, sort out, solve, clear up, end, fix, work out, iron out, straighten out, set right, rectify, remedy, reconcile; informal patch up. **2** *she settled their affairs:* put in order, sort out, tidy up, arrange, organize, order, clear up. **3** *they settled on a date for the wedding:* decide on, set, fix, agree on, name, establish, arrange, appoint, designate, assign; choose, select, pick. **4** *she went down to the lobby to settle her bill:* pay, settle up, square, clear, defray. **5** *they settled for a 4.2% pay rise:*

accept, agree to, assent to; formal accede to.

**6** *he settled in London:* make one's home, set up home, take up residence, put down roots, establish oneself; live, move to, emigrate to. **7** *immigrants settled much of Australia:* colonize, occupy, inhabit, people, populate. **8** *Catherine settled down to her work:* apply oneself to, get down to, set about, attack; concentrate on, focus on, devote oneself to. **9** *the class wouldn't settle down:* calm down, quieten down, be quiet, be still; informal shut up. **10** *a brandy will settle your nerves:* calm, quieten, quiet, soothe, pacify, quell; sedate, tranquilize. **11** *he settled into an armchair:* sit down, seat oneself, install oneself, ensconce oneself, plant oneself; informal park oneself, plonk oneself. **12** *a butterfly settled on the flower:* land, come to rest, alight, descend, perch; old use light. **13** *sediment settles at the bottom:* sink, subside, fall, gravitate.

– OPPOSITES agitate, rise.

**settlement noun 1** *a pay settlement:* agreement, deal, arrangement, resolution, bargain, understanding, pact. **2** *the settlement of the dispute:* resolution, settling, solution, reconciliation. **3** *a frontier settlement:* community, colony, outpost, encampment, post; village, commune; historical plantation. **4** *the settlement of the area:* colonization, settling, populating; historical plantation. **5** *the settlement of their debts:* payment, discharge, defrayal, liquidation, clearance.

**settler noun** colonist, colonizer, frontiersman, frontierswoman, pioneer; immigrant, newcomer, incomer; N. Amer. historical homesteader.

– OPPOSITES native.

**set-up noun 1** *a telecommunications set-up:* system, structure, organization, arrangement, framework, layout, configuration. **2** (informal) *a set-up called Film International:* organization, group, body, agency, association, operation; company, firm; informal outfit. **3** (informal) *the whole thing was a set-up:* trick, trap; conspiracy; informal put-up job, frame-up.

**seven** cardinal number septet, septuplets.

#### WORD LINKS

**septuple** consisting of seven parts  
**heptagon** a plane figure with seven sides  
**heptahedron** a solid figure with seven faces  
**heptathlon** a women's athletic event consisting of seven separate events  
**heptad** a group or set of seven

**sever verb 1** *the head was severed from the body:* cut off, chop off, detach, disconnect, dis sever, separate, part; amputate, dock; literary sunder. **2** *a knife had severed the artery:* cut (through), rupture, split, pierce. **3** *they severed diplomatic relations:* break off, discontinue, suspend, end, terminate, cease, dissolve.

– OPPOSITES join, maintain.

**several** adjective **1** *several people:* some, a number of, a few; various, assorted, sundry,



diverse; literary divers. **2** *they sorted out their several responsibilities*: **respective**, individual, own, particular, specific; separate, different, disparate, distinct; various.

**severe** adjective **1** *severe injuries*: **acute**, very bad, serious, grave, critical, dreadful, terrible, awful; dangerous, parlous, life-threatening; formal grievous. **2** *severe storms*: **fierce**, violent, strong, powerful, intense; tempestuous, turbulent. **3** *a severe winter*: **harsh**, bitter, cold, bleak, freezing, icy, arctic, extreme. **4** *a severe headache*: **excruciating**, agonizing, intense, dreadful, awful, terrible, unbearable, intolerable; informal splitting, pounding. **5** *a severe test of their stamina*: **difficult**, demanding, tough, arduous, formidable, exacting, rigorous, punishing, onerous, gruelling. **6** *severe criticism*: **harsh**, scathing, sharp, strong, fierce, savage, scorching, devastating, trenchant, caustic, biting, withering. **7** *severe tax penalties*: **extortionate**, excessive, unreasonable, inordinate, outrageous, sky-high, harsh, stiff; punitive; Brit. swingeing. **8** *they received severe treatment*: **harsh**, stern, hard, inflexible, uncompromising, unrelenting, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, draconian, oppressive, repressive, punitive; brutal, cruel, savage. **9** *his severe expression*: **stern**, dour, grim, forbidding, disapproving, unsmiling, unfriendly, sombre, grave, serious, stony, steely; cold, frosty. **10** *a severe style of architecture*: **plain**, simple, austere, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, stark, spartan, ascetic; clinical, uncluttered. – **OPPOSITES** minor, gentle, mild, easy, lenient, friendly, ornate.

**severely** adjective **1** *he was severely injured*: **badly**, seriously, critically; fatally; formal grievously. **2** *she was severely criticized*: **sharply**, roundly, soundly, fiercely, savagely. **3** *murderers should be treated more severely*: **harshly**, strictly, sternly, rigorously, mercilessly, pitilessly, roughly, sharply; with a rod of iron; brutally, cruelly, savagely. **4** *she looked severely at Harriet*: **sternly**, grimly, dourly, disapprovingly; coldly, frostily. **5** *she dressed severely in black*: **plainly**, simply, austere, starkly.

S

**sew** verb *she sewed the seams of the tunic*: stitch, tack, baste, seam, hem; embroider. ■ **sew something up** **1** *the tear was sewn up*: darn, mend, repair, patch. **2** (informal) *the company sewed up a deal with IBM*: secure, clinch, pull off, bring off, settle, conclude, complete, finalize, tie up; informal swing.

**sewing** noun **stitching**, needlework, needlecraft, fancy-work.

**sex** noun **1** *they talked about sex*: **sexual intercourse**, intercourse, lovemaking, making love, sex act, (sexual) relations; mating, copulation; informal nooky; Brit. informal rumpy pumpy, how's your father; formal fornication; technical coitus, coition; dated carnal knowledge. **2** *teach your children about sex*: **the facts of life**, reproduction; informal the birds and the bees. **3** *adults of both sexes*: **gender**.

■ **have sex** have sexual intercourse, make love, sleep with, go to bed; mate, copulate; seduce, rape; informal do it, go all the way, know in the biblical sense; Brit. informal bonk; N. Amer. informal get it on; euphemistic be intimate; literary ravish; formal fornicate.

**sex appeal** noun **sexiness**, seductiveness, sexual attractiveness, desirability, sensuality, sexuality; informal it, SA.

**sexism** noun **sexual discrimination**, chauvinism, prejudice, bias.

**sexless** adjective **asexual**, non-sexual, neuter; androgynous, epicene.

**sexual** adjective **1** *the sexual organs*: **reproductive**, genital, sex, procreative.

**2** *sexual activity*: **carnal**, erotic; formal venereal; technical coital.

**sexual intercourse** noun. See **SEX** sense 1.

**sexuality** noun **1** *she had a powerful sexuality*: **sexuality**, sexiness, desirability, seductiveness, eroticism, physicality; sexual appetite, passion, desire, lust.

**2** *I'm open about my sexuality*: **sexual orientation**, sexual preference, leaning, persuasion; heterosexuality, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality. **3** *sexuality within holy matrimony*: **sexual activity**, sexual relations, sexual intercourse, sex, procreation.

**sexy** adjective **1** *she's so sexy*: **sexually attractive**, seductive, desirable, alluring, sensual, sultry, slinky, provocative, tempting, tantalizing; nubile, voluptuous, luscious, lush; informal fanciable, beddable; Brit. informal fit; N. Amer. informal foxy, cute; Austral. informal spunky. **2** *sexy videos*: **erotic**, sexually explicit, arousing, exciting, stimulating, hot, titillating, racy, naughty, risqué, adult, X-rated; rude, pornographic, crude, lewd; informal raunchy, steamy, porno, blue, skin.

**3** *they weren't feeling sexy*: (sexually) **aroused**, sexually excited, amorous, lustful, passionate; informal horny, hot, turned on, sexed up; Brit. informal randy. **4** (informal) *a sexy sales promotion*: **exciting**, stimulating, interesting, appealing, intriguing.

**shabby** adjective **1** *a shabby little bar*: **run down**, down at heel, scruffy, dilapidated, ramshackle, tumbledown; seedy, slummy, insalubrious, squalid, sordid; informal crummy, scuzzy, shambly; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal shacky. **2** *a shabby grey coat*: **scruffy**, old, worn out, threadbare, ragged, frayed, tattered, battered, faded, moth-eaten, mangy; informal tatty, ratty, the worse for wear; N. Amer. informal raggedy. **3** *her shabby treatment of Ben*: **contemptible**, despicable, dishonourable, discreditable, mean, low, dirty, hateful, shameful, sorry, ignoble, unfair, unworthy, unkind, shoddy, nasty; informal rotten, low-down; Brit. informal beastly. – **OPPOSITES** smart, honourable.

**shack** noun **hut**, shanty, cabin, lean-to, shed; hovel; Scottish bothy, shieling.

■ **shack up with** (informal) **cohabit**, live with; informal, dated live in sin.

**shackle** verb **1** *he was shackled to the wall*: **chain**, fetter, manacle; secure, tie (up), bind,

tether, hobble; put in chains, clap in irons, handcuff. **2** *journalists were shackled by a new law: restrain, restrict, limit, constrain, handicap, hamstring, hamper, hinder, impede, obstruct, inhibit, check, curb.*

**shackles** plural noun **1** *the men filed through their shackles: chains, fetters, irons, leg irons, manacles, handcuffs; bonds; informal cuffs, bracelets.* **2** *the shackles of bureaucracy: restrictions, restraints, constraints, impediments, hindrances, obstacles, barriers, obstructions, checks, curbs; literary trammels.*

**shade** noun **1** *they sat in the shade: shadow(s), shading(s), shelter, cover; cool.* **2** *shades of blue: colour, hue, tone, tint, tinge.* **3** *shades of meaning: nuance, gradation, degree, difference, variation, variety; nicety, subtlety; undertone, overtone.* **4** *her skirt was a shade too short: a little, a bit, a trace, a touch, a modicum, a tinge; slightly, rather, somewhat; informal a tad, a smidgen.* **5** *the window shade: blind, curtain, screen, cover, covering; awning, canopy.* **6** (informal) *he was wearing shades: sunglasses, dark glasses; Austral. informal sunnies.*

– OPPOSITES light.

• verb **1** *vines shaded the garden: cast a shadow over, shadow, shelter, cover, screen; darken.* **2** *she shaded in the picture: darken, colour in, pencil in, block in, fill in; cross-hatch.* **3** *the sky shaded from turquoise to blue: change, transmute, turn, go; merge, blend.*

■ *put someone/something in the shade* surpass, outshine, outclass, overshadow, eclipse, transcend, cap, top, outstrip, outdo, put to shame, beat, outperform, upstage; informal run rings around, be a cut above, leave standing.

■ *shades of* echoes of, a reminder of, memories of, suggestions of, hints of.

**shadow** noun **1** *he saw her shadow in the doorway: silhouette, outline, shape, contour, profile.* **2** *he emerged from the shadows: shade, darkness, twilight; gloom, murkiness; old use umbrage.* **3** *the shadow of war: (black) cloud, pall; gloom, blight; threat.* **4** *she knew without any shadow of doubt: trace, scrap, shred, crumb, iota, scintilla, jot, whit, grain; informal smidgen, smidge, tad.* **5** *a shadow of a smile: trace, hint, suggestion, suspicion, ghost, glimmer.* **6** *he's a shadow of his former self: inferior version, poor imitation, apology, travesty; remnant.* **7** *the dog became her shadow: constant companion, alter ego, second self; close friend, bosom friend, fidus Achates; informal Siamese twin.*

• verb **1** *the market is shadowed by the church: overshadow, shade; darken, dim.* **2** *he is shadowing a poacher: follow, trail, track, stalk, pursue, hunt; informal tail, keep tabs on.*

**shadowy** adjective **1** *a shadowy corridor: dark, dim, gloomy, murky, crepuscular, shady, shaded; literary tenebrous.* **2** *a shadowy figure: indistinct, hazy, indefinite, vague, nebulous, ill-defined, faint, blurred, blurry, unclear, indistinguishable, unrecognizable;*

*ghostly, spectral, wraithlike.*

– OPPOSITES bright, clear.

**shady** adjective **1** *a shady garden: shaded, shadowy, dim, dark; sheltered, screened, shrouded; leafy; literary bosky, tenebrous.* **2** (informal) *shady deals: suspicious, suspect, questionable, dubious, doubtful, disreputable, untrustworthy, dishonest, dishonourable, devious, underhand, unscrupulous, irregular, unethical; N. Amer. snide; informal fishy, murky; Brit. informal dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.*

– OPPOSITES bright, honest.

**shaft** noun **1** *the shaft of a golf club: pole, shank, stick, rod, staff; handle, hilt, stem.* **2** *the shaft of a feather: quill; Ornithology rachis.* **3** *shafts of sunlight: ray, beam, gleam, streak, finger.* **4** *he directs his shafts against her: cutting remark, barb, jibe, taunt; informal dig.* **5** *a ventilation shaft: mineshaft, tunnel, passage, pit, adit, downcast, upcast; borehole, bore; duct, well, flue, vent.*

**shaggy** adjective *hairy, bushy, thick, woolly; tangled, tousled, unkempt, dishevelled, untidy, matted; formal hirsute.*

– OPPOSITES sleek.

**shake** verb **1** *the whole building shook: vibrate, tremble, quiver, quake, shiver, shudder, judder, jiggle, wobble, rock, sway; convulse.* **2** *she shook the bottle: jiggle, joggle, agitate; informal waggle.* **3** *he shook his stick at them: brandish, wave, flourish, swing, wield; informal waggle.* **4** *the look in his eyes really shook her: upset, distress, disturb, unsettle, disconcert, discompose, disquiet, unnerve, trouble, throw off balance, agitate, fluster; shock, alarm, frighten, scare, worry; informal rattle.* **5** *this will shake their confidence: weaken, undermine, damage, impair, harm; reduce, diminish, decrease.*

– OPPOSITES soothe, strengthen.

• noun **1** *he gave his coat a shake: jiggle, joggle; informal waggle.* **2** *a shake of his fist: flourish, brandish, wave.* **3** *it gives me the shakes: tremors, delirium tremens; informal DTs, jitters, willies, heebie-jeebies, yips; Austral. informal Joe Blakes.*

■ *no great shakes* (informal) not very good, unexceptional, unmemorable, forgettable, uninspired, uninteresting, indifferent, unimpressive, lacklustre; informal nothing to write home about, nothing special, not up to much.

■ *shake someone off* get away from, escape, elude, dodge, lose, leave behind, get rid of, give someone the slip, throw off the scent; Brit. informal get shot of.

■ *shake something off* recover from, get over; get rid of, free oneself from; Brit. informal get shot of; N. Amer. informal shuck off.

■ *shake someone/something up* **1** *the accident shook him up.* See **SHAKE** verb sense 4. **2** *plans to shake up the legal profession:* reorganize, restructure, revolutionize, alter, change, transform, reform, overhaul.

**shake-up** noun (informal) *reorganization, restructuring, reshuffle, change, overhaul, makeover; upheaval; N. Amer. informal shakedown.*

**shaky** adjective **1** *shaky legs*: trembling, shaking, tremulous, quivering, quivery, unsteady, wobbly, weak; tottering, tottery, teetering, dodder; informal trembly. **2** *I feel a bit shaky*: faint, dizzy, light-headed, giddy; weak, wobbly, quivery, groggy, muzzy; informal trembly, woozy. **3** *a shaky table*: unsteady, unstable, wobbly, precarious, rocky, rickety, ramshackle; Brit. informal wonky. **4** *the evidence is shaky*: unreliable, untrustworthy, questionable, dubious, doubtful, tenuous, suspect, flimsy, weak, unsound, unsupported, unsubstantiated, unfounded; informal iffy; Brit. informal doggy.

– OPPOSITES steady, stable, sound.

**shallow** adjective **superficial**, facile, simplistic, oversimplified; flimsy, insubstantial, lightweight, empty, trivial, trifling; surface, skin-deep; frivolous, foolish, silly.

– OPPOSITES profound.

**sham** noun **1** *his tenderness had been a sham*: pretence, fake, act, fiction, simulation, fraud, feint, lie, counterfeit; humbug. **2** *the doctor was a sham*: charlatan, fake, fraud, impostor, pretender; quack, mountebank; informal phoney.

• adjective *sham togetherness*: fake, pretended, feigned, simulated, false, faux, artificial, bogus, insincere, contrived, affected, make-believe, fictitious; imitation, mock, counterfeit, fraudulent; informal pretend, put-on, phoney, pseudo; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

• verb **1** *she shams indifference*: feign, fake, pretend, put on, simulate, affect. **2** *was he ill or just shamming?* pretend, fake, dissemble; malingering; informal put it on; Brit. informal swing the lead.

**shaman** noun witch doctor, medicine man/ woman, healer, kahuna.

**shamble** verb shuffle, drag one's feet, lumber, totter, dodder; hobble, limp.

**shambles** plural noun **1** *we have to sort out this shambles*: chaos, mess, muddle, confusion, disorder, havoc, mare's nest; Brit. informal dog's dinner/breakfast. **2** *the room was a shambles*: mess, pigsty; informal disaster area; Brit. informal tip.

**shambolic** adjective (Brit. informal). See **CHAOTIC**.

**shame** noun **1** *her face was scarlet with shame*: humiliation, mortification, chagrin, ignominy, embarrassment, indignity, abashment, discomfort. **2** *I felt shame at telling a lie*: guilt, remorse, contrition, compunction. **3** *he brought shame on the family*: disgrace, dishonour, discredit, degradation, ignominy, disrepute, infamy, scandal, opprobrium, contempt; dated disesteem. **4** *it's a shame she never married*: pity, misfortune, sad thing; bad luck; informal bummer, crime, sin.

– OPPOSITES pride, honour.

• verb **1** *you shamed your family's name*: disgrace, dishonour, discredit, degrade, debase; stigmatize, taint, sully, tarnish, besmirch, blacken, drag through the mud.

**2** *he was shamed in public*: humiliate, mortify, chagrin, embarrass, abash, chasten, humble, take down a peg or two, cut down to size; informal show up; N. Amer. informal make someone eat crow.

– OPPOSITES honour.

■ **put someone/something to shame** outshine, outclass, eclipse, surpass, excel, outstrip, outdo, put in the shade, upstage; informal run rings around, leave standing; Brit. informal knock spots off.

**shamefaced** adjective ashamed, abashed, sheepish, guilty, conscience-stricken, guilt-ridden, contrite, sorry, remorseful, repentant, penitent, regretful, rueful, apologetic; embarrassed, mortified, red-faced, chagrined, humiliated; informal with one's tail between one's legs.

– OPPOSITES unrepentant.

**shameful** adjective **1** *shameful behaviour*: disgraceful, deplorable, despicable, contemptible, dishonourable, discreditable, reprehensible, low, unworthy, ignoble, shabby; shocking, scandalous, outrageous, abominable, atrocious, appalling, vile, odious, heinous, egregious, loathsome, bad; inexcusable, unforgivable; informal low-down, hateful. **2** *a shameful secret*: embarrassing, mortifying, humiliating, degrading, ignominious.

– OPPOSITES admirable.

**shameless** adjective **flagrant**, blatant, barefaced, overt, brazen, brash, audacious, outrageous, undisguised, unconcealed, transparent; immodest, indecorous; unabashed, unashamed, unblushing, unrepentant.

– OPPOSITES modest.

**shanty** noun shack, hut, cabin, lean-to, shed; hovel; Scottish bothy, shieling.

**shape** noun **1** *the shape of the dining table*: form, appearance, configuration, formation, structure; figure, build, physique, body; contours, lines, outline, silhouette, profile. **2** *a spirit in the shape of a fox*: guise, likeness, semblance, form, appearance, image. **3** *you're in pretty good shape*: condition, health, trim, fettle, order; Brit. informal nick.

• verb **1** *the metal is shaped into tools*: form, fashion, make, mould, model, cast; sculpt, sculpture, carve, cut, whittle. **2** *attitudes were shaped by his report*: determine, form, fashion, mould, define, develop; influence, affect.

■ **shape up 1** *her work is shaping up nicely*: improve, get better, progress, show promise; develop, take shape, come on, come along.

**2** *a regime to help you shape up*: get fit, get into shape, tone up; slim, lose weight.

■ **take shape** become clear, become definite, become tangible, crystallize, come together, fall into place.

**shapeless** adjective **1** *shapeless lumps*: formless, amorphous, unformed, indefinite. **2** *a shapeless dress*: baggy, saggy, ill-fitting, sack-like, oversized, unshapely, formless.

**shapely** adjective well proportioned,



clean-limbed, curvaceous, voluptuous, full-figured, Junoesque; attractive, sexy; informal curvy; old use comely.

**shard** *noun* *her share of the profits*: portion, part, division, quota, quantum, allowance, ration, allocation, measure, due; percentage, commission, dividend; helping, serving; informal cut, slice, rake-off; Brit. informal whack, divvy.

• **verb** **1** *we share the bills*: split, divide, go halves on; informal go fifty-fifty, go Dutch. **2** *they shared out the peanuts*: apportion, divide up, allocate, portion out, ration out, parcel out, measure out; carve up; Brit. informal divvy up. **3** *we all share in the learning process*: participate in, take part in, play a part in, be involved in, contribute to, have a hand in, partake in.

**sharp** *adjective* **1** *a sharp knife*: keen, razor-edged; sharpened, honed. **2** *a sharp pain*: excruciating, agonizing, intense, stabbing, shooting, severe, acute, keen, fierce, searing; exquisite. **3** *a sharp taste*: tangy, piquant, strong; acidic, acid, sour, tart, pungent, acrid, bitter, acidulous. **4** *a sharp cry of pain*: loud, piercing, shrill, high-pitched, penetrating, harsh, strident, ear-splitting, deafening. **5** *a sharp wind*: cold, chilly, chill, brisk, keen, penetrating, biting, icy, bitter, freezing, raw; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **6** *sharp words*: harsh, bitter, cutting, scathing, caustic, barbed, trenchant, acrimonious, acerbic, sarcastic, sardonic, spiteful, venomous, malicious, vitriolic, vicious, hurtful, nasty, cruel, abrasive; informal bitchy, catty. **7** *a sharp sense of loss*: intense, acute, keen, strong, bitter, fierce, heartfelt, overwhelming. **8** *her nose is sharp*: pointed, tapering, tapered; spiky; informal pointy. **9** *the lens brings it into sharp focus*: distinct, clear, crisp; stark, obvious, marked, definite, pronounced. **10** *a sharp increase*: sudden, abrupt, rapid; steep, precipitous. **11** *a sharp corner*: hairpin, tight. **12** *a sharp drop*: steep, sheer, abrupt, precipitous, vertical. **13** *sharp eyes*: keen, perceptive, observant, acute, beady, hawklike. **14** *she was sharp and witty*: perceptive, percipient, perspicacious, incisive, sensitive, keen, acute, quick-witted, clever, shrewd, canny, astute, intelligent, intuitive, bright, alert, smart, quick off the mark, insightful, knowing; informal on the ball, quick on the uptake, savvy; Brit. informal suss; Scottish & N. English informal pawky; N. Amer. informal heads-up. **15** (informal) *a sharp suit*: smart, stylish, fashionable, chic, modish, elegant; informal trendy, cool, snazzy, classy, flash, snappy, natty, nifty; N. Amer. informal fly, spiffy.

– **OPPOSITES** blunt, mild, sweet, soft, kind, rounded, indistinct, gradual, slow, weak, stupid, naive, untidy.

• **adverb** **1** *nine o'clock sharp*: precisely, exactly, on the dot; promptly, prompt, punctually, dead on; informal on the nose; N. Amer. informal on the button. **2** *the recession*

*pulled people up sharp*: abruptly, suddenly, sharply, unexpectedly.

– **OPPOSITES** roughly.

**sharpen** *verb* **1** *sharpen the carving knife*: hone, whet, strop, grind, file. **2** *the players are sharpening up their skills*: improve, brush up, polish up, better, enhance; hone, fine-tune, perfect.

**sharp-eyed** *adjective* observant, perceptive, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, keen-eyed, gimlet-eyed; watchful, vigilant, alert, on the lookout; informal beady-eyed.

**shatter** *verb* **1** *the glasses shattered*: smash, break, splinter, crack, fracture, fragment, disintegrate; informal bust. **2** *the announcement shattered their hopes*: destroy, wreck, ruin, dash, crush, devastate, demolish, torpedo, scotch; informal put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, put paid to; Brit. informal scupper. **3** *we were shattered by the news*: devastate, shock, stun, daze, traumatize, crush, distress; informal knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

**shattered** *adjective* **1** *he was shattered by the reviews*: devastated, shocked, stunned, dazed, traumatized, crushed; heartbroken. **2** (informal) *I feel too shattered to move*. See EXHAUSTED sense 1.

– **OPPOSITES** thrilled.

**shave** *verb* **1** *he shaved his beard*: cut off, snip off; crop, trim, barber. **2** *shave off excess wood*: plane, pare, whittle, scrape. **3** *shave parmesan over the top*: grate, shred. **4** *he shaved the MP's majority to 2,000*: reduce, cut, lessen, decrease, pare down, shrink, slim down. **5** *his shot shaved the post*: graze, brush, touch, glance off, kiss.

**sheaf** *noun* bundle, bunch, stack, pile, heap, mass; Brit. informal wedge.

**sheath** *noun* **1** *put the sword in its sheath*: scabbard, case. **2** *the wire has a plastic sheath*: covering, cover, case, casing, envelope, sleeve, wrapper, capsule. **3** *a contraceptive sheath*. See CONDOM.

**shed<sup>1</sup>** *noun* *the rabbit lives in the shed*: hut, lean-to, outhouse, outbuilding; shack; potting shed, woodshed; Brit. lock-up.

**shed<sup>2</sup>** *verb* **1** *the trees shed their leaves*: drop, scatter, spill. **2** *the caterpillar shed its skin*: slough off, cast off, moult; technical exuviate. **3** *we shed our jackets*: take off, remove, shrug off, discard, doff, climb out of, slip out of, divest oneself of; Brit. informal peel off. **4** *much blood has been shed*: spill, discharge. **5** *the firm is to shed ten workers*: make redundant, dismiss, let go, discharge, get rid of, discard; informal sack, fire. **6** *they must shed their illusions*: discard, get rid of, dispose of, do away with, drop, abandon, jettison, scrap, cast aside, dump, reject, repudiate; informal ditch, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of. **7** *the moon shed a watery light*: cast, radiate, diffuse, disperse, give out.

– **OPPOSITES** don, hire, keep.

■ **shed tears** weep, cry, sob; lament, grieve, mourn; Scottish greet; informal blub, blubber, boohoo.

**sheen** *noun* shine, lustre, gloss, patina,

shininess, burnish, polish, shimmer, brilliance, radiance.

**sheep** noun ram, ewe, lamb, wether, tup; Austral. informal jumbuck, woolly.

#### WORD LINKS

**ovine** relating to sheep  
**bellwether** the leading sheep of a flock  
**shearling** a sheep that has been shorn once  
**shepherd** a person who looks after sheep  
**lanolin** a fatty substance found on sheep's fleeces, used to make ointments  
**mutton** the flesh of mature sheep used as food  
**scrapie** a disease of sheep which affects the central nervous system

**sheepish** adjective embarrassed, uncomfortable, hangdog, self-conscious; shamefaced, ashamed, abashed, mortified, chastened, remorseful, contrite, apologetic, rueful, regretful, penitent, repentant.

**sheer**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *the sheer audacity of the plan*: utter, complete, absolute, total, pure, downright, out-and-out, arrant, thorough, thoroughgoing, patent, veritable, unmitigated, plain; Austral./NZ informal fair. **2** *a sheer drop*: precipitous, steep, vertical, perpendicular, abrupt, bluff, sharp. **3** *a sheer dress*: diaphanous, gauzy, filmy, floaty, gossamer, thin, translucent, transparent, see-through, insubstantial.

– OPPOSITES gradual, thick.

**sheer**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *the boat sheered off along the coast*: swerve, veer, slew, skew, swing, change course. **2** *her mind sheered away from his image*: turn away, flinch, recoil, shy away; avoid.

**sheet** noun **1** *she changed the sheets*: bedlinen, linen, bedclothes. **2** *a sheet of ice*: layer, stratum, covering, blanket, coating, coat, film, skin. **3** *a sheet of glass*: pane, panel, piece, plate; slab. **4** *she put a fresh sheet in the typewriter*: piece of paper, leaf, page, folio. **5** *a sheet of water*: expanse, area, stretch, sweep.

**shelf** noun **1** *the plant on the shelf*: ledge, sill, bracket, rack; mantelpiece; shelving. **2** *the waters above the shelf*: sandbank, sandbar, bank, bar, reef, shoal.

■ **on the shelf** unmarried, single, unattached; lonely, unloved, neglected.

**shell** noun **1** *a crab shell*: carapace, exterior; armour; Zoology exoskeleton. **2** *peanut shells*: pod, husk, hull, casing, case, covering, integument; N. Amer. shuck. **3** *shells passing overhead*: projectile, bomb, explosive; grenade; bullet, cartridge. **4** *the metal shell of the car*: framework, frame, chassis, skeleton; hull, exterior.

● **verb 1** *they were shelling peas*: hull, pod, husk; N. Amer. shuck. **2** *rebel artillery shelled the city*: bombard, fire on, shoot at, attack, bomb, blitz, strafe.

#### WORD LINKS

**crustacean** an animal with a hard outer shell  
**mollusc** an animal with a soft body, often with an external shell

**bivalve** a mollusc with a hinged shell, such as an oyster or mussel

**conchology** the scientific study of shells  
**scrimshaw** decorative work consisting of shells with carved designs

**shellfish** noun crustacean, bivalve, mollusc.

**shelter** noun **1** *the trees provide shelter for animals*: protection, cover, screening, shade; safety, security, refuge, sanctuary, asylum.

**2** *a shelter for abandoned cats*: sanctuary, refuge, home, haven, safe house; harbour, port in a storm.

– OPPOSITES exposure.

● **verb 1** *the hut sheltered him from the wind*: protect, shield, screen, cover, shade, save, safeguard, preserve, defend, cushion, guard, insulate. **2** *the anchorage where the convoy sheltered*: take shelter, take refuge, seek sanctuary, take cover; informal hole up.

– OPPOSITES expose.

**sheltered** adjective **1** *a sheltered stretch of water*: protected, screened, shielded, covered; shady; cosy. **2** *she led a sheltered life*: secluded, cloistered, isolated, protected, withdrawn, sequestered, reclusive; secure, privileged, safe, quiet.

**shelve** verb **postpone**, put off, delay, defer, put back, reschedule, hold over/off, put to one side, suspend, stay, keep in abeyance, mothball; abandon, drop, give up, stop, cancel, jettison, axe; N. Amer. put over, table; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, ditch, dump, junk.

**shepherd** noun *he worked as a shepherd*: shepherdess, herdsman, herder, sheepman.

● **verb** *we shepherded them away*: usher, steer, herd, lead, take, escort, guide, conduct, marshal, walk; show, see, chaperone.

**shield** noun **1** *he used his shield to fend off blows*: Heraldry escutcheon; historical buckler, target; old use targe. **2** *a shield against dirt*: protection, guard, defence, cover, screen, security, shelter, safeguard, protector.

● **verb** *he shielded his eyes*: protect, cover, screen, shade; save, safeguard, preserve, defend, secure, guard; cushion, insulate.

– OPPOSITES expose.

**shift** verb **1** *he shifted some chairs*: move, carry, transfer, transport, convey, lug, haul, fetch, switch, relocate, reposition, rearrange; informal cart. **2** *she shifted her position*: change, alter, adjust, vary; modify, revise, reverse, retract; do a U-turn. **3** *the cargo has shifted*: move, slide, slip, be displaced. **4** *the wind shifted*: veer, alter, change, turn, swing round. **5** (Brit.) *this brush really shifts the dirt*: get rid of, remove, get off, budge, lift, expunge.

– OPPOSITES keep.

● **noun 1** *the southward shift of people*: movement, move, transference, transport, transposition, relocation. **2** *a shift in public opinion*: change, alteration, adjustment, amendment, variation, modification, revision, reversal, retraction, U-turn; Brit. about-turn. **3** *they worked three shifts*: stint, stretch, spell of work. **4** *the night shift went*

*home*: workers, crew, gang, team, squad, patrol. **5** (old use) *dubious shifts to make money*: stratagem, scheme, subterfuge, expedient, dodge, trick, ruse, wile, strategy, device, plan.

■ **shift for oneself** cope, manage, survive, make it, fend for oneself, take care of oneself, make do, get by/along, scrape by/along, muddle through; stand on one's own two feet; informal make out.

**shiftless** adjective *lazy, idle, indolent, slothful, lethargic, lackadaisical; spiritless, apathetic, feckless, good-for-nothing, worthless; unambitious, unenterprising.*

**shifty** adjective (informal) *devious, evasive, slippery, duplicitous, false, deceitful, underhand, untrustworthy, dishonest, shady, wily, crafty, tricky, sneaky, sly, treacherous, artful, scheming; N. Amer. snide; Brit. informal dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.*

— OPPOSITES honest.

**shilly-shally** verb *dither, be indecisive, be irresolute, vacillate, waver, hesitate, blow hot and cold, falter, drag one's feet; Brit. haver, hum and haw; Scottish swither; informal dilly-dally.*

**shimmer** verb *the lake shimmered*: glint, glisten, twinkle, sparkle, flash, scintillate, gleam, glow, glimmer, glitter, wink; literary coruscate.

• **noun** *the shimmer of lights from the traffic*: glint, twinkle, sparkle, flash, gleam, glow, glimmer, lustre, glitter; literary coruscation.

**shin** verb *climb, clamber, scramble, swarm, shoot, go; mount, ascend, scale; descend; N. Amer. skinny.*

**shine** verb **1** *the sun shone*: emit light, beam, radiate, gleam, glow, glint, glimmer, sparkle, twinkle, glitter, glisten, shimmer, flash, flare, glare, fluoresce, luminesce; literary glister, coruscate. **2** *she shone his shoes*: polish, burnish, buff, wax, gloss, rub up. **3** *they shone at university*: excel, be outstanding, be brilliant, be successful, stand out.

• **noun** **1** *the shine of the moon on her face*: light, brightness, gleam, glow, glint, glimmer, sparkle, twinkle, glitter, glisten, shimmer, beam, glare, radiance, illumination, luminescence, luminosity, incandescence. **2** *linseed oil restores the shine*: polish, burnish, gleam, gloss, lustre, sheen, patina.

**shining** adjective **1** *a shining expanse of water*: gleaming, bright, brilliant, illuminated, lustrous, glowing, glinting, sparkling, twinkling, glittering, glistening, shimmering, dazzling, luminous, luminescent, incandescent; literary glistering, coruscating. **2** *a shining face*: glowing, beaming, radiant, happy. **3** *shining chrome tubes*: shiny, bright, polished, gleaming, glossy, glassy, sheeny, lustrous.

**shiny** adjective *glossy, glassy, bright, polished, gleaming, satiny, sheeny, lustrous.*

— OPPOSITES matt.

**ship** noun *boat, vessel, craft.*

#### WORD LINKS

**marine, maritime, nautical, naval** relating to ships or sailing

**fleet, flotilla** a group of ships sailing together

**port** the left-hand side of a ship, when one is facing forward

**starboard** the right-hand side of a ship, when one is facing forward

**chandler** a dealer in supplies and equipment for ships

**stevedore** a person employed to load and unload ships

**dock, quay, wharf** a place where ships may moor, load, and unload

**bill of lading** a full list of a ship's cargo

**manifest** a full list of a ship's contents, cargo, crew, and passengers

**scupper, scuttle** sink a ship deliberately

**shirk** verb **1** *she didn't shirk any task*: evade, dodge, avoid, get out of, sidestep, shrink from, shun, slide out of, skip, miss; neglect; informal duck (out of), cop out of; Brit. informal skive off; N. Amer. informal cut; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove. **2** *no one shirked*: avoid one's duty, be remiss, be negligent, play truant; Brit. informal skive (off), swing the lead, scrimshank, slack off; N. Amer. informal goof off, play hookey.

**shirker** noun *dodger, truant, absentee, layabout, loafer, idler; informal slacker; Brit. informal skiver, scrimshanker; old use shirk.*

**shiver**<sup>1</sup> verb *she was shivering with fear*: tremble, quiver, shake, shudder, quaver, quake.

• **noun** *she gave a shiver as the door opened*: tremble, quiver, shake, shudder, quaver, quake, tremor, twitch.

**shiver**<sup>2</sup> noun *a shiver of glass*: splinter, sliver, shard, fragment, chip, shaving, smithereen, particle, bit, piece.

• **verb** *the window shivered into thousands of pieces*: shatter, splinter, smash, fragment, crack, break.

**shivery** adjective *trembling, trembly, quivery, shaky, shuddering, shuddery, quavery, quaking; cold, chilly.*

**shoal** noun *sandbank, bank, mudbank, bar, sandbar, tombolo, shelf, cay.*

**shock**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the news came as a shock*: blow, upset, disturbance; surprise, revelation, a bolt from the blue, thunderbolt, bombshell, rude awakening; informal eye-opener, whammy. **2** *you gave me a shock*: fright, scare, jolt, start; informal turn. **3** *she was suffering from shock*: trauma, traumatism, prostration; collapse, breakdown. **4** *the first shock of the earthquake*: vibration, reverberation, shake, jolt, jar, jerk; impact, blow.

• **verb** *the murder shocked the nation*: appal, horrify, outrage, revolt, disgust, nauseate, sicken; traumatize, distress, upset, disturb, disquiet, unsettle; stun, rock, stagger, astound, astonish, amaze, startle, surprise, dumbfound, shake, take aback, throw, unnerve.



**shock**<sup>2</sup> noun *a shock of red hair*: mass, mane, mop, thatch, head, crop, bush, frizz, tangle, cascade, halo.

**shocking** adjective **appalling**, horrifying, horrific, dreadful, awful, frightful, terrible; scandalous, outrageous, disgraceful, vile, abominable, abhorrent, atrocious; odious, repugnant, disgusting, nauseating, sickening, loathsome; distressing, upsetting, disturbing, disquieting, unsettling; staggering, amazing, astonishing, startling, surprising.

**shoddy** adjective **1 shoddy goods**: poor-quality, inferior, second-rate, third-rate, cheap, cheapjack, trashy, jerry-built; informal tacky, rubbishy, junky; Brit. informal duff, rubbish. **2 shoddy workmanship**: careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, scrappy, crude; negligent.

– OPPOSITES quality, careful.

**shoemaker** noun **cobbler**, bootmaker, clogger; Scottish & N. English souter.

**shoot** verb **1 they shot him in the street**: **gun** down, mow down, hit, wound, injure; pick off, bag, fell, kill; informal pot, blast, pump full of lead, plug. **2 they shot at the enemy**: fire, open fire, aim, snipe, let fly; bombard, shell. **3 faster than a gun can shoot bullets**: discharge, fire, launch, loose off, let fly, emit. **4 a car shot past**: race, speed, flash, dash, dart, rush, hurtle, streak, whizz, go like lightning, go hell for leather, zoom, charge; career, sweep, fly, wing; informal belt, scoot, scorch, tear, zip, whip, burn rubber; Brit. informal bomb, bucket, shift; N. Amer. informal clip, hightail it, barrel. **5 the plant failed to shoot**: sprout, bud, burgeon, germinate. **6 the film was shot in Tunisia**: film, photograph, take, snap, capture, record; televise, video.

• noun *nip off the new shoots*: sprout, bud, offshoot, scion, sucker, spear, runner, tendril, sprig.

**shop** noun **1 a shop selling clothes**: store, (retail) outlet, boutique, cash and carry, emporium, department store, supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, chain store, concession, market, mart, trading post; N. Amer. minimart. **2 he works in the machine shop**: workshop, workshop, plant, factory, works, industrial unit, mill, foundry, yard. • verb **1 he was shopping for spices**: go shopping; buy, purchase, get, stock up on; humorous indulge in retail therapy. **2 (Brit. informal) he shopped his fellow robbers**. See BETRAY sense 1.

**shopkeeper** noun **shop-owner**, shop manager, vendor, retailer, dealer, seller, trader, wholesaler, salesperson, tradesman, distributor; N. Amer. storekeeper.

**shopper** noun **buyer**, purchaser, customer, consumer, client, patron; law vendee.

**shopping centre** noun **shopping precinct**, (shopping) mall, (shopping) arcade, Galleria, parade; marketplace, mart; N. Amer. plaza.

**shore**<sup>1</sup> noun *he swam out from the shore*: seashore, beach, foreshore, sand(s), shoreline, waterside, front, coast, seaboard,

littoral; literary strand.

**shore**<sup>2</sup> verb *we had to shore up the building*: prop up, hold up, bolster, support, brace, buttress, strengthen, fortify, reinforce, underpin.

**short** adjective **1 a short piece of string**: small, little, tiny; informal teeny. **2 short people**: small, little, petite, tiny, diminutive, stubby, elfin, dwarfish, midget, pygmy, Lilliputian, minuscule, miniature; Scottish wee; informal pint-sized, teeny, knee-high to a grasshopper. **3 a short report**: concise, brief, succinct, compact, summary, economical, crisp, pithy, epigrammatic, laconic, thumbnail, abridged, abbreviated, condensed, synoptic, summarized, contracted, truncated; formal compendious.

**4 a short time**: brief, momentary, temporary, short-lived, impermanent, cursory, fleeting, passing, fugitive, lightning, transitory, transient, ephemeral, quick. **5 money is a bit short**: scarce, in short supply, scant, meagre, sparse, insufficient, deficient, inadequate, lacking, wanting. **6 he was rather short with her**: curt, sharp, abrupt, blunt, brusque, terse, offhand, gruff, surly, testy, rude, uncivil; informal snappy.

– OPPOSITES long, tall, plentiful, courteous.

• adverb *she stopped short*: abruptly, suddenly, sharply, all of a sudden, all at once, unexpectedly, without warning, out of the blue.

■ **in short** briefly, in a word, in a nutshell, in precis, in essence, to come to the point; in conclusion, in summary, to sum up.

■ **short of 1 we are short of nurses**: deficient in, lacking, wanting, in need of, low on, short on, missing; informal strapped for, pushed for, minus. **2 short of searching everyone, there is nothing we can do**: apart from, other than, aside from, besides, except (for), excepting, without, excluding, not counting, save (for).

**shortage** noun scarcity, sparseness, sparsity, dearth, paucity, poverty, insufficiency, deficiency, inadequacy, famine, lack, want, deficit, shortfall, rarity.

– OPPOSITES abundance.

**shortcoming** noun defect, fault, flaw, imperfection, deficiency, limitation, failing, drawback, weakness, weak point, foible, frailty, vice.

– OPPOSITES strength.

**shorten** verb **make shorter**, abbreviate, abridge, condense, precis, synopsisize, contract, compress, reduce, shrink, diminish, cut (down); dock, trim, crop, pare down, prune; curtail, truncate.

– OPPOSITES extend.

**short-lived** adjective brief, short, momentary, temporary, impermanent, cursory, fleeting, passing, fugitive, lightning, transitory, transient, ephemeral, quick.

**shortly** adverb **1 she will be with you shortly**: soon, presently, in a little while, at any moment, in a minute, in next to no time, before long, by and by; N. Amer. momentarily;

informal anon, any time now, pretty soon, before one can say Jack Robinson, in a jiffy; Brit. informal in a mo, sharpish; dated directly.

**2** 'I know,' he replied *shortly*: **curtly**, sharply, abruptly, bluntly, brusquely, tersely, gruffly, snappily, testily, rudely.

**short-sighted** adjective **1** *I'm a little short-sighted*: **myopic**, nearsighted; informal as blind as a bat. **2** *short-sighted critics*: **narrow-minded**, unimaginative, improvident, small-minded, insular, parochial, provincial.

– **OPPOSITES** long-sighted, imaginative.

**short-staffed** adjective **understaffed**, short-handed, undermanned, below strength.

**short-tempered** adjective **irritable**, irascible, hot-tempered, quick-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile; cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy, prickly, choleric; informal snappy, chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse; Brit. informal narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal soreheaded.

– **OPPOSITES** placid.

**shot**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a shot rang out*: report of a gun, crack, bang, blast; (**shots**) gunfire. **2** *the cannon have run out of shot*: **bullets**, cannonballs, pellets, ammunition. **3** *a winning shot*: **stroke**, hit, strike; kick, throw, pitch, lob. **4** *Mike was an excellent shot*: **marksman**, markswoman, shooter. **5** *a shot of us on holiday*: **photograph**, photo, snap, snapshot, picture, print, slide, still; Brit. enprint. **6** (informal) *it's nice to get a shot at driving*: **attempt**, try; turn, chance, opportunity; informal go, stab, crack, bash; formal essay. **7** *tetanus shots*: **injection**, inoculation, immunization, vaccination, booster; informal jab.

■ **a shot in the arm** (informal) boost, fillip, tonic, stimulus, spur, impetus, encouragement.

■ **a shot in the dark** (wild) guess, surmise, supposition, conjecture, speculation.

■ **like a shot** (informal) without hesitation, unhesitatingly, eagerly, enthusiastically; immediately, at once, right away/now, straight away, instantly, instantaneously, without delay; informal in/like a flash, before one can say Jack Robinson.

■ **not by a long shot** by no (manner of) means, not at all, in no way, certainly not, absolutely not, definitely not; Brit. not by a long chalk.

**shot**<sup>2</sup> adjective *shot silk*: **variegated**, mottled; multicoloured, varicoloured; iridescent, opalescent.

**shoulder** verb **1** *Britain shouldered the primary responsibility*: **take on (oneself)**, undertake, accept, assume; bear, carry. **2** *another lad shouldered him aside*: **push**, shove, thrust, jostle, force, bulldoze, bundle. ■ **give someone the cold shoulder** snub, shun, cold-shoulder, ignore, cut (dead), rebuff, spurn, ostracize; informal give someone the brush-off, freeze out; Brit. informal send to Coventry.

**shout** verb 'Help,' he *shouted*: **yell**, cry (out),

call (out), roar, howl, bellow, bawl, call at the top of one's voice, clamour, shriek, scream; raise one's voice, vociferate; informal holler.

– **OPPOSITES** whisper.

• noun *a shout of pain*: **yell**, cry, call, roar, howl, bellow, bawl, clamour, vociferation, shriek, scream; informal holler.

**shove** verb **1** *she shoved him back into the chair*: **push**, thrust, propel, drive, force, ram, knock, elbow, shoulder; jostle, bundle, hustle, manhandle. **2** *she shoved past him*: **push (one's way)**, force one's way, barge (one's way), elbow (one's way), shoulder one's way.

• noun *a hefty shove*: **push**, thrust, bump, jolt.

**shovel** noun *a pick and shovel*: **spade**; Austral./NZ banjo.

• verb *shovelling snow*: **scoop (up)**, dig, excavate.

**show** verb **1** *the stitches do not show*: **be visible**, be seen, be in view, be obvious. **2** *he wouldn't show the picture*: **display**, exhibit, put on show/display, put on view, parade, uncover, reveal. **3** *Frank showed his frustration*: **manifest**, exhibit, reveal, convey, communicate, make known; express, proclaim, make plain, make obvious, disclose, betray; formal evince. **4** *I'll show you how to make a daisy chain*: **demonstrate**, explain, describe, illustrate; teach, instruct, give instructions. **5** *recent events show this to be true*: **prove**, demonstrate, confirm, show beyond doubt; substantiate, corroborate, verify, establish, attest, certify, testify, bear out; formal evince. **6** *a young woman showed them to their seats*: **escort**, accompany, take, conduct, lead, usher, guide, direct, steer, shepherd. **7** (informal) *they never showed*: **appear**, arrive, come, get here/there, put in an appearance, materialize, turn up; informal show up.

– **OPPOSITES** conceal.

• noun **1** *a spectacular show of bluebells*: **display**, array, exhibition, presentation, exposition, spectacle. **2** *the motor show*: **exhibition**, exposition, fair, extravaganza, spectacle; N. Amer. exhibit. **3** *they took in a show*: (**theatrical**) **performance**, musical, play. **4** *she's only doing it for show*: **appearance**, display, impression, ostentation, image. **5** *Drew made a show of looking busy*: **pretence**, outward appearance, (false) front, guise, semblance, pose, parade. **6** (informal) *I don't run the show*: **undertaking**, affair, operation, proceedings, enterprise, business, venture.

■ **show off** (informal) behave affectedly, put on airs, put on an act, swagger around, swank, strut, strike an attitude, posture; draw attention to oneself; N. Amer. informal cop an attitude.

■ **show something off** display, show to advantage, exhibit, demonstrate, parade, draw attention to, flaunt.

■ **show up** **1** *cancers show up on X-rays*: **be visible**, be obvious, be seen, be revealed. **2** (informal) *only two waitresses showed up*. See **SHOW** verb sense 7.

■ **show someone/something up** **1** *the sun showed up the shabbiness of the room:* expose, reveal, make visible, make obvious, highlight. **2** (informal) *they showed him up in front of his friends.* See **HUMILIATE**.

**showdown** **noun** confrontation, clash, face-off.

**shower** **noun** **1** *a shower of rain:* (light) fall, drizzle, sprinkling, mizzle. **2** *a shower of arrows:* volley, hail, salvo, bombardment, barrage, fusillade, cannonade. **3** *a shower of awards:* avalanche, deluge, flood, spate, flurry; profusion, abundance, plethora. • **verb** **1** *confetti showered down on us:* rain, fall, hail. **2** *she showered them with gifts:* deluge, flood, inundate, swamp, engulf; overwhelm, overload, snow under. **3** *showering honours on his cronies:* lavish, heap, bestow freely.

**showing** **noun** **1** *another showing of the series:* presentation, broadcast, airing, televising. **2** *the party's present showing:* performance, (track) record, results, success, achievement.

**showman** **noun** **1** *a travelling showman:* impresario, stage manager; ringmaster, host, compère, master of ceremonies, MC; presenter; N. Amer. informal emcee. **2** *he is a great showman:* entertainer, performer, virtuoso.

**show-off** **noun** (informal) exhibitionist, extrovert, poser, poseur, peacock, swaggerer, self-publicist; informal pseud.

**showy** **adjective** ostentatious, conspicuous, pretentious, flamboyant, gaudy, garish, brash, vulgar, loud, extravagant, fancy, ornate, over-elaborate, kitsch; informal flashy, flashy, bling-bling, glitzy, ritzy, swanky; N. Amer. informal superfly.

– **OPPOSITES** restrained.

**shred** **noun** **1** *her dress was torn to shreds:* tatter, scrap, strip, ribbon, rag, fragment, sliver, (tiny) bit/piece. **2** *not a shred of evidence:* scrap, bit, speck, iota, particle, ounce, whit, jot, crumb, morsel, fragment, grain, drop, trace, scintilla, spot; informal smidgen.

• **verb** *shredding vegetables:* chop finely, cut up, tear up, grate, mince, macerate, grind.

**shrew** **noun** virago, dragon, termagant, fishwife, witch, tartar, hag; informal battleaxe, old bag, old bat; old use scold.

**shrewd** **adjective** astute, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, acute, intelligent, clever, canny, perceptive, perspicacious, sagacious, wise; informal on the ball, savvy; N. Amer. informal heads-up; formal sapient.

– **OPPOSITES** stupid.

**shrewdness** **noun** astuteness, sharp-wittedness, acuteness, acumen, acuity, intelligence, cleverness, wit, caniness, common sense, discernment, insight, understanding, perception, perceptiveness, perspicacity, perspicaciousness, discrimination, sagacity, sageness; informal nous, horse sense, savvy; formal sapience.

**shrewish** **adjective** bad-tempered, quarrelsome, spiteful, sharp-tongued, scolding, nagging; venomous, rancorous.

**shriek** **verb** *she shrieked with laughter:* scream, screech, squeal, squawk, roar, howl, shout, yelp; informal holler. • **noun** *a shriek of laughter:* scream, screech, squeal, squawk, roar, howl, shout, yelp; informal holler.

**shrill** **adjective** high-pitched, piercing, high, sharp, ear-piercing, ear-splitting, penetrating, screeching, shrieking, screechy.

**shrine** **noun** **1** *the shrine of St James:* holy place, temple, church, chapel, tabernacle, sanctuary, sanctum. **2** *a shrine to the Beatles:* memorial, monument.

**shrink** **verb** **1** *the number of competitors shrank:* get smaller, become/grow smaller, contract, diminish, lessen, reduce, decrease, dwindle, decline, fall off, drop off. **2** *he shrank back against the wall:* draw back, recoil, back away, retreat, withdraw, cringe, cower, quail. **3** *he doesn't shrink from naming names:* recoil, shy away, demur, flinch, have scruples, have misgivings, have qualms, be loath, be reluctant, be unwilling, be averse, fight shy of, be hesitant, be afraid, hesitate, balk at; old use disrelish something.

– **OPPOSITES** expand, increase.

**shrivel** **verb** wither, shrink; wilt; dry up, desiccate, dehydrate, parch, frazzle.

**shroud** **noun** **1** *the Turin Shroud:* winding sheet; historical ceremonies. **2** *a shroud of mist | a shroud of secrecy:* covering, cover, cloak, mantle, blanket, layer, cloud, veil.

• **verb** *a mist shrouded the jetties:* cover, envelop, veil, cloak, blanket, screen, conceal, hide, mask, obscure; literary enshroud.

**shrug** **verb**

■ **shrug something off** disregard, dismiss, take no notice of, ignore, pay no heed to, play down, make light of.

**shudder** **verb** *she shuddered at the thought:* shake, shiver, tremble, quiver, vibrate, palpitate.

• **noun** *a shudder racked his body:* shake, shiver, tremor, tremble, trembling, quiver, quivering, vibration, palpitation.

**shuffle** **verb** **1** *they shuffled along the passage:* shamble, drag one's feet, totter, dodder. **2** *she shuffled her feet:* scrape, drag, scuffle, scuff. **3** *he shuffled the cards:* mix (up), mingle, rearrange, jumble.

**shun** **verb** avoid, evade, eschew, steer clear of, shy away from, fight shy of, keep one's distance from, give a wide berth to, have nothing to do with; snub, give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder, ignore, cut (dead), look right through; reject, rebuff, spurn, ostracize; informal give someone the brush-off, freeze out, stiff-arm; Brit. informal send to Coventry; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush.

**shut** **verb** *please shut the door:* close, pull/push to, slam, fasten; put the lid on, bar, lock, secure.

– **OPPOSITES** open, unlock.



■ **shut down** cease activity, close (down), cease operating, cease trading, be shut (down); informal fold.

■ **shut someone/something in** confine, enclose, impound, shut up, pen (in/up), fence in, immure, lock up/in, cage, imprison, intern, incarcerate; N. Amer. corral.

■ **shut someone/something out** 1 *he shut me out of the house*: lock out, keep out, refuse entrance to. 2 *she shut out the memories*: block, suppress. 3 *the bamboo shut out the light*: keep out, block out, screen, veil.

■ **shut up** (informal) be quiet, keep quiet, hold one's tongue, keep one's lips sealed; stop talking, quieten (down); informal keep mum, button it, cut the cackle, shut it, shut your face/mouth/trap, belt up, put a sock in it, give it a rest; Brit. informal shut your gob; N. Amer. informal save it.

■ **shut someone/something up** 1 *I haven't shut the hens up yet*. See **SHUT SOMEONE/SOMETHING IN**. 2 (informal) *that should shut them up*: quieten (down), silence, hush, shush, quiet, gag, muzzle.

**shuttle** verb ply, run, commute, go/travel back and forth, go/travel to and fro; ferry.

**shy**<sup>1</sup> adjective *I was painfully shy*: bashful, diffident, timid, sheepish, reserved, reticent, introverted, retiring, self-effacing, withdrawn, timorous, mousy, nervous, insecure, unconfident, inhibited, repressed, self-conscious, embarrassed.

— OPPOSITES confident.

■ **shy away from** flinch, demur, recoil, hang back, have scruples, have misgivings, have qualms, be chary, be diffident, be bashful, fight shy, be coy; be loath, be reluctant, be unwilling, be disinclined, be hesitant, hesitate, balk at; informal boggle at; old use disrelish.

**shy**<sup>2</sup> verb (dated) *they began shying stones*: throw, toss, fling, hurl, cast, lob, launch, pitch; informal chuck, heave, sling, bung.

**shyness** noun bashfulness, diffidence, sheepishness, reserve, reservedness, introversion, reticence, timidity, timidity, timorousness, mousiness, lack of confidence, inhibitedness, self-consciousness, embarrassment, coyness, demureness.

**sibling** noun brother, sister; Zoology sib.

**sick** adjective 1 *the children are sick*: ill, unwell, poorly, ailing, indisposed, not oneself; Brit. off colour; informal laid up, under the weather; Austral./NZ informal crook. 2 *he was feeling sick*: nauseous, nauseated, queasy, bilious, green about the gills; seasick, carsick, airsick, travel-sick; informal about to throw up. 3 (informal) *we're sick about the plans*: disappointed, depressed, dejected, despondent, downcast, unhappy; angry, cross, annoyed, displeased, disgruntled; informal fed up; Brit. informal cheesed off. 4 *I'm sick of this music*: bored, tired, weary; informal fed up. 5 (informal) *a sick joke*: macabre, black, ghoulish, morbid, perverted, gruesome, sadistic, cruel.

— OPPOSITES well.

■ **be sick** (Brit.) vomit, retch, heave, gag;

informal throw up, chunder, chuck up, hurl, spew, keck; Brit. informal honk; N. Amer. informal spit up, barf, upchuck, toss one's cookies.

**sicken** verb 1 *the stench sickened him*: turn someone's stomach, revolt, disgust; informal make someone want to throw up; N. Amer. informal gross out. 2 *she sickened and died*: become ill, fall ill, be taken ill/sick, catch something. 3 *I'm sickening for something*: become ill with, fall ill with, be taken ill with, show symptoms of, develop, come down with; Brit. go down with; N. Amer. informal take sick with.

**sickening** adjective nauseating, stomach-turning, stomach-churning, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, repellent, repugnant, appalling, obnoxious, nauseous, vile, nasty, foul, loathsome, offensive, objectionable, off-putting, distasteful, obscene, gruesome, grisly; N. Amer. vomitous; informal gross; formal rebarbative; old use disgusting.

**sickly** adjective 1 *a sickly child*: unhealthy, in poor health, delicate, frail, weak. 2 *sickly faces*: pale, wan, pasty, sallow, pallid, ashen, anaemic. 3 *a sickly green*: insipid, pale, light, light-coloured, washed out, faded. 4 *sickly love songs*: sentimental, mawkish, cloying, mushy, slushy, sugary, syrupy, saccharine; informal schmaltzy, weepy, lovey-dovey, corny; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy, hokey, three-hankie.

— OPPOSITES healthy.

**sickness** noun 1 *she was absent through sickness*: illness, disease, ailment, complaint, infection, malady, infirmity, indisposition; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy; Austral. informal wog. 2 *a wave of sickness*: nausea, biliousness, queasiness. 3 *he suffered sickness and diarrhoea*: vomiting, retching, gagging; travel-sickness, seasickness, carsickness, airsickness, motion sickness; informal throwing up, puking.

**side** noun 1 *the side of the road*: edge, border, verge, boundary, margin, fringe(s), flank, bank, perimeter, extremity, periphery, (outer) limit, limits, bounds; literary marge, bourn. 2 *the wrong side of the road*: half, part; carriageway, lane. 3 *the east side of the city*: district, quarter, area, region, part, neighbourhood, sector, section, zone, ward. 4 *one side of the paper*: surface, face, plane. 5 *his side of the argument*: point of view, viewpoint, perspective, opinion, way of thinking, standpoint, position, outlook, slant, angle. 6 *the losing side in the war*: faction, camp, bloc, party, wing. 7 *the players in their side*: team, squad, line-up. 8 (Brit. informal) *there's absolutely no side about her*. See **AFFECTATION** sense 1.

— OPPOSITES centre, end.

• **adjective** 1 *elaborate side pieces*: lateral, wing, flanking. 2 *a side issue*: subordinate, lesser, lower-level, secondary, minor, peripheral, incidental, ancillary, subsidiary, of little account, extraneous.

— OPPOSITES front, central.

• **verb** *siding with the underdog*. See **TAKE SOMEONE'S SIDE**.

■ **side by side** **1** *they cycled along side by side*: alongside (each other), beside each other, abreast, shoulder to shoulder, close together. **2** *most transactions proceed side by side*: at (one and) the same time, simultaneously, contemporaneously.

■ **take someone's side** support, take someone's part, side with, be on someone's side, stand by, back, give someone one's backing, be loyal to, defend, champion, ally (oneself) with, sympathize with, favour.

## WORD LINKS

lateral relating to the side or sides

**sideline** noun *he founded the company as a sideline*: secondary occupation, second job; hobby, leisure activity/pursuit, recreation.

■ **on the sidelines** without taking part, without getting involved.

**sidelong** adjective *a sidelong glance*: indirect, oblique, sideways, sideward; surreptitious, furtive, covert, sly.

– OPPOSITES overt.

• **adverb** *he looked sidelong at her*: indirectly, obliquely, sideways, out of the corner of one's eye; surreptitiously, furtively, covertly, slyly.

**side-splitting** adjective (informal). See **FUNNY** sense 1.

**sidestep** verb avoid, evade, dodge, circumvent, skirt round, bypass; informal duck.

**sidetrack** verb distract, divert, deflect, draw away.

**sideways** adverb **1** *I slid off sideways*: to the side, laterally. **2** *the expansion slots are mounted sideways*: edgewise, sideways, side first, edgewise, end on. **3** *he looked sideways at her*. See **SIDELONG** adverb.

• **adjective** **1** *sideways force*: lateral, sideward, on the side, side to side. **2** *a sideways look*. See **SIDELONG** adjective.

**sidle** verb creep, sneak, slink, slip, slide, steal, edge, inch, move furtively.

**siege** noun blockade, encirclement; old use investment.

S

**siesta** noun afternoon sleep, nap, catnap, doze, rest; informal snooze, lie-down, forty winks; Brit. informal kip, zizz.

**sieve** noun *use a sieve to strain the mixture*: strainer, sifter, filter, riddle, screen.

• **verb** **1** *sieve the mixture into a bowl*: strain, sift, screen, filter, riddle; old use bolt. **2** *the coins were sieved from the ash*: separate out, filter out, sift, sort out, divide, segregate, extract.

**sift** verb **1** *sift the flour into a large bowl*: sieve, strain, screen, filter, riddle; old use bolt. **2** *we sift out unsuitable applications*: separate out, filter out, sort out, put to one side, weed out, get rid of, remove.

**3** *investigators are sifting through the wreckage*: search through, look through, examine, inspect, scrutinize, pore over, investigate, analyse, dissect, review.

**sign** verb **1** *she sighed with relief*: breathe out, exhale; groan, moan. **2** *the wind sighed*

*in the trees*: rustle, whisper, murmur, sigh. **3** *he sighed for days gone by*: yearn, long, pine, ache, grieve, cry for/over, weep for/over, rue, miss, mourn, lament, hanker for/after.

**sight** noun **1** *she has excellent sight*: eyesight, vision, eyes, faculty of sight, visual perception. **2** *her first sight of it*: view, glimpse, glance, look. **3** *within sight of the enemy*: range of vision, field of vision, view. **4** (dated) *we are all equal in the sight of God*: perception, judgement, belief, opinion, point of view, view, viewpoint, mind, perspective, standpoint. **5** *historic sights*: landmark, place of interest, monument, spectacle, view, marvel, wonder. **6** (informal) *I must look a sight*: eyesore, spectacle, mess; informal fright.

• **verb** *one of the helicopters sighted wreckage*: glimpse, catch/get a glimpse of, catch sight of, see, spot, spy, notice, observe; literary espy, descry.

■ **catch sight of** glimpse, catch/get a glimpse of, see, spot, spy, make out, pick out, sight, have sight of; literary espy, descry.

■ **set one's sights on** aspire to, aim at/for, try for, strive for/towards, work towards.

## WORD LINKS

**optic, optical, visual** relating to sight or vision

**optometry** the occupation of measuring eyesight

**myopia** short-sightedness

**presbyopia** long-sightedness

**nyctalopia** abnormal inability to see in very dim light

**sightseer** noun **1** *sightseers to the city*: tourist, visitor, tripper, holidaymaker; Brit. informal grockle. **2** *gawping sightseers*: busybody, gawker; informal rubberneck; Brit. informal gawper.

**sign** noun **1** *a sign of affection*: indication, signal, symptom, pointer, suggestion, intimation, mark, manifestation, demonstration, token, evidence. **2** *a sign of things to come*: portent, omen, warning, forewarning, augury, presage; promise, threat. **3** *at his sign the soldiers followed*: gesture, signal, wave, gesticulation, cue, nod. **4** *signs saying 'keep out'*: notice, signpost, warning sign, road sign, traffic sign. **5** *the dancers were daubed with signs*: symbol, mark, cipher, letter, character, figure, hieroglyph, ideogram, rune, sigil, emblem, device, logo.

• **verb** **1** *he signed the letter*: write one's name on, autograph, endorse, initial, countersign; formal subscribe. **2** *the government signed the agreement*: endorse, validate, certify, authenticate, sanction, authorize; agree to, approve, ratify, adopt; informal give something the go-ahead, give something the green light, give something the thumbs up. **3** *he signed his name*: write, inscribe, pen. **4** *we have signed a new player*: recruit, hire, engage, employ, take on, appoint, sign on/up, enlist. **5** *she signed to Susan to leave*: gesture, signal, give a sign to,

motion; wave, beckon, nod.

■ **sign on/up** enlist, take a job, join (up), enrol, register, volunteer.

■ **sign someone on/up.** See **sign** verb sense 4.

■ **sign something over** transfer, make over, hand over, bequeath, pass on, transmit, cede; Law devolve, convey.

**signal**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *a signal to stop: gesture, sign, wave, gesticulation, cue, indication, warning, motion.* **2** *a clear signal that the company is in trouble: indication, sign, symptom, hint, pointer, intimation, clue, demonstration, evidence, proof.* **3** *the encroaching dark is a signal for people to emerge: cue, prompt, impetus, stimulus; informal go-ahead.*

• **verb** **1** *the driver signalled to her to cross: gesture, sign, give a sign to, direct, motion; wave, beckon, nod.* **2** *they signalled displeasure by refusing to cooperate: indicate, show, express, communicate, proclaim, declare.* **3** *his death signals the end of an era: mark, signify, mean, be a sign of, be evidence of, herald; literary betoken, foretoken.*

**signal**<sup>2</sup> **adjective** *a signal failure: notable, noteworthy, remarkable, striking, glaring, significant, momentous, memorable, unforgettable, obvious, special, extraordinary, exceptional, conspicuous.*

**significance** **noun** **1** *a matter of considerable significance: importance, import, consequence, seriousness, gravity, weight, magnitude, momentousness; formal moment.* **2** *the significance of his remarks: meaning, sense, signification, import, thrust, drift, gist, implication, message, essence, substance, point.*

**significant** **adjective** **1** *a significant increase: notable, noteworthy, worthy of attention, remarkable, important, of importance, of consequence; serious, crucial, weighty, momentous, uncommon, unusual, rare, extraordinary, exceptional, special; formal of moment.* **2** *a significant look: meaningful, expressive, eloquent, suggestive, knowing, telling.*

**significantly** **adverb** **1** *results are significantly better: notably, remarkably, outstandingly, importantly, crucially, materially, appreciably; markedly, considerably, obviously, conspicuously, strikingly, signally.* **2** *he paused significantly: meaningfully, expressively, eloquently, revealingly, suggestively, knowingly.*

**signify** **verb** **1** *this signified a fundamental change: be evidence of, be a sign of, mark, signal, mean, spell, be symptomatic of, herald, indicate; literary betoken.* **2** *the egg signifies life: mean, denote, designate, represent, symbolize, stand for; literary betoken.* **3** *signify your agreement by signing below: express, indicate, show, proclaim, declare.* **4** *the locked door doesn't signify: mean anything, be of importance, be important, be significant, be of significance, be of account, count, matter, be relevant.*

**silence** **noun** **1** *the silence of the night:*

*quietness, quiet, quietude, still, stillness, hush, tranquillity, noiselessness, soundlessness, peacefulness, peace (and quiet).* **2** *she was reduced to silence: speechlessness, wordlessness, dumbness, muteness, taciturnity.* **3** *the politicians continue to keep their silence: secretiveness, secrecy, reticence, taciturnity, uncommunicativeness.*

– **OPPOSITES** sound.

• **verb** **1** *he silenced her with a kiss: quieten, quiet, hush, shush; gag, muzzle, censor.* **2** *silencing outside noises: muffle, deaden, soften, mute, smother, dampen, damp down, mask, suppress, reduce.* **3** *this would silence their complaints: stop, put an end to, put a stop to.*

**silent** **adjective** **1** *the night was silent: completely quiet, still, hushed, inaudible, noiseless, soundless.* **2** *the right to remain silent: speechless, quiet, unspeaking, dumb, mute, taciturn, uncommunicative, tight-lipped; informal mum.* **3** *silent thanks: unspoken, wordless, unsaid, unexpressed, unvoiced, tacit, implicit, understood.*

– **OPPOSITES** audible, noisy.

**silently** **adverb** **1** *Nancy crept silently up the stairs: quietly, inaudibly, noiselessly, soundlessly, in silence.* **2** *they drove on silently: without a word, saying nothing, in silence.* **3** *I silently said goodbye: without words, wordlessly, in one's head, tacitly, implicitly.*

– **OPPOSITES** audibly, out loud.

**silhouette** **noun** *the silhouette of the dome: outline, contour(s), profile, form, shape, figure, shadow.*

• **verb** *the castle was silhouetted against the sky: outline, delineate, define; stand out.*

**silky** **adjective** *smooth, soft, sleek, fine, glossy, satiny, silken.*

**silly** **adjective** **1** *don't be so silly: foolish, stupid, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, mindless, witless, imbecilic, doltish; imprudent, thoughtless, rash, reckless, foolhardy, irresponsible; mad, feather-brained, scatterbrained; frivolous, giddy, inane, immature, childish, puerile, empty-headed; informal crazy, dotty, scatty, loopy, screwy, thick, thickheaded, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, dippy, blockheaded, boneheaded, lamebrained; Brit. informal daft, divvy; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded; dated tom-fool.* **2** *that was a silly thing to do: unwise, imprudent, thoughtless, foolish, stupid, idiotic, senseless, mindless; rash, reckless, foolhardy, irresponsible, injudicious, misguided, irrational; informal crazy; Brit. informal daft.* **3** *he would brood about silly things: trivial, trifling, frivolous, footling, petty, small, insignificant, unimportant; informal piffling, piddling; N. Amer. informal small-bore.* **4** *he drank himself silly: senseless, insensible, unconscious, stupid, into a stupor.*

– **OPPOSITES** sensible.

**silt** **noun** *the flooding brought more silt:*



sediment, deposit, alluvium, mud.

• verb *the harbour had silted up*: become blocked, become clogged, fill up (with silt).

**silver** noun **1** *freshly polished silver*:

**silverware**, (silver) plate; cutlery. **2** *a handful of silver*: coins, coinage, specie; (small) change, loose change. **3** *she won three silvers*: silver medal, second prize.

• adjective **1** *silver hair*: grey, greyish, white. **2** *the silver water*: silvery, shining, lustrous, gleaming; literary argent.

**similar** adjective **1** *you two are very similar*:

alike, (much) the same, indistinguishable, almost identical, homogeneous; informal much of a muchness. **2** *northern India and similar areas*: comparable, like, corresponding, homogeneous, equivalent, analogous. **3** *other parts were similar to Wales*: like, much the same as, comparable to.

– OPPOSITES different, unlike.

■ **be similar** to resemble, look like, have the appearance of.

**similarity** noun resemblance, likeness, sameness, similitude, comparability, correspondence, parallel, equivalence, homogeneity, indistinguishability, uniformity; old use semblance.

**similarly** adverb likewise, in similar fashion, in like manner, comparably, correspondingly, uniformly, indistinguishably, analogously, homogeneously, equivalently, in the same way, the same, identically.

**similitude** noun. See **SIMILARITY**.

**simmer** verb **1** *the soup was simmering on the stove*: boil gently, cook gently, bubble. **2** *she was simmering with resentment*: be furious, be enraged, be angry, be incensed, be infuriated, seethe, fume, smoulder; informal be steamed up, be hot under the collar.

■ **simmer down** become less angry, cool off/ down, be placated, control oneself, become calmer, calm down, become quieter, quieten down.

**simper** verb smile affectedly, smile coquettishly, look coy.

**simple** adjective **1** *it's really pretty simple*:

straightforward, easy, uncomplicated, uninvolved, effortless, painless, undemanding, elementary, child's play; informal as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, as easy as ABC, a piece of cake, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a pushover, money for old rope, kids' stuff, a breeze, a walk in the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy, a doss; N. Amer. informal duck soup, a snap; Austral./NZ informal a bludge, a snack. **2** *simple language*: clear, plain, straightforward, intelligible, comprehensible, uncomplicated, in words of one syllable, accessible; informal user-friendly. **3** *a simple white blouse*: plain, unadorned, undecorated, unembellished, unornamented, unelaborate, basic, unsophisticated, no-frills; classic, understated, uncluttered, restrained. **4** *the simple truth*: candid, frank, honest, sincere, plain, absolute, unqualified, bald, stark, unadorned, unvarnished, unembellished. **5** *simple country people*: unpretentious,

unsophisticated, ordinary, unaffected, unassuming, natural, honest-to-goodness; N. Amer. cracker-barrel. **6** *simple chemical substances*: non-compound, non-complex, uncombined, unblended, unalloyed, pure, single. **7** *he's a bit simple*: of low intelligence, simple-minded, unintelligent, backward.

– OPPOSITES difficult, complex, fancy, compound.

**simpleton** noun. See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**simplicity** noun **1** *the simplicity of the recipes*: straightforwardness, ease, easiness, simpleness, effortlessness. **2** *the simplicity of the language*: clarity, clearness, plainness, simpleness, intelligibility, comprehensibility, understandability, straightforwardness, accessibility. **3** *the building's simplicity*: plainness, lack/absence of adornment, lack/absence of decoration, austerity, sparseness, clean lines. **4** *the simplicity of their lifestyle*: unpretentiousness, ordinariness, lack of sophistication, lack of affectation, naturalness.

**simplify** verb make simple/simpler, make easy/easier to understand, make plainer, clarify, make more comprehensible/intelligible; paraphrase, put in words of one syllable.

– OPPOSITES complicate.

**simplicistic** adjective facile, superficial, oversimple, oversimplified; shallow, jejune, naive; N. Amer. informal dime-store.

**simply** adverb **1** *he spoke simply and forcefully*: straightforwardly, directly, clearly, plainly, intelligibly, lucidly, unambiguously. **2** *she was dressed simply*: plainly, without adornment, without decoration, without ornament/ornamentation, soberly, unfussily, unelaborately, classically. **3** *they lived simply*: unpretentiously, modestly, quietly. **4** *they are welcomed simply because they have plenty of money*: merely, just, purely, solely, only. **5** *Mrs Marks was simply livid*: utterly, absolutely, completely, positively, really; informal plain. **6** *it's simply the best thing ever written*: without doubt, unquestionably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, certainly, categorically.

**simulate** verb **1** *they simulated pleasure*: feign, pretend, fake, sham, affect, put on, give the appearance of. **2** *simulating conditions in space*: imitate, reproduce, replicate, duplicate, mimic.

**simulated** adjective **1** *simulated fear*: feigned, fake, mock, affected, sham, insincere, false, bogus; informal pretend, put-on, phoney. **2** *simulated leather*: artificial, imitation, fake, faux, mock, synthetic, man-made, ersatz.

– OPPOSITES real.

**simultaneous** adjective concurrent, contemporaneous, happening at the same time, concomitant, coinciding, coincident, synchronous, synchronized.

**simultaneously** adverb at (one and) the

same time, at the same instant/moment, at once, concurrently, concomitantly; (all) together, in unison, in concert, in chorus.

**sin** **noun** **1** *a sin in the eyes of God*: immoral act, wrong, wrongdoing, act of evil/wickedness, transgression, crime, offence, misdeed, misdemeanour; old use trespass. **2** *the human capacity for sin*: wickedness, wrongdoing, wrong, evil, evildoing, sinfulness, immorality, iniquity, vice, crime. **3** (informal) *wasting money—it's a sin*: scandal, crime, disgrace, outrage.

– OPPOSITES virtue.

• **verb** *I have sinned*: commit a sin, commit an offence, transgress, do wrong, commit a crime, break the law, misbehave, go astray; old use trespass.

#### WORD LINKS

**venial** referring to a sin that will not deprive the soul of God's grace

**mortal** referring to a sin depriving the soul of God's grace

**penitent** a person who repents their sins  
**absolution, remission** formal forgiveness of a person's sins

**prelapsarian** before the Fall of Man, when humans lapsed into a state of sin

**perdition** a state of eternal damnation into which a sinful person who has not repented passes after death

**sincere** **adjective** **1** *our sincere gratitude*: heartfelt, wholehearted, profound, deep; genuine, real, unfeigned, unaffected, true, honest, bona fide. **2** *a sincere person*: honest, genuine, truthful, un hypocritical, straightforward, direct, frank, candid; informal straight, upfront, on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

**sincerely** **adverb** *genuinely*, honestly, really, truly, truthfully, wholeheartedly, earnestly, fervently.

**sincerity** **noun** *honesty*, genuineness, truthfulness, integrity, probity, trustworthiness; straightforwardness, openness, candour, candidness.

**sinecure** **noun** *easy job*, soft option; informal cushy number, money for old rope, picnic, doddle, cinch; Austral. informal bludge.

**sinewy** **adjective** *muscular*, muscly, brawny, powerfully built, burly, strapping, sturdy, rugged, strong, powerful, athletic, muscle-bound; informal hunky, beefy; dated stalwart; literary thewy.

– OPPOSITES puny.

**sinful** **adjective** **1** *sinful conduct*: immoral, wicked, (morally) wrong, wrongful, evil, bad, iniquitous, corrupt, criminal, nefarious, depraved, degenerate; rare peccable. **2** *a sinful waste of money*: reprehensible, scandalous, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, criminal.

– OPPOSITES virtuous.

**sinfulness** **noun** *immorality*, wickedness, sin, wrongdoing, evil, evildoing, iniquitousness, corruption, depravity, degeneracy, vice; formal turpitude; rare peccability.

– OPPOSITES virtue.

**sing** **verb** **1** *Miguelito began to sing*: croon, carol, trill, troll, chant, intone, chorus.

**2** *the birds were singing*: warble, trill, chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep. **3** *he sang out a greeting*: call (out), cry (out), shout, yell; informal holler.

**singe** **verb** *scorch*, burn, sear, char.

**singer** **noun** *vocalist*, soloist, songster, songstress, cantor.

**single** **adjective** **1** *a single red rose*: one (only), sole, lone, solitary, by itself/oneself, unaccompanied, alone. **2** *she wrote down every single word*: individual, separate, distinct, particular. **3** *is she single?*

*unmarried*, unwed, unwedded, unattached, free, a bachelor, a spinster; old use sole.

– OPPOSITES double, married.

■ **single someone/something out** select, pick out, choose, decide on; target, earmark, mark out, separate out, set apart/aside.

**single-handed** **adverb** *by oneself*, alone, on one's own, solo, unaided, unassisted, without help.

**single-minded** **adjective** *determined*, committed, unswerving, unwavering, resolute, purposeful, devoted, dedicated, uncompromising, tireless, tenacious, persistent, indefatigable, dogged; formal pertinacious.

– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**singly** **adverb** *one by one*, one at a time, one after the other, individually, separately, by oneself, on one's own.

– OPPOSITES together.

**singular** **adjective** **1** *the gallery's singular capacity to attract sponsors*: remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, outstanding, signal, notable, noteworthy; rare, unique, unparalleled, unprecedented, amazing, astonishing, phenomenal, astounding; informal fantastic, terrific. **2** *why was Betty behaving in so singular a fashion?* strange, unusual, odd, peculiar, funny, curious, extraordinary, bizarre, eccentric, weird, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, unconventional, out of the ordinary, untypical, puzzling, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable.

**singularity** **noun** **1** *the singularity of their concerns*: uniqueness, distinctiveness. **2** *his singularities*: idiosyncrasy, quirk, foible, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity.

**singularly** **adverb**. See EXTREMELY.

**sinister** **adjective** **1** *there was a sinister undertone in his words*: menacing, threatening, ominous, forbidding, baleful, frightening, alarming, disturbing, disquieting, dark, black; formal minatory; literary direful. **2** *a sinister motive*: evil, wicked, criminal, corrupt, nefarious, villainous, base, vile, malevolent, malicious; informal shady.

– OPPOSITES innocent.

**sink** **verb** **1** *the coffin sank below the waves*: become submerged, be engulfed, go down, drop, fall, descend. **2** *the cruise liner sank*

yesterday: **funder**, go under, submerge.

**3** *they sank their ships*: **scuttle**, send to the bottom; Brit. **scupper**. **4** *the announcement sank hopes of a recovery*: **destroy**, ruin, wreck, put an end to, demolish, smash, shatter, dash; informal put the kibosh on, put paid to; Brit. informal **scupper**; old use bring to naught. **5** *they agreed to sink their differences*: **ignore**, overlook, disregard, forget, put aside, set aside, bury. **6** *I sank myself in student life*: **immerse**, plunge, lose, bury. **7** *the plane sank towards the airstrip*: **descend**, drop, go down/downwards. **8** *the sun was sinking*: **set**, go down/downwards. **9** *Loretta sank into an armchair*: **lower oneself**, flop, collapse, drop down, slump; informal **plonk oneself**. **10** *her voice sank to a whisper*: **fall**, drop, become/get quieter, become/get softer. **11** *she would never sink to your level*: **stoop**, lower oneself, descend. **12** *he was sinking fast*: **deteriorate**, decline, go downhill, fade, grow weak, flag, waste away; be at death's door, be on one's deathbed, be slipping away; informal be on one's last legs, be giving up the ghost. **13** *sink the pots into the ground*: **embed**, insert, drive, plant. **14** *sinking a gold mine*: **dig**, excavate, bore, drill. **15** (informal) *he sank five pints of lager*: **drink**, quaff; informal down, knock back, polish off; N. Amer. informal **chug**, scarf down. **16** *they sank their life savings in the company*: **invest**, venture, risk.

— OPPOSITES float, rise.

• **noun** *he washed himself at the sink*: **basin**, washbasin, handbasin; dated **lavabo**.

■ **sink** in register, be understood, be comprehended, be grasped, get through.

**sinless** adjective **innocent**, pure, virtuous, as pure as the driven snow, uncorrupted, faultless, blameless, guiltless, immaculate.

— OPPOSITES wicked.

**sinner** noun **wrongdoer**, evildoer, transgressor, miscreant, offender, criminal; old use trespasser.

**sinuous** adjective **1** *a sinuous river*: **winding**, windy, serpentine, curving, twisting, meandering, snaking, zigzag, curling, coiling. **2** *sinuous grace*: **lithe**, supple, agile, graceful, loose-limbed, limber, lissom.

**sip** verb *Amanda sipped her coffee*: **drink** (slowly); dated sup.

• **noun** *a sip of whisky*: **mouthful**, swallow, drink, drop, dram, nip; informal **swig**; dated sup.

**siren** noun **1** *an air-raid siren*: **alarm**, warning bell, danger signal; old use **tocsin**. **2** *the siren's allure*: **seductress**, temptress, femme fatale; flirt, coquette; informal **mantrap**, vamp.

**sissy** (informal) noun *he's a real sissy*. See **DRIP** noun sense 2.

• **adjective** *don't be so sissy*: **cowardly**, weak, feeble, spineless, effeminate, effete, unmanly; informal **wet**, **weedy**, **wimpish**, **wimpy**.

**sister** noun **1** *I have two sisters*: **sibling**.

**2** *our European sisters*: **comrade**, partner, colleague. **3** *the sisters in the convent*: **nun**, novice, abbess, prioress.

## WORD LINKS

**sororal** relating to a sister  
**fratricide** the killing of one's sister or brother

**sit** verb **1** *you'd better sit down*: **take a seat**, **seat oneself**, be seated, perch, ensconce oneself, plump oneself, flop; informal take the load/weight off one's feet, **plonk oneself**; Brit. informal take a pew. **2** *she sat the package on the table*: **put (down)**, place, set (down), lay, deposit, rest, stand; informal stick, bung, dump, park, plonk. **3** *the chapel sat about 3,000 people*: **hold**, seat, have seats for, have space/room for, accommodate. **4** *she sat for Picasso*: **pose**, model. **5** *a hotel sitting on the bank of the River Dee*: **be situated**, be located, be sited, stand. **6** *the committee sits on Saturday*: **be in session**, meet, be convened. **7** *women jurists sit on the tribunal*: **serve on**, have a seat on, be a member of. **8** *his shyness doesn't sit easily with Hollywood tradition*: **be harmonious**, go, fit in, harmonize. **9** *Mrs Hillman will sit for us*: **babysit**, **childmind**.

— OPPOSITES stand.

■ **sit back** relax, unwind, lie back; informal let it all hang out, chill out, cool out, veg out; N. Amer. informal **hang loose**.

■ **sit in for** stand in for, fill in for, cover for, substitute for, deputize for; informal sub for.

■ **sit in on** attend, be present at, be an observer at, observe; N. Amer. audit.

■ **sit tight** (informal) **1** *just sit tight*: stay put, wait there, remain in one's place. **2** *we're advising our clients to sit tight*: take no action, wait, hold back, bide one's time; informal hold one's horses.

**site** noun *the site of the battle*: **location**, place, position, situation, locality, whereabouts; technical locus.

• **verb** *bins sited at police stations*: **place**, put, position, situate, locate.

**sitting** noun *all-night sittings*: session, meeting, assembly; hearing.

• **adjective** *a sitting position*: **sedentary**, seated.

— OPPOSITES standing.

**sitting room** noun **living room**, lounge, front room, drawing room, reception room, family room; dated parlour.

**situate** verb **locate**, site, position, place, station, build.

**situation** noun **1** *their financial situation*: circumstances, (state of) affairs, state, condition. **2** *I'll fill you in on the situation*: the facts, how things stand, the lie of the land, what's going on; Brit. the state of play; N. Amer. the lay of the land; informal the score. **3** *the hotel's pleasant situation*: **location**, position, spot, site, setting, environment; technical locus. **4** *he was offered a situation in America*: **job**, post, position, appointment; employment; old use **employ**.

**SIX** cardinal number sextet, sextuplets.

## WORD LINKS

**sextuple** consisting of six parts  
**hexagon** a plane figure with six sides



**hexahedron** a solid figure with six faces  
**hexad** a group or set of six  
**hexameter** a line of verse with six metrical feet

**size** *noun* *the room was of medium size:*  
**dimensions**, measurements, proportions, magnitude, largeness, bigness, area, expanse; breadth, width, length, height, depth; immensity, hugeness, vastness.  
 • *verb* *the drills are sized in millimetres:* sort, categorize, classify.  
 ■ **size someone/something up** (informal) assess, appraise, form an estimate of, take the measure of, judge, take stock of, evaluate; Brit. informal suss out.

**sizeable** *adjective* fairly large, substantial, considerable, respectable, significant, largish, biggish, goodly.  
 – **OPPOSITES** small.

**sizzle** *verb* crackle, frizzle, sputter, spit.

**sizzling** *adjective* (informal) **1** *sizzling temperatures: extremely hot*, unbearably hot, blazing, burning, scorching, sweltering; N. Amer. broiling; informal boiling (hot), baking (hot). **2** *a sizzling affair:* passionate, torrid, ardent, lustful, erotic; informal steamy, hot.  
 – **OPPOSITES** freezing.

**skeadaddle** *verb* (informal). See **RUN** verb sense 2.

**skeletal** *adjective* **1** *a skeletal man:* emaciated, very thin, as thin as a rake, cadaverous, skin and bone, skinny, bony, gaunt; informal anorexic. **2** *a skeletal account:* lacking in detail, incomplete, outline, fragmentary, sketchy; thumbnail.  
 – **OPPOSITES** fat, detailed.

**skeleton** *noun* **1** *the human skeleton:* bones. **2** *she was no more than a skeleton:* skin and bone; informal bag of bones. **3** *a concrete skeleton:* framework, frame, shell. **4** *the skeleton of a report:* outline, (rough) draft, abstract, (bare) bones.  
 • *adjective* *a skeleton staff:* minimum, minimal, basic; essential.

**sketch** *noun* **1** *a sketch of the proposed design:* (preliminary) drawing, outline; diagram, design, plan; informal rough. **2** *she gave a rough sketch of what had happened:* outline, brief description, rundown, main points, thumbnail sketch, (bare) bones; summary, synopsis, summarization, precis, résumé; N. Amer. wrap-up. **3** *a biographical sketch:* description, portrait, profile, portrayal, depiction. **4** *a hilarious sketch:* skit, scene, piece, act, item, routine.  
 • *verb* **1** *he sketched the garden:* draw, make a drawing of, draw a picture of, pencil, rough out, outline. **2** *the company sketched out its plans:* describe, outline, give a brief idea of, rough out; summarize, precis.

**sketchily** *adverb* perfunctorily, cursorily, incompletely, patchily, vaguely, imprecisely; hastily, hurriedly.

**sketchy** *adjective* incomplete, patchy, fragmentary, cursory, perfunctory, scanty, vague, imprecise; hurried, hasty.  
 – **OPPOSITES** detailed.

**skew-whiff** *adjective* (Brit. informal). See **CROOKED** sense 3.

**skilful** *adjective* expert, accomplished, skilled, masterly, master, virtuoso, consummate, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent, capable, brilliant, handy; informal mean, wicked, crack, ace, wizard; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.

**skill** *noun* **1** *his skill as a politician:* expertise, skilfulness, expertness, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, ability, prowess, mastery, competence, capability, aptitude, artistry, virtuosity, talent. **2** *bringing up a family gives you many skills:* accomplishment, strength, gift.  
 – **OPPOSITES** incompetence.

**skilled** *adjective* experienced, trained, qualified, proficient, practised, accomplished, expert, skilful, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent; informal crack; N. Amer. informal crackerjack.  
 – **OPPOSITES** inexperienced.

**skim** *verb* **1** *skim off the scum:* remove, cream off, scoop off. **2** *the boat skimmed over the water:* glide, move lightly, slide, sail, skate, float. **3** *he skimmed the pebble across the water:* throw, toss, cast, pitch; bounce. **4** *she skimmed through the newspaper:* glance, flick, flip, leaf, thumb, read quickly, scan, run one's eye over. **5** *Hannah skimmed over this part of the story:* mention briefly, pass over quickly, skate over, gloss over.  
 – **OPPOSITES** elaborate on.

**skimp** *verb* **1** *don't skimp on the quantity:* stint on, scrimp on, economize on, cut back on, be sparing, be frugal, be mean, be parsimonious, cut corners; informal be stingy, be minge, be tight. **2** *the process cannot be skimmed:* do hastily, do carelessly.

**skimpy** *adjective* **1** *a skimpy black dress:* revealing, short, low, low-cut; flimsy, thin, see-through, indecent. **2** *my information is rather skimpy:* meagre, scanty, sketchy, limited, paltry, deficient, sparse.

**skin** *noun* **1** *these chemicals could damage the skin:* epidermis, dermis, derma. **2** *Mary's fair skin:* complexion, colouring, skin colour/ tone, pigmentation. **3** *leopard skins:* hide, pelt, fleece; old use fell. **4** *a banana skin:* peel, rind, integument. **5** *milk with a skin on it:* film, layer, membrane. **6** *the plane's skin was damaged:* casing, exterior.

• *verb* **1** *skin the tomatoes:* peel, pare, hull; technical decorticate. **2** *he skinned his knee:* graze, scrape, abrade, bark, rub something raw, chafe; Medicine excoriate. **3** (informal) *Dad would skin me alive if I forgot it:* punish severely; informal murder, come down on someone (like a ton of bricks); Brit. informal give someone what for.

■ **by the skin of one's teeth** (only) just, narrowly, by a hair's breadth, by a very small margin; informal by a whisker.

■ **get under someone's skin** (informal) **1** *the children really got under my skin.* See **IRRITATE** sense 1. **2** *she got under my skin:* obsess,

intrigue, captivate, charm; enthrall, enchant, entrance.

**WORD LINKS**

**cutaneous** relating to the skin  
**subcutaneous, hypodermic** beneath the skin  
**dermatology** the branch of medicine concerned with skin disorders  
**dermatitis** inflammation of the skin  
**eczema, psoriasis** conditions that cause dry, itchy patches on the skin  
**pruritis** severe itching of the skin  
**melanoma** a form of skin cancer  
**slough** (of a snake) shed an old skin  
**ecdysis** the process of shedding an old skin

**skin-deep** adjective **superficial**, (on the) surface, external, outward, shallow.

**skinflint** noun (informal). See **MISER**.

**skinny** adjective. See **THIN** adjective sense 3.

**skip** verb **1** *skipping down the path*: caper, prance, trip, dance, bound, bounce, gambol, frisk, romp, cavort. **2** *we skipped the boring stuff*: omit, leave out, miss out, dispense with, pass over, skim over, disregard; informal give something a miss. **3** *I skipped school*: play truant from, miss; N. Amer. cut; informal sag off; Brit. informal skive off; N. Amer. informal play hookey from; Austral./NZ informal play the wag from. **4** *I skipped through the magazine*: have a quick look at, flick through, flip through, leaf through. **5** (informal) *they skipped off again*: run off/away, take off; informal beat it, clear off, cut and run; Brit. informal do a runner, do a bunk, scarper; N. Amer. informal light out, cut out; Austral. informal shoot through.

**skirmish** noun **1** *the unit was caught up in a skirmish*: fight, battle, clash, conflict, encounter, engagement, fray, combat. **2** *there was a skirmish over the budget*: argument, quarrel, squabble, contretemps, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, clash, altercation; informal tiff, spat; Brit. informal row, barney, ding-dong.  
 • verb *they skirmished with enemy soldiers*: fight, (do) battle with, engage with, close with, combat, clash with.

**S** **skirt** verb **1** *he skirted the city*: go round, walk round, circle. **2** *the fields that skirt the highway*: border, edge, flank, line, lie alongside. **3** *he carefully skirted round the subject*: avoid, evade, sidestep, dodge, pass over, gloss over; informal duck; Austral./NZ informal duck-shove.

**skit** noun comedy sketch, comedy act, parody, pastiche, burlesque, satire, pasquinade; informal spoof, take-off, send-up.

**skittish** adjective **1** *she grew increasingly skittish*: playful, lively, high-spirited, sportive, frisky; literary frolicsome, wanton. **2** *his horse was skittish*: restive, excitable, nervous, skittery, highly strung; informal jumpy.

**skive** verb (Brit. informal) malingering, play truant, truant, shirk, idle; N. Amer. cut; informal sag off; Brit. informal bunk off, swing the lead, scrimshank; N. Amer. informal gold-brick, play

hookey, goof off; Austral./NZ informal play the wag.

**skulduggery** noun trickery, fraudulence, sharp practice, underhandedness, chicanery; informal shenanigans, funny business, monkey business; Brit. informal monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery; N. Amer. informal monkeyshines.

**skulk** verb lurk, loiter, hide; creep, sneak, slink, prowl, pussyfoot.

**skull** noun

**WORD LINKS**

**cranial** relating to the skull  
**phrenology** (in the past) the study of the shape of a person's skull as a supposed guide to character  
**trepan** (in the past) a saw used by surgeons to perforate the skull

**sky** noun air, atmosphere, airspace; literary the heavens, the firmament, the blue, the (wide) blue yonder, the welkin, the azure, the empyrean.

■ **to the skies** effusively, profusely, very highly, very enthusiastically, unreservedly, fervently, fulsomely, extravagantly.

**WORD LINKS**

**celestial** relating to the sky  
**nadir** the point in the sky directly opposite the zenith, below an observer  
**zenith** the highest point in the sky reached by the sun or moon

**slab** noun piece, block, hunk, chunk, lump; cake, tablet, brick.

**slack** adjective **1** *the rope went slack*: loose, limp, hanging, flexible. **2** *slack skin*: flaccid, flabby, loose, sagging, saggy. **3** *business is slack*: sluggish, slow, quiet, slow-moving, flat, depressed, stagnant. **4** *slack accounting procedures*: lax, negligent, remiss, careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, lackadaisical, inefficient, casual; informal slap-happy.  
 — **OPPOSITES** tight, taut.

• noun **1** *the rope had some slack in it*: looseness, play, give. **2** *foreign demand will help pick up the slack*: surplus, excess, residue, spare capacity. **3** *a little slack in the daily routine*: lull, pause, respite, break, hiatus, breathing space; informal let-up, breather.

• verb **1** *the horse slacked his pace*: reduce, lessen, slacken, slow. **2** (Brit. informal) *no slacking!* idle, shirk, be lazy, be indolent, waste time, lounge about; Brit. informal skive; N. Amer. informal goof off.

■ **slack off** **1** *the rain has slacked off*: decrease, subside, let up, ease off, abate, diminish, die down, fall off. **2** *slack off a bit!* relax, take things easy, let up, ease up/off, loosen up, slow down; informal chill out; N. Amer. informal hang loose.

■ **slack up** *the horse slacked up*: slow (down), decelerate, reduce speed.

**slacken** verb **1** *he slackened his grip*: loosen, release, relax, loose, lessen, weaken. **2** *he slackened his pace*: slow (down), become/get/make slower, decelerate, slack (up). **3** *the rain is slackening*: decrease, lessen,

subside, ease up/off, let up, abate, slack off, diminish, die down, fall off.

– **OPPOSITES** tighten.

**slacker** *noun* (informal). See **LAYABOUT**.

**slake** *verb* **quench**, satisfy, sate, satiate, relieve, assuage.

**slam** *verb* **1** *he slammed the door behind him:* bang, shut/close with a bang, shut/close noisily, shut/close with force. **2** *the car slammed into a lamp post:* crash into, smash into, collide with, hit, strike, ram, plough into, run into, bump into; N. Amer. impact. **3** (informal) *he was slammed by the critics.* See **CRITICIZE**.

**slander** *noun* *he could decide to sue us for slander:* **defamation** (of character), character assassination, calumny, libel; scandalmongering, malicious gossip, disparagement, denigration, aspersions, vilification, traducement, obloquy; lie, slur, smear, false accusation; informal mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; old use contumely.

• **verb** *they were accused of slandering the minister:* **defame** (someone's character), blacken someone's name, tell lies about, speak ill/evil of, sully someone's reputation, libel, smear, cast aspersions on, spread scandal about, besmirch, tarnish, taint; malign, traduce, vilify, disparage, denigrate, run down; N. Amer. slur; formal derogate, calumniate.

**slanderous** *adjective* **defamatory**, denigratory, disparaging, libellous, pejorative, false, misrepresentative, scurrilous, scandalous, malicious, abusive, insulting; informal mud-slinging.

– **OPPOSITES** complimentary.

**slang** *noun* **informal language**, argot, colloquialisms, patois, cant.

**slanging match** *noun* (informal). See **QUARREL** *noun*.

**slant** *verb* **1** *the floor was slanting:* **slope**, tilt, incline, be at an angle, tip, cant, lean, dip, pitch, shelve, list, bank. **2** *their findings were slanted in our favour:* **bias**, distort, twist, skew, weight, give a bias to.

• **noun** **1** *the slant of the roof:* **slope**, incline, tilt, gradient, pitch, angle, cant, camber, inclination. **2** *a feminist slant:* **point of view**, viewpoint, standpoint, stance, angle, perspective, approach, view, attitude, position; bias, leaning.

**slanting** *adjective* **oblique**, sloping, at an angle, on an incline, inclined, tilting, tilted, slanted, aslant, diagonal, canted, cambered.

**slap** *verb* **1** *he slapped her hard:* **hit**, strike, smack, clout, cuff, thump, punch, spank; informal whack, thwack, wallop, biff, bash; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, slug, bust; Austral./NZ informal dong, quilt; old use smite. **2** *he slapped down a £10 note:* **fling**, throw, toss, slam, bang; informal plonk. **3** *slap on a coat of paint:* **daub**, plaster, spread. **4** (informal) *they slapped a huge tax on imports:* **impose**, levy, put on.

• **noun** *a slap across the cheek:* **smack**, blow, thump, cuff, clout, punch, spank; informal whack, thwack, wallop, clip, biff, bash.

• **adverb** (informal) *the bypass goes slap through the green belt:* **straight**, right, directly, plumb; informal smack, (slap) bang; N. Amer. informal spang, smack dab.

■ **a slap in the face** rebuff, rejection, snub, insult, put-down, humiliation.

■ **a slap on the back** congratulations, commendation, approbation, approval, accolades, compliments, tributes, a pat on the back, praise, acclaim, acclamation; formal laudation.

■ **a slap on the wrist** reprimand, rebuke, reproof, scolding, admonishment; informal telling-off, rap over the knuckles, dressing-down; Brit. informal ticking-off, wiggling; Austral./NZ informal serve.

■ **slap someone down** (informal). See **BERATE**.

**slapdash** *adjective* **careless**, slipshod, sloppy, hurried, haphazard, unsystematic, untidy, messy, hit-or-miss, negligent, neglectful, lax; informal slap-happy; Brit. informal shambolic.

– **OPPOSITES** careful.

**slap-happy** *adverb* (informal) **1** *his slap-happy friend:* **happy-go-lucky**, devil-may-care, carefree, easy-going, nonchalant, insouciant, blithe, airy, casual. **2** *slap-happy work.* See **SLAPDASH**. **3** *she's a bit slap-happy after such a narrow escape:* **dazed**, stupefied, punch-drunk.

**slap-up** *adjective* (Brit. informal) **lavish**, sumptuous, elaborate, expensive, fit for a king, princely, splendid.

– **OPPOSITES** meagre.

**slash** *verb* **1** *her tyres had been slashed:* **cut** (open), gash, slit, split open, lacerate, knife, make an incision in. **2** (informal) *the company slashed prices:* **reduce**, cut, lower, bring down, mark down. **3** (informal) *they have slashed 10,000 jobs:* **get rid of**, axe, cut, shed.

• **noun** **1** *a slash across his temple:* **cut**, gash, laceration, slit, incision; wound. **2** *sentence breaks are indicated by slashes:* **solidus**, oblique, backslash.

**slate** *verb* (Brit. informal). See **CRITICIZE**.

**slatternly** *adjective* **slovenly**, untidy, messy, scruffy, unkempt, ill-groomed, dishevelled, frowzy; N. Amer. informal raggedy.

**slaughter** *verb* **1** *the animals were slaughtered:* **kill**, butcher. **2** *innocent civilians are being slaughtered:* **massacre**, murder, butcher, kill (off), annihilate, exterminate, liquidate, eliminate, destroy, decimate, wipe out, put to death; literary slay. **3** (informal) *their team were slaughtered.* See **DEFEAT** *verb* sense 1.

• **noun** **1** *the slaughter of 20 demonstrators:* **massacre**, murdering, (mass) murder, mass killing, mass execution, annihilation, extermination, liquidation, decimation, carnage, butchery, genocide; literary slaying. **2** *a scene of slaughter:* **carnage**, bloodshed, bloodletting, bloodbath. **3** (informal) *their electoral slaughter.* See **DEFEAT** *noun* sense 1.

**slaughterhouse** *noun* **abattoir**; Brit. butchery; old use shambles.

**slave** *noun* **1** *the work was done by slaves:* historical serf, vassal, thrall; old use bondsman, bondswoman. **2** *Anna was his willing slave:*



**drudge**, servant, man/maid of all work, lackey; informal gofer; Brit. informal skivvy, dogsbody, poodle.

– **OPPOSITES** freeman, master.

• **verb** *slaving away for a pittance*: **toil**, labour, grind, sweat, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/dog; informal work one's socks off, kill oneself, sweat blood, slog away; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal **bullock**; literary travail; old use drudge, moil.

#### WORD LINKS

**servile** relating to or like a slave

**emancipate**, **manumit** free someone from slavery

**slaver** **verb** *drool*, slobber, dribble, salivate; old use *drivel*.

**slavery** **noun** *1 thousands were sold into slavery*: **bondage**, enslavement, servitude; historical **thrall**, serfdom, vassalage. **2** *this work is sheer slavery*: **drudgery**, **toil**, (hard) slog, hard labour, grind; literary travail; old use *moil*.

– **OPPOSITES** freedom.

**slavish** **adjective** *1 slavish lackeys of the government*: **servile**, subservient, fawning, obsequious, sycophantic, toadying, unctuous; informal bootlicking, forelock-tugging; N. Amer. informal apple-polishing. **2** *slavish copying*: **unoriginal**, uninspired, unimaginative, unimaginative, imitative.

**slay** **verb** (literary) *8,000 men were slain*: **kill**, murder, put to death, butcher, cut down, cut to pieces, slaughter, massacre, shoot down, gun down, mow down, eliminate, annihilate, exterminate, liquidate; informal wipe out, bump off, do in/for.

**slaying** **noun** (literary) **murder**, killing, butchery, slaughter, massacre, extermination, liquidation.

**sleazy** **adjective** *1 sleazy arms dealers*: **corrupt**, immoral, unsavoury, disreputable; informal shady, sleazoid. **2** *a sleazy bar*: **squalid**, seedy, seamy, sordid, insalubrious, mean, cheap, low-class, run down; informal scruffy, scuzzy, crummy, skanky; Brit. informal grotty.

**S** – **OPPOSITES** reputable, upmarket.

**sledge** **noun** *toboggan*, bobsleigh, sleigh; N. Amer. sled.

**sleek** **adjective** *1 his sleek dark hair*: smooth, glossy, shiny, shining, lustrous, silken, silky. **2** *the car's sleek lines*: **streamlined**, trim, elegant, graceful. **3** *sleek young men in city suits*: **well groomed**, stylish, wealthy-looking.

**sleep** **noun** *go and have a sleep*: **nap**, doze, siesta, catnap, beauty sleep; informal snooze, forty winks, a bit of shut-eye; Brit. informal kip, zizz; children's language bye-byes; literary slumber. • **verb** *she slept for about an hour*: **be asleep**, doze, take a siesta, take a nap, catnap, sleep like a log/top; informal snooze, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal (have a) kip, get one's head down, (get some) zizz; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs; humorous be in the land of Nod; literary slumber.

– **OPPOSITES** wake up.

■ **go to sleep** fall asleep, get to sleep; informal drop off, nod off, drift off, crash out, flake out; N. Amer. informal sack out, zone out.

#### WORD LINKS

**sedative**, **soporific** causing drowsiness or sleep  
**narcolepsy** an extreme tendency to fall asleep

**sleepiness** **noun** *drowsiness*, tiredness, somnolence, languor, languidness, doziness; lethargy, sluggishness, lassitude, enervation.

**sleepless** **adjective** *wakeful*, restless, without sleep, insomniac; (wide) awake, unsleeping, tossing and turning; old use watchful.

**sleeplessness** **noun** *insomnia*, wakefulness.

**sleepwalker** **noun** *somnambulist*; rare noctambulist.

**sleepy** **adjective** *1 she felt very sleepy*: **drowsy**, tired, somnolent, languid, languorous, heavy-eyed, asleep on one's feet; lethargic, sluggish, enervated, torpid; informal dopey; literary slumberous. **2** *the sleepy heat of the afternoon*: **soporific**, sleep-inducing, somnolent. **3** *a sleepy little village*: **quiet**, peaceful, tranquil, placid, slow-moving; dull, boring.

– **OPPOSITES** awake, alert.

**sleight of hand** **noun** *1 impressive sleight of hand*: **dexterity**, adroitness, deftness, skill. **2** *financial sleight of hand*: **deception**, deceit, dissimulation, chicanery, trickery, sharp practice.

**slender** **adjective** *1 her tall slender figure*: slim, lean, willowy, sylphlike, svelte, lissom, graceful; slight, slightly built, thin, skinny. **2** *slender evidence*: **meagre**, limited, slight, scanty, scant, sparse, paltry, insubstantial, insufficient, deficient, negligible; formal exiguous. **3** *the chances seemed slender*: **faint**, remote, flimsy, tenuous, fragile, slim; unlikely, improbable.

– **OPPOSITES** plump.

**sleuth** **noun** (informal) (**private**) detective, (private) investigator; informal private eye, snoop, sleuth-hound; N. Amer. informal shamus, gumshoe.

**slice** **noun** *1 a slice of fruitcake*: **piece**, portion, slab, rasher, sliver, wafer, shaving. **2** *a huge slice of public spending*: **share**, part, portion, tranche, piece, proportion, allocation, percentage.

• **verb** *1 slice the cheese thinly*: **cut (up)**, carve. **2** *one man had his ear sliced off*: **cut off**, sever, chop off, shear off.

**slick** **adjective** *1 a slick advertising campaign*: **efficient**, smooth, smooth-running, polished, well organized, well run, streamlined. **2** *his slick use of words*: **glib**, smooth, fluent, plausible. **3** *a slick salesman*: **suave**, urbane, polished, assured, self-assured, smooth-talking, glib; informal smarmy. **4** *her slick brown hair*: **shiny**, glossy, shining, sleek, smooth, oiled. **5** *the pavements were slick with rain*: **slippery**,

slithery, wet, greasy; informal sloppy.

• **verb** *his hair was slicked down*; **smooth**, sleek, grease, oil, gel; informal smarm.

**slide verb 1** *the glass slid across the table*:

**glide**, move smoothly, slip, slither, skim, skate; skid, slew. **2** *tears slid down her cheeks*: trickle, run, flow, pour, stream. **3** *four men slid out of the shadows*: creep, steal, slink, slip, tiptoe, sidle. **4** *the country is sliding into recession*: sink, fall, drop, descend; decline, degenerate.

• **noun 1** *the current slide in house prices*: fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, downswing. **2** *a slide show*: transparency, diapositive.

— **OPPOSITES** rise.

■ **let something slide** neglect, pay little/no attention to, not attend to, be remiss about, let something go downhill.

**slight adjective 1** *I'm afraid the chance of success is slight*: small, modest, tiny, minute, inappreciable, negligible, insignificant, minimal, remote, slim, faint; informal minuscule; formal exiguous. **2** *the book is a slight work*: minor, inconsequential, trivial, unimportant, lightweight, superficial, shallow. **3** *Elizabeth's slight figure*: slim, slender, petite, diminutive, small, delicate, dainty.

— **OPPOSITES** considerable.

• **verb** *he had been slighted*: insult, snub, rebuff, repulse, spurn, treat disrespectfully, give someone the cold shoulder, cut (dead), scorn; informal give someone the brush-off, freeze out, stiff-arm.

— **OPPOSITES** respect.

• **noun** *an unintended slight*: insult, affront, snub, rebuff; informal put-down, dig.

— **OPPOSITES** compliment.

**slighting adjective insulting**, disparaging, derogatory, disrespectful, denigratory, pejorative, abusive, offensive, defamatory, slanderous, scurrilous; disdainful, scornful, contemptuous; old use contumelious.

**slightly adverb a little**, a bit, somewhat, rather, moderately, to a certain extent, faintly, vaguely, a shade.

— **OPPOSITES** very.

**slim adjective 1** *she was tall and slim*: slender, lean, thin, willowy, sylphlike, svelte, lissom, trim, slight, slightly built. **2** *a slim silver bracelet*: narrow, slender, slimline. **3** *a slim chance of escape*: slight, small, slender, faint, poor, remote, unlikely, improbable.

— **OPPOSITES** plump.

• **verb 1** *I'm trying to slim*: lose weight, get thinner, get into shape; N. Amer. slenderize. **2** *the number of staff had been slimmed down*: reduce, cut (down/back), scale down, decrease, diminish, pare down.

**slime noun ooze**, sludge, muck, mud, mire; informal goo, gunk, gook, gloop; Brit. informal gunge; N. Amer. informal guck, glop.

**slimy adjective 1** *the floor was slimy*: slippery, slithery, greasy, muddy, mucky, sludgy, wet, sticky; informal sloppy, gooey, gloopy. **2** (informal) *her slimy press agent*. See **OBSEQUIOUS**.

**slip noun 1** *she had her arm in a sling*: (support) bandage, support, strap. **2** *armed*

*only with a sling*: catapult, slingshot; Austral./NZ shanghai.

• **verb 1** *a hammock was slung between two trees*: hang, suspend, string, swing. **2** (informal) *she slung her jacket on the sofa*. See **THROW** verb sense 1.

**slink verb creep**, sneak, steal, slip, slide, sidle, tiptoe, pussyfoot.

**slinky adjective** (informal) **1** *a slinky black dress*: tight-fitting, close-fitting, figure-hugging, sexy. **2** *her slinky elegance*: sinuous, willowy, graceful, sleek.

**slip<sup>1</sup> verb 1** *she slipped on the ice*: slide, skid, slither, glide; fall (over), lose one's balance, tumble. **2** *the envelope slipped through Luke's fingers*: fall, drop, slide. **3** *we slipped out by a back door*: creep, steal, sneak, slide, sidle, slope, slink, tiptoe. **4** *standards have slipped*: decline, deteriorate, degenerate, worsen, get worse, go downhill, fall (off), drop; informal go to the dogs, go to pot. **5** *the bank's shares slipped 1.5p*: drop, go down, sink, slump, decrease, depreciate. **6** *the hours slipped by*: pass, elapse, go by/past, roll by/past, fly by/past, tick by/past. **7** *she slipped the map into her pocket*: put, tuck, shove; informal pop, stick, stuff. **8** *Sarah slipped into a black skirt*: put on, pull on, don, dress/clothe oneself in; change into. **9** *she slipped out of her clothes*: take off, remove, pull off, doff; Brit. informal peel off. **10** *he slipped the knot of his tie*: untie, unfasten, undo.

• **noun 1** *a single slip could send them plummeting downwards*: false step, misstep, slide, skid, fall, tumble. **2** *a careless slip*: mistake, error, blunder, gaffe, slip of the tongue/pen; oversight, omission, lapse, inaccuracy; informal slip-up, boo-boo, howler; Brit. informal boob, clanger, bloomer; N. Amer. informal goof, blooper, bloop. **3** *a silk slip*: underskirt, petticoat, underslip.

■ **give someone the slip** (informal) escape from, get away from, evade, dodge, elude, lose, shake off, throw off (the scent), get clear of.

■ **let something slip** reveal, disclose, divulge, let out, give away, blurt out; give the game away; informal let on, blab, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans; Brit. informal blow the gaff.

■ **slip away 1** *they managed to slip away*: escape, get away, break free; informal fly the coop; Brit. informal do a bunk, do a runner; N. Amer. informal take a powder. **2** *she slipped away in her sleep*. See **DIE** sense 1.

■ **slip up** (informal) make a mistake, (make a) blunder, get something wrong, make an error, err; informal make a bloomer, make a boo-boo; Brit. informal boob, drop a clanger; N. Amer. informal goof up.

**slip<sup>2</sup> noun 1** *a slip of paper*: piece of paper, scrap of paper, sheet, note; chit; informal sticky. **2** *they took slips from rare plants*: cutting, graft; scion, shoot, offshoot.

■ **a slip of a** — small, slender, slim, slight, slightly built, petite, little, tiny, diminutive; informal pint-sized.

**slipper noun 1** *he pulled on his slippers*: carpet slipper, bedroom slipper, house

shoe; N. Amer. slipperette. **2** *satin slippers*: pump, mule.

**slippery** adjective **1** *the roads are slippery*: slithery, greasy, oily, icy, glassy, smooth, slimy, wet; informal slippery. **2** *a slippery customer*: evasive, unreliable, unpredictable; devious, crafty, cunning, wily, tricky, artful, slick, sly, sneaky, scheming, untrustworthy, deceitful, duplicitous, dishonest, treacherous, two-faced; N. Amer. snide; informal shady, shifty; Brit. informal dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.

**slipshod** adjective *careless, lackadaisical, slapdash, sloppy, disorganized, haphazard, hit-or-miss, untidy, messy, unsystematic, unmethodical, casual, negligent, neglectful, remiss, lax, slack*; informal slap-happy.  
– OPPOSITES meticulous.

**slip-up** noun (informal) *mistake, slip, error, blunder, oversight, omission, gaffe, slip of the tongue/pen, inaccuracy*; informal boo-boo, howler; Brit. informal boob, clanger, bloomer; N. Amer. informal goof, blooper, bloop.

**slit** noun **1** *three diagonal slits*: cut, incision, split, slash, gash, laceration. **2** *a slit in the curtains*: opening, gap, chink, crack, aperture, slot.  
• verb *he threatened to slit her throat*: cut, slash, split open, slice open, gash, lacerate, make an incision in.

**slither** verb *slide, slip, glide, wriggle, crawl; skid*.

**sliver** noun *splinter, shard, shiver, chip, flake, shred, scrap, slither, shaving, paring, piece, fragment*.

**slob** noun (informal) *layabout, good-for-nothing, sluggard, laggard*; informal slacker, couch potato; old use sloven.

**slobber** verb *drool, slaver, dribble, salivate*; old use drivel.

**slog** verb **1** *they were all slogging away*: work hard, toil, labour, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/dog, exert oneself, grind, slave, grub, plough, plod, peg; informal beaver, plug, work one's socks off, sweat blood; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal bullock; literary travail; old use drudge, toil. **2** *they slogged around the streets*: trudge, tramp, traipse, toil, plod, trek, footslog, drag oneself.  
– OPPOSITES relax.

• noun **1** *10 months' hard slog*: hard work, toil, toiling, labour, effort, exertion, grind, drudgery; informal sweat; Brit. informal graft; Austral./NZ informal (hard) yakka; literary travail; old use toil. **2** *a steady uphill slog*: trudge, tramp, traipse, plod, trek, footslog.  
– OPPOSITES leisure.

**slogan** noun *catchphrase, catchline, jingle*; N. Amer. informal tag line.

**slop** verb *water slopped over the edge*: spill, flow, overflow, run, slosh, splash.  
■ *slop around/about* (Brit. informal) *laze* (around/about), lounge (around/about), loll (around/about), loaf (around/about), slouch (about/around); informal hang around; Brit. informal hang about, mooch about/around;

N. Amer. informal bum around, lollygag.

**slope** noun **1** *the slope of the roof*: gradient, incline, angle, slant, inclination, pitch, decline, ascent, declivity, acclivity, rise, fall, tilt, tip, downslope, upslope; N. Amer. grade, downgrade, upgrade. **2** *a grassy slope*: hill, hillside, hillock, bank, escarpment, scarp; literary steep. **3** *the ski slopes*: piste, run, nursery slope, dry slope; N. Amer. trail.

• verb *the garden sloped down to a stream*:

*slant, incline, tilt; drop away, fall away, decline, descend, shelve, lean; rise, ascend, climb*.

■ *slope off* (informal) *leave, go away, slip away, steal away, slink off, creep off, sneak off; informal push off, clear off*.

**sloping** adjective *at a slant, on the slant, at an angle, slanting, slanted, leaning, inclining, inclined, angled, cambered, canted, tilting, tilted, dipping, declivitous, acclivitous*.

– OPPOSITES level.

**sloppy** adjective **1** *sloppy chicken curry*: runny, watery, thin, liquid, semi-liquid, mushy; informal gloopy. **2** *their defending was sloppy*: careless, slapdash, slipshod, lackadaisical, haphazard, lax, slack, slovenly; informal slap-happy; Brit. informal shambolic.

**3** *sloppy T-shirts*: baggy, loose-fitting, loose, generously cut; shapeless, sack-like, oversized. **4** *sloppy letters*: sentimental, mawkish, cloying, slushy, saccharine, sugary, syrupy; romantic, hearts-and-flowers; informal schmaltzy, lovey-dovey; Brit. informal soppy; N. Amer. informal cornball, sappy, hokey, threehankie.

**slosh** verb **1** *beer sloshed over the side of the glass*: spill, slop, splash, flow, overflow.

**2** *workers sloshed round in boots*: splash, swash, squelch, wade; informal splosh. **3** *she sloshed more wine into her glass*: pour, slop, splash. **4** (Brit. informal) *Gary sloshed him*. See HIT verb sense 1.

**slot** noun **1** *he slid a coin into the slot*: aperture, slit, crack, hole, opening. **2** *a mid-morning slot*: spot, time, period, niche, space; informal window.

• verb *he slotted a cassette into the machine*: insert, put, place, slide, slip.

**sloth** noun *laziness, idleness, indolence, slothfulness, inactivity, inertia, sluggishness, shiftlessness, apathy, accidie, listlessness, lassitude, lethargy, languor, torpidity*; literary hebetude.

– OPPOSITES industriousness.

**slothful** adjective *lazy, idle, indolent, workshy, inactive, sluggish, apathetic, lethargic, listless, languid, torpid*; informal bone idle; old use otiose.

**slouch** verb *slump, hunch; loll, droop*.

**slovenly** adjective **1** *his slovenly appearance*: scruffy, untidy, messy, unkempt, ill-groomed, slatternly, dishevelled, bedraggled, tousled, rumpled, frowzy; informal slobbish, sloppy; N. Amer. informal raggedy, raunchy. **2** *his work is slovenly*: careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, haphazard, hit-or-miss, untidy, messy,



negligent, lax, lackadaisical, slack; informal slap-happy.

– OPPOSITES tidy, careful.

**slow adjective** 1 *their slow walk home:*

unhurried, leisurely, steady, sedate, slow-moving, plodding, dawdling, sluggish, sluggardly. 2 *a slow process:* long-drawn-out, time-consuming, lengthy, protracted, prolonged, gradual. 3 *he can be so slow:* obtuse, stupid, unperceptive, insensitive, bovine, stolid, slow-witted, dull-witted, unintelligent, doltish, witless; informal dense, dim, dim-witted, thick, slow on the uptake, dumb, dopey, boneheaded; Brit. informal dozy; N. Amer. informal chowderheaded.

4 *they were slow to voice their opinions:* reluctant, unwilling, disinclined, loath, hesitant, afraid, chary, shy. 5 *the slow season:* sluggish, slack, quiet, inactive, flat, depressed, stagnant, dead. 6 *a slow narrative:* dull, boring, uninteresting, unexciting, uneventful, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, monotonous, dreary, lacklustre.

– OPPOSITES fast.

• **verb** 1 *the traffic forced him to slow down:* reduce speed, go slower, decelerate, brake. 2 *you need to slow down:* take it easy, relax, ease up/off, take a break, slack off, let up; informal chill out; N. Amer. informal hang loose. 3 *this would slow down economic growth:* hold back/up, delay, retard, set back; restrict, check, curb, inhibit, impede, obstruct, hinder, hamper; old use stay.

– OPPOSITES accelerate.

**slowly adverb** 1 *Rose walked off slowly:* at a slow pace, without hurrying, unhurriedly, steadily, at a leisurely pace, at a snail's pace; Music adagio, lento, largo. 2 *her health is improving slowly:* gradually, bit by bit, little by little, slowly but surely, step by step.

– OPPOSITES quickly.

**sludge noun** mud, muck, mire, ooze, silt, alluvium; informal gunk, crud, gloop, gook, goo; Brit. informal gunge, grot; N. Amer. informal guck, glop.

**sluggish adjective** 1 *Alex felt tired and sluggish:* lethargic, listless, lacking in energy, lifeless, inert, inactive, slow, torpid, languid, apathetic, weary, tired, fatigued, sleepy, drowsy, enervated; lazy, idle, indolent, slothful, sluggardly; Medicine asthenic; N. Amer. logy; informal dozy, dopey. 2 *the economy is sluggish:* inactive, quiet, slow, slack, flat, depressed, stagnant.

– OPPOSITES vigorous.

**sluice verb** 1 *crews sluiced down the decks:* wash (down), rinse, clean, cleanse. 2 *the water sluiced out:* pour, flow, run, gush, stream, course, flood, surge, spill.

**slum noun** hovel; (slums) ghetto, shanty town.

**slumber** (literary) **verb** *the child slumbered fitfully.* See SLEEP verb.

• **noun** *an uneasy slumber.* See SLEEP noun.

**slummy adjective** seedy, insalubrious, squalid, sleazy, run down, down at heel, shabby, dilapidated; informal scruffy, skanky; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal shacky.

– OPPOSITES upmarket.

**slump verb** 1 *he slumped into a chair:* sit heavily, flop, flump, collapse, sink, fall; informal plonk oneself. 2 *houses prices slumped:* fall steeply, plummet, tumble, drop, go down; informal crash, nosedive. 3 *reading standards have slumped:* decline, deteriorate, degenerate, worsen, slip, go downhill.

• **noun** 1 *a slump in profits:* steep fall, drop, tumble, downturn, downswing, slide, decline, decrease; informal nosedive. 2 *an economic slump:* recession, economic decline, depression, slowdown, stagnation.

– OPPOSITES rise, boom.

**slur verb** *she was slurring her words:* mumble, speak unclearly, garble.

• **noun** *a gross slur:* insult, slight, slander, slanderous statement, aspersion, smear, allegation.

**slush noun** 1 *he wiped the slush off his shoes:* melting snow, wet snow, mush, sludge. 2 (informal) *the slush of romantic films:* sentimentality, mawkishness, sentimentalism; informal schmaltz, mush, slushiness, corniness; Brit. informal sopiness; N. Amer. informal sappiness, hokeyness.

**slut noun** promiscuous woman, prostitute, whore; informal tart, floozie, pro; Brit. informal scrubber, slag, slapper; N. Amer. informal tramp, hooker, hustler, roundheel; dated scarlet woman, loose woman, hussy, trollop; old use harlot, strumpet, wanton.

**sly adjective** 1 *she's rather sly:* cunning, crafty, clever, wily, artful, guileful, tricky, scheming, devious, deceitful, duplicitous, dishonest, underhand, sneaky; old use subtle. 2 *a sly grin:* roguish, mischievous, impish, playful, wicked, arch, knowing. 3 *she took a sly sip of water:* surreptitious, furtive, stealthy, covert.

■ **on the sly** in secret, secretly, furtively, surreptitiously, covertly, clandestinely, on the quiet, behind someone's back.

**smack<sup>1</sup> noun** 1 *she gave him a smack:* slap, clout, cuff, blow, spank, rap, swat, crack, thump, punch; informal whack, thwack, clip, biff, wallop, swipe, bop, belt, bash, sock. 2 *the parcel landed with a smack:* bang, crash, crack, thud, thump. 3 (informal) *a smack on the lips:* kiss, peck; informal smacker.

• **verb** 1 *he tried to smack her:* slap, hit, strike, spank, cuff, clout, thump, punch, swat; box someone's ears; informal whack, clip, wallop, biff, swipe, bop, belt, bash, sock; Scottish & N. English informal skelp; N. Amer. informal boff, slug, bust. 2 *the waiter smacked a plate down:* bang, slam, crash, thump; sling, fling; informal plonk; N. Amer. informal plunk.

• **adverb** (informal) *smack in the middle:* exactly, precisely, straight, right, directly, squarely, dead, plumb, point-blank; informal slap bang; N. Amer. informal smack dab.

**smack<sup>2</sup> noun** 1 *the beer has a smack of hops:* taste, flavour, savour. 2 *a smack of bitterness in his words:* trace, tinge, touch, suggestion, hint, overtone, suspicion, whisper.

■ **smack of** 1 *the tea smacked of tannin:* taste

of, have the flavour of. **2** *the plan smacked of self-promotion*: suggest, hint at, have overtones of, give the impression of, have the stamp of, seem like; smell of, reek of.

**small adjective** **1** *a small flat*: little, compact, bijou, tiny, miniature, mini; minute, microscopic, nanoscopic, minuscule; toy, baby; poky, cramped, boxy; Scottish wee; informal tiddly, teeny, teensy, itty-bitsy, itty-bitty, pocket-sized, half-pint, dinky, ickle; Brit. informal titchy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty. **2** *a very small man*: short, little, petite, diminutive, elfin, tiny; puny, undersized, stunted, dwarfish, midget, pygmy, Lilliputian; Scottish wee; informal teeny, pint-sized. **3** *a few small changes*: slight, minor, unimportant, trifling, trivial, insignificant, inconsequential, negligible, nugatory, infinitesimal; informal minuscule, piffling, piddling. **4** *small helpings*: inadequate, meagre, insufficient, ungenerous; informal measly, stingy, mingy, pathetic. **5** *they made him feel small*: foolish, stupid, insignificant, unimportant; embarrassed, humiliated, uncomfortable, mortified, ashamed; crushed. **6** *a small farmer*: small-scale, small-time; modest, unpretentious, humble.

– OPPOSITES big, tall, major, ample, substantial.

**small change** noun coins, change, coppers, silver, cash, specie.

**small-minded** adjective narrow-minded, petty, mean-spirited, uncharitable; close-minded, short-sighted, myopic, blinkered, inward-looking, unimaginative, parochial, provincial, insular, small-town; intolerant, illiberal, conservative, hidebound, dyed-in-the-wool, set in one's ways, inflexible; prejudiced, bigoted; Brit. parish-pump, blimpish.

– OPPOSITES tolerant.

**small-time** adjective minor, small-scale; petty, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential; N. Amer. minor-league; informal penny-ante, piddling; N. Amer. informal two-bit, bush-league, picayune.

– OPPOSITES major.

**smarmy** adjective (informal) unctuous, ingratiating, slick, oily, greasy, obsequious, sycophantic, fawning; informal slimy, sucky.

**smart** adjective **1** *you look very smart*: well dressed, stylish, chic, fashionable, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper; N. Amer. trig; informal snazzy, natty, snappy, sharp, cool; N. Amer. informal sassy, spiffy, fly, kicky. **2** *a smart restaurant*: fashionable, stylish, high-class, exclusive, chic, fancy; Brit. upmarket; N. Amer. high-toned; informal trendy, posh, ritzy, plush, classy, swanky, glitzy; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank. **3** (informal) *he's the smart one*: clever, bright, intelligent, sharp-witted, quick-witted, shrewd, astute, able; perceptive, percipient; informal brainy, savvy, quick on the uptake. **4** *a smart pace*: brisk, quick, fast, rapid, swift, lively, spanking, energetic, vigorous; informal snappy, cracking. **5** *a smart blow on the snout*: sharp, severe, forceful, violent.

– OPPOSITES untidy, downmarket, stupid, slow, gentle.

• **verb** **1** *her eyes were smarting*: sting, burn, tingle, prickle; hurt, ache. **2** *she smarted at the accusations*: feel annoyed, feel upset, take offence, feel aggrieved, feel indignant, be put out, feel hurt.

■ **look smart** (Brit.) be quick, hurry up, speed up; informal make it snappy, get cracking, get moving, step on it, get a wiggle on; Brit. informal get one's skates on, stir one's stumps.

**smarten** verb spruce up, clean up, tidy up, neaten, tidy; groom, freshen, preen, primp, beautify; redecorate, refurbish, modernize; informal do up, titivate, doll up; Brit. informal tart up, posh up; N. Amer. informal gussy up.

**smash** verb **1** *he smashed a window*: break, shatter, splinter, crack, shiver; informal bust. **2** *she's smashed the car*: crash, wreck; Brit. write off; Brit. informal prang; N. Amer. informal total. **3** *they smashed into a wall*: crash into, collide with, hit, strike, ram, smack into, slam into, plough into, run into, bump into; N. Amer. impact. **4** *Don smashed him over the head*: hit, strike, thump, punch, smack; informal whack, bash, biff, bop, clout, wallop, crown; Brit. informal slosh, dot; N. Amer. informal slug. **5** *he smashed their hopes of glory*: destroy, wreck, ruin, shatter, dash, crush, devastate, demolish, overturn, scotch; informal put the kibosh on, do for, put paid to, queer; Brit. informal scupper.

• **noun** **1** *the smash of glass*: breaking, shattering, crash. **2** *a motorway smash*: crash, collision, accident, bump; Brit. RTA; N. Amer. wreck; informal pile-up, smash-up; Brit. informal prang, shunt. **3** (informal) *a box-office smash*: success, sensation, sell-out, triumph; informal (smash) hit, winner, crowd-puller, knockout, wow, biggie.

**smashing** adjective (Brit. informal). See MARVELOUS sense 2.

**smattering** noun bit, little, modicum, touch, soupçon; nodding acquaintance; rudiments, basics; informal smidgen, smidge, tad.

**smear** verb **1** *the table was smeared with grease*: streak, smudge, mark, soil, dirty; informal splotch, splodge; literary besmear. **2** *smear the meat with olive oil*: cover, coat, grease; literary bedaub. **3** *she smeared sunblock on her skin*: spread, rub, daub, slap, slather, smother, plaster, cream, slick; apply; literary besmear. **4** *they are trying to smear our reputation*: sully, tarnish, blacken, drag through the mud, taint, damage, defame, discredit, malign, slander, libel; N. Amer. slur; informal do a hatchet job on; formal calumniate; literary besmirch.

• **noun** **1** *smears of blood*: streak, smudge, daub, dab, spot, patch, blotch, mark; informal splotch, splodge. **2** *press smears about his closest aides*: false accusation, lie, untruth, slur, slander, libel, defamation, calumny.

**smell** noun *the smell of the kitchen*: odour, aroma, fragrance, scent, perfume, redolence; bouquet, nose; stench, stink, reek; Brit. informal pong, niff, whiff, hum; Scottish informal guff; N. Amer. informal funk; literary miasma.

• **verb 1** *he smelled her perfume*: **scent**, get a sniff of, detect. **2** *the dogs smelled each other*: **sniff**, nose. **3** *the cellar smells*: **stink**, reek, have a bad smell; Brit. informal pong, hum, niff, whiff. **4** *it smells like a hoax to me*: **smack of**, have the hallmarks of, seem like, have the air of, suggest.

#### WORD LINKS

**olfactory** relating to the sense of smell  
**olfaction** the sense of smell  
**deodorant** a substance which prevents or conceals bodily odours

**smelly** adjective foul-smelling, stinking, reeking, fetid, malodorous, pungent, rank, noxious; off, gamy, high; musty, fusty; informal stinky; Brit. informal pongy, whiffy, humming; N. Amer. informal funky; literary miasmic, noisome.

**smile** verb *he smiled at her*: **beam**, grin (from ear to ear), dimple, twinkle; smirk, simper; leer.

– OPPOSITES frown.

• **noun** *the smile on her face*: **beam**, grin, twinkle; smirk, simper; leer.

**smirk** verb *smile smugly*, simper, snigger; leer.

**smitten** adjective **1** *he was smitten with cholera*: **struck down**, laid low, suffering, affected, afflicted, plagued, stricken. **2** *Jane's smitten with you*: **infatuated**, besotted, in love, obsessed, head over heels; enamoured of, attracted to, taken with; captivated, enchanted, under someone's spell; informal bowled over, swept off one's feet, crazy about, mad about, keen on, gone on, sweet on; Brit. informal potty about.

**smog** noun fog, haze; fumes, smoke, pollution; Brit. informal pea-souper.

**smoke** verb **1** *the fire was smoking*: **smoulder**, emit smoke; old use reek. **2** *he smoked his cigarette*: **puff on**, draw on, pull on; inhale; light; informal drag on. **3** *they smoke their salmon*: **cure**, preserve, dry. • **noun** *the smoke from the bonfire*: **fumes**, exhaust, gas, vapour; smog.

**smoky** adjective **1** *the smoky atmosphere*: **smoke-filled**, sooty, smoggy, hazy, foggy, murky, thick; Brit. informal foggy. **2** *her smoky eyes*: **grey**, sooty, dark, black.

**smooth** adjective **1** *the smooth flat rocks*: **even**, level, flat, plane; unwrinkled, featureless; glassy, glossy, silky, polished. **2** *his face was smooth*: **clean-shaven**, hairless. **3** *a smooth sauce*: **creamy**, velvety, blended. **4** *a smooth sea*: **calm**, still, tranquil, undisturbed, unruffled, even, flat, waveless, like a millpond. **5** *the smooth running of the equipment*: **steady**, regular, uninterrupted, unbroken, fluid, fluent; straightforward, easy, effortless, trouble-free. **6** *a smooth wine*: **mellow**, mild, agreeable, pleasant. **7** *the smooth tone of the clarinet*: **dulcet**, soft, soothing, mellow, sweet, silvery, honeyed, mellifluous, melodious, lilting, lyrical, harmonious. **8** *a smooth, confident man*: **suave**, urbane, sophisticated, polished, debonair; smooth-talking, glib, slick,

ingratiating, unctuous; informal smarmy.

– OPPOSITES uneven, rough, hairy, lumpy, irregular, raucous, gauche.

• **verb 1** *she smoothed the soil*: **flatten**, level (out/off), even out/off; press, roll, steamroll, iron, plane. **2** *a plan to smooth the way for the agreement*: **ease**, facilitate, clear the way for, pave the way for, expedite, assist, aid, help, oil the wheels of, lubricate.

**smoothly** adverb **1** *her hair was combed smoothly back*: **evenly**, level, flat, flush. **2** *the door closed smoothly*: **fluidly**, fluently, steadily, frictionlessly, easily; quietly. **3** *the plan had gone smoothly*: **without a hitch**, like clockwork, without difficulty, easily, effortlessly, according to plan, swimmingly, satisfactorily, very well; informal like a dream.

**smooth-talking** adjective (informal) **persuasive**, glib, plausible, silver-tongued, slick, eloquent, fast-talking; ingratiating, flattering, unctuous, obsequious, sycophantic; informal smarmy.

– OPPOSITES blunt.

**smother** verb **1** *she tried to smother her baby*: **suffocate**, asphyxiate, stifle, choke. **2** *she smothered the flames*: **extinguish**, put out, snuff out, dampen, douse, stamp out, choke. **3** *we smothered ourselves with sunscreen*: **smear**, daub, spread, cover; literary besmear, bedaub. **4** *their granny always smothers them*: **overwhelm**, inundate, envelop, cocoon; Brit. wrap someone in cotton wool. **5** *she smothered a sigh*: **stifle**, muffle, strangle, repress, suppress, hold back, fight back, bite back, swallow, contain, bottle up, conceal, hide; bite one's lip; informal keep a/the lid on.

**smoulder** verb **1** *the bonfire still smouldered*: **smoke**, glow, burn; old use reek. **2** *she was smouldering with resentment*: **seethe**, boil, fume, burn, simmer, be boiling over, be beside oneself; informal be livid.

**smudge** noun *a smudge of blood*: **streak**, smear, mark, stain, blotch, stripe, blob, dab; informal splotch, splodge.

• **verb 1** *her face was smudged with dust*: **streak**, mark, dirty, soil, blotch, blacken, smear, blot, daub, stain; informal splotch, splodge; literary bedaub, besmirch. **2** *she smudged her make-up*: **smear**, streak, mess up.

**smug** adjective self-satisfied, self-congratulatory, complacent, superior, pleased with oneself, self-approving; Brit. informal like the cat that got the cream, I'm-all-right-Jack.

**smuggle** verb import/export illegally, traffic in, run.

**smuggler** noun contrabandist, runner, courier; informal mule, moonshiner.

**smutty** adjective vulgar, rude, crude, dirty, filthy, salacious, coarse, obscene, lewd, pornographic, X-rated; risqué, racy, earthy, bawdy, suggestive, naughty, ribald, off colour; informal blue, raunchy; Brit. informal near the knuckle, saucy; N. Amer. informal gamy; euphemistic adult.

**snack** noun *she made herself a snack*: light



meal, sandwich, treat, refreshments, nibbles, titbit(s); informal bite (to eat); Brit. informal elevenes.

• **verb** *don't snack on sugary foods: eat between meals, nibble, munch; informal graze.*

**snaffle** **verb** (informal). See **STEAL** verb sense 1.

**snag** **noun** **1** *the snag is that this might affect inflation: complication, difficulty, catch, hitch, obstacle, stumbling block, pitfall, problem, impediment, hindrance, inconvenience, setback, hurdle, disadvantage, downside, drawback.* **2** *smooth rails with no snags: sharp projection, jag; thorn, spur.* **3** *a snag in her tights: tear, rip, hole, gash, slash; ladder, run.*  
• **verb** **1** *she snagged her tights: tear, rip, ladder.* **2** *the zip snagged on the fabric: catch, get caught, hook.*

**snake** **noun** *the snake shed its skin:* literary serpent; Austral./NZ rhyming slang Joe Blake.

• **verb** *the road snakes inland: twist, wind, meander, zigzag, curve.*

■ **snake in the grass** traitor, turncoat, betrayer, informer, back-stabber, double-crosser, quisling, Judas; fraudster, trickster, charlatan; informal two-timer, rat.

**WORD LINKS**

colubrine, ophidian, serpentine relating to or resembling a snake

gorgon (in Greek mythology) each of three sisters who had snakes as hair

slough (of a snake) shed an old skin

**snap** **verb** **1** *the ruler snapped: break, fracture, splinter, come apart, split, crack; informal bust.* **2** *she snapped after years of violence: flare up, lose one's self-control, freak out, go to pieces, get worked up; informal crack up, lose one's cool, blow one's top, fly off the handle; Brit. informal throw a wobbly.* **3** *a dog was snapping at his heels: bite; gnash its teeth.* **4** *'Shut up!' Anna snapped: say roughly, say brusquely, say abruptly, say angrily, bark, snarl, growl; retort, rejoin, retaliate; round on someone; informal jump down someone's throat.* **5** *photographers snapped the royals: photograph, picture, take, shoot, film, capture.*

• **noun** **1** *she closed her purse with a snap: click, crack, pop.* **2** *a cold snap: period, spell, time, interval, stretch; Brit. informal patch.* **3** (informal) *holiday snaps: photograph, picture, photo, shot, snapshot, print, slide, frame, still; Brit. enprint.*

■ **snap out of it** (informal) recover, get a grip, pull oneself together, get over it, get better, cheer up, perk up; informal buck up.

■ **snap something up** buy eagerly, accept eagerly, jump at, take advantage of, grab, seize (on), grasp with both hands, pounce on.

**snappy** **adjective** (informal) **1** *a snappy mood: irritable, irascible, short-tempered, quick-tempered, hot-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile; cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy; informal chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse; Brit. informal narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head; N. Amer. informal*

*soreheaded.* **2** *a snappy catchphrase: concise, succinct, memorable, catchy, neat, clever, crisp, pithy, witty, incisive, brief, short.* **3** *a snappy dresser: smart, fashionable, stylish, chic, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper; informal snazzy, natty, sharp, nifty, cool; N. Amer. informal sassy, spiffy, fly.*

– **OPPOSITES** peaceable, long-winded, slovenly.

**snare** **noun** **1** *the hare was caught in a snare: trap, gin, net, noose.* **2** *avoid the snares of the new law: pitfall, trap, catch, danger, hazard, peril; web, mesh; literary toils.*

• **verb** **1** *game birds were snared: trap, catch, net, bag, ensnare, entrap.* **2** *he managed to snare an heiress: ensnare, catch, get hold of, bag, hook, land.*

**snarl**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *the wolves are snarling: growl, gnash one's teeth.* **2** *'Shut it!' he snarled: say roughly, say brusquely, say nastily, bark, snap, growl; informal jump down someone's throat.*

**snarl**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *the rope got snarled up in a bush: tangle, entangle, entwine, enmesh, ravel, knot, foul.* **2** *this case has snarled up the court process: complicate, confuse, muddle, jumble; informal mess up.*

**snarl-up** **noun** (informal) **1** *a snarl-up in Edinburgh: traffic jam, tailback, gridlock.* **2** *a snarl-up in terminology: muddle, mess, tangle, jumble; misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misconception, confusion; mistake, mix-up, bungle; informal hash, foul-up, screw-up; N. Amer. informal snafu.*

**snatch** **verb** **1** *she snatched the sandwich: grab, seize, take hold of, get one's hands on, take, pluck; grasp at, clutch at.* **2** (informal) *someone snatched my bag.* See **STEAL** verb sense 1. **3** (informal) *she snatched the newborn from the hospital.* See **ABDUCT**. **4** *he snatched victory: seize, pluck, wrest, achieve, secure, obtain; scrape.*

• **noun** **1** *brief snatches of sleep: period, spell, time, fit, bout, interval, stretch.* **2** *a snatch of conversation: fragment, snippet, bit, scrap, part, extract, excerpt, portion.*

**snazzy** **adjective** (informal). See **STYLISH**.

**sneak** **verb** **1** *sneaked out: creep, slink, steal, slip, slide, sidle, edge, move furtively, tiptoe, pussyfoot, pad, prowl.* **2** *she sneaked a camera in: bring/take surreptitiously, bring/take secretly, bring/take illicitly, smuggle, spirit, slip.* **3** *he sneaked a doughnut: take furtively, take surreptitiously; steal; informal snatch.* **4** (Brit. informal) *the little squirt sneaked on me: inform, tell tales; report, give someone away, be disloyal, sell out, stab in the back; informal squeal, rat, blow the whistle, peach, snitch, stitch up; Brit. informal grass, split, shop; Scottish informal clype; N. Amer. informal finger; Austral./NZ informal dob.*

• **noun** (Brit. informal) *Ethel was the class sneak: informer, traitor; informal snitch, squealer, rat, whistle-blower; Brit. informal grass; Scottish informal clype; N. Amer. informal fink; Austral./NZ informal dobber.*

• **adjective** *a sneak preview: furtive, secret,*

stealthy, sly, surreptitious, clandestine, covert; private, quick.

**sneaking** adjective **1** *she had a sneaking admiration for him:* secret, private, hidden, concealed, unvoiced, undisclosed, undeclared, unavowed. **2** *a sneaking feeling:* niggling, nagging, lurking, insidious, lingering, gnawing, persistent.

**sneaky** adjective **sly**, crafty, cunning, wily, artful, scheming, devious, guileful, deceitful, duplicitous, underhand, unscrupulous; furtive, secretive, secret, stealthy, surreptitious, clandestine, covert; informal foxy, shifty, dirty.

— OPPOSITES honest.

**sneer** noun **1** *she had a sneer on her face:* smirk, curl of the lip, disparaging smile, contemptuous smile, cruel smile. **2** *the sneers of others:* jibe, barb, jeer, taunt, insult, slight, affront, slur; informal dig.

• verb **1** *he looked at me and sneered:* smirk, curl one's lip, smile disparagingly, smile contemptuously, smile cruelly. **2** *it is easy to sneer at them:* scoff at, scorn, disdain, mock, jeer at, hold in contempt, ridicule, deride, insult, slight; N. Amer. slur.

**snicker** verb *they all snickered at her:* snigger, titter, giggle, chortle, simper.

• noun *he could not suppress a snicker:* snigger, titter, giggle, chortle, simper.

**snide** adjective **disparaging**, derogatory, deprecating, denigratory, insulting, contemptuous; mocking, taunting, sneering, scornful, derisive, sarcastic, spiteful, nasty, mean; Brit. informal sarky.

**sniff** verb **1** *she sniffed and blew her nose:* inhale, breathe in; snuffle. **2** *Tom sniffed the fruit:* smell, scent, get a whiff of.

• noun **1** *she gave a loud sniff:* snuffle, inhalation. **2** *a sniff of fresh air:* smell, scent, whiff; lungful. **3** (informal) *the first sniff of trouble:* indication, hint, whiff, inkling, suggestion, whisper, trace, sign, suspicion.

■ **sniff at** scorn, disdain, hold in contempt, look down one's nose at, treat as inferior, look down on, sneer at, scoff at; informal turn one's nose up at.

■ **sniff something out** (informal) detect, find, discover, bring to light, track down, dig up, hunt out, ferret out, root out, uncover, unearth, run to earth/ground.

**snigger** verb *they snigger at him behind his back:* snicker, titter, giggle, chortle, laugh; sneer, smirk.

• noun *the joke got hardly a snigger:* snicker, titter, giggle, chortle, laugh; sneer, smirk.

**snip** verb **1** *an usher snipped our tickets:* cut, clip, snick, slit, nick, notch. **2** *snip off the faded flowers:* cut off, trim (off), clip, prune, chop off, lop (off), dock, crop, sever, detach, remove, take off.

• noun **1** *make snips along the edge:* cut, slit, snick, nick, notch, incision. **2** *snips of wallpaper:* scrap, snippet, cutting, shred, remnant, fragment, sliver, bit, piece. **3** (Brit. informal) *the book was a snip.* See **BARGAIN** noun sense 2. **4** (informal) *the job was a snip.* See **CINCH** sense 1.

**snippet** noun **piece**, bit, scrap, fragment, particle, shred; excerpt, extract.

**snivel** verb **1** *he slumped in a chair, snivelling:* sniffle, snuffle, whimper, whine, weep, cry; Scottish greet; informal blub, blubber, boohoo; Brit. informal grizzle. **2** *don't snivel about what you get:* complain, mutter, grumble, grouse, groan, carp, bleat, whine; informal gripe, moan, grouch, beef, bellyache, whinge, sound off; Brit. informal create; N. Amer. informal kvetch.

**snobbery** noun **affectation**, pretension, pretentiousness, arrogance, haughtiness, airs and graces, elitism; disdain, condescension, superciliousness; informal snootiness, uppitiness; Brit. informal side.

**snobbish** adjective **elitist**, snobby, superior, supercilious; arrogant, haughty, disdainful, condescending; pretentious, affected; informal snooty, uppity, high and mighty, la-di-da, stuck-up, hoity-toity, snotty; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

**snoop** (informal) verb **1** *don't snoop into our affairs:* pry, inquire, be inquisitive, be curious, poke about/around, be a busybody, poke one's nose into; interfere (in/with), meddle (in/with), intrude (on); informal be nosy; Austral./NZ informal stickybeak. **2** *they snooped around the building:* investigate, explore, search, nose, have a good look; prowl around.

• noun **1** *he went for a snoop around:* search, nose, look, prowl, ferret, poke, investigation. **2** *radio snoops.* See **SNOOPER**.

**snooper** noun **meddler**, busybody, eavesdropper; investigator, detective; informal nosy parker, Paul Pry, snoop, private eye, PI, sleuth; N. Amer. informal gumshoe; Austral./NZ informal stickybeak.

**snooty** adjective (informal) **arrogant**, proud, haughty, conceited, aloof, superior, self-important, disdainful, supercilious, snobbish, snobby, patronizing, condescending; informal uppity, high and mighty, la-di-da, stuck-up, hoity-toity; Brit. informal toffee-nosed.

— OPPOSITES modest.

**snooze** (informal) noun *a good place for a snooze:*

**nap**, doze, sleep, rest, siesta, catnap; informal forty winks; Brit. informal kip; literary slumber.

• verb *she gently snoozed:* nap, doze, sleep, rest, take a siesta, catnap; informal snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; Brit. informal kip, get one's head down; N. Amer. informal catch some Zs; literary slumber.

**snout** noun **muzzle**, nose, proboscis, trunk; Scottish & N. English neb.

**snow** noun **snowflakes**, flakes, snowfall, snowstorm, blizzard, sleet; snowdrift, avalanche.

#### WORD LINKS

**niveous** (literary) resembling snow

**snub** verb *they snubbed their hosts:* rebuff, spurn, repulse, cold-shoulder, brush off, give the cold shoulder to, keep at arm's length; cut (dead), ignore; insult, slight, affront,

humiliate; informal freeze out, knock back; N. Amer. informal stiff.

• **noun** *a very public snub*: **rebuff**, repulse, slap in the face; humiliation, insult, slight, affront; informal brush-off, put-down.

**snuff** **verb** *extinguish*, put out, douse, smother, choke, blow out, quench, stub out.

**snug** **adjective** **1** *our tents were snug*: cosy, comfortable, warm, homely, welcoming, restful, reassuring, intimate, sheltered, secure; informal comfy. **2** *a snug dress*: tight, skintight, close-fitting, figure-hugging, slinky.

– **OPPOSITES** bleak, loose.

**snuggle** **verb** *nestle*, curl up, huddle (up), cuddle up, nuzzle, settle; N. Amer. snug down.

**soak** **verb** **1** *soak the beans in water*: immerse, steep, submerge, submerse, dip, dunk, bathe, douse, marinate, souse. **2** *we got soaked outside*: drench, wet through, saturate, waterlog, deluge, inundate, submerge, drown, swamp. **3** *the sweat soaked through his clothes*: permeate, penetrate, percolate, seep into, spread through, infuse, impregnate. **4** *use towels to soak up the water*: absorb, suck up, blot (up), mop (up), sponge up, sop up.

**soaking** **adjective** *drenched*, wet (through), soaked (through), sodden, soggy, waterlogged, saturated, sopping wet, dripping wet, wringing wet.

– **OPPOSITES** parched.

**soar** **verb** **1** *the bird soared into the air*: fly, wing, ascend, climb, rise; take off, take flight. **2** *the gulls soared on the winds*: glide, plane, float, drift, wheel, hover. **3** *the cost of living soared*: increase, escalate, shoot up, rise, spiral; informal go through the roof, skyrocket.

– **OPPOSITES** plummet.

**sob** **verb** *weep*, cry, shed tears, snivel, whimper; howl, bawl; Scottish greet; informal blub, blubber, boohoo; Brit. informal grizzle.

**sober** **adjective** **1** *the driver was clearly sober*: not drunk, clear-headed; teetotal, abstinent, abstemious, dry; informal on the wagon. **2** *a sober view of life*: serious, solemn, sensible, thoughtful, grave, sombre, staid, level-headed, businesslike, down-to-earth, commonsensical, pragmatic, conservative; unemotional, dispassionate, objective, matter-of-fact, no-nonsense, rational, logical, straightforward; Scottish douce. **3** *a sober suit*: sombre, subdued, severe; conventional, traditional, quiet, drab, plain.

– **OPPOSITES** drunk, frivolous, sensational, flamboyant.

• **verb** **1** *I ought to sober up*: become sober; informal dry out. **2** *his expression sobered her*: make serious, subdue, calm down, quieten, steady; bring down to earth, make someone stop and think, give someone pause for thought.

**sobriety** **noun** **1** *she noted his sobriety*: soberness, clear-headedness; abstinence, teetotalism, non-indulgence, abstemiousness, temperance. **2** *the mayor is*

*a model of sobriety*: seriousness, solemnity, gravity, dignity, level-headedness, common sense, pragmatism, practicality, self-control, self-restraint, conservatism.

**so-called** **adjective** *supposed*, ostensible, alleged, presumed; nominal, titular, self-styled, professed, would-be, self-appointed, soi-disant.

**soccer** **noun** Association Football; Brit. football, the beautiful game.

**sociable** **adjective** *friendly*, affable, companionable, gregarious, convivial, clubbable, amicable, cordial, warm, genial; communicative, responsive, forthcoming, open, outgoing, extrovert, hail-fellow-well-met, approachable; informal chummy, clubby; Brit. informal matey.

– **OPPOSITES** unfriendly.

**social** **adjective** **1** *a major social problem*: communal, community, collective, group, general, popular, civil, public, societal.

**2** *a social club*: recreational, leisure.

**3** *a uniquely social animal*: gregarious, interactional; organized.

– **OPPOSITES** individual.

• **noun** *the club has a social once a month*: party, gathering, function, get-together; celebration, reunion, jamboree; informal bash, shindig, do; Brit. informal rave-up, knees-up, beano, bunfight, jolly.

**socialism** **noun** leftism, Fabianism, labourism, welfarism; radicalism, progressivism, social democracy; communism, Marxism, Leninism, Maoism; historical Bolshevism.

**socialist** **adjective** *the socialist movement*:

**left-wing**, leftist, Labour, Labourite, labourist, Fabian, progressive, reformer; radical, revolutionary, militant, red; communist, Marxist, Leninist, Maoist; informal, derogatory lefty, Bolshie, Commie.

– **OPPOSITES** conservative.

• **noun** *a well-known socialist*: **left-winger**, leftist, Fabian, Labourite, labourist, progressive, progressivist, reformer; radical, revolutionary, militant, red; communist, Marxist, Leninist, Maoist; informal, derogatory lefty, Bolshie, Commie.

– **OPPOSITES** conservative.

**socialize** **verb** *interact*, converse, be sociable, mix, mingle, get together, meet, fraternize, consort; entertain, go out; informal hobnob.

**society** **noun** **1** *a danger to society*: the community, the (general) public, the people, the population; civilization, humankind, mankind, humanity. **2** *an industrial society*: culture, community, civilization, nation, population. **3** *Lady Angela will help you enter society*: high society, polite society, the upper classes, the elite, the county set, the smart set, the beautiful people, the beau monde, the haut monde; informal the upper crust, the top drawer. **4** *a local history society*: association, club, group, circle, fellowship, guild, lodge, fraternity, brotherhood, sisterhood, sorority, league, union, alliance. **5** *the*



*society of others:* **company**, companionship, fellowship, friendship, comradeship, camaraderie.

#### WORD LINKS

**sociology** the study of human society

**sodden** **adjective** **1** *his clothes were sodden:* soaking, soaked (through), wet (through), saturated, drenched, sopping wet, wringing wet. **2** *sodden fields:* **waterlogged**, soggy, saturated, boggy, swampy, miry, marshy; heavy, squelchy, soft.  
– **OPPOSITES** arid.

**sofa** **noun** *settee*, couch, divan, chaise longue, chesterfield; Brit. put-you-up; N. Amer. davenport, day bed.

**soft** **adjective** **1** *soft fruit:* **mushy**, squashy, pulpy, pappy, slushy, squelchy, squishy, doughy; informal gooey; Brit. informal squidgy. **2** *soft ground:* **swampy**, marshy, boggy, miry, oozy; heavy, squelchy. **3** *a soft cushion:* **squashy**, spongy, compressible, supple, springy, pliable, pliant, resilient, malleable. **4** *soft fabric:* **velvety**, smooth, fleecy, downy, furry, silky, silken, satiny. **5** *a soft wind:* **gentle**, light, mild, moderate. **6** *soft light:* **dim**, low, faint, subdued, muted, mellow. **7** *soft colours:* **pale**, pastel, muted, understated, restrained, subdued, subtle. **8** *soft voices:* **quiet**, low, faint, muted, subdued, muffled, hushed, whispered, stifled, murmured, gentle, dulcet; indistinct, inaudible. **9** *soft outlines:* **blurred**, vague, hazy, misty, foggy, nebulous, fuzzy, blurry, indistinct, unclear. **10** *he seduced her with soft words:* **kind**, gentle, sympathetic, soothing, tender, sensitive, affectionate, loving, warm, sweet, sentimental, mushy, slushy; informal schmaltzy. **11** *she's too soft with her pupils:* **lenient**, easy-going, tolerant, forgiving, forbearing, indulgent, clement, permissive, liberal, lax. **12** (informal) *he's soft in the head:* **foolish**, stupid, simple, brainless, mindless; mad, scatterbrained, feather-brained; slow, weak, feeble; informal dopey, dippy, dotty, scatty, loopy; Brit. informal daft; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit.

– **OPPOSITES** hard, firm, rough, strong, harsh, lurid, strident, sharp, strict, sensible.

**soften** **verb** **1** *he tried to soften the blow of new taxes:* **alleviate**, ease, relieve, soothe, take the edge off, assuage, cushion, moderate, mitigate, palliate, diminish, blunt, deaden. **2** *the winds softened:* **die down**, abate, subside, moderate, let up, calm, diminish, slacken, weaken.

■ **soften someone up** charm, win over, persuade, influence, weaken, disarm, sweeten; informal butter up, soft-soap.

**soft-hearted** **adjective** **kind**, kindly, tender-hearted, tender, gentle, sympathetic, compassionate, humane; generous, indulgent, lenient, merciful, benevolent.

**softly-softly** **adjective** **cautious**, circumspect, discreet, gentle, patient, tactful, diplomatic.

**soggy** **adjective** **mushy**, squashy, pulpy, slushy, squelchy, squishy; swampy, marshy,

boggy, miry; soaking, soaked through, wet, saturated, drenched; Brit. informal squidgy.

**soil**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *acid soil:* **earth**, loam, dirt, clay, sod, turf; ground. **2** *British soil:* **territory**, land, domain, dominion, region, country.

**soil**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *he soiled his tie:* **dirty**, stain, splash, spot, spatter, splatter, smear, smudge, sully, spoil, foul; informal muck up; literary begrime. **2** *our reputation is being soiled:* **dishonour**, damage, sully, stain, blacken, tarnish, taint, blemish, defile, blot, smear, drag through the mud; literary besmirch.

**sojourn** (formal) **noun** *a sojourn in France:* **stay**, visit, stop, stopover; holiday, vacation.

• **verb** *they sojourned in the monastery:* **stay**, live, put up, stop (over), lodge, room, board; holiday, vacation.

**solace** **noun** *they found solace in each other:* **comfort**, consolation, cheer, support, relief. • **verb** *she was solaced with tea and sympathy:* **comfort**, console, cheer, support, soothe, calm.

**soldier** **noun** **fighter**, trooper, serviceman, servicewoman; warrior; US GI; Brit. informal squaddie; old use man-at-arms.

■ **soldier on** (informal) persevere, persist, continue, carry on, go on, keep on, keep going, struggle on, hammer away, be persistent, be determined, see/follow something through, keep at it, press on/ ahead, stand one's ground, go the distance, stay the course, plod on; informal plug away, peg away, stick it out.

#### WORD LINKS

**military** relating to soldiers

**cavalry** soldiers who formerly fought on horseback

**infantry** soldiers who fight on foot

**mercenary** a professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army

**sole** **adjective** **only**, one (and only), single, solitary, lone, unique, exclusive.

**solecism** **noun** **1** *a poem marred by solecisms:* (grammatical) **mistake**, error, blunder; informal howler, blooper; Brit. informal boob. **2** *it would have been a solecism to answer:* **faux pas**, gaffe, impropriety, social indiscretion, infelicity, slip, error, blunder, lapse; informal slip-up, boo-boo; Brit. informal boob, clanger, bloomer; N. Amer. informal goof, blooper.

**solely** **adverb** **only**, simply, just, merely, uniquely, exclusively, entirely, wholly; alone.

**solemn** **adjective** **1** *a solemn occasion:*

**dignified**, ceremonious, ceremonial, stately, formal, courtly, majestic; imposing, awe-inspiring, splendid, magnificent, grand.

**2** *he looked very solemn:* **serious**, grave, sober, sombre, unsmiling, stern, grim, dour, humourless; pensive, meditative. **3** *a solemn promise:* **sincere**, earnest, honest, genuine, firm, heartfelt, wholehearted, sworn.

– **OPPOSITES** frivolous, light-hearted, insincere.

**solemnize** **verb** **perform**, celebrate; officiate at, formalize.

**solicit** verb 1 *Phil tried to solicit his help:*

ask for, request, seek, apply for, put in for, call for, press for, beg, plead for; dated crave.

2 *they are solicited for their opinions:* ask, beg, implore, plead with, entreat, appeal to, lobby, petition, importune, supplicate, call on, press; literary beseech. 3 *the girls gathered to solicit:* work as a prostitute, make sexual advances, tout (for business); N. Amer. informal hustle.

**solicitor** noun (Brit.) lawyer, legal representative, legal practitioner, notary (public), advocate, attorney; Brit. articulated clerk; Scottish law agent; informal brief.

**solicitous** adjective concerned, caring, considerate, attentive, mindful, thoughtful, interested; anxious, worried.

**solid** adjective 1 *the ice cream was solid:* hard, rock-hard, rigid, firm, purified, set, frozen, concrete. 2 *solid gold:* pure, 24-carat, unalloyed, unadulterated, genuine. 3 *a solid line:* continuous, uninterrupted, unbroken, non-stop, undivided. 4 *solid houses:* well built, sound, substantial, strong, sturdy, durable. 5 *a solid argument:* well founded, valid, sound, reasonable, logical, authoritative, convincing, cogent, plausible, credible, reliable. 6 *a solid friendship:* dependable, reliable, firm, unshakeable, trustworthy, stable, steadfast, staunch, constant. 7 *solid citizens:* sensible, dependable, trustworthy, decent, law-abiding, upright, upstanding, worthy. 8 *the company is very solid:* financially sound, secure, creditworthy, profit-making, solvent, in credit, in the black; Finance ungeared, unlevered. 9 *solid support from their colleagues:* unanimous, united, consistent, undivided.

– OPPOSITES liquid, alloyed, broken, flimsy, untenable, unreliable.

**solidarity** noun unanimity, unity, like-mindedness, agreement, accord, harmony, consensus, concurrence, cooperation, cohesion; formal concord.

**solidify** verb harden, set, freeze, thicken, stiffen, congeal, cake, dry, bake; ossify, fossilize, petrify.

– OPPOSITES liquefy.

**soliloquy** noun monologue, speech, address, lecture, oration, sermon, homily, aside.

**solitary** adjective 1 *a solitary life:* lonely, companionless, unaccompanied, by oneself, on one's own, alone, friendless; antisocial, unsociable, withdrawn, reclusive, cloistered, hermitic; N. Amer. lonesome. 2 *solitary farmsteads:* isolated, remote, lonely, out of the way, in the back of beyond, outlying, off the beaten track, godforsaken, obscure, inaccessible, cut-off; secluded, private, sequestered, desolate; N. Amer. in the backwoods; Austral./NZ in the backblocks; informal in the sticks, in the middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal in the boondocks; Austral./NZ informal beyond the black stump; literary lone. 3 *a solitary piece of evidence:* single, lone, sole, unique; only, one, individual; odd.

– OPPOSITES sociable, accessible.

• noun *he became a solitary:* recluse, loner, hermit; historical anchorite; old use eremite.

**solitude** noun 1 *she savoured her solitude:* loneliness, solitariness, isolation, seclusion, sequestration, withdrawal, privacy, peace.

2 *solitudes like the area around the loch:* wilderness, rural area, wilds, backwoods; desert, emptiness, wasteland; Austral. the bush, the outback; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ backcountry; informal the sticks; N. Amer. informal the boondocks.

**solo** adjective *a solo flight:* unaccompanied, single-handed, companionless, unescorted, unattended, unchaperoned, independent, solitary; alone, on one's own, by oneself.

– OPPOSITES accompanied.

• adverb *she sailed solo:* unaccompanied, alone, on one's own, single-handed(ly), by oneself, unescorted, unattended, unchaperoned, unaided, independently.

– OPPOSITES accompanied.

**solution** noun 1 *an easy solution to the problem:* answer, result, resolution, way out, panacea; key, formula, explanation, interpretation. 2 *a solution of ammonia in water:* mixture, mix, blend, compound, suspension, tincture, infusion, emulsion.

**solve** verb resolve, answer, work out, find a solution to, find the key to, puzzle out, fathom, decipher, decode, clear up, straighten out, get to the bottom of, unravel, piece together, explain; informal figure out, crack; Brit. informal suss out.

**solvent** adjective financially sound, debt-free, in the black, in credit, creditworthy, solid, secure, profit-making; Finance ungeared, unlevered.

**sombre** adjective 1 *sombre clothes:* dark, drab, dull, dingy; restrained, subdued, sober, funereal. 2 *a sombre expression:* solemn, earnest, serious, grave, sober, unsmiling, stern, grim, dour, humourless; gloomy, depressed, sad, melancholy, dismal, doleful, mournful, lugubrious.

– OPPOSITES bright, cheerful.

**somebody** noun *she wanted to be a somebody:* important person, VIP, public figure, notable, dignitary, worthy; someone, (big/household) name, celebrity, star, superstar; grandee, luminary; informal celeb, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, hotshot, megastar.

– OPPOSITES nonentity.

**some day** adverb sometime, one day, one of these (fine) days, at a future date, sooner or later, by and by, in due course, in the fullness of time, in the long run.

**somehow** adverb by some means, by any means, in some way, one way or another, no matter how, by fair means or foul, by hook or by crook, come what may.

**sometime** adverb 1 *I'll visit sometime:*

some day, one day, one of these (fine) days, at a future date, sooner or later, by and by, in due course, in the fullness of time, in the long run. 2 *it happened sometime on Sunday:* at some time, at some point;

during, in the course of.

– OPPOSITES never.

• **adjective** *the sometime editor of the paper*: former, past, previous, prior, foregoing, late, erstwhile, one-time, ex-; formal quondam.

**sometimes** **adverb** occasionally, from time to time, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, at times, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically, spasmodically, intermittently.

**somewhat** **adverb** **1** *matters have improved somewhat*: a little, a bit, to some extent, (up) to a point, in some measure, rather, quite; N. Amer. informal some; informal kind of, sort of. **2** *a somewhat thicker book*: slightly, relatively, comparatively, moderately, fairly, rather, quite, marginally.

– OPPOSITES greatly.

**somnolent** **adjective** **1** *he felt somnolent after lunch*: sleepy, drowsy, tired, languid, dozy, groggy, lethargic, sluggish, enervated, torpid; informal snoozy, dopey, yawny; literary slumberous. **2** *a somnolent village*: quiet, restful, tranquil, calm, peaceful, relaxing, soothing, undisturbed, untroubled.

**song** **noun** **1** *a beautiful song*: air, strain, ditty, melody, tune, number, track. **2** *the song of the birds*: call(s), chirping, cheeping, peeping, chirruping, warble(s), warbling, trilling, twitter; birdsong.

■ **song and dance** (informal). See **FUSS** noun sense 1.

**songster, songstress** **noun** singer, vocalist, soloist, crooner, chorister, choirboy, choirgirl; alto, bass, baritone, contralto, tenor, soprano; balladeer; informal warbler, popster, soulster, folkie; historical minstrel, troubadour; old use melodist.

**sonorous** **adjective** **1** *a sonorous voice*: resonant, rich, full, round, booming, deep, clear, mellow, orotund, fruity, strong, resounding, reverberant. **2** *sonorous words of condemnation*: impressive, imposing, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, lofty, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, turgid; oratorical, rhetorical; informal highfalutin.

**soon** **adverb** **1** *we'll be there soon*: shortly, presently, in the near future, before long, in a little while, in a minute, in a moment, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, in no time, before you know it, any minute (now), any day (now), by and by; informal pronto, in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson, anon; Brit. informal sharpish, in a tick, in two ticks; dated directly. **2** *how soon can you get here?* early, quickly, promptly, speedily, punctually.

**sooner** **adverb** **1** *he should have done it sooner*: earlier, before, beforehand, in advance, ahead of time; already. **2** *I would sooner stay*: rather, preferably, by preference, by choice, more willingly, more readily.

**soothe** **verb** **1** *Rachel tried to soothe him*: calm (down), pacify, comfort, hush, quiet, subdue, settle (down), lull, tranquillize; appease, conciliate, mollify; Brit. quieten

(down). **2** *an anaesthetic to soothe the pain*: alleviate, ease, relieve, take the edge off, assuage, allay, lessen, palliate, diminish, decrease, dull, blunt, deaden.

– OPPOSITES agitate, aggravate.

**soothing** **adjective** **1** *soothing music*: relaxing, restful, calm, calming, tranquil, peaceful, reposeful, tranquillizing, soporific. **2** *soothing ointment*: palliative, mild, calmative.

**soothsayer** **noun** seer, oracle, augur, prophet(ess), sage, prognosticator, diviner, fortune teller, crystal-gazer, clairvoyant, psychic; Scottish spaewife; literary sibyl.

**sophisticated** **adjective** **1** *sophisticated techniques*: advanced, modern, state-of-the-art, the latest, new, up to the minute; innovatory, trailblazing, revolutionary, futuristic, avant-garde; complex, complicated, intricate. **2** *a sophisticated woman*: worldly, worldly-wise, experienced, enlightened, cosmopolitan, knowledgeable; urbane, cultured, cultivated, civilized, polished, refined; elegant, stylish; informal cool.

– OPPOSITES crude, naive.

**sophistication** **noun** worldliness, experience; urbanity, culture, civilization, polish, refinement; elegance, style, poise, finesse, savoir faire; informal cool.

**sophistry** **noun** **1** *to claim this is pure sophistry*: specious reasoning, fallacy, sophism, casuistry. **2** *he went along with her sophistry*: fallacious argument, sophism, fallacy; Logic paralogism.

**soporific** **adjective** **soporific drugs**: sleep-inducing, sedative, somnolent, calmative, tranquillizing, narcotic, opiate; drowsy, sleepy, somniferous; Medicine hypnotic.

– OPPOSITES invigorating.

• **noun** *she was given a soporific*: sleeping pill, sedative, calmative, tranquillizer, narcotic, opiate; Medicine hypnotic.

– OPPOSITES stimulant.

**soppy** **adjective** (Brit. informal) **1** *the songs are really soppy*. See **SENTIMENTAL** sense 2. **2** *they were too soppy for our games*. See **FEEBLE** sense 3.

**sorcerer, sorceress** **noun** wizard, witch, magician, warlock, enchanter, enchantress, magus; shaman, witch doctor; old use mage.

**sorcery** **noun** (black) magic, the black arts, witchcraft, wizardry, enchantment, spells, incantation, witching, witchery, thaumaturgy; shamanism; Irish pishogue.

**sordid** **adjective** **1** *a sordid love affair*: sleazy, seedy, seamy, unsavoury, tawdry, cheap, debased, degenerate, dishonourable, disreputable, discreditable, contemptible, ignominious, shameful, wretched, abhorrent. **2** *a sordid little street*: squalid, slummy, dirty, filthy, mucky, grimy, shabby, messy, soiled, scummy, unclean; informal cruddy, grungy, crummy, scuzzy; Brit. informal grotty.

– OPPOSITES respectable, immaculate.

**sore** **adjective** **1** *a sore leg*: painful, hurting,



hurt, aching, throbbing, smarting, stinging, agonizing, excruciating; inflamed, sensitive, tender, raw, bruised, wounded, injured. **2** *we are in sore need of you:* **dire**, urgent, pressing, desperate, parlous, critical, crucial, acute, grave, serious, drastic, extreme, life-and-death, great, terrible; formal exigent. **3** (N. Amer. informal) *they were sore at us:* **upset**, angry, annoyed, cross, furious, vexed, displeased, disgruntled, dissatisfied, exasperated, irritated, galled, irked, put out, aggrieved, offended, affronted, piqued, nettled; informal aggravated, miffed, peeved, hacked off, riled; Brit. informal narked, cheesed off, brassed off; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off.

• **noun** *a sore on his leg:* **inflammation**, swelling, lesion; wound, scrape, abrasion, cut, laceration, graze, contusion, bruise; ulcer, boil, abscess, carbuncle.

**SORROW** **noun** **1** *he felt sorrow at her death:* **sadness**, unhappiness, misery, despondency, regret, depression, despair, desolation, dejection, wretchedness, gloom, dolefulness, melancholy, woe, heartache, grief; literary **colour**. **2** *the sorrows of life:* **trouble**, difficulty, problem, adversity, misery, woe, affliction, trial, tribulation, misfortune, setback, reverse, blow, failure, tragedy.

– **OPPOSITES** joy.

• **verb** *they sorrowed over her grave:* **mourn**, lament, grieve, be sad, be miserable, be despondent, despair, suffer, ache, agonize, anguish, pine, weep, wail.

– **OPPOSITES** rejoice.

**SORROWFUL** **adjective** **1** *sorrowful eyes:* **sad**, unhappy, dejected, regretful, downcast, miserable, downhearted, despondent, despairing, disconsolate, desolate, glum, gloomy, doleful, dismal, melancholy, mournful, woeful, weebegone, forlorn, crestfallen, heartbroken; informal **blue**, down in the mouth, down in the dumps. **2** *sorrowful news:* **tragic**, **sad**, unhappy, awful, miserable, sorry, pitiful; traumatic, upsetting, depressing, distressing, dispiriting, heartbreaking, harrowing; formal **grievous**.

**SORRY** **adjective** **1** *I was sorry to hear about his accident:* **sad**, unhappy, sorrowful, distressed, upset, downcast, downhearted, disheartened, despondent; heartbroken, inconsolable, grief-stricken. **2** *he felt sorry for her:* **full of pity**, sympathetic, compassionate, moved, consoling, empathetic, concerned. **3** *I'm sorry if I was brusque:* **regretful**, remorseful, contrite, repentant, rueful, penitent, apologetic, abject, guilty, self-reproachful, ashamed, sheepish, shamefaced. **4** *he looks a sorry sight:* **pitiful**, pitiable, heart-rending, distressing; unfortunate, unhappy, wretched, unlucky, shameful, regrettable, awful.

– **OPPOSITES** glad, unsympathetic, unrepentant.

**SORT** **noun** **1** *what sort of book is it?* **type**, kind, nature, manner, variety, class, category, style; calibre, quality, form, group, set, bracket, genre, species, family, order,

generation, vintage, make, model, brand, stamp, ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould; N. Amer. **stripe**. **2** (informal) *he's a good sort:* **person**, individual, soul, creature, human being; character, customer; informal fellow, type, beggar, cookie; Brit. informal **bod**; informal, dated **body**, dog, cove.

• **verb** **1** *they sorted things of similar size:* **classify**, class, categorize, catalogue, grade, group; organize, arrange, order, marshal, assemble, systematize, systemize, pigeonhole. **2** *the problem was soon sorted:* **resolve**, settle, solve, fix, work out, straighten out, deal with, put right, set right, rectify, iron out; answer, explain, fathom, unravel, clear up; informal **sew up**, hammer out, thrash out, patch up, figure out.

■ **out of sorts** **1** *I'm feeling out of sorts:* unwell, ill, poorly, sick, queasy, nauseous, peaky, run down, below par; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, funny, rough, lousy, rotten, awful; Brit. informal off, ropy; Scottish informal wabbit, peely-wally; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated **seedy**. **2** *I've been out of sorts and I'd like a chat:* unhappy, sad, miserable, down, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum, dispirited, despondent, forlorn, weebegone, low, in the doldrums; informal **blue**, fed up, down in the dumps, down in the mouth.

■ **sort of** (informal) **1** *you look sort of familiar:* slightly, faintly, remotely, vaguely; somewhat, moderately, quite, rather, fairly, reasonably, relatively; informal pretty, kind of. **2** *he sort of pirouetted:* as it were, kind of, somehow.

■ **sort something out** **1** *she sorted out the clothes.* See **sort** verb sense 1. **2** *they must sort out their problems.* See **sort** verb sense 2.

**SORTIE** **noun** **1** *a sortie against their besiegers:* foray, sally, charge, offensive, attack, assault, onslaught, thrust, drive; old use onset. **2** *a bomber sortie:* **raid**, flight, mission, operation.

**SO-SO** **adjective** (informal) **mediocre**, indifferent, average, middle-of-the-road, middling, moderate, ordinary, adequate, fair; uninspired, undistinguished, unexceptional, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, lacklustre; informal bog-standard, no great shakes, not up to much; NZ informal half-pie.

**SOUL** **noun** **1** *seeing the soul through the eyes:* **spirit**, psyche, (inner) self, inner being, life force, vital force; individuality, make-up, subconscious, anima; Philosophy **pneuma**; Hinduism **atman**. **2** *he is the soul of discretion:* **embodiment**, personification, incarnation, epitome, quintessence, essence; model, exemplification, exemplar, image, manifestation. **3** *not a soul in sight:* **person**, human being, individual, man, woman, mortal, creature. **4** *their music lacked soul:* **inspiration**, feeling, emotion, passion, animation, intensity, fervour, ardour, enthusiasm, warmth, energy, vitality, spirit.

**SOULFUL** **adjective** **emotional**, deep, profound, fervent, heartfelt, sincere, passionate; meaningful, significant, eloquent,

expressive; moving, stirring; sad, mournful, doleful.

**soulless** adjective **1** *a soulless room:* characterless, featureless, bland, dull, colourless, lacklustre, dreary, drab, uninspiring, undistinguished, anaemic, insipid. **2** *it was soulless work:* boring, dull, tedious, dreary, humdrum, tiresome, wearisome, uninteresting, uninspiring, unexciting, soul-destroying, mind-numbing, dry; monotonous, repetitive.

– OPPOSITES exciting.

**sound**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the sound of the car:* noise, note; din, racket, row, hubbub; resonance, reverberation. **2** *she did not make a sound:* utterance, cry, word, noise, peep; informal cheep. **3** *the sound of the flute:* music, tone, notes. **4** *I don't like the sound of that:* idea, thought, concept, prospect, description. **5** *we're within sound of the sea:* earshot, hearing (distance), range.

– OPPOSITES silence.

• verb **1** *the buzzer sounded:* make a noise, resonate, resound, reverberate, go off, blare; ring, chime, peal. **2** *drivers must sound their horns:* blow, blast, toot, blare; operate, set off; ring. **3** *do you sound the 'h'?* pronounce, verbalize, voice, enunciate, articulate, vocalize, say. **4** *she sounded a warning:* utter, voice, deliver, express, speak, announce, pronounce. **5** *it sounds a crazy idea:* appear, look (like), seem, strike someone as being, give every indication of being.

#### WORD LINKS

**acoustic, sonic** relating to sound or sound waves  
**decibel** a unit for measuring the intensity of sound  
**phonetics** the study of speech sounds  
**sonar** a system for detecting objects underwater, based on sound pulses

**sound**<sup>2</sup> adjective **1** *your heart is sound:* healthy, in good condition, in good shape, fit, hale and hearty, in fine fettle; undamaged, unimpaired. **2** *a sound building:* well built, solid, substantial, strong, sturdy, durable, stable, intact, unimpaired. **3** *sound advice:* well founded, valid, reasonable, logical, weighty, authoritative, reliable. **4** *a sound judge of character:* reliable, dependable, trustworthy, fair; good, sensible, wise, judicious, sagacious, shrewd, perceptive. **5** *financially sound:* solvent, debt-free, in the black, in credit, creditworthy, secure. **6** *a sound sleep:* deep, undisturbed, uninterrupted, untroubled, peaceful. **7** *a sound thrashing:* thorough, proper, real, complete, unqualified, out-and-out, thoroughgoing, severe; informal right (royal).

– OPPOSITES unhealthy, unsafe, unreliable, insolvent, light.

**sound**<sup>3</sup> verb *sound the depth of the river:* measure, gauge, determine, test, investigate, survey, plumb, fathom, probe. ■ **sound someone/something out** investigate, test, check, examine, probe, research, look into; canvass, survey, poll,

question, interview, sample; informal pump.

**sound**<sup>4</sup> noun *an oil spill in Prince William Sound:* channel, (sea) passage, strait(s), narrows, waterway; inlet, arm (of the sea), fjord, creek, bay; estuary, firth.

**soup** noun *broth, potage, consommé, bouillon, chowder, bisque.*

**sour** adjective **1** *sour wine:* acid, acidic, acidy, acidulated, tart, bitter, sharp, vinegary, pungent; N. Amer. acerb; technical acerbic. **2** *sour milk:* bad, off, turned, curdled, rancid, high, rank, foul, fetid. **3** *a sour old man:* embittered, resentful, rancorous, jaundiced, bitter; nasty, spiteful, irritable, peevish, fractious, cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, disagreeable, petulant, querulous, grumpy, bad-tempered, ill-humoured, sullen, surly, sulky, churlish; informal snappy, grouchy; Brit. informal ratty, stropy, shirty; N. Amer. informal cranky, soreheaded.

– OPPOSITES sweet, fresh, amiable.

• verb **1** *the war had soured him:* embitter, disillusion, disenchant, poison, alienate; dissatisfy, frustrate. **2** *the dispute soured relations:* spoil, mar, damage, harm, impair, wreck, upset, poison, blight, tarnish.

– OPPOSITES improve.

**source** noun **1** *the source of the river:* spring, origin, (well) head, headspring, headwater(s); literary wellspring. **2** *the source of the rumour:* origin, birthplace, spring, fountainhead, fount, starting point; history, provenance, derivation, root, beginning, genesis, start, rise; author, originator, initiator, inventor; N. Amer. provenience. **3** *a historian uses primary and secondary sources:* reference, authority, informant; document.

**souse** verb *drench, douse, soak, steep, saturate, plunge, immerse, submerge, dip, sink, dunk.*

**soused** adjective **1** *a soured herring:* pickled, marinated, soaked, steeped. **2** (informal) *he was well and truly soured.* See **DRUNK** adjective.

**south** adjective *southern, southerly, meridional, austral.*

**souvenir** noun *memento, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, token, memorial; trophy, relic.*

**sovereign** noun *ruler, monarch, crowned head, head of state, potentate, suzerain, overlord, dynast, leader.*

• adjective **1** *sovereign control:* supreme, absolute, unlimited, unrestricted, boundless, ultimate, total, unconditional, full; principal, chief, dominant, predominant, ruling; royal, regal, monarchical. **2** *a sovereign state:* independent, autonomous, self-governing, self-determining; non-aligned, free. **3** (dated) *a sovereign remedy for all ills:* effective, effectual, efficient, powerful, potent; useful, helpful, valuable, worthwhile; excellent, reliable, unfailing; informal sure-fire; formal efficacious.

**sovereignty** noun **1** *their sovereignty over the islands:* jurisdiction, rule, supremacy, dominion, power, ascendancy, suzerainty,

hegemony, domination, authority, control, influence. **2** *full sovereignty was achieved in 1955*: **autonomy**, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, freedom.

**sow** verb **1** *sow the seeds in rows*: **plant**, scatter, spread, broadcast, disperse, strew, disseminate, distribute; drill, dibble, seed. **2** *the new policy has sown confusion*: **cause**, bring about, occasion, create, lead to, produce, engender, generate, prompt, initiate, precipitate, trigger, provoke; culminate in, entail, necessitate; foster, foment; literary beget.

**space** noun **1** *there was not enough space*: **room**, capacity, area, volume, expanse, extent, scope, latitude, margin, leeway, play, clearance. **2** *green spaces in London*: **area**, expanse, stretch, sweep, tract. **3** *the space between the timbers*: **gap**, interval, opening, aperture, cavity, cranny, fissure, crack, interstice, lacuna. **4** *write your name in the appropriate space*: **blank**, gap, box. **5** *a space of seven years*: **period**, span, time, duration, stretch, course, interval. **6** *the first woman in space*: **outer space**, deep space; the universe, the galaxy, the solar system; infinity. • **verb** *the chairs were spaced widely*: **position**, arrange, range, array, dispose, lay out, locate, situate, set, stand.

**spaceman, spacewoman** noun astronaut, cosmonaut, taikonaut, space traveller, space cadet; N. Amer. informal jock.

**spacious** adjective **roomy**, capacious, palatial, airy, sizeable, generous, large, big, vast, immense; extensive, expansive, sweeping, rolling, rambling, open; formal commodious.

– OPPOSITES cramped.

**spadework** noun **groundwork**, preliminary work, preliminaries, preparatory measures, preparations, planning, foundations; hard work, donkey work, labour, drudgery, toil; informal grind; Brit. informal graft.

**span** noun **1** *a six-foot wing span*: **extent**, length, width, reach, stretch, spread, distance, range. **2** *the span of one working day*: **period**, space, time, duration, course, interval.

• **verb** *1 an arch spanned the stream*: **bridge**, cross, traverse, pass over. **2** *his career spanned twenty years*: **last**, cover, extend, spread over, comprise.

**spank** verb **smack**, slap, hit, beat, cuff; informal wallop, belt, whack, give someone a hiding; Scottish & N. English skelp.

**spar** verb **quarrel**, argue, fight, disagree, differ, be at odds, be at variance, fall out, dispute, squabble, wrangle, bandy words, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads; informal scrap, argufy, spat; Brit. informal row.

**spare** adjective **1** *a spare set of keys*: **extra**, supplementary, additional, second, other, alternative; emergency, reserve, back-up, relief, fallback, substitute; fresh; N. Amer. alternate. **2** *they sold off the spare land*: **surplus**, superfluous, excessive; redundant, unnecessary, inessential, unessential,

unnneeded, uncalled for, dispensable, disposable, expendable, unwanted; informal going begging. **3** *your spare time*: **free**, leisure, own. **4** *a spare woman*: **slender**, lean, willowy, svelte, lissom, rangy, clean-limbed, trim, slight; thin, skinny, gaunt, lanky, spindly; informal skin and bone.

• **verb** **1** *he could not spare any money*: **afford**, do without, manage without, dispense with, part with, give, provide. **2** *they were spared by their captors*: **pardon**, let off, forgive, reprieve, release, free; leave uninjured, leave unhurt; be merciful to, show mercy to, have mercy on, be lenient to, have pity on.

■ **go spare** (Brit. informal). See **GET ANGRY** at **ANGRY**.

■ **to spare left (over)**, remaining, unused, unneeded, not required, still available, surplus (to requirements), superfluous, extra; informal going begging.

**sparing** adjective **thrifty**, economical, frugal, canny, careful, prudent, cautious; mean, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, close, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, ungenerous, grasping; informal stingy, tight-fisted, tight, mingy, money-grubbing; N. Amer. informal cheap.

– OPPOSITES lavish.

**spark** noun **1** *a spark of light*: **flash**, glint, twinkle, flicker, flare, pinprick. **2** *not a spark of truth in the story*: **particle**, iota, jot, whit, glimmer, atom, bit, trace, vestige, ounce, shred, crumb, grain, mite, hint, touch, suggestion, whisper, scintilla; informal smidgen, tad.

• **verb** *the trial sparked a furious row*: **cause**, give rise to, lead to, occasion, bring about, start, initiate, precipitate, prompt, trigger (off), provoke, stimulate, stir up.

**sparkle** verb **1** *her earrings sparkled*: **glitter**, glint, glisten, twinkle, flash, blink, wink, shimmer, shine, gleam; literary coruscate, glister. **2** *she sparkled as the hostess*: **be lively**, be vivacious, be animated, be ebullient, be exuberant, be bubbly, be effervescent, be witty, be full of life. • **noun** *the sparkle of the pool*: **glitter**, glint, twinkle, flicker, shimmer, flash, shine, gleam; literary coruscation.

**sparkling** adjective **1** *sparkling wine*: **effervescent**, fizzy, carbonated, aerated, gassy, bubbly, frothy; mousseux, spumante. **2** *a sparkling performance*: **brilliant**, dazzling, scintillating, exciting, exhilarating, stimulating, invigorating; vivacious, lively, vibrant, animated.

– OPPOSITES still, dull.

**sparse** adjective **scant**, scanty, scattered, scarce, infrequent, few and far between; meagre, paltry, skimpy, limited, in short supply.

– OPPOSITES abundant.

**spartan** adjective **austere**, harsh, hard, frugal, stringent, rigorous, strict, stern, severe; ascetic, abstemious; bleak, joyless, grim, bare, stark, plain.

– OPPOSITES luxurious.

**spasm** noun **1** *a muscle spasm*: **contraction**,



convulsion, cramp; twitch, jerk, tic, shudder, shiver, tremor. **2** *a spasm of coughing*: fit, paroxysm, attack, burst, bout, seizure, outburst, outbreak, access; informal splurt; formal boutade.

**spasmodic** adjective intermittent, fitful, irregular, sporadic, erratic, occasional, infrequent, scattered, patchy, isolated, periodic, periodical, on and off.

**spate** noun series, succession, run, cluster, string, rash, epidemic, outbreak, wave, flurry, rush, flood, deluge, torrent.

**splatter** verb splash, bespatter, splatter, spray, sprinkle, shower, speck, speckle, fleck, mottle, blotch, mark, cover; informal splotch; Brit. informal splodge.

**spawn** verb give rise to, bring about, occasion, generate, engender, originate; lead to, result in, effect, induce, initiate, start, set off, precipitate, trigger; breed, bear; literary beget.

**speak** verb **1** *she refused to speak about it*: talk, say anything/something; utter, state, declare, tell, voice, express, pronounce, articulate, enunciate, vocalize, verbalize. **2** *we spoke the other day*: converse, have a conversation, talk, communicate, chat, pass the time of day, have a word, gossip; informal have a confab, chew the fat; Brit. informal natter; N. Amer. informal shoot the breeze; formal confabulate. **3** *the Minister spoke for two hours*: give a speech, talk, lecture, hold forth, discourse, expound, expatiate, orate, sermonize, pontificate; informal spout, spiel, speechify, jaw, sound off. **4** *he was spoken of as a promising student*: mention, talk about, discuss, refer to, remark on, allude to. **5** *his expression spoke disbelief*: indicate, show, display, register, reveal, betray, exhibit, manifest, express, convey, impart, bespeak, communicate, evidence; suggest, denote, reflect; formal evince. **6** *you must speak to him about his rudeness*: reprimand, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, reproach, scold, remonstrate with, take to task, pull up; informal tell off, dress down, rap over the knuckles, come down on; Brit. informal tick off; formal castigate.

■ **speak for 1** *she speaks for the Liberal Democrats*: represent, act for, appear for, express the views of, be spokesperson for. **2** *I spoke for the motion*: advocate, champion, uphold, defend, support, promote, recommend, back, endorse, sponsor, espouse.

■ **speak out** speak publicly, speak openly, speak frankly, speak one's mind, sound off, stand up and be counted.

■ **speak up** speak loudly, speak clearly, raise one's voice; shout, yell, bellow; informal holler.

**speaker** noun speech-maker, lecturer, talker, speechifier, orator, declaimer, rhetorician; spokesperson, spokesman/woman, mouthpiece; reader, lector, commentator, broadcaster, narrator; informal tub-thumper, spieler; historical demagogue, rhetor.

**spear** noun javelin, lance, assegai, harpoon, bayonet; gaff, leister; historical pike.

**spearhead** noun *the spearhead of the struggle against Fascism*: leader(s), driving force; forefront, front runner(s), front line, vanguard, van, cutting edge.

• verb *she spearheaded the campaign*: lead, head, front; lead the way, be in the van, be in the vanguard.

**special** adjective **1** *a very special person*: exceptional, unusual, singular, uncommon, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, outstanding, unique. **2** *our town's special character*: distinctive, distinct, individual, particular, specific, peculiar. **3** *a special occasion*: momentous, significant, memorable, signal, important, historic, festive, gala, red-letter. **4** *a special tool for cutting tiles*: specific, particular, purpose-built, tailor-made, custom-built.

– OPPOSITES ordinary, general.

**specialist** noun expert, authority, pundit, professional; connoisseur; master, maestro, adept, virtuoso; informal pro, buff, ace, whizz, hotshot; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven.

– OPPOSITES amateur.

**speciality** noun **1** *his speciality was watercolours*: forte, strong point, strength, métier, strong suit, talent, skill, bent, gift; informal bag, thing, cup of tea. **2** *a speciality of the region*: delicacy, specialty, fine food/product, traditional food/product.

**species** noun type, kind, sort; genus, family, order, breed, strain, variety, class, classification, category, set, bracket; style, manner, form, genre; generation, vintage.

**specific** adjective **1** *a specific purpose*: particular, specified, fixed, set, determined, distinct, definite; single, individual, peculiar, discrete, express, precise. **2** *I gave specific instructions*: detailed, explicit, express, clear-cut, unequivocal, precise, exact, meticulous, strict, definite.

– OPPOSITES general, vague.

**specification** noun **1** *clear specification of objectives*: statement, identification, definition, description, setting out, framing, designation, detailing, enumeration; stipulation, prescription. **2** *a shelter built to their specifications*: instructions, guidelines, parameters, stipulations, requirements, conditions, provisions, restrictions, order; description, details.

**specify** verb state, name, identify, define, describe, set out, frame, itemize, detail, list, spell out, enumerate, particularize, cite, instance; stipulate, prescribe.

**specimen** noun sample, example, instance, illustration, demonstration, exemplification; bit, snippet; model, prototype, pattern, dummy, pilot, trial, taster, tester.

**specious** adjective misleading, deceptive, false, fallacious, unsound, casuistic, sophistic; plausible.

**speck** noun **1** *a mere speck in the distance*: dot, pinprick, spot, fleck, speckle. **2** *a speck of dust*: particle, grain, atom, molecule; bit, trace.

**speckled** adjective **flecked**, speckly, specked, freckled, freckly, spotted, spotty, dotted, mottled, dappled.

**spectacle** noun **1** *a spectacle fit for a monarch*: display, show, pageant, parade, performance, exhibition, extravaganza, spectacular. **2** *they were rather an odd spectacle*: sight, vision, scene, prospect, vista, picture. **3** *don't make a spectacle of yourself*: exhibition, laughing stock, fool, curiosity.

**spectacles** plural noun glasses, eyewear; N. Amer. eyeglasses; informal specs.

**spectacular** adjective **1** *a spectacular victory*: impressive, magnificent, splendid, dazzling, sensational, dramatic, remarkable, outstanding, memorable, unforgettable. **2** *a spectacular view*: striking, picturesque, eye-catching, breathtaking, arresting, glorious; informal out of this world.

– OPPOSITES unimpressive, dull.

• noun *a spectacular put on for the tourists*.  
See **SPECTACLE** sense 1.

**spectator** noun **watcher**, viewer, observer, onlooker, bystander, witness; commentator, reporter, monitor; literary beholder.

– OPPOSITES participant.

**spectral** adjective **ghostly**, phantom, wraithlike, shadowy, incorporeal, insubstantial, disembodied, unearthly, other-worldly; informal spooky.

**spectre** noun **1** *the spectres in the crypt*: ghost, phantom, apparition, spirit, wraith, shadow, presence; informal spook; literary phantasm, shade. **2** *the looming spectre of war*: threat, menace, shadow, cloud; prospect; danger, peril, fear, dread.

**spectrum** noun **range**, gamut, sweep, scope, span; compass, orbit, ambit.

**speculate** verb **1** *they speculated about my private life*: conjecture, theorize, hypothesize, guess, surmise; think, wonder, muse. **2** *investors speculate on the stock market*: gamble, take a risk, venture, wager; invest, play the market; Brit. informal have a flutter, punt.

**speculative** adjective **1** *any discussion is largely speculative*: conjectural, suppositional, theoretical, hypothetical, putative, academic, notional, abstract; tentative, unproven, unfounded, groundless, unsubstantiated. **2** *a speculative investment*: risky, hazardous, unsafe, uncertain, unpredictable; informal chancy, dicey, iffy; Brit. informal dodgy.

**speech** noun **1** *he doesn't have the power of speech*: speaking, talking, verbal expression, verbal communication. **2** *her speech was slurred*: diction, elocution, articulation, enunciation, pronunciation; utterance, words. **3** *an after-dinner speech*: talk, address, lecture, discourse, oration, disquisition, peroration, deliverance, presentation; sermon, homily, monologue, soliloquy; informal spiel. **4** *Spanish popular speech*: language, tongue, parlance, idiom, dialect, vernacular, patois; informal lingo,

patter, -speak, -ese.

#### WORD LINKS

**oral, lingual, phonic** relating to speech or speech sounds  
**oracy** the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech  
**phonetics** the study of speech sounds  
**aphasia** inability to understand or produce speech as a result of brain damage  
**glossolalia** the phenomenon of apparently speaking in an unknown language during religious worship

**speechless** adjective **lost for words**, dumbstruck, bereft of speech, tongue-tied, inarticulate, mute, dumb, voiceless, silent; informal mum; old use mumchance.

– OPPOSITES verbose.

**speed** noun **1** *the speed of their progress*: rate, pace, tempo, momentum. **2** *the speed with which they responded*: rapidity, swiftness, speediness, quickness, dispatch, promptness, immediacy, briskness, sharpness; haste, hurry, precipitateness; acceleration, velocity; informal lick, clip; literary celerity.

• verb **1** *I sped home*: hurry, rush, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, hasten; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it. **2** *he was caught speeding*: drive too fast, exceed the speed limit. **3** *a holiday will speed his recovery*: hasten, expedite, speed up, accelerate, advance, further, promote, boost, stimulate, aid, assist, facilitate.

– OPPOSITES slow, hinder.

■ **speed up** hurry up, accelerate, go faster, get a move on, put a spurt on, pick up speed, gather speed; informal get cracking, get moving, step on it, shake a leg, get a wiggle on; Brit. informal get one's skates on.

#### WORD LINKS

**supersonic** faster than the speed of sound  
**Mach** used with a numeral to indicate the speed of sound, twice the speed of sound, etc.  
**tachometer** an instrument measuring the speed of an engine  
**tachograph** a tachometer used in commercial vehicles to record vehicle speed over a period of time

**speedily** adverb **rapidly**, swiftly, quickly, fast, post-haste, at the speed of light, at full tilt; promptly, immediately, briskly; hastily, hurriedly, precipitately; informal p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), double quick, hell for leather, at the double, like the wind, like (greased) lightning; Brit. informal like the clappers, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; literary apace.

**speedy** adjective **1** *a speedy reply*: rapid, swift, quick, fast; prompt, immediate, expeditious, express, brisk, sharp; whirlwind, lightning, meteoric; hasty, hurried, precipitate, breakneck, rushed; informal p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), snappy, quickie. **2** *a speedy hatchback*: fast, high-

speed; informal nippy, zippy; literary fleet.

– OPPOSITES slow.

**spell**<sup>1</sup> **verb** *the drought spelled disaster for them*: signal, signify, mean, amount to, add up to, constitute; portend, augur, herald, bode, promise; involve; literary betoken, foretold, forebode.

■ **spell something out** explain, make clear, make plain, elucidate, clarify; specify, itemize, detail, enumerate, list, expound, particularize, catalogue.

#### WORD LINKS

orthography the conventional spelling system of a language

**spell**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *the witch recited a spell*: incantation, charm, conjuration, formula; (spells) magic, sorcery, witchcraft; N. Amer. hex. **2** *she surrendered to his spell*: influence, (animal) magnetism, charisma, allure, lure, charm, attraction, enticement; magic, romance, mystique.

■ **cast a spell on** bewitch, enchant, entrance; curse, jinx, witch; N. Amer. hex.

**spell**<sup>3</sup> **noun** **1** *a spell of dry weather*: period, time, interval, season, stretch, run, course, streak; Brit. informal patch. **2** *a spell of dizziness*: bout, fit, attack.

**spellbinding** **adjective** *a spellbinding film*: fascinating, enthralling, entrancing, bewitching, captivating, riveting, engrossing, gripping, absorbing, compelling, compulsive, mesmerizing, hypnotic; informal unputdownable.

– OPPOSITES boring.

**spellbound** **adjective** *enthralled, fascinated*, rapt, riveted, transfixed, gripped, captivated, bewitched, enchanted, mesmerized, hypnotized; informal hooked.

**spend** **verb** **1** *she spent £185 on shoes*: pay out, dish out, expend, disburse; squander, waste, fritter away; lavish; informal fork out, lay out, shell out, cough up, blow, splash out, splurge; Brit. informal stump up, blue; N. Amer. informal pony up. **2** *the morning was spent gardening*: pass, occupy, fill, take up, while away. **3** *I've spent hours on this essay*: put in, devote; waste. **4** *the storm had spent its force*: use up, consume, exhaust, deplete, drain.

**spendthrift** **noun** *he is such a spendthrift*: profligate, prodigal, squanderer, waster; informal big spender.

– OPPOSITES miser.

• **adjective** *his spendthrift father*: profligate, improvident, thriftless, wasteful, extravagant, prodigal.

– OPPOSITES frugal.

**spent** **adjective** **1** *a spent force*: used up, consumed, exhausted, finished, depleted, drained; informal burnt out. **2** *that's enough—I'm spent*: exhausted, tired (out), weary, worn out, dog-tired, on one's last legs, drained, fatigued, ready to drop; informal done in, all in, dead on one's feet, dead beat, bushed, wiped out, frazzled; Brit. informal knackered, whacked; N. Amer. informal pooped, tuckered out.

**spew** **verb** **1** *factories spewed out yellow*

*smoke*: emit, discharge, eject, expel, belch out, pour out, spout, gush, spurt, disgorge.

**2** (informal) *he wanted to spew*. See **VOMIT** verb sense 1.

**sphere** **noun** **1** *a glass sphere*: globe, ball, orb, spheroid, globule, round; bubble. **2** *our sphere of influence*: area, field, compass, orbit; range, scope, extent. **3** *the sphere of foreign affairs*: domain, realm, province, field, area, territory, arena, department.

**spherical** **adjective** round, globular, globose, globoid, globe-shaped, spheroidal, spheric; literary orbicular.

**spice** **noun** **1** *the spices in curry powder*: seasoning, flavouring, condiment. **2** *the risk added spice to their affair*: excitement, interest, colour, piquancy, zest; an edge; informal a kick; literary salt.

■ **spice something up** enliven, make more exciting, vitalize, perk up, put some life into, ginger up, galvanize, electrify, boost; informal pep up, jazz up, buck up.

**spick and span** **adjective** neat, tidy, orderly, well kept, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order; immaculate, uncluttered, trim, spruce; spotless.

– OPPOSITES untidy.

**spicy** **adjective** **1** *a spicy casserole*: piquant, tangy, peppery, hot, picante; spiced, seasoned; tasty, flavoursome, zesty, strong, pungent. **2** *spicy stories*: entertaining, colourful, lively, spirited, exciting, piquant, zesty; risqué, racy, scandalous, ribald, titillating, bawdy, naughty, salacious, dirty, smutty; informal raunchy, juicy; Brit. informal saucy, fruity; N. Amer. informal gamy.

– OPPOSITES bland, boring.

**spider** **noun**

#### WORD LINKS

arachnid a creature of a class including spiders and scorpions

arachnophobia fear of spiders

**spiel** **noun** (informal) speech, patter, (sales) pitch, talk; monologue; rigmarole, story, saga.

**spike** **noun** **1** *a metal spike*: prong, barb, point; skewer, stake, spit; tine, pin; spur; Mountaineering piton. **2** *the spikes of a cactus*: thorn, spine, prickle, bristle; Zoology spicule.

• **verb** **1** *she spiked an oyster*: impale, spear, skewer; pierce, penetrate, perforate, stab, stick, transfix; literary transpierce. **2** (informal) *his drink was spiked with drugs*: adulterate, contaminate, drug, lace; informal dope, doctor, cut.

**spill** **verb** **1** *Kevin spilled his drink*: knock over, tip over, upset, overturn. **2** *the bath water spilled on to the floor*: overflow, flow, pour, run, slop, slosh, splash; leak, escape; old use overbrim. **3** *students spilled out of the building*: stream, pour, surge, swarm, flood, throng, crowd. **4** *the horse spilled his rider*: unseat, throw, dislodge, unhorse. **5** (informal) *he's spilling out his troubles to her*: reveal, disclose, divulge, blurt out, babble, betray, tell; informal blab.

• **noun** **1** *an oil spill*: spillage, leak, leakage,



overflow, flood. **2** *he took a spill in the opening race*: fall, tumble; informal header, cropper, nosedive.

■ **spill the beans** (informal) reveal all, tell all, give the game away, talk; informal let the cat out of the bag, blab, come clean.

**spin** verb **1** *the bike wheels are spinning*:

revolve, rotate, turn, go round, whirl, gyrate, circle. **2** *she spun round to face him*: whirl, wheel, twirl, turn, swing, twist, swivel, pirouette, pivot. **3** *her head was spinning*: reel, whirl, go round, swim. **4** *she spun me a yarn*: tell, recount, relate, narrate; weave, concoct, invent, fabricate, make up.

● **noun 1** *a spin of the wheel*: rotation, revolution, turn, whirl, twirl, gyration. **2** *a positive spin on the campaign*: slant, angle, twist, bias. **3** *a spin in the car*: trip, jaunt, outing, excursion, journey; drive, ride, run, turn, airing; informal tootle; Scottish informal hurl.

■ **spin something out** prolong, protract, draw out, drag out, string out, extend, carry on, continue; fill out, pad out; old use wire-draw.

**spindle** noun pivot, pin, rod, axle, capstan; axis.

**spindly** adjective **1** *he was pale and spindly*: lanky, thin, skinny, lean, spare, gangling, gangly, scrawny, bony, rangy, angular; dated spindle-shanked. **2** *spindly chairs*: rickety, flimsy, wobbly, shaky.

– OPPOSITES stocky.

**spine** noun **1** *he injured his spine*: backbone, spinal column, vertebral column; back; technical rachis. **2** *the spine of his philosophy*: core, centre, cornerstone, foundation, basis. **3** *the spines of a hedgehog*: needle, quill, bristle, barb, spike, prickle; thorn; technical spicule.

**spine-chilling** adjective terrifying, blood-curdling, petrifying, hair-raising, frightening, scaring, chilling, horrifying, fearsome; eerie, sinister, ghostly; Scottish eldritch; informal scary, creepy, spooky.

– OPPOSITES comforting, reassuring.

**spineless** adjective weak, weak-willed, weak-kneed, feeble, soft, ineffectual, irresolute, indecisive; cowardly, timid, timorous, fearful, faint-hearted, pusillanimous, craven, unmanly, namby-pamby, lily-livered, chicken-hearted; informal wimpish, wimpy, sissy, chicken, yellow, yellow-bellied, gutless; Brit. informal wet.

– OPPOSITES bold, brave, strong-willed.

**spiny** adjective prickly, spiky, thorny, bristly, bristled, spiked, barbed, scratchy, sharp; technical spinose, spinous.

**spiral** adjective *a spiral column of smoke*: coiled, helical, corkscrew, curling, winding, twisting, whorled; technical voluted, helicoid, helicoidal.

● **noun** *a spiral of smoke*: coil, helix, corkscrew, curl, twist, gyre, whorl, scroll; technical volute, volution.

● **verb 1** *smoke spiralled up*: coil, wind, swirl, twist, wreath, snake, gyrate; literary gyre.

**2** *prices spiralled*: soar, shoot up, rocket, increase rapidly, rise rapidly, escalate, climb; informal skyrocket, go through the

roof. **3** *the economy is spiralling downward*: deteriorate, decline, go downhill, degenerate, worsen, get worse; informal take a nosedive, go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, go down the tubes.

– OPPOSITES fall, improve.

**spire** noun steeple, flèche.

**spirit** noun **1** *harmony between body and spirit*: soul, psyche, (inner) self, inner being, inner man/woman, mind, ego, id; Philosophy pneuma. **2** *a spirit haunts the island*: ghost, phantom, spectre, apparition, wraith, presence; informal spook; literary shade.

**3** *that's the spirit*: attitude, frame of mind, way of thinking, point of view, outlook, thoughts, ideas. **4** *she was in good spirits when I left*: mood, frame of mind, state of mind, emotional state, humour, temper.

**5** *team spirit*: morale, esprit de corps.

**6** *the spirit of the age*: ethos, prevailing tendency, motivating force, essence, quintessence; atmosphere, mood, feeling, climate; attitudes, beliefs, principles, standards, ethics. **7** *his spirit never failed him*: courage, bravery, pluck, valour, strength of character, fortitude, backbone, mettle, stout-heartedness, determination, resolution, resolve, fight, grit; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal sand, moxie. **8** *they played with great spirit*: enthusiasm, eagerness, keenness, liveliness, vivacity, vivaciousness, animation, energy, verve, vigour, dynamism, zest, dash, elan, panache, sparkle, exuberance, gusto, brio, pep, fervour, zeal, fire, passion; informal get-up-and-go. **9** *the spirit of the law*: real/true meaning, true intention, essence, substance. **10** *he drinks spirits*: strong liquor/drink; informal hard stuff, firewater, hooch.

– OPPOSITES body, flesh.

■ **spirit someone/something away** whisk away/off, vanish with, make off with, run away with, abscond with, carry off, steal someone/something away, abduct, kidnap, snatch, seize.

**spirited** adjective lively, vivacious, vibrant, full of life, vital, animated, high-spirited, sparkling, sprightly, energetic, active, vigorous, dynamic, dashing, enthusiastic, passionate; determined, resolute, purposeful; informal feisty, spunky, have-a-go, gutsy; N. Amer. informal peppy.

– OPPOSITES timid, apathetic, lifeless.

**spiritless** adjective apathetic, passive, unenthusiastic, lifeless, listless, weak, feeble, spineless, languid, bloodless, insipid, characterless, submissive, meek, irresolute, indecisive; lacklustre, flat, colourless, passionless, uninspired, wooden, dry, anaemic, vapid, dull, boring, wishy-washy.

– OPPOSITES spirited, lively.

**spiritual** adjective **1** *your spiritual self*: non-material, incorporeal, intangible; inner, mental, psychological; transcendent, ethereal, other-worldly, mystic, mystical, metaphysical; rare extramundane. **2** *spiritual writings*: religious, sacred, divine, holy, non-secular, church, ecclesiastical, devotional.

– OPPOSITES physical, secular.

**spit<sup>1</sup> verb 1** *Cranston coughed and spat:*

**expectorate**, hawk; Brit. informal gob. **2** *'Go to hell,' she spat:* **snap**, say angrily, hiss. **3** *the fat began to spit:* **sizzle**, hiss; crackle, sputter. **4** (Brit.) *it began to spit:* **rain lightly**, drizzle, spot; N. English mizzle; N. Amer. sprinkle.

• **noun 1** *spit dribbled from his mouth:* **spittle**, saliva, sputum, slobber, dribble; Brit. informal gob. **2** (informal) *he is the spit of his father:* **exact likeness**, image, very/living image, double, twin, lookalike, duplicate, copy, Doppelgänger; informal spitting image, ringer, dead ringer.

**spit<sup>2</sup> noun** *chicken cooked on a spit:* **skewer**, brochette, rotisserie.

**spite noun** *he said it out of spite:* **malice**, malevolence, ill will, vindictiveness, vengefulness, revenge, malignity, evil intentions, animus, enmity; informal bitchiness, cattiness; literary maleficence.

– **OPPOSITES** benevolence.

• **verb** *he did it to spite me:* **upset**, hurt, make miserable, grieve, distress, wound, pain, torment, injure.

– **OPPOSITES** please.

■ **in spite of** despite, notwithstanding, regardless of, for all; undeterred by, in defiance of, in the face of; even though, although.

**spiteful adjective** **malicious**, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty; literary malefic, maleficent.

– **OPPOSITES** benevolent.

**splash verb 1** *splash your face with cool water:* **sprinkle**, spray, shower, splatter, slosh, slop, squirt; daub; wet. **2** *his boots were splashed with mud:* **spatter**, bespatter, splatter, speck, speckle, blotch, smear, stain, mark; Scottish & Irish slabber; informal splotch, sploodge; literary bedabble. **3** *waves splashed on the beach:* **swash**, wash, break, lap; dash, beat, lash, batter, crash, buffet; literary plash. **4** *children splashed in the water:* **paddle**, wade, slosh; wallow; informal splosh. **5** *the story was splashed across the front pages:* **blazon**, display, spread, plaster, trumpet, publicize; informal splatter.

• **noun 1** *a splash of fat on his shirt:* **spot**, blob, dab, daub, smudge, smear, speck, fleck; mark, stain; informal splotch, sploodge. **2** *a splash of lemonade:* **drop**, dash, bit, spot, soupçon, dribble, dribble; Scottish informal scoosh. **3** *a splash of colour:* **patch**, burst, streak.

■ **make a splash** (informal) cause a sensation, cause a stir, attract attention, draw attention to oneself/itself, get noticed, make an impression, make an impact.

■ **splash out** (Brit. informal) be extravagant, go on a spending spree, spare no expense, spend lavishly; informal lash out, splurge; Brit. informal push the boat out.

**spleen noun** **bad temper**, bad mood, ill temper, ill humour, anger, wrath, vexation, annoyance, irritation, displeasure,

dissatisfaction, resentment, rancour; spite, ill feeling, malice, maliciousness, bitterness, animosity, antipathy, hostility, malevolence, venom, gall, malignance, malignity, acrimony, bile, hatred, hate; literary ire, choler.

– **OPPOSITES** good humour.

**splendid adjective 1** *splendid costumes:*

**magnificent**, sumptuous, grand, impressive, imposing, superb, spectacular, resplendent, opulent, luxurious, de luxe, rich, fine, costly, expensive, lavish, ornate, gorgeous, glorious, dazzling, elegant, handsome, beautiful; stately, majestic, princely, noble, proud, palatial; informal plush, posh, swanky, ritzy, splendiferous; Brit. informal swish; N. Amer. informal swank; literary brave. **2** (informal) *we had a splendid holiday:* **excellent**, wonderful, marvellous, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, first-class, first-rate; informal super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, phenomenal, sensational, heavenly, gorgeous, dreamy, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, magic, ace, cool, mean, bad, wicked, mega, crucial, far out, A1, sound, out of this world; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; N. Amer. informal dandy, neat; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer; black English def; informal, dated divine, capital; Brit. informal, dated champion, wizard, ripping, cracking, spiffing, top-hole; N. Amer. informal, dated swell; old use goodly.

– **OPPOSITES** modest, awful.

**splendour noun** **magnificence**, sumptuousness, grandeur, impressiveness, resplendence, opulence, luxury, richness, fineness, lavishness, ornateness, glory, beauty, elegance; majesty, stateliness; informal ritziness, splendiferousness.

– **OPPOSITES** ordinariness, simplicity, modesty.

**splenic adjective** **bad-tempered**, ill-tempered, angry, cross, peevish, petulant, pettish, irritable, irascible, choleric, dyspeptic, testy, tetchy, snappish, waspish, crotchety, crabby, querulous, resentful, rancorous, bilious; **spiteful**, malicious, ill-natured, hostile, acrimonious, sour, bitter, malevolent, malignant, malign; informal bitchy.

– **OPPOSITES** good-humoured.

**splice verb** *the ropes are spliced together:*

**interweave**, braid, plait, entwine, intertwine, interlace, knit, mesh; Nautical marry.

■ **get spliced** (informal). See **MARRY** sense 1.

**splinter noun** *a splinter of wood:* **sliver**, shiver, chip, shard; fragment, piece, bit, shred; Scottish skelf; (**splinters**) matchwood, flinders.

• **verb** *the windscreen splintered:* **shatter**, break into tiny pieces, smash, smash into smithereens, fracture, split, crack, disintegrate, crumble.

**split verb 1** *the axe split the wood:* **break**, chop, cut, hew, lop, cleave; snap, crack. **2** *the ice cracked and split:* **break apart**, fracture, rupture, fissure, snap, come apart, splinter. **3** *her dress was split:* **tear**, rip, slash, slit;

literary rend. **4** *the issue could split the Party: divide, disunite, separate, sever; bisect, partition; literary tear asunder.* **5** *they split the money between them: share (out), divide (up), apportion, allocate, allot, distribute, dole out, parcel out, measure out; carve up, slice up; informal divvy up.* **6** *the path split: fork, divide, bifurcate, diverge, branch.* **7** *they split up last year: break up, separate, part, part company, become estranged; divorce, get divorced; Brit. informal bust up.*

– OPPOSITES join, unite.

• **noun** **1** *a split in the rock face: crack, fissure, cleft, crevice, break, fracture, breach.* **2** *a split in the curtain: rip, tear, cut, rent, slash, slit.* **3** *a split in the Party: division, rift, breach, schism, rupture, partition, separation, severance, scission, break-up.* **4** *the acrimonious split with his wife: break-up, split up, separation, parting, estrangement, rift; divorce; Brit. informal bust-up.*

– OPPOSITES marriage.

■ **split hairs** quibble, cavil, carp, niggle, chop logic; informal nit-pick; old use pettifog.

#### WORD LINKS

fissile easily split

**split-up** **noun** *break-up, separation, split, parting, estrangement, rift; divorce; Brit. informal bust-up.*

**spoil** **verb** **1** *too much sun spoils the complexion: mar, damage, impair, blemish, disfigure, blight, flaw, deface, scar, injure, harm; ruin, destroy, wreck; be a blot on the landscape; rare disfigure.* **2** *rain spoiled my plans: ruin, wreck, destroy, upset, undo, mess up, make a mess of, dash, sabotage, scotch, torpedo; Brit. throw a spanner in the works of; informal foul up, louse up, muck up, screw up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for; Brit. informal cock up, scupper; old use bring to naught.* **3** *his sisters spoil him: overindulge, pamper, indulge, mollify, coddle, cosset, coddle, baby, wait on hand and foot, kill with kindness; nanny; old use cocker.* **4** *stockpiled food may spoil: go bad, go off, go rancid, turn, go sour, go mouldy, go rotten, rot, perish.*

**S** – OPPOSITES improve, enhance, further, help, neglect, be strict with, keep.

■ **spoiling** for eager for, looking for, keen to have, after, bent on, longing for; informal itching for.

**spoils** **plural noun** **1** *the spoils of war: booty, loot, stolen goods, plunder, ill-gotten gains, haul, pickings; informal swag, boodle.* **2** *the spoils of office: benefits, advantages, perks, prize; formal perquisites.*

**spoilsport** **noun** *killjoy, dog in the manger, misery, damper; informal wet blanket, party-pooper.*

**spoken** **adjective** *spoken communication: verbal, oral, vocal, viva voce, uttered, said, stated; unwritten; by word of mouth.*

– OPPOSITES non-verbal, written.

■ **spoken for** **1** *the money is spoken for: reserved, set aside, claimed, owned, booked.* **2** *Claudine is spoken for: attached,*

*in a relationship; informal going steady; dated courting.*

**spokesman, spokeswoman** **noun** *spokesperson, representative, agent, mouthpiece, voice, official; informal spin doctor.*

**sponge** **verb** **1** *I'll sponge your face: wash, clean, wipe, swab; mop, rinse, sluice, swill.*

**2** (informal) *he lived by sponging off others: beg, be a parasite; live off; informal scrounge, freeload, cadge, bum; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ bludge.*

**sponger** **noun** (informal) *parasite, hanger-on, leech, scrounger, beggar; informal freeloader, cadger, bum, bloodsucker; N. Amer. informal mooch, moocher, schnorrer; Austral./NZ informal bludger.*

**spongy** **adjective** *soft, squashy, cushioned, cushiony, compressible, yielding; springy, resilient, elastic; porous, absorbent, permeable; technical spongiform; Brit. informal squidgy.*

– OPPOSITES hard, solid.

**sponsor** **noun** *the money came from sponsors: backer, patron, promoter, benefactor, benefactress, supporter, contributor, subscriber, friend, guarantor, underwriter; informal angel.*

• **verb** *a bank sponsored the event: finance, put up the money for, fund, subsidize, back, promote, support, contribute to, be a patron of, guarantee, underwrite; informal foot the bill for, pick up the tab for; N. Amer. informal bankroll.*

**sponsorship** **noun** *backing, support, promotion, patronage, subsidy, funding, financing, aid, financial assistance.*

**spontaneous** **adjective** **1** *a spontaneous display of affection: unplanned, unpremeditated, unrehearsed, impulsive, impetuous, unstudied, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, extempore, extemporaneous; unforced, voluntary, unconstrained, unprompted, unbidden, unsolicited; informal off-the-cuff.* **2** *a spontaneous reaction to danger: reflex, automatic, mechanical, natural, knee-jerk, involuntary, unthinking, unconscious, instinctive, instinctual; informal gut.* **3** *a spontaneous kind of person: natural, uninhibited, relaxed, unselfconscious, unaffected, open, genuine, easy, free and easy; impulsive, impetuous.*

– OPPOSITES planned, calculated, conscious, voluntary, inhibited.

**spontaneously** **adverb** **1** *they applauded spontaneously: without being asked, of one's own accord, voluntarily, on impulse, impulsively, on the spur of the moment, extempore, extemporaneously; informal off the cuff.* **2** *he reacted spontaneously: without thinking, automatically, mechanically, unthinkingly, involuntarily, instinctively, naturally, by oneself/itself.*

**spooky** **adjective** (informal) *eerie, sinister, ghostly, uncanny, weird, unearthly, mysterious; frightening, spine-chilling, hair-raising; informal creepy, scary, spine-tingling.*



**sporadic** adjective occasional, infrequent, irregular, periodic, scattered, patchy, isolated, odd; intermittent, spasmodic, fitful, desultory, erratic, unpredictable.

– OPPOSITES frequent, steady, continuous.

**sport** noun **1** *we did a lot of sport at school:* (competitive) game(s), physical recreation, physical activity, physical exercise. **2** (dated) *they were rogues out for a bit of sport:* fun, pleasure, enjoyment, entertainment, diversion, amusement.

• verb *he sported a beard:* wear, have on, dress in; **display**, exhibit, show off, flourish, parade, flaunt.

**sporting** adjective sportsmanlike, generous, gentlemanly, considerate; fair, just, honourable; Brit. informal decent.

– OPPOSITES dirty, unfair.

**sporty** adjective (informal) **1** *he's quite a sporty type:* athletic, fit, active, energetic. **2** *a sporty outfit:* stylish, smart, jaunty; casual, informal; informal trendy, cool, snazzy; N. Amer. informal sassy. **3** *a sporty car:* fast, speedy; informal nippy, zippy.

– OPPOSITES unfit, lazy, formal, sloppy, slow.

**spot** noun **1** *a grease spot on the wall:* mark, patch, dot, fleck, smudge, smear, stain, blotch, blot, splash; informal splotch, splodge. **2** *a spot on his nose:* pimple, pustule, blackhead, boil, swelling, eruption, wen, sty; (spots) acne; technical comedo, papule; informal zit, whitehead; Scottish informal plook.

**3** *a secluded spot:* place, location, site, position, point, situation, scene, setting, locale, locality, area, neighbourhood, region; venue; technical locus. **4** *social policy has a regular spot on the agenda:* position, place, slot, space. **5** *a spot to eat or drink:* bit, little, some, small amount, morsel, bite, mouthful; drop, splash; informal smidgen, tad. **6** (informal) *in a tight spot:* predicament, mess, difficulty, trouble, plight, corner, quandary, dilemma; informal fix, jam, hole, sticky situation, pickle, scrape, hot water.

• verb **1** *she spotted him in his car:* notice, see, observe, note, discern, detect, perceive, make out, recognize, identify, locate; catch sight of, glimpse; Brit. informal clock; literary behold, espy. **2** *her clothes were spotted with grease:* stain, mark, fleck, speckle, smudge, streak, splash, spatter; informal splotch, splodge. **3** *it was spotting with rain:* rain lightly, drizzle; Brit. spit; N. English mizzle; N. Amer. sprinkle.

■ **on the spot** immediately, at once, straight away, right away, without delay, without hesitation, that instant, directly, there and then, then and there, forthwith, instantly; summarily; N. Amer. in short order; old use straightaway, instant.

■ **spot on** (Brit. informal) accurate, correct, right, perfect, exact, unerring; Brit. informal bang on; N. Amer. informal on the money, on the nose.

**spotless** adjective **1** *the kitchen was spotless:* perfectly clean, ultra-clean, pristine, immaculate, shining, shiny, gleaming, spick and span. **2** *a spotless reputation:*

unblemished, unsullied, untarnished, untainted, unstained, pure, whiter than white, innocent, impeccable, blameless, irreproachable, above reproach; informal squeaky clean.

– OPPOSITES dirty, tarnished, impure.

**spotlight** noun *she was constantly in the spotlight:* public eye, glare of publicity, limelight; focus of public/media attention.

• verb *this article spotlights the problem:* focus attention on, highlight, point up, draw/call attention to, give prominence to, throw into relief, turn the spotlight on, bring to the fore.

**spotted** adjective **1** *the spotted leaves:* mottled, dappled, speckled, flecked, freckled, freckly, dotted, stippled, brindle(d); informal splotchy. **2** *a black-and-white spotted dress:* polka-dot, spotty, dotted.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**spotty** adjective **1** *a spotty dog:* spotted, mottled, speckled, speckly, flecked, specked, stippled; informal sploidy, splotchy. **2** *a spotty dress:* polka-dot, spotted, dotted. **3** (Brit.) *his spotty face:* pimply, pimples, acned.

**spouse** noun partner, mate, consort; informal better half; Brit. informal other half. See also HUSBAND noun, WIFE.

**spout** verb **1** *lava was spouting from the crater:* spurt, gush, spew, erupt, shoot, squirt, spray; disgorge, discharge, emit, belch forth. **2** *he spouts on foreign affairs:* hold forth, sound off, go on, talk at length, expatiate; informal mouth off, speechify, spiel. • noun *a can with a spout:* nozzle, lip, rose. ■ **up the spout** (Brit. informal) **1** *my computer's up the spout.* See BROKEN sense 3. **2** *his daughter's up the spout.* See PREGNANT sense 1.

**sprawl** verb **1** *he sprawled on a sofa:* stretch out, lounge, loll, lie, recline, drape oneself, slump, flop, slouch. **2** *the town sprawled ahead of them:* spread, stretch, extend, be strung out, be scattered, straggle, spill.

**spray<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *a spray of water:* shower, sprinkling, sprinkle, jet, mist, drizzle; spume, spindrift; foam, froth. **2** *a perfume spray:* atomizer, vaporizer, aerosol, sprinkler; nebulizer.

• verb **1** *water was sprayed around:* sprinkle, shower, spatter; scatter, disperse, diffuse; mist; douche; literary besprinkle. **2** *water sprayed into the air:* spout, jet, gush, spurt, shoot, squirt.

**spray<sup>2</sup>** noun **1** *a spray of holly:* sprig, twig. **2** *a spray of flowers:* bouquet, bunch, posy, nosegay; corsage, buttonhole, boutonnière.

**spread** verb **1** *he spread the map out:* lay out, open out, unfurl, unroll, roll out; straighten out, fan out; stretch out, extend; literary outspread. **2** *the landscape spread out below:* extend, stretch, open out, be displayed, be exhibited, be on show; sprawl. **3** *papers were spread all over his desk:* scatter, strew, disperse, distribute. **4** *he's been spreading rumours:* disseminate, circulate, pass on, put about, communicate, diffuse, make public, make known, purvey, broadcast,

publicize, propagate, promulgate; repeat; literary bruit about/abroad. **5** *she spread cold cream on her face*: smear, daub, plaster, slather, lather, apply, put; smooth, rub. **6** *he spread the toast with butter*: cover, coat, layer, daub, smother; butter.

– OPPOSITES fold up, suppress.

• **noun 1** *the spread of learning*: expansion, proliferation, extension, growth; dissemination, diffusion, transmission, propagation. **2** *a spread of six feet*: span, width, extent, stretch, reach. **3** *the immense spread of the heavens*: expanse, area, sweep, stretch. **4** *a wide spread of subjects*: range, span, spectrum, sweep; variety. **5** (informal) *his mother laid on a huge spread*: large/elaborate meal, feast, banquet; informal blowout, nosh; Brit. informal nosh-up, slap-up meal.

**spree** **noun 1** *a shopping spree*: unrestrained bout, orgy; informal binge, splurge; humorous retail therapy. **2** *a drinking spree*: drinking bout, debauch; informal binge, bender, session, booze-up, blind; Scottish informal skite; N. Amer. informal jag, toot; literary bacchanal, bacchanalia; old use wassail.

**sprig** **noun** small stem, spray, twig.

**sprightly** **adjective** spry, lively, agile, nimble, energetic, active, full of energy, vigorous, spirited, animated, vivacious, frisky; informal full of vim and vigour; N. English informal wick.

– OPPOSITES doddery, lethargic.

**spring** **verb 1** *the cat sprang off her lap*: leap, jump, bound, vault, hop. **2** *the branch sprang back*: fly, whip, flick, whisk, kick, bounce.

**3** *all art springs from feelings*: originate, derive, arise, stem, emanate, proceed, issue, evolve, come. **4** *fifty men sprang from nowhere*: appear suddenly, appear unexpectedly, materialize, pop up, shoot up, sprout, develop quickly; proliferate, mushroom. **5** *he sprang the truth on me*: announce suddenly/unexpectedly, reveal suddenly/unexpectedly, surprise someone with.

• **noun 1** *with a sudden spring he leapt on to the table*: leap, jump, bound, vault, hop; pounce. **2** *the mattress has lost its spring*: springiness, bounciness, bounce, resilience, elasticity, flexibility, stretch, stretchiness, give. **3** *there was a spring in his step*: buoyancy, bounce, energy, liveliness, jauntiness, sprightliness, confidence. **4** *a mineral spring*: well head, source; spa, geyser; literary wellspring, fount. **5** *the springs of his own emotions*: origin, source, fountainhead, root, roots, basis.

#### WORD LINKS

vernal relating to the season of spring

**springy** **adjective** elastic, stretchy, stretchable, tensile; flexible, pliant, pliable, whippy; bouncy, resilient, spongy.

– OPPOSITES rigid, squashy.

**sprinkle** **verb 1** *he sprinkled water over the towel*: splash, trickle, spray, shower; spatter. **2** *sprinkle sesame seeds over the top*: scatter, strew; drizzle. **3** *sprinkle the cake*

*with icing sugar*: dredge, dust. **4** *the sky was sprinkled with stars*: dot, stipple, stud, fleck, speckle, spot, pepper; scatter, cover; literary besprinkle.

**sprinkling** **noun 1** *a sprinkling of nutmeg*: scattering, sprinkle, scatter, dusting; pinch, dash. **2** *mainly women, but a sprinkling of men*: few, one or two, couple, handful, small number, trickle, scattering.

**sprint** **verb** run, race, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, scurry, scamper, hare, bolt, fly, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, zoom, go like lightning, go hell for leather, go like the wind; jog, trot; informal tear, pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, belt, zip, whip; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it, barrel.

– OPPOSITES walk.

**sprite** **noun** fairy, elf, pixie, imp, brownie, puck, peri, kelpie, leprechaun; nymph, nixie, sylph, naiad.

**sprout** **verb 1** *the weeds begin to sprout*: germinate, put/send out shoots, bud, burgeon. **2** *he had sprouted a beard*: grow, develop, put/send out. **3** *parsley sprouted from the pot*: spring up, shoot up, come up, grow, burgeon, develop, appear.

**spruce** **adjective** *the Captain looked very spruce*: neat, well groomed, well turned out, well dressed, smart, trim, dapper, elegant, chic; informal natty, snazzy; N. Amer. informal spiffy, trig.

– OPPOSITES untidy.

• **verb 1** *the cottage had been spruced up*: smarten, tidy, neat, put in order, clean; informal do up; Brit. informal tart up, posh up; N. Amer. informal gussy up. **2** *Sarah had spruced herself up*: groom, tidy, smarten, preen, primp, prink; N. Amer. trig; informal titivate, doll up; Brit. informal tart up.

**spry** **adjective** sprightly, lively, agile, nimble, energetic, active, full of energy, vigorous, spirited, animated, vivacious, frisky; informal full of vim and vigour; N. English informal wick.

– OPPOSITES doddery, lethargic.

**spume** **noun** foam, froth, surf, spindrift, bubbles.

**spunk** **noun** (informal) courage, bravery, valour, nerve, confidence, daring, audacity, pluck, spirit, grit, mettle, spine, backbone; informal guts, gumption; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

**spur** **noun 1** *competition can be a spur*: stimulus, incentive, encouragement, inducement, fillip, impetus, prod, motivation, inspiration; informal kick up the backside, shot in the arm. **2** *a spur of bone*: projection, spike, point; technical process.

– OPPOSITES disincentive, discouragement.

• **verb** *the thought spurred him into action*: stimulate, encourage, prompt, propel, prod, induce, impel, motivate, move, galvanize, inspire, incentivize, urge, drive, egg on, stir; incite, goad, provoke, prick, sting; N. Amer. light a fire under.

– OPPOSITES discourage.

■ **on the spur of the moment** impulsively, on impulse, impetuously, without thinking, without premeditation, unpremeditatedly,

impromptu, extempore, spontaneously;  
informal off the cuff.

**spurious** adjective **bogus**, fake, false, counterfeit, forged, fraudulent, sham, artificial, imitation, simulated, feigned, deceptive, misleading; informal phoney, pretend; Brit. informal cod.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**spurn** verb reject, rebuff, scorn, turn down, treat with contempt, disdain, look down one's nose at, despise; snub, slight, jilt, dismiss, brush off, turn one's back on; give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder; informal turn one's nose up at, give someone the brush-off, kick in the teeth; Brit. informal knock back; N. Amer. informal give someone the bum's rush.

– OPPOSITES welcome, accept.

**spurt** verb *water spurted from the tap*: squirt, shoot, jet, erupt, gush, pour, stream, pump, surge, spew, course, well, spring, burst; disgorge, discharge, emit, belch forth, expel, eject; Brit. informal sloosh.

• **noun 1** *a spurt of water*: squirt, jet, spout, gush, stream, rush, surge, flood, cascade, torrent. **2** *a spurt of courage*: burst, fit, bout, rush, spate, surge, attack, outburst, blaze. **3** *Daisy put on a spurt*: burst of speed, turn of speed, sprint, rush, burst of energy.

**spy** noun *a foreign spy*: secret agent, intelligence agent, double agent, counterspy, mole, plant, scout; informal snooper; N. Amer. informal spook; old use intelligencer.

• **verb 1** *he spied for the West*: be a spy, gather intelligence; informal snoop. **2** *investigators spied on them*: observe furtively, keep under surveillance/observation, watch, keep a watch on, keep an eye on. **3** *she spied a coffee shop*: notice, observe, see, spot, sight, catch sight of, glimpse, make out, discern, detect; informal clap/lay/set eyes on; literary espy, behold, descry.

**spying** noun espionage, intelligence gathering, surveillance, infiltration, undercover work, cloak-and-dagger activities.

**squabble** noun *there was a squabble over which way they should go*: quarrel, disagreement, row, argument, contretemps, falling-out, dispute, clash, altercation, shouting match, exchange, war of words; informal tiff, set-to, run-in, slanging match, shindig, shindy, stand-up, spat, scrap, dust-up; Brit. informal barney, ding-dong; N. Amer. informal rhubarb.

• **verb** *the boys were squabbling over a ball*: quarrel, row, argue, bicker, fall out, disagree, have words, dispute, spar, cross, swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads; informal scrap, argify.

**squad** noun **1** *an assassination squad*: team, crew, gang, band, cell, body, mob, outfit, force. **2** *a firing squad*: detachment, detail, unit, platoon, battery, troop, patrol, squadron, cadre, commando.

**squalid** adjective **1** *a squalid prison*: dirty, filthy, grubby, grimy, mucky, slummy, foul, vile, poor, sorry, wretched, miserable,

mean, seedy, shabby, sordid, insalubrious; neglected, uncared-for, broken-down, run down, down at heel, depressed, dilapidated, ramshackle, tumbledown, gone to rack and ruin, crumbling, decaying; informal scruffy, crummy, shambly, ratty; Brit. informal grotty; N. Amer. informal shacky. **2** *a squalid deal with the opposition*: improper, sordid, unseemly, unsavoury, sleazy, seedy, seamy, shoddy, cheap, base, low, corrupt, dishonest, dishonourable, disreputable, despicable, discreditable, disgraceful, contemptible, shameful; informal sleazoid.

– OPPOSITES clean, pleasant, smart, upmarket, proper, decent.

**squall** noun gust, storm, blast, flurry, shower, gale, blow, rush.

**squally** adjective stormy, gusty, gusting, blustery, blustering, windy, blowy; wild, tempestuous, rough.

**squalor** noun dirt, filth, grubbiness, grime, muck, foulness, vileness, poverty, wretchedness, meanness, seediness, shabbiness, sordidness, sleaziness, insalubrity; neglect, decay, dilapidation; informal scruffiness, crumminess, grunge, rattiness; Brit. informal grottness.

– OPPOSITES cleanliness, pleasantness, smartness.

**squander** verb waste, misspend, misuse, throw away, fritter away, spend recklessly, spend unwisely, spend like water; informal blow, go through, splurge, pour down the drain; Brit. informal blue.

– OPPOSITES save.

**square** noun **1** *a shop in the square*: market square, marketplace, plaza, piazza.

**2** (informal) *you're such a square!* (old) fogey, conservative, traditionalist, conventionalist, conformist, bourgeois, fossil; Brit. museum piece; informal stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy, back number, stuffed shirt.

– OPPOSITES trendy.

• **adjective 1** *a square table*: quadrilateral, rectangular, oblong, right-angled, at right angles, perpendicular; straight, level, parallel, horizontal, upright, vertical, true, plane. **2** *the sides were square at half-time*: level, even, drawn, equal, tied; neck and neck, level pegging, nip and tuck, side by side, evenly matched; informal even-stein(s). **3** *I'm going to be square with you*: fair, honest, just, equitable, straight, true, upright, above board, ethical, decent, proper; informal on the level. **4** (informal) *don't be square!* old-fashioned, behind the times, out of date, conservative, traditionalist, conventional, conformist, bourgeois, strait-laced, fogeyish, stuffy; informal stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy.

– OPPOSITES crooked, uneven, underhand, trendy.

• **verb 1** *the theory does not square with the data*: agree, tally, be in agreement, be consistent, match up, correspond, fit, coincide, accord, conform, be compatible. **2** *his goal squared the match 1–1*: level, even, make equal. **3** *would you square up the bill?* pay, settle, discharge, clear, meet. **4** (informal)



they tried to square the press: **bribe**, buy off, buy, corrupt, suborn; informal grease someone's palm, give a backhander to.

**5** Tom squared things with his boss: **resolve**, sort out, settle, clear up, work out, iron out, smooth over, straighten out, deal with, put right, set right, put to rights, rectify, remedy; informal patch up.

**squash** verb **1** the fruit got squashed: **crush**, squeeze, flatten, compress, press, smash, distort, pound, trample, stamp on; pulp, mash, cream, liquidize, beat, pulverize. **2** she squashed her clothes inside the bag: **force**, ram, thrust, push, cram, jam, stuff, pack, compress, squeeze, wedge, press. **3** the proposal was immediately squashed: **reject**, block, cancel, scotch, frustrate, thwart, suppress, put a stop to, nip in the bud, put the lid on; informal put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie; Brit. informal dish, scupper.

**squashy** adjective **1** a squashy pillow: **springy**, resilient, spongy, soft, pliant, pliable, yielding, elastic, cushiony, compressible. **2** squashy pears: **mushy**, pulpy, pappy, slushy, squelchy, squishy, oozy, doughy, soft; Brit. informal squidgy.

– **OPPOSITES** firm, hard.

**squat** verb I was squatting on the floor: **crouch** (down), **hunker** (down), sit on one's haunches, sit on one's heels; N. Amer. informal scooch.

• adjective he was muscular and squat: **stocky**, thickset, dumpy, stubby, stumpy, short, small; Brit. informal fubby.

**squawk** verb & noun a pheasant squawked | the gull gave a squawk: **screech**, squeal, shriek, scream, croak, crow, caw, cluck, cackle, hoot, cry, call.

**squeak** noun & verb **1** the vole's dying squeak | the rat squeaked: **peep**, cheep, pipe, piping, squeal, tweet, yelp, whimper. **2** the squeak of the hinge | the hinges of the gate squeaked: **screech**, creak, scrape, grate, rasp, jar, groan.

**squeal** noun the harsh squeal of a fox: **screech**, scream, shriek, squawk.

• verb **1** a dog squealed: **screech**, scream, shriek, squawk. **2** the bookies only squealed because we beat them: **complain**, protest, object, grouse, grumble, whine, wail, carp, squawk; informal kick up a fuss, kick up a stink, gripe, grouse, bellyache, moan, bitch, beef, whinge; N. English informal mither. **3** (informal) he squealed on the rest of the gang to the police: **inform**, tell tales, sneak; report, give away, be disloyal, sell out, stab in the back; informal rat, peach, snitch, put the finger on, sell down the river, stitch up; Brit. informal grass, split, shop; N. Amer. informal rat out, finger, drop a/the dime on; Austral. informal dob, pimp on, pool.

**squeamish** adjective **1** I'm too squeamish to gut fish: easily nauseated; (be squeamish about) be put off by, cannot stand the sight of. **2** less squeamish nations will sell them arms: **scrupulous**, principled, fastidious, particular, punctilious, honourable, upright, upstanding, high-minded, righteous, right-minded, moral, ethical.

**squeeze** verb **1** I squeezed the bottle: **compress**, press, crush, squash, pinch, nip, grasp, grip, clutch, flatten. **2** squeeze the juice from both oranges: **extract**, press, force, express. **3** Sally squeezed her feet into the sandals: **force**, thrust, cram, ram, jam, stuff, pack, wedge, press, squash. **4** we all squeezed into Steve's van: **crowd**, crush, cram, pack, jam, squash, wedge oneself, shove, push, force one's way; N. Amer. informal scooch. **5** he would squeeze more money out of Bill: **extort**, force, extract, wrest, wring, milk; informal bleed someone of something.

• noun **1** he gave her hand a squeeze: **press**, pinch, nip; grasp, grip, clutch, hug, clasp; compression. **2** it was a tight squeeze in the tiny hall: **crush**, jam, squash, press, huddle; congestion. **3** a squeeze of lemon juice: **few drops**, dash, splash, dribble, trickle, spot, hint, touch.

**squint** verb the sun made them squint: **screw up one's eyes**, narrow one's eyes, peer, blink.

• noun **1** (informal) we must have another squint at his record card: **look**, glance, peep, peek, glimpse; view, examination, study, inspection, scan, sight; informal eyeful, dekho, butcher's, gander, look-see, once-over, shufti. **2** he has a squint: **cross-eyes**, strabismus; Brit. informal boss-eye.

**squire** noun **1** the squire of the village: **landowner**, landholder, landlord, lord of the manor, country gentleman. **2** (historical) his squire carried a banner: **attendant**, courtier, equerry, aide, steward, page boy.

**squirm** verb **1** I tried to squirm away: **wriggle**, wiggle, writhe, twist, slide, slither, turn, shift, fidget, jiggle, twitch, thresh, flounder, flail, toss and turn. **2** he squirmed as everyone laughed: **wince**, shudder, feel embarrassed, feel ashamed.

**squirt** verb **1** a jet of ink squirted out of the tube: **spurt**, shoot, spray, fountain, jet, erupt; gush, rush, pump, surge, stream, spew, well, spring, burst, issue, emanate; emit, belch forth, expel, eject; Brit. informal sloosh. **2** she squirted me with scent: **splash**, wet, spray, shower, spatter, splatter, sprinkle; Scottish & Irish slabber; literary besprinkle.

• noun **1** a squirt of water: **spurt**, jet, spray, fountain, gush, stream, surge. **2** (informal) he was just a little squirt: **impudent person**, insignificant person, gnat, insect; informal pipsqueak, whippersnapper; Brit. informal squirt; Scottish informal nyaff; N. Amer. informal bozo, picayune, pisher.

**stab** verb **1** he stabbed him in the stomach: **knife**, run through, skewer, spear, bayonet, gore, spike, stick, impale, transfix, pierce, prick, puncture; literary transpierce. **2** she stabbed at the earth with a fork: **lunge**, thrust, jab, poke, prod, dig.

• noun **1** a stab in the leg: **knife wound**, puncture, incision, prick, cut, perforation. **2** they made stabs into the air: **lunge**, thrust, jab, poke, prod, dig, punch. **3** a stab of pain: **twinge**, pang, throb, spasm, cramp, dart, blaze, prick, flash, thrill. **4** (informal) he had a stab at writing: **attempt**, try, effort,

endeavour; guess; informal go, shot, crack, bash, whack; formal essay.

■ **stab someone in the back** betray, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, desert, break one's promise to, double-cross, break faith with, sell out, play false, inform on/against; informal tell on, sell down the river, squeal on, stitch up, peach on, do the dirty on; Brit. informal grass on, shop; N. Amer. informal rat out, finger, drop a/the dime on; Austral. informal pimp on, pool, put someone's pot on.

**stability** **noun** **1** *the stability of play equipment*: firmness, solidity, steadiness, strength, security, safety. **2** *his mental stability*: balance of mind, mental health, sanity, normality, soundness, rationality, reason, sense. **3** *the stability of their relationship*: steadiness, firmness, solidity, strength, durability, lasting nature, enduring nature, permanence, changelessness, invariability, immutability, indestructibility, reliability, dependability.

**stable** **adjective** **1** *a stable tent*: firm, solid, steady, secure, fixed, fast, safe, moored, anchored, stuck down, immovable. **2** *a stable person*: well balanced, of sound mind, compos mentis, sane, normal, right in the head, rational, steady, reasonable, sensible, sober, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, having both one's feet on the ground; informal all there. **3** *a stable relationship*: secure, solid, strong, steady, firm, sure, steadfast, unwavering, unvarying, unfaltering, unfluctuating; established, abiding, durable, enduring, lasting, permanent, reliable, dependable.

– OPPOSITES loose, wobbly, unbalanced, rocky, changeable.

**stack** **noun** **1** *a stack of boxes*: heap, pile, mound, mountain, pyramid, tower. **2** *a stack of hay*: haystack, rick, hayrick, stook, mow, shock; dated cock. **3** (informal) *a stack of money*. See **lot** pronoun. **4** *chimney*, smokestack, funnel, exhaust pipe.

– OPPOSITES few, little.

• **verb** **1** *Leo was stacking plates*: heap (up), pile (up), make a heap/pile/stack of; assemble, put together, collect, hoard, store, stockpile. **2** *they stacked the shelves*: load, fill (up), lade, pack, charge, stuff, cram; stock.

– OPPOSITES empty.

**stadium** **noun** arena, field, ground, pitch; bowl, amphitheatre, coliseum, ring, dome, manège; track, course, racetrack, racecourse, speedway, velodrome; (in ancient Rome) circus.

**staff** **noun** **1** *there is a reluctance to take on new staff*: employees, workers, workforce, personnel, human resources, manpower; labour; informal liveware. **2** *he carried a wooden staff*: stick, staff, pole, crook. **3** *a staff of office*: rod, tipstaff, cane, mace, wand, sceptre, crozier, verge; Greek Mythology caduceus.

• **verb** *the centre is staffed by teachers*: man, people, crew, work, operate, occupy.

**stage** **noun** **1** *this stage of the development*: phase, period, juncture, step, point, time, moment, instant, level. **2** *the last stage of*

*the race*: part, section, portion, stretch, leg, lap, circuit. **3** *a theatre stage*: platform, dais, stand, grandstand, staging, apron, rostrum, podium. **4** *she has written for the stage*: theatre, drama, dramatics, dramatic art, thespianism; informal the boards. **5** *the political stage*: scene, setting; context, frame, sphere, field, realm, arena, backdrop; affairs.

• **verb** **1** *they staged two plays*: put on, put before the public, present, produce, mount, direct; perform, act, give. **2** *workers staged a protest*: organize, arrange, coordinate, lay on, put together, get together, set up; orchestrate, choreograph, mastermind, engineer; take part in, participate in, join in.

**stagger** **verb** **1** *he staggered to the door*:

lurch, walk unsteadily, reel, sway, teeter, totter, stumble, wobble. **2** *I was absolutely staggered*: amaze, astound, astonish, surprise, startle, stun, confound, dumbfound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast; informal flabbergast, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six. **3** *meetings are staggered throughout the day*: spread (out), space (out), time at intervals, overlap.

**stagnant** **adjective** **1** *stagnant water*: still, motionless, static, stationary, standing, dead, slack; foul, stale, putrid, smelly. **2** *a stagnant economy*: inactive, sluggish, slow-moving, lethargic, static, flat, depressed, declining, moribund, dying, dead, dormant.

– OPPOSITES flowing, fresh, active, vibrant.

**stagnate** **verb** **1** *obstructions allow water to stagnate*: stop flowing, become stagnant, become trapped; stand; become foul, become stale; fester, putrefy. **2** *exports stagnated*: languish, decline, deteriorate, fall, become stagnant, do nothing, stand still, be sluggish.

– OPPOSITES flow, rise, boom.

**staid** **adjective** sedate, respectable, quiet, serious, serious-minded, steady, conventional, traditional, unadventurous, unenterprising, set in one's ways, sober, proper, decorous, formal, stuffy, stiff; informal starchy, stick-in-the-mud.

– OPPOSITES frivolous, daring, informal.

**stain** **verb** **1** *her clothing was stained with blood*: discolour, blemish, soil, mark, muddy, spot, spatter, splatter, smear, splash, smudge, blotch, blacken. **2** *the report stained his reputation*: damage, injure, harm, sully, blacken, tarnish, taint, smear, bring discredit to, dishonour, drag through the mud; literary besmirch. **3** *the wood was stained*: colour, tint, dye, tinge, pigment, colour-wash.

• **noun** **1** *a mud stain*: mark, spot, splatter, splatter, blotch, smudge, smear. **2** *a stain on his character*: blemish, injury, taint, blot, smear, discredit, dishonour; damage. **3** *dark wood stain*: tint, colour, dye, tinge, pigment, colourant, colour wash.

**stake** **noun** *a stake in the ground*: post, pole, stick, spike, upright, support, prop, strut, pale, paling, picket, pile, piling, cane.

• **verb** **1** *the plants have to be staked*: prop up, tie up, tether, support, hold up, brace, truss. **2** *he staked his claim*: assert, declare,

proclaim, state, make, lay, put in.

■ **stake something out** **1** *builders staked out the plot*: mark off/out, demarcate, measure out, delimit, fence off, section off, close off, shut off, cordon off. **2** (informal) *the police staked out his flat*: observe, watch, keep an eye on, keep under observation, keep watch on, monitor, keep under surveillance, surveil; informal keep tabs on, keep a tab on, case.

**stake**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *playing dice for high stakes*: bet, wager, ante. **2** *they are racing for record stakes*: prize money, purse, pot, winnings. **3** *low down in the popularity stakes*: competition, contest, battle, challenge, rivalry, race, running, struggle, scramble. **4** *a 40% stake in the business*: share, interest, ownership, involvement.

• **verb** *he staked all his week's pay*: bet, wager, lay, put on, gamble, chance, venture, risk, hazard.

**stale** **adjective** **1** *stale food*: old, past its best, past its sell-by date; off, dry, hard, musty, rancid. **2** *stale air*: stuffy, close, musty, fusty, stagnant, frowzy; Brit. frowsty, fuggy. **3** *stale beer*: flat, turned, spoiled, off, insipid, tasteless. **4** *stale jokes*: hackneyed, tired, worn out, overworked, threadbare, warmed-up, banal, trite, clichéd, platitudinous, unoriginal, unimaginative, uninspired, flat; out of date, outdated, outmoded, passé, archaic, obsolete; N. Amer. warmed-over; informal old hat, corny, out of the ark, played out.

– OPPOSITES fresh, original.

**stalemate** **noun** deadlock, impasse, stand-off; draw, tie, dead heat.

**stalk**<sup>1</sup> **noun** *the stalk of a plant*: stem, shoot, trunk, stock, cane, bine, bent, haulm, straw, reed.

**stalk**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *a stoat was stalking a rabbit*: creep up on, trail, follow, shadow, track down, go after, be after, course, hunt; informal tail. **2** *she stalked out*: strut, stride, march, flounce, storm, stomp, sweep.

**stall** **noun** **1** *a market stall*: stand, table, counter, booth, kiosk. **2** *stalls for larger animals*: pen, coop, sty, corral, enclosure, compartment. **3** (Brit.) *theatre stalls*: N. Amer. orchestra, parterre.

• **verb** **1** *the Government has stalled the project*: obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, hamper, block, interrupt, hold up, hold back, thwart, baulk, sabotage, delay, stonewall, check, stop, halt, derail, put a brake on; informal stymie; N. Amer. informal bork. **2** *quit stalling*: use delaying tactics, play for time, temporize, gain time, procrastinate, hedge, beat about the bush, drag one's feet, delay, filibuster, stonewall. **3** *stall him for a bit*: delay, divert, distract; hold off, stave off, fend off, keep off, ward off, keep at bay.

**stalwart** **adjective** staunch, loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, constant, trusty, hard-working, steadfast, redoubtable, unwavering.

– OPPOSITES disloyal, unfaithful, unreliable.

**stamina** **noun** endurance, staying power, tirelessness, fortitude, strength, energy, toughness, determination, tenacity, perseverance, grit.

**stammer** **verb** *he began to stammer*: stutter, stumble over one's words, hesitate, falter, pause, halt, splutter.

• **noun** *he had a stammer*: stutter, speech impediment, speech defect.

**stamp** **verb** **1** *he stamped on my toe*: trample, step, tread, tramp; crush, squash, flatten. **2** *John stamped off*, muttering: stomp, stomp, clomp, clump. **3** *the name is stamped on the cover*: imprint, print, impress, punch, inscribe, emboss, brand, frank. **4** *his face was stamped on Martha's memory*: fix, inscribe, etch, carve, imprint, impress. **5** *his style stamps him as a player to watch*: identify, characterize, brand, distinguish, classify, mark out, set apart, single out.

• **noun** **1** *the stamp of authority*: mark, hallmark, indication, sign, seal, sure sign, telltale sign, quality, smack, smell, savour, air. **2** *he was of a very different stamp*: type, kind, sort, variety, class, category, classification, style, description, condition, calibre, status, quality, nature, ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould; N. Amer. stripe.

■ **stamp something out** put an end/stop to, end, stop, crush, put down, crack down on, curb, nip in the bud, scotch, squash, quash, quell, subdue, suppress, extinguish, stifle, abolish, get rid of, eliminate, eradicate, beat, overcome, defeat, destroy, wipe out.

**stamp collecting** **noun** philately.

**stampede** **noun** *the noise caused a stampede*: charge, panic, rush, flight, rout.

• **verb** *the sheep stampeded*: bolt, charge, flee, take flight; race, rush, career, sweep, run.

**stance** **noun** **1** *a natural golfer's stance*: posture, position, pose, attitude. **2** *a liberal stance*: attitude, stand, point of view, viewpoint, opinion, way of thinking, outlook, standpoint, position, angle, perspective, approach, line, policy.

**stand** **verb** **1** *Lionel stood in the doorway*: be on one's feet, be upright, be erect, be vertical. **2** *the men stood up*: rise, get/rise to one's feet, get up, straighten up, pick oneself up, find one's feet, be upstanding; formal arise. **3** *today a house stands on the site*: be, be situated, be located, be positioned, be sited, have been built. **4** *he stood the book on the shelf*: put, set, set up, erect, upend, place, position, locate, prop, lean, stick, install, arrange; informal park. **5** *my decision stands*: remain in force, remain valid/effective/operative, remain in operation, hold, hold good, apply, be the case, exist; formal obtain. **6** *his heart could not stand the strain*: withstand, endure, bear, put up with, take, cope with, handle, sustain, resist, stand up to. **7** (informal) *I won't stand cheek*: endure, tolerate, bear, put up with, stomach, take, abide, support, countenance; Scottish thole; informal swallow; Brit. informal stick, wear; formal brook.

– OPPOSITES sit, lie, sit down, lie down.



• **noun 1** *the party's stand on immigration:* attitude, stance, point of view, viewpoint, opinion, way of thinking, outlook, standpoint, position, approach, thinking, policy, line. **2** *a stand against tyranny:* opposition, resistance, objection, hostility, animosity. **3** *a large mirror on a stand:* base, support, mounting, platform, rest, plinth, bottom; tripod, rack, trivet. **4** *a beer stand:* stall, counter, booth, kiosk, tent. **5** *a taxi stand:* rank, station, park, bay. **6** *the train drew to a stand:* stop, halt, standstill, dead stop. **7** *a stand of trees:* copse, spinney, thicket, grove.

■ **stand by** wait, be prepared, be in (a state of) readiness, be ready for action, be on full alert, wait in the wings.

■ **stand by someone/something 1** *she stood by her husband:* remain/be loyal to, stick with/by, remain/be true to, stand up for, support, back up, defend, stick up for. **2** *the government must stand by its pledges:* abide by, keep (to), adhere to, hold to, stick to, observe, comply with.

■ **stand for 1** *V stands for volts:* mean, be an abbreviation of, represent, signify, denote, indicate, symbolize. **2** (informal) *I won't stand for any nonsense:* put up with, endure, tolerate, stomach, accept, take, abide, stand, support, countenance; informal swallow; Brit. informal stick, wear; formal brook. **3** *we stand for animal welfare:* advocate, champion, uphold, defend, stand up for, support, back, endorse, be in favour of, promote, recommend, urge.

■ **stand in** deputize, act, act as deputy, substitute, fill in, sit in, do duty, take over, act as locum, be a proxy, cover, hold the fort, step into the breach; replace, relieve, take over from; informal sub, fill someone's shoes, step into someone's shoes; N. Amer. pinch-hit.

■ **stand out 1** *his veins stood out:* project, stick out, bulge (out), be proud, jut (out). **2** *she stood out in the crowd:* be noticeable, be visible, be obvious, be conspicuous, stick out, be striking, be distinctive, be prominent, attract attention, catch the eye, leap out, show up; informal stick/stand out a mile, stick/stand out like a sore thumb.

■ **stand up** remain/be valid, be sound, be plausible, hold water, hold up, stand questioning, survive investigation, bear examination, be verifiable.

■ **stand someone up** fail to keep a date with, fail to meet, jilt.

■ **stand up for someone/something** support, defend, back, back up, stick up for, champion, promote, uphold, take someone's part, take the side of, side with.

■ **stand up to someone/something 1** *she stood up to her parents:* defy, confront, challenge, resist, take on, put up a fight against, argue with, take a stand against. **2** *the old house has stood up to the war:*

withstand, survive, come through (unscathed), outlast, outlive, weather, ride out, ward off.

*work:* quality, level, grade, calibre, merit, excellence. **2** *a safety standard:* guideline, norm, yardstick, benchmark, measure, criterion, guide, touchstone, model, pattern, example, exemplar. **3** *a standard to live by:* principle, ideal; (standards) code of behaviour, code of honour, morals, scruples, ethics. **4** *the regiment's standard:* flag, banner, pennant, ensign, colour(s), banderole, guidon; Brit. pendant; Nautical burgee.

• **adjective 1** *the standard way of doing it:* normal, usual, typical, stock, common, ordinary, customary, conventional, established, settled, set, fixed, traditional, prevailing; literary wonted. **2** *the standard work on the subject:* definitive, established, classic, recognized, accepted, authoritative, most reliable, exhaustive.

– OPPOSITES unusual, special.

**standardize** verb systematize, make consistent, make uniform, make comparable, regulate, normalize, bring into line, equalize, homogenize, regiment.

**stand-in** noun *a stand-in for the minister:* substitute, replacement, deputy, surrogate, proxy, understudy, locum, supply, fill-in, cover, relief, stopgap; informal temp; N. Amer. informal pinch-hitter.

• **adjective a stand-in goalkeeper:** substitute, replacement, deputy, fill-in, stopgap, supply, surrogate, relief, acting, temporary, provisional, caretaker; N. Amer. informal pinch-hitting.

**standing** noun **1** *his standing in the community:* status, rank, ranking, position; reputation, estimation, stature; dated station. **2** *a person of some standing:* seniority, rank, eminence, prominence, prestige, repute, stature, esteem, importance, account, consequence, influence, distinction; informal clout; dated mark. **3** *a squabble of long standing:* duration, existence, continuance, endurance, life.

• **adjective 1** *standing stones:* upright, erect, vertical, plumb, upended, on end, perpendicular; on one's feet; Heraldry rampant. **2** *standing water:* stagnant, still, motionless, static, stationary, dead, slack. **3** *a standing invitation:* permanent, perpetual, everlasting, continuing, abiding, indefinite, open-ended; regular, repeated.

– OPPOSITES flat, lying down, seated, flowing, temporary, occasional.

**stand-off** noun deadlock, stalemate, impasse; draw, tie, dead heat; suspension of hostilities, lull.

**stand-offish** adjective (informal) aloof, distant, remote, detached, withdrawn, reserved, uncommunicative, unresponsive, unforthcoming, unapproachable, unfriendly, unsociable, introspective, introverted.

– OPPOSITES friendly, approachable, sociable.

**standpoint** noun point of view, viewpoint, vantage point, attitude, stance, view, opinion, position, way of thinking, outlook, perspective.

**standstill** noun halt, stop, dead stop, stand.

**standard** noun **1** *the standard of Elizabeth's*

**staple** adjective **main**, principal, chief, major, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, (most) prominent, basic, standard, prime, premier; informal number-one.

**star** noun **1** *the sky was full of stars*: celestial body, heavenly body, sun; asteroid, planet.

**2** *the stars of the film*: **principal**, leading lady/man, lead, female/male lead, hero, heroine. **3** *a star of the world of chess*: **celebrity**, superstar, big name, famous name, household name, someone, somebody, lion, leading light, VIP, personality, personage, luminary; informal celeb, big shot, big noise, megastar.

– OPPOSITES nobody.

• adjective **1** *a star pupil*: **brilliant**, talented, gifted, able, exceptional, outstanding, bright, clever, masterly, consummate, precocious, prodigious. **2** *the star attraction*: **top**, leading, best, greatest, foremost, major, pre-eminent, champion.

– OPPOSITES poor, minor.

**WORD LINKS**

**astral**, **stellar**, **sidereal** relating to stars

**astronomy** the science of stars, planets, and the universe

**astrology** the study of the supposed influence of stars and planets on human affairs

**constellation** a group of stars forming a fixed pattern

**galaxy** a system of millions or billions of stars

**magnitude** the degree of a star's brightness

**pentagram** a drawing of five-pointed star, used as a magical symbol

**starchy** adjective (informal). See **STAIN**.

**stare** verb **gaze**, gape, goggle, glare, ogle, peer; informal gawk, rubberneck; Brit. informal gawp.

**stark** adjective **1** *a stark silhouette*: **sharp**, sharply defined, well focused, crisp, distinct, obvious, evident, clear, clear-cut, graphic, striking. **2** *a stark landscape*: **desolate**, bare, barren, arid, vacant, empty, forsaken, godforsaken, bleak, sombre, depressing, cheerless, joyless; literary drear. **3** *a stark room*: **austere**, severe, bleak, plain, simple, bare, unadorned, unembellished, undecorated. **4** *a stark terror*: **sheer**, utter, complete, absolute, total, pure, downright, out-and-out, outright; rank, thorough, consummate, unqualified, unmitigated, unalloyed. **5** *the stark facts*: **blunt**, bald, bare, simple, basic, plain, unvarnished, harsh, grim.

– OPPOSITES fuzzy, indistinct, pleasant, ornate, disguised.

• adverb **stark naked**: **completely**, totally, utterly, absolutely, downright, dead, entirely, wholly, fully, quite, altogether, thoroughly, truly.

**start** verb **1** *the meeting starts at 7.45*: **begin**, commence, get under way, go ahead, get going; informal kick off. **2** *this was how her illness had started*: **come into being**, begin,

commence, be born, come into existence, appear, arrive, come forth, emerge, erupt, burst out, arise, originate, develop. **3** *she started her own charity*: **establish**, set up, found, create, bring into being, institute, initiate, inaugurate, introduce, open, launch, float, kick-start, get something off the ground, pioneer, organize, mastermind; informal kick something off. **4** *we had better start on the work*: **make a start**, begin, commence, take the first step, make the first move, get going, go ahead, set things moving, start/get/set the ball rolling, buckle to/down, turn to; informal get moving, get cracking, get stuck in, get down to it, get down to business, get one's finger out, get the show on the road, take the plunge, kick off, get off one's backside, fire away; Brit. informal get weaving. **5** *he started across the field*: **set off**, set out, start out, set forth, begin one's journey, get on the road, depart, leave, get under way, make a start, sally forth, embark, sail; informal hit the road. **6** *you can start the machine*: **activate**, set in motion, switch on, start up, turn on, fire up; energize, actuate, set off, start off, set something going/moving. **7** *the machine started*: **begin working**, start up, get going, spring into life. **8** *'Oh my!' she said, starting*: **flinch**, jerk, jump, twitch, recoil, shy, shrink, blench, wince.

– OPPOSITES finish, stop, clear up, wind up, hang about, give up, arrive, stay, close down.

• noun **1** *the start of the event*: **beginning**, commencement, inception. **2** *the start of her illness*: **onset**, commencement, emergence, (first) appearance, arrival, eruption, dawn, birth. **3** *a quarter of an hour's start*: **lead**, head start, advantage. **4** *a start in life*: **advantageous beginning**, flying start, helping hand, lift, assistance, support, encouragement, boost, kick-start; informal break, leg up. **5** *she awoke with a start*: **jerk**, twitch, flinch, wince, spasm, convulsion, jump.

– OPPOSITES end, finish, handicap.

**startle** verb **surprise**, frighten, scare, alarm, give someone a shock/fright/jolt, make someone jump; **perturb**, unsettle, agitate, disturb, disconcert, disquiet; informal give someone a turn.

**startling** adjective **surprising**, astonishing, amazing, unexpected, unforeseen, staggering, shocking, stunning; extraordinary, remarkable, dramatic; disturbing, unsettling, perturbing, disconcerting, disquieting; frightening, alarming, scary.

– OPPOSITES predictable, ordinary.

**starvation** noun **extreme hunger**, lack of food, famine, undernourishment, malnourishment.

**starving** adjective **dying of hunger**, deprived of food, undernourished, malnourished, starved, half-starved; very hungry, ravenous, famished, empty, hollow; fasting.

– OPPOSITES full.

**stash** (informal) verb *he stashed his things away*: **store**; stow, pack, load, cache, hide, conceal,

secrete; hoard, save, stockpile; informal salt away, squirrel away.

• **noun** *a stash of money*: **cache**, hoard, stock, stockpile, store, supply, accumulation, collection, reserve.

**state**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *the state of the economy*: condition, shape, situation, circumstances, position; predicament, plight. **2** (informal) *don't get into a state*: **fluster**, frenzy, fever, fret, panic, state of agitation/anxiety; informal flap, tizzy, dither, stew, sweat; N. Amer. informal twit. **3** (informal) *your room is in a state*: mess, chaos, disorder, disarray, confusion, muddle, heap, shambles; clutter, untidiness, disorganization. **4** *an autonomous state*: **country**, nation, land, sovereign state, nation state, kingdom, realm, power, republic, confederation, federation. **5** *the country is divided into thirty-two states*: **province**, federal state, region, territory, canton, department, county, district; Brit. shire. **6** *the power of the state*: **government**, parliament, administration, regime, authorities.

• **adjective** *a state visit to China*: **ceremonial**, official, formal, governmental, national, public.

– **OPPOSITES** unofficial, private, informal.

**state**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *I stated my views*: **express**, voice, utter, put into words, declare, affirm, assert, announce, make known, put across/over, communicate, air, reveal, disclose, divulge, proclaim, present, expound; set out, set down; informal come out with.

**stated** **adjective** **specified**, fixed, settled, set, agreed, declared, designated, laid down.

– **OPPOSITES** undefined, irregular, tacit.

**stately** **adjective** **dignified**, majestic, ceremonious, courtly, imposing, impressive, solemn, awe-inspiring, regal, elegant, grand, glorious, splendid, magnificent, resplendent; slow-moving, measured, deliberate.

**statement** **noun** **declaration**, affirmation, assertion, announcement, utterance, communication, proclamation, presentation, expounding; account, testimony, evidence, report, bulletin, communiqué.

**state-of-the-art** **adjective** **modern**, ultra-modern, the latest, new, the newest, up to the minute; advanced, highly developed, innovatory, trailblazing, revolutionary; sophisticated.

**static** **adjective** **1** *static prices*: **unchanged**, fixed, stable, steady, unchanging, changeless, unvarying, invariable, constant, consistent.

**2** *a static display*: **stationary**, motionless, immobile, unmoving, still, stock-still, at a standstill, at rest, not moving a muscle, like a statue, rooted to the spot, frozen, inactive, inert, lifeless, inanimate.

– **OPPOSITES** variable, mobile, active, dynamic.

**station** **noun** **1** *a railway station*: **stopping place**, stop, halt, stage; terminus, terminal, depot. **2** *a research station*: **establishment**, base, camp; post, depot; mission; site, facility, installation, yard. **3** *a police station*: **office**, depot, base, headquarters; N. Amer.

**precinct**, station house; informal cop shop; Brit. informal nick. **4** *a radio station*: **channel**, broadcasting organization; wavelength.

**5** (Austral./NZ) *a sheep station*: **ranch**, range; farm. **6** *the lookout resumed his station*: **post**, position, place. **7** (dated) *Karen was getting ideas above her station*: **rank**, place, status, position in society, social class, stratum, level, grade; caste; old use condition, degree.

• **verb** *the regiment was stationed at Woolwich*: **put on duty**, post, position, place; establish, install; deploy, base, garrison.

**stationary** **adjective** **1** *a stationary car*: **static**, parked, stopped, motionless, immobile, unmoving, still, stock-still, at a standstill, at rest; not moving a muscle, like a statue, rooted to the spot, frozen, inactive, inert, lifeless, inanimate. **2** *a stationary population*: **unchanging**, unvarying, invariable, constant, consistent, unchanged, changeless, fixed, stable, steady.

– **OPPOSITES** moving, shifting.

**statue** **noun** **sculpture**, figure, effigy, statuette, figurine, idol; carving, bronze, graven image, model; bust, head.

**statuesque** **adjective** **tall and dignified**, imposing, striking, stately, majestic, noble, magnificent, splendid, impressive, regal.

**stature** **noun** **1** *she was small in stature*: **height**, tallness; size, build. **2** *an architect of international stature*: **reputation**, repute, standing, status, position, prestige, distinction, eminence, pre-eminence, prominence, importance, influence, note, fame, celebrity, renown, acclaim.

**status** **noun** **1** *the status of women*: **standing**, rank, ranking, position, social position, level, place, estimation; dated station. **2** *wealth and status*: **prestige**, kudos, cachet, standing, stature, regard, fame, note, renown, honour, esteem, image, importance, prominence, consequence, distinction, influence, authority, eminence.

**statute** **noun** **law**, regulation, enactment, act, bill, decree, edict, rule, ruling, resolution, dictum, command, order, directive, pronouncement, proclamation, dictate, diktat, fiat, by-law; N. Amer. formal ordinance.

**staunch**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** *a staunch supporter*: **stalwart**, loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, constant, trusty, hard-working, steadfast, redoubtable, unwavering.

– **OPPOSITES** disloyal, unfaithful, unreliable.

**staunch**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *she tried to staunch the flow of blood*: **stem**, stop, halt, check, hold back, restrain, restrict, control, contain, curb; block, dam; slow, lessen, reduce, diminish, retard; N. Amer. stanch; old use stay.

**stave** **verb**

■ **stave something in** break in, smash in, put a hole in, push in, kick in, cave in.

■ **stave something off** avert, prevent, avoid, counter, preclude, forestall, nip in the bud; ward off, fend off, head off, keep off, keep at bay.

**stay**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *he stayed where he was*: **remain** (behind), stay behind, stay put; wait, linger,



stick, be left, hold on, hang on, lodge; informal hang around/round; Brit. informal hang about; old use bide, tarry. **2** *they won't stay hidden:* **continue** (to be), remain, keep, persist in being, carry on being, go on being. **3** *our aunt is staying with us:* visit, spend time, put up, stop (off/over); holiday; lodge; room, board, have rooms, be housed, be accommodated, be quartered, be billeted; N. Amer. vacation; formal sojourn; old use bide.

**4** *legal proceedings were stayed:* **postpone**, put off, delay, defer, put back, hold over/off; adjourn, suspend, prorogue; N. Amer. put over, table, lay on the table, take a rain check on; US Law **continue**; informal put on ice, put on the back burner. **5** (literary) *we must stay the enemy's advance:* **delay**, slow down/up, hold back/up, set back, keep back, put back, put a brake on, retard; hinder, hamper, obstruct, inhibit, impede, curb, check, restrain, restrict, arrest; Brit. throw a spanner in the works of; N. Amer. throw a monkey wrench in the works of.

– **OPPOSITES** leave, advance, promote.

• **noun** **1** *a stay at a hotel:* visit, stop, stop-off, stopover, break, holiday; N. Amer. vacation; formal sojourn. **2** *a stay of judgement:* **postponement**, putting off, delay, deferment, deferral, putting back; adjournment, suspension, prorogation; N. Amer. tabling; US Law continuance.

**stay**<sup>2</sup> **noun** *the stays holding up the mast:*

**strut**, **wire**, brace, tether, guy, prop, rod, support, truss; Nautical shroud.

• **verb** *her masts were well stayed:* brace, tether, strut, wire, guy, prop, support, truss.

**steadfast** **adjective** **1** *a steadfast friend:*

**loyal**, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, true, constant, staunch, trusty. **2** *a steadfast policy:* **firm**, determined, resolute, relentless, implacable, single-minded; unchanging, unwavering, unhesitating, unfaltering, unswerving, unyielding, unflinching, uncompromising.

– **OPPOSITES** disloyal, irresolute.

**steady** **adjective** **1** *the ladder must be steady:*

**stable**, firm, fixed, secure, fast, safe, immovable, unshakeable, dependable; anchored, moored, jammed, rooted, braced.

**2** *keep the camera steady:* **motionless**, still, unshaking, static, stationary, unmoving.

**3** *a steady gaze:* **fixed**, intent, unwavering, unfaltering. **4** *a steady young man:*

**sensible**, level-headed, rational, settled, mature, down-to-earth, full of common sense, reliable, dependable, sound, sober, serious-minded, responsible, serious. **5** *a steady income:* **constant**, unchanging, regular, consistent, invariable; continuous, continual, unceasing, ceaseless, perpetual, unremitting, unwavering, unfaltering, unending, endless, round-the-clock, all-year-round. **6** *a steady boyfriend:* **regular**, usual, established, settled, firm, devoted, faithful.

– **OPPOSITES** unstable, loose, shaky, darting, flighty, immature, fluctuating, sporadic, occasional.

• **verb** **1** *he steadied the rifle:* stabilize, hold steady; brace, support; balance, poise; secure, fix, make fast. **2** *she needed to steady her nerves:* calm, soothe, quieten, compose, settle; subdue, quell, control, get a grip on.

**steal** **verb** **1** *the raiders stole a fax machine:*

**purloin**, thief, take, take for oneself, help oneself to, loot, pilfer, run off with, carry off, shoplift; embezzle, misappropriate; have one's fingers/hand in the till; informal walk off with, rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, snitch; Brit. informal nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off, nobble; N. Amer. informal heist; formal **peculate**.

**2** *his work was stolen by his tutor:* **plagiarize**, copy, pass off as one's own, pirate, poach, borrow; informal rip off, lift, pinch, nick, crib.

**3** *he stole a kiss:* **snatch**, sneak, get stealthily/surreptitiously. **4** *he stole out of the room:* **creep**, sneak, slink, slip, slide, glide, tiptoe, sidle, slope, edge.

• **noun** (informal) *at £30 it's a steal.* See **BARGAIN** noun sense 2.

#### WORD LINKS

**kleptomania** a recurrent urge to steal things  
**fence** a dealer in stolen goods

**receiver** a person who knowingly buys or accepts stolen goods

**stealing** **noun** theft, thieving, thievery,

robbery, larceny, burglary, shoplifting, pilfering, looting, misappropriation; embezzlement; formal **peculation**.

**stealth** **noun** furtiveness, secretiveness,

secrecy, surreptitiousness, sneakiness, slyness.

– **OPPOSITES** openness.

**stealthy** **adjective** furtive, secretive, secret,

surreptitious, sneaking, sly, clandestine, covert, conspiratorial.

– **OPPOSITES** open.

**steam** **noun** **1** *steam from the kettle:* **water**

**vapour**, condensation, mist, haze, fog, moisture. **2** *he ran out of steam:* **energy**, vigour, vitality, stamina, enthusiasm; **momentum**, impetus, force, strength, thrust, impulse, push, drive; speed, pace.

• **verb** (informal) *he steamed into the shop.* See **RUN** verb sense 1.

■ **let off steam** (informal) give vent to one's feelings, speak one's mind, speak out, sound off, lose one's inhibitions, let oneself go.

■ **steam up** mist (up/over), fog (up), become misty/misted.

**steamy** **adjective** **1** *the steamy jungle:* **humid**,

muggy, sticky, dripping, moist, damp, clammy, sultry, sweaty, steaming. **2** (informal) *a steamy love scene.* See **EROTIC**. **3** (informal) *they had a steamy affair:* **passionate**, torrid, amorous, ardent, lustful; informal sizzling, hot, red-hot.

**steel** **verb**

■ **steel oneself** brace oneself, nerve oneself, summon (up) one's courage, screw up one's courage, gear oneself up, prepare oneself, get in the right frame of mind; fortify oneself, harden oneself; informal psych

oneself up; literary gird (up) one's loins.

**steely** adjective **1** *steely light*: blue-grey, grey, steel-coloured, steel-grey, iron-grey. **2** *steely muscles*: hard, firm, toned, rigid, stiff, tense, tensed, taut. **3** *steely eyes*: cruel, unfeeling, merciless, ruthless, pitiless, heartless, hard-hearted, hard, stony, cold-blooded, cold-hearted, harsh, callous, severe, unrelenting, un pitying, unforgiving, uncaring, unsympathetic; literary adamantine. **4** *steely determination*: resolute, firm, steadfast, dogged, single-minded; bitter, burning, ferocious, fanatical; ruthless, iron, grim, gritty; unquenchable, unflinching, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, unwavering.

— OPPOSITES flabby, kind, half-hearted.

**steep**<sup>1</sup> adjective **1** *steep cliffs*: precipitous, sheer, abrupt, sharp, perpendicular, vertical, bluff, vertiginous. **2** *a steep increase*: sharp, sudden, precipitate, precipitous, rapid. **3** (informal) *steep prices*: expensive, dear, costly, high, stiff; unreasonable, excessive, exorbitant, extortionate, outrageous, prohibitive; Brit. over the odds.

— OPPOSITES gentle, gradual, reasonable.

**steep**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *the ham is then steeped in brine*: marinate, marinate, soak, sous, macerate; pickle. **2** *winding sheets were steeped in mercury sulphate*: soak, saturate, immerse, wet through, drench; technical ret. **3** *a city steeped in history*: imbue with, fill with, permeate with, pervade with, suffuse with, infuse with, soak in.

**steeple** noun **spire**, tower; bell tower, belfry, campanile; minaret.

**steer** verb **1** *he steered the boat*: guide, direct, manoeuvre, drive, pilot, navigate; Nautical con, helm. **2** *Luke steered her down the path*: guide, conduct, direct, lead, take, usher, shepherd, marshal, herd.

■ **steer clear** of keep away from, keep one's distance from, keep at arm's length, give a wide berth to, avoid, avoid dealing with, have nothing to do with, shun, eschew.

**stem**<sup>1</sup> noun *a plant stem*: stalk, shoot, trunk, stock, cane, bine.

■ **stem from** have its origins in, arise from, originate from, spring from, derive from, come from, emanate from, flow from, proceed from; be caused by, be brought on/about by, be produced by.

**stem**<sup>2</sup> verb *he stemmed the flow of blood*:

**staunch**, stop, halt, check, hold back, restrict, control, contain, curb; block, dam; slow, lessen, reduce, diminish; N. Amer. stanch; old use stay.

**stench** noun **stink**, reek; Brit. informal niff, pong, whiff, hum; Scottish informal guff; N. Amer. informal funk; literary miasma.

**stentorian** adjective **loud**, thundering, thunderous, ear-splitting, deafening; powerful, strong, carrying; booming, resonant; strident.

— OPPOSITES quiet, soft.

**step** noun **1** *Frank took a step forward*: pace, stride. **2** *she heard a step on the stairs*: footstep, footfall, tread. **3** *she left the room*

*with a springy step*: gait, walk, tread. **4** *it is only a step to the river*: short distance, stone's throw, spitting distance; informal {a hop, skip, and jump}. **5** *the top step*: stair, tread; (steps) stairs, staircase, stairway.

**6** *each step of the ladder*: rung, tread.

**7** *resigning is a very serious step*: course of action, measure, move, act, action, initiative, manoeuvre, operation. **8** *a significant step towards a ceasefire*: advance, development, move, movement; breakthrough. **9** *the first step on the managerial ladder*: stage, level, grade, rank, degree, notch.

• verb **1** *she stepped forward*: walk, move, tread, pace, stride. **2** *the bull had stepped on his hat*: tread, stamp, trample; squash, crush, flatten.

■ **in step** *he is in step with mainstream thinking*: in accord, in harmony, in agreement, in tune, in line, in keeping, in conformity.

■ **mind/watch one's step** be careful, take care, step/tread carefully, exercise care/caution, mind how one goes, look out, watch out, be wary, be on one's guard, be on the qui vive.

■ **out of step** *the paper was often out of step with public opinion*: at odds, at variance, in disagreement, out of tune, out of line, not in keeping, out of harmony.

■ **step by step** one step at a time, bit by bit, gradually, in stages, by degrees, slowly, steadily.

■ **step down** resign, stand down, give up one's post/job, bow out, abdicate; informal quit.

■ **step in** **1** *nobody stepped in to save the bank*: intervene, intercede, involve oneself, become/get involved, take a hand. **2** *I stepped in for a sick colleague*: stand in, sit in, fill in, cover, substitute, take over; replace, take someone's place; informal sub.

■ **step on it** (informal) hurry up, get a move on, speed up, go faster, be quick; informal get cracking, get moving, get a wiggle on, step on the gas; Brit. informal get one's skates on; dated make haste.

■ **step something up** **1** *the army stepped up its offensive*: increase, intensify, strengthen, augment, escalate; informal up, crank up. **2** *I stepped up my pace*: speed up, increase, accelerate, quicken, hasten.

**stereotype** noun *the stereotype of the rancher*: standard/conventional image, received idea, cliché, hackneyed idea, formula.

• verb *women are often stereotyped as scheming*: typecast, pigeonhole, conventionalize, categorize, label, tag.

**stereotyped** adjective **stock**, conventional, stereotypical, standard, formulaic, predictable; hackneyed, clichéd, cliché-ridden, banal, trite, unoriginal; typecast; informal corny, old hat.

— OPPOSITES unconventional, original.

**sterile** adjective **1** *mules are sterile*: infertile, unable to have children/young; technical infecund; old use barren. **2** *sterile desert*: unproductive, infertile, unfruitful,

uncultivable, barren. **3** *a sterile debate: pointless, unproductive, unfruitful, unrewarding, useless, unprofitable, profitless, futile, vain, idle; old use bootless.*

**4** *sterile academicism: unimaginative, uninspired, uninspiring, unoriginal, stale, lifeless, musty.* **5** *sterile conditions: aseptic, sterilized, germ-free, antiseptic, disinfected; uncontaminated, unpolluted, pure, clean; sanitary, hygienic.*

– OPPOSITES fertile, productive, creative, original, septic.

**sterilize** verb **1** *the scalpel was first sterilized: disinfect, fumigate, decontaminate, sanitize; pasteurize; clean, cleanse, purify; technical autoclave.* **2** *stray pets are usually sterilized: neuter, castrate, spay, geld, cut, fix, desex; N. Amer. & Austral. alter; Brit. informal doctor.*

– OPPOSITES contaminate.

**sterling** adjective (Brit.) *excellent, first-rate, first-class, exceptional, outstanding, splendid, superlative, praiseworthy, laudable, commendable, admirable, valuable, worthy, deserving.*

– OPPOSITES poor, unexceptional.

**stern<sup>1</sup>** adjective **1** *a stern expression: serious, unsmiling, frowning, severe, forbidding, grim, unfriendly, austere, dour, stony, flinty, steely, unrelenting, unforgiving, unbending, unsympathetic, disapproving.*

**2** *stern measures: strict, severe, stringent, harsh, drastic, hard, tough, extreme, rigid, ruthless, rigorous, exacting, demanding, uncompromising, unsparing, inflexible, authoritarian, draconian.*

– OPPOSITES genial, friendly, lenient, lax.

**stern<sup>2</sup>** noun *the stern of the ship: rear (end), back, after end, poop, transom, tail.*

– OPPOSITES bow.

**stew** noun **1** *a beef stew: casserole, hotpot, ragout, goulash, carbonnade, daube, grillade; N. Amer. burgoo.* **2** (informal) *she's in a right old stew: panic, fluster, fret, fuss, fever; informal flap, sweat, lather, tizzy, dither, twitter, state; N. Amer. informal twit; literary pothor.*

• verb **1** *stew the meat for an hour: braise, casserole, simmer, boil; jug; old use seethe.*

**2** (informal) *there's no point stewing over it.* See **WORRY** verb sense 1. **3** (informal) *the girls sat stewing in the heat: swelter, be very hot, perspire, sweat; informal roast, bake, be boiling.*

**steward** noun **1** *an air steward: flight attendant, cabin attendant; stewardess, air hostess; N. Amer. informal stew.* **2** *the race stewards: official, marshal, organizer.* **3** *the steward of the estate: (estate) manager, agent, overseer, custodian, caretaker; Brit. land agent, bailiff; Scottish factor; historical reeve.*

**stick<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *a fire made of sticks: piece of wood, twig, small branch.* **2** *he walks with a stick: walking stick, cane, staff, alpenstock, crook, crutch; trademark Zimmer frame.* **3** *the plants need supporting on sticks: cane, pole, post, stake, upright.* **4** *he beat me with a*

*stick: club, cudgel, bludgeon, shillelagh; truncheon, baton; cane, birch, switch, rod; Brit. informal cosh.* **5** (Brit. informal) *he'll get stick for this.* See **CRITICISM** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES praise, commendation.

■ **the sticks** (informal) *the country, the countryside, rural areas, the provinces; the backwoods, the back of beyond, the wilds, the hinterland, a backwater; N. Amer. the backcountry, the backland; Austral./NZ the backblocks, the boozay; S. African the backveld, the platteland; informal the middle of nowhere; N. Amer. informal the boondocks, the boonies; Austral./NZ informal Woop Woop, beyond the black stump.*

**stick<sup>2</sup>** verb **1** *he stuck his fork into the sausage: thrust, push, insert, jab, poke, dig, plunge.*

**2** *the bristles stuck into his skin: pierce, penetrate, puncture, prick, stab.* **3** *the cup stuck to its saucer: adhere, cling, be fixed, be glued.* **4** *stick the stamp there: affix, attach, fasten, fix; paste, glue, gum, tape, Sellotape, pin, tack.* **5** *the wheels stuck fast: become trapped, become jammed, jam, catch, become wedged, become lodged, become fixed, become embedded.* **6** *that sticks in his mind: remain, stay, linger, dwell, persist, continue, last, endure.* **7** *the charges won't stick: be upheld, hold, be believed; informal hold water.* **8** (informal) *just stick that sandwich on my desk: put (down), place, set (down), lay (down), deposit, position; leave, stow; informal dump, bung, park, plonk, pop; N. Amer. informal plunk.* **9** (Brit. informal) *I can't stick it any longer: tolerate, put up with, take, stand, stomach, endure, bear; Scottish thole; informal abide.*

■ **stick at** *persevere with, persist with, keep at, work at, continue with, carry on with, hammer away at, stay with; go the distance, stay the course; informal soldier on with, hang in there.*

■ **stick by** *be loyal to, be faithful to, be true to, stand by, keep faith with, keep one's promise to.*

■ **stick it out** *put up with it, grin and bear it, keep at it, keep going, stay with it, see it through; persevere, persist, carry on, struggle on; informal hang in there, soldier on, tough it out.*

■ **stick out 1** *his front teeth stuck out: protrude, jut (out), project, stand out, extend, poke out; bulge, overhang.*

**2** *they stuck out in their strange clothes: be noticeable, be visible, be obvious, be conspicuous, stand out, be obtrusive, be prominent, attract attention, catch the eye, leap out, show up; informal stick/stand out a mile, stick/stand out like a sore thumb.*

■ **stick to** *he stuck to his promise: abide by, keep, adhere to, hold to, comply with, fulfil, make good, stand by.*

■ **stick up for** *support, take someone's side, side with, be on the side of, stand by, stand up for, take someone's part, defend, come to the defence of, champion, speak up for, fight for.*

**stick-in-the-mud** noun (informal) (old) *fogey, conservative, fossil, troglodyte; Brit.*



museum piece; informal fuddy-duddy, square, stuffed shirt.

**sticky** adjective 1 *sticky tape*: (self-) adhesive, gummed; technical adherent.

2 *sticky clay*: glutinous, viscous, viscid, ropy; gluey, tacky, gummy, treacly, syrupy; mucilaginous; Brit. claggy; informal gooey, gloopy, icky; Brit. informal gungy; N. Amer. informal gloppy. 3 *sticky weather*: humid, muggy, close, sultry, steamy, sweaty. 4 *a sticky situation*: awkward, difficult, tricky, ticklish, problematic, delicate, touch-and-go, embarrassing, sensitive, uncomfortable; informal hairy.

– OPPOSITES dry, fresh, cool, easy.

**stiff** adjective 1 *stiff cardboard*: rigid, hard, firm, inelastic, inflexible. 2 *a stiff paste*: semi-solid, viscous, viscid, thick, stiffened, firm. 3 *I'm stiff all over*: aching, achy, painful; arthritic, rheumatic; informal creaky, rheumatically, rusty. 4 *a rather stiff manner*: formal, reserved, unfriendly, chilly, cold, frigid, icy, austere, wooden, forced, strained, stilted; informal starchy, uptight, stand-offish. 5 *a stiff fine*: harsh, severe, heavy, crippling, punishing, stringent, drastic, draconian; Brit. swingeing. 6 *stiff resistance*: vigorous, determined, full of determination, strong, spirited, resolute, tenacious, steely, four-square, unflagging, unyielding, dogged, stubborn, obdurate; N. Amer. rock-ribbed. 7 *a stiff climb*: difficult, hard, arduous, tough, strenuous, laborious, uphill, exacting, tiring, demanding, formidable, challenging, punishing, gruelling; informal killing, hellish; Brit. informal knackerling. 8 *a stiff breeze*: strong, fresh, brisk. 9 *a stiff drink*: strong, potent, alcoholic.

– OPPOSITES flexible, plastic, limp, runny, supple, limber, relaxed, informal, lenient, mild, half-hearted, easy, gentle, weak.

**stiffen** verb 1 *stir until the mixture stiffens*: become stiff, thicken; set, become solid, solidify, harden, gel, congeal, coagulate, clot. 2 *she stiffened her muscles* | *without exercise, joints will stiffen*: make/become stiff, tense (up), tighten, tauten. 3 *intimidation stiffened their resolve*: strengthen, harden, toughen, fortify, reinforce, give a boost to.

– OPPOSITES soften, liquefy, relax, weaken.

**stifle** verb 1 *she stifled him with a bolster*: suffocate, choke, asphyxiate, smother. 2 *Eleanor stifled a giggle*: suppress, smother, restrain, fight back, choke back, gulp back, check, swallow, curb, silence. 3 *cartels stifle competition*: constrain, hinder, hamper, impede, hold back, curb, check, restrain, prevent, inhibit, suppress.

– OPPOSITES let out, encourage.

**stifling** adjective airless, suffocating, oppressive; very hot, sweltering; humid, close, muggy; informal boiling.

– OPPOSITES fresh, airy, cold.

**stigma** noun shame, disgrace, dishonour, ignominy, opprobrium, humiliation.

– OPPOSITES honour, credit.

**stigmatize** verb condemn, denounce; brand, label, mark out; disparage, vilify,

pillory, pour scorn on, defame.

**still** adjective 1 *Polly lay still*: motionless, unmoving, not moving a muscle, stock-still, immobile, like a statue, as if turned to stone, rooted to the spot, transfixed, static, stationary. 2 *a still night*: quiet, silent, hushed, soundless, noiseless, undisturbed; calm, peaceful, serene, windless; literary stilly. 3 *the lake was still*: calm, flat, even, smooth, placid, tranquil, pacific, waveless, glassy, like a millpond, unruffled.

– OPPOSITES moving, active, noisy, rough.

• noun *the still of the night*: quietness, quiet, quietude, silence, stillness, hush, soundlessness; calm, tranquillity, peace, serenity.

– OPPOSITES noise, disturbance, hubbub.

• adverb 1 *he's still here*: up to this time, up to the present time, until now, even now, yet. 2 *He's crazy. Still, he's harmless*: nevertheless, nonetheless, all the same, just the same, anyway, anyhow, even so, yet, but, however, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, be that as it may, in any event, at any rate; informal still and all.

• verb 1 *he stilled the crowd*: quieten, quiet, silence, hush; calm, settle, pacify, soothe, lull, allay, subdue. 2 *the wind stilled*: abate, die down, lessen, subside, ease up/off, let up, moderate, slacken, weaken.

– OPPOSITES stir up, get stronger, get up.

**stilted** adjective strained, forced, contrived, constrained, laboured, stiff, self-conscious, awkward, unnatural, wooden.

– OPPOSITES natural, effortless, spontaneous.

**stimulant** noun 1 *caffeine is a stimulant*: tonic, restorative; antidepressant; informal pep pill, upper, pick-me-up, bracer; Medicine analeptic. 2 *a stimulant to discussion*: stimulus, incentive, encouragement, impetus, inducement, fillip, boost, spur, prompt; informal shot in the arm.

– OPPOSITES sedative, downer, deterrent.

**stimulate** verb encourage, act as a stimulus to, prompt, prod, move, motivate, trigger, spark, spur on, galvanize, activate, kindle, fire, fire with enthusiasm, fuel, whet, nourish; inspire, incentivize, inspirit, rouse, excite, animate, electrify; N. Amer. light a fire under.

– OPPOSITES discourage.

**stimulating** adjective 1 *a stimulating effect on the circulation*: restorative, tonic, invigorating, bracing, energizing, reviving, refreshing, revitalizing, revivifying; Medicine analeptic. 2 *a stimulating lecture*: thought-provoking, interesting, fascinating, inspiring, inspirational, lively, sparkling, exciting, stirring, rousing, intriguing, giving one food for thought, refreshing; provocative, challenging.

– OPPOSITES sedative, uninspiring, uninteresting, boring.

**stimulus** noun spur, stimulant, boost, encouragement, impetus, prompt, prod, incentive, inducement, inspiration, fillip; motivation, impulse; informal shot in the arm.

– OPPOSITES deterrent, discouragement.

**sting** noun **1** *a bee sting*: prick, wound, injury, puncture. **2** *this cream will take the sting away*: smart, pricking; pain, soreness, hurt, irritation. **3** *the sting of his betrayal*: heartache, heartbreak, agony, torture, torment, hurt, pain, anguish. **4** *there was a sting in her words*: sharpness, severity, bite, edge, pointedness, asperity; sarcasm, acrimony, malice, spite, venom. **5** (informal) *the victim of a sting*: swindle, fraud, deception; trickery, sharp practice; informal rip-off, con, con trick, fiddle; N. Amer. informal bunco. • verb **1** *she was stung by a scorpion*: prick, wound; poison. **2** *the smoke made her eyes sting*: smart, burn, hurt, be irritated, be sore. **3** *the criticism stung her*: upset, wound, cut to the quick, sear, grieve, hurt, pain, torment, mortify. **4** *he was stung into action*: provoke, goad, incite, spur, prick, prod, rouse, drive, galvanize. **5** (informal) *they stung a bank for thousands*: swindle, defraud, cheat, fleece, gull; informal rip off, screw, shaft, bilk, do, rook, diddle, take for a ride, skin; N. Amer. informal chisel, gouge; Brit. informal, dated rush.

– OPPOSITES deter.

**stingy** adjective (informal) mean, miserly, niggardly, close-fisted, parsimonious, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like; informal tight-fisted, tight, mingy, money-grubbing; N. Amer. informal cheap; formal penurious; old use near, niggard.

– OPPOSITES generous, liberal.

**stink** verb **1** *his clothes stank of sweat*: reek, smell (foul/bad/disgusting), stink/smell to high heaven. **2** (informal) *the whole idea stinks*: be very unpleasant, be abhorrent, be despicable, be contemptible, be disgusting, be vile, be foul; N. Amer. informal suck. **3** (informal) *the whole affair stinks of a set-up*: smack, reek, give the impression, have all the hallmarks; strongly suggest.

• noun **1** *the stink of sweat*: stench, reek, foul/bad smell, malodour; Brit. informal pong, niff, hum; Scottish informal guff; N. Amer. informal funk; literary miasma. **2** (informal) *she kicked up a stink*: fuss, commotion, rumpus, ruckus, trouble, outcry, uproar, brouhaha, furore; informal song and dance, to-do, kerfuffle, hoo-ha; Brit. informal row, carry-on.

**stinking** adjective **1** *stinking rubbish*: foul-smelling, smelly, reeking, fetid, malodorous, rank, putrid, noxious; informal stinky, reeky; Brit. informal niffing, niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; N. Amer. informal funky; literary miasmatic, noisome. **2** (informal) *a stinking cold*: dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful, ghastly, nasty, foul, vile; Brit. informal rotten, shocking.

– OPPOSITES sweet-smelling, aromatic, mild, slight.

**stint** verb *we saved by stinting on food*: skimp, scrimp, be economical, economize, be sparing, hold back, be frugal; be mean, be parsimonious; limit, restrict; informal be stingy, be mingy, be tight.

• noun *a two-week stint in the office*: spell, stretch, turn, session, term, shift, tour of duty.

**stipulate** verb specify, set down, set out, lay down; demand, require, insist on, make a condition of, prescribe, impose; Law provide.

**stipulation** noun condition, precondition, proviso, provision, prerequisite, specification; demand, requirement; rider, caveat, qualification.

**stir** verb **1** *stir the mixture well*: mix, blend, agitate; beat, whip, whisk, fold in; N. Amer. muddle. **2** *Travis stirred in his sleep*: move slightly, change one's position, shift. **3** *a breeze stirred the leaves*: disturb, rustle, shake, move, flutter, agitate. **4** *he finally stirred at ten o'clock*: get up, get out of bed, rouse oneself, rise; wake (up), awaken; informal rise and shine, surface, show signs of life; formal arise; literary waken. **5** *I never stirred from here*: move, budge, make a move, shift, go away; leave. **6** *symbolism can stir the imagination*: arouse, rouse, fire, kindle, inspire, stimulate, excite, awaken, quicken; literary waken. **7** *the war stirred him to action*: spur, drive, rouse, prompt, propel, prod, motivate, encourage; urge, impel; provoke, goad, prick, sting, incite; N. Amer. light a fire under.

– OPPOSITES go to bed, retire, go to sleep, stultify, stay, stay put.

• noun *the news caused a stir*: commotion, disturbance, fuss, excitement, turmoil, sensation; informal to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, flap, splash.

■ **stir something up** whip up, work up, foment, fan the flames of, trigger, spark off, precipitate, excite, provoke, incite.

**stirring** adjective exciting, thrilling, rousing, stimulating, moving, inspiring, inspirational, passionate, impassioned, emotional, heady.

– OPPOSITES boring, pedestrian.

**stitch** verb *the seams are stitched by hand*: sew, baste, tack; seam, hem; darn.

■ **stitch someone up** (Brit. informal) falsely incriminate, get someone into trouble; informal frame, set up; Brit. informal fit someone up, drop someone in it.

**stock** noun **1** *the shop carries little stock*: merchandise, goods, wares, items/articles for sale, inventory. **2** *a stock of fuel*: store, supply, stockpile, reserve, hoard, cache, bank, accumulation, quantity, collection. **3** *farm stock*: animals, livestock, beasts; flocks, herds. **4** *blue-chip stocks*: shares, securities, equities, bonds. **5** *his stock is low with most voters*: popularity, favour, regard, estimation, standing, status, reputation, name, prestige. **6** *his mother was of French stock*: descent, ancestry, origin(s), parentage, pedigree, lineage, line (of descent), heritage, birth, extraction, family, blood, bloodline. **7** *chicken stock*: bouillon, broth. **8** *the stock of a weapon*: handle, butt, haft, grip, shaft, shank.

• adjective **1** *a stock size*: standard, regular, normal, established, set; common, readily/widely available; staple. **2** *the stock response*: usual, routine, predictable, set, standard, staple, customary, familiar, conventional,

traditional, stereotyped, clichéd, hackneyed, unoriginal, formulaic.

– **OPPOSITES** non-standard, original, unusual.

• **verb 1** *we do not stock GM food*: sell, carry, keep (in stock), offer, have (for sale), retail, supply. **2** *the fridge was well stocked with milk*: supply, provide, furnish, provision, equip, fill, load.

■ **in stock** for/on sale, (immediately) available, on the shelf.

■ **stock up on/with** amass supplies of, stockpile, hoard, cache, lay in, buy up/in, put away/by, put/set aside, collect, accumulate, save; informal squirrel away, salt away, stash away.

■ **take stock of** review, assess, weigh up, appraise, evaluate; informal size up.

**stockings** plural noun **nylons**, stay-ups; tights; hosiery, hose; N. Amer. pantyhose.

**stockpile** noun *a stockpile of weapons*: stock, store, supply, accumulation, collection, reserve, hoard, cache; informal stash.

• **verb** *food had been stockpiled*: **store up**, amass, accumulate, store (up), stock up on, hoard, cache, collect, lay in, put away, put/set aside, put by, put away for a rainy day, stow away, save; informal salt away, stash away.

**stock-still** adjective **motionless**, completely still, unmoving, not moving a muscle, immobile, like a statue, as if turned to stone, rooted to the spot, transfixed, static, stationary.

– **OPPOSITES** moving, active.

**stocky** adjective **thickset**, sturdy, heavily built, chunky, burly, strapping, brawny, solid, heavy, hefty, beefy.

– **OPPOSITES** slender, skinny.

**stodgy** adjective **1** *a stodgy pudding*: solid, substantial, filling, hearty, heavy, starchy, indigestible. **2** *stodgy writing*: boring, dull, uninteresting, dreary, turgid, tedious, dry, heavy going, unimaginative, uninspired, unexciting, unoriginal, monotonous, humdrum, prosaic, staid; informal deadly, square.

– **OPPOSITES** light, interesting, lively.

**stoical** adjective **long-suffering**, uncomplaining, patient, forbearing, accepting, tolerant, resigned, phlegmatic, philosophical.

– **OPPOSITES** complaining, intolerant.

**stoicism** noun **patience**, forbearance, resignation, fortitude, endurance, acceptance, tolerance, philosophicalness, phlegm.

– **OPPOSITES** intolerance.

**stoke** verb **add fuel to**, mend, keep burning, tend.

**stolid** adjective **impassive**, phlegmatic, unemotional, cool, calm, placid, unexcitable; dependable; unimaginative, dull.

– **OPPOSITES** emotional, lively, imaginative.

**stomach** noun **1** *a pain in the stomach*: abdomen, belly, gut, middle; informal tummy, tum, breadbasket, insides. **2** *his fat stomach*: paunch, pot belly, beer belly, girth; informal beer gut, pot, tummy, spare tyre, middle-

aged spread; N. Amer. informal bay window; dated, humorous corporation. **3** *he had no stomach for it*: appetite, taste, hunger, thirst; inclination, desire, relish, fancy.

• **verb 1** *I can't stomach butter*: digest, keep down, manage to eat/consume, tolerate, take. **2** *they couldn't stomach the sight*: tolerate, put up with, take, stand, endure, bear; Scottish thole; informal hack, abide; Brit. informal stick.

#### WORD LINKS

**gastric** relating to the stomach  
**gastritis** inflammation of the stomach lining  
**gastroenterology** the branch of medicine that deals with the stomach and intestines

**stomach ache** noun **indigestion**, dyspepsia; colic, gripe; informal bellyache, tummy ache, gut ache, collywobbles.

**stone** noun **1** *someone threw a stone at me*: rock, pebble, boulder. **2** *a commemorative stone*: tablet, monument, monolith, obelisk; gravestone, headstone, tombstone. **3** *paving stones*: slab, flagstone, flag, sett. **4** *a precious stone*: gem, gemstone, jewel, semi-precious stone, brilliant; informal rock, sparkler. **5** *a peach stone*: kernel, seed, pip, pit.

#### WORD LINKS

**lapidary** relating to the cutting or polishing of stones and gems  
**lithic** relating to or like stone  
**mason** a person who builds with stone or shapes stone for building  
**petrify** change organic matter into stone

**stony** adjective **1** *a stony path*: rocky, pebbly, gravelly, shingly; rough, hard. **2** *a stony stare*: unfriendly, hostile, cold, chilly, frosty, icy; hard, flinty, steely, stern, severe; fixed, expressionless, blank, poker-faced, deadpan; unfeeling, uncaring, unsympathetic, indifferent, cold-hearted, callous, heartless, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, merciless, pitiless.

– **OPPOSITES** smooth, friendly, sympathetic.

**stooge** noun **1** *a government stooge*: underling, minion, lackey, subordinate; henchman; puppet, pawn, cat's paw; informal sidekick; Brit. informal dogsbody, poodle. **2** *a comedian's stooge*: butt, foil, straight man.

**stoop** verb **1** *she stooped to pick up the pen*: bend (over/down), lean over/down, crouch (down). **2** *he stooped his head*: lower, bend, incline, bow, duck. **3** *he stoops when he walks*: hunch one's shoulders, walk with a stoop, be round-shouldered. **4** *Davis would stoop to crime*: lower oneself, sink, descend, resort; go as far as, sink as low as.

• **noun** *a man with a stoop*: hunch, round shoulders; curvature of the spine; Medicine kyphosis.

**stop** verb **1** *we can't stop the decline*: put an end to, bring to an end, end, halt; finish, terminate, wind up, discontinue, cut short, interrupt, nip in the bud; deactivate, shut down. **2** *he stopped running*: cease, discontinue, desist from, break off; give up, abandon, abstain from, cut out; informal quit,



leave off, knock off, pack in, lay off, give over; Brit. informal jack in. **3** *the car stopped: pull up*, draw up, come to a standstill, come to a halt, come to rest, pull in, pull over; park. **4** *the music stopped: come to an end*/, cease, end, finish, draw to a close, be over, conclude, terminate; pause, break off; peter out, fade away. **5** *divers stopped the flow of oil: stem*, staunch, hold back, check, curb, block, dam; N. Amer. stanch; old use stay. **6** *the police stopped her leaving: prevent*, hinder, obstruct, impede, block, bar, preclude; dissuade from. **7** *the council stopped the Kilmarnock scheme: thwart*, baulk, foil, frustrate, stand in the way of; scotch, derail; informal put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, stymie; Brit. informal scupper. **8** *the firm stops your tax: withhold*, keep back, hold back, deduct, take away, refuse to pay. **9** *just stop the bottle with your thumb: block (up)*, plug, close (up), fill (up); seal, caulk, bung up; technical occlude.

– OPPOSITES start, begin, continue, allow, encourage, expedite, pay, open.

• **noun 1** *all business came to a stop: halt*, end, finish, close, standstill; cessation, conclusion, stoppage, discontinuation. **2** *a brief stop in the town: break*, stopover, stop-off, stay, visit; formal sojourn. **3** *the next stop is Oxford Street: stopping place*, halt, station, stage. **4** *a full stop: (full) point*; N. Amer. period.

– OPPOSITES start, beginning, continuation.

■ **put a stop to**. See **STOP** verb senses 1, 7.  
■ **stop off/over** break one's journey, take a break, pause; stay, remain, put up, lodge, rest; formal sojourn.

**stopgap** *noun* *that old plane was merely a stopgap: temporary solution*, expedient, makeshift; substitute, stand-in.

• **adjective a stopgap measure: temporary**, provisional, interim, pro tem, short-term, working, makeshift, emergency; caretaker, acting, fill-in, stand-in.

– OPPOSITES permanent.

**stopover** *noun* *break, stop, stop-off, visit, stay; formal sojourn*.

**stoppage** *noun 1 the stoppage of production: discontinuation*, stopping, halting, cessation, termination, end, finish; interruption, suspension, breaking off. **2** *a stoppage of the blood supply: obstruction*, blocking, blockage, block; Medicine occlusion, stasis. **3** *a stoppage over pay: strike*, walkout; industrial action. **4** (Brit.) *she was paid £3.40 an hour before stoppages: deduction*, subtraction.

– OPPOSITES start, continuation.

**stopper** *noun* *bung, plug, cork, spigot, spile, seal; N. Amer. stopple*.

**store** *noun 1 a store of food: stock*, supply, stockpile, hoard, cache, reserve, bank, pool. **2** *a grain store: storeroom*, storehouse, repository, depository, stockroom, depot, warehouse, magazine; informal lock-up. **3** *ship's stores: supplies*, provisions, stocks, necessities; food, rations, provender; materials, equipment, hardware; Military materiel, accoutrements; Nautical chandlery.

**4 a DIY store: shop**, (retail) outlet, boutique, department store, chain store, emporium; supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, megastore.

• **verb rabbits don't store food: keep**, keep in reserve, stockpile, lay in, put/set aside, put away/by, put away for a rainy day, save, collect, accumulate, hoard, cache; informal squirrel away, salt away, stash away.

– OPPOSITES use, discard.

■ **set (great) store by value**, attach great importance to, put a high value on, put a premium on; think highly of, hold in (high) regard, have a high opinion of; informal rate.

**storehouse** *noun* *warehouse, depository, repository, store, storeroom, depot*.

**storey** *noun* *floor, level, deck*.

**storm** *noun 1 battered by a storm: tempest*, squall; gale, hurricane, tornado, cyclone, typhoon; thunderstorm, rainstorm, monsoon, hailstorm, snowstorm, blizzard; N. Amer. williwaw, windstorm. **2** *a storm of bullets: volley*, salvo, fusillade, barrage, cannonade; shower, spray, hail, rain. **3** *there was a storm over his remarks: uproar*, outcry, fuss, furore, brouhaha, rumpus, trouble, hue and cry, controversy; informal to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, ructions, stink; Brit. informal row. **4** *a storm of protest: outburst*, outbreak, explosion, eruption, outpouring, surge, blaze, flare-up, wave.

• **verb 1 she stormed out: stride angrily**, stomp, march, stalk, flounce, stamp, fling. **2** *his mother stormed at him: rant*, rave, shout, bellow, roar, thunder, rage. **3** *police stormed the building: attack*, charge, rush, assail, descend on, swoop on.

**stormy** *adjective 1 stormy weather:*

**blustery**, squally, windy, gusty, blowy; rainy, thundery; wild, tempestuous, turbulent, violent, rough, foul. **2** *a stormy debate: angry*, heated, fiery, fierce, furious, passionate, 'lively'.

– OPPOSITES calm, fine, peaceful.

**story** *noun 1 an adventure story: tale*, narrative, account, anecdote; informal yarn, spiel. **2** *the novel has a good story: plot*, storyline, scenario; formal diegesis. **3** *the story appeared in the papers: news item*, news report, article, feature, piece. **4** *there have been a lot of stories going round: rumour*, piece of gossip, whisper; speculation; Austral./NZ informal furphy. **5** *Harper changed his story: testimony*, statement, report, account, version. **6** *Ellie never told stories*. See **FALSEHOOD** sense 1.

**storyteller** *noun* *narrator*, teller of tales, raconteur, raconteuse, fabulist, anecdotalist; Austral. informal magsman.

**stout** *adjective 1 a short stout man: fat*, plump, portly, rotund, dumpy, chunky, corpulent; stocky, burly, bulky, hefty, solidly built, thickset; informal tubby, pudgy; Brit. informal podgy, fubby; N. Amer. informal zaftig, corn-fed; old use pursy. **2** *stout leather shoes: strong*, sturdy, solid, substantial, robust, tough, durable, hard-wearing. **3** *stout resistance: determined*, vigorous, forceful,

spirited; staunch, steadfast, stalwart, firm, resolute, unyielding, dogged; brave, bold, courageous, valiant, valorous, gallant, fearless, doughty, intrepid; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES thin, flimsy, feeble.

**stout-hearted** adjective **brave**, determined, courageous, bold, plucky, spirited, valiant, valorous, gallant, fearless, doughty, intrepid, stalwart; informal gutsy, spunky.

**stove** noun **oven**, range, cooker.

**stow** verb *Barney stowed her luggage in the boot*: **pack**, load, store, place, put (away), deposit, stash.

– OPPOSITES unload.

■ **stow away** hide, conceal oneself, travel secretly.

**straddle** verb **1** *she straddled the motorbike*:

**sit/stand astride**, bestride, mount, get on.

**2** *a mountain range straddling the border*:

**lie on both sides of**, extend across, span.

**3** (N. Amer.) *he straddled the issue of taxes*:

**be equivocal about**, be undecided about, equivocate about, vacillate about, waver about; informal sit on the fence.

**strafe** verb **bomb**, shell, bombard, fire on, machine-gun, rake with gunfire, enfilade; old use fusillade.

**straggle** verb **trail**, lag, dawdle, walk slowly; fall behind, bring up the rear.

**straggly** adjective **untidy**, messy, unkempt, straggling, dishevelled.

**straight** adjective **1** *a long, straight road*:

**unswerving**, undeviating, linear, as straight as an arrow, uncurving, unbending.

**2** *that picture isn't straight*: **level**, even,

in line, aligned, square; vertical, upright, perpendicular; horizontal. **3** *we must get the place straight*: **in order**, (neat and) tidy, neat, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), orderly, spick and span, organized, arranged, sorted out, straightened out. **4** *a straight answer*:

**honest**, direct, frank, candid, truthful, sincere, forthright, straightforward, plain-spoken, blunt, straight from the shoulder, unequivocal, unambiguous; informal upfront.

**5** *straight thinking*: **logical**, rational, clear, lucid, sound, coherent. **6** *three straight wins*:

**successive**, in succession, consecutive, in a row, running; informal on the trot. **7** *straight brandy*: **undiluted**, neat, pure; N. Amer. informal straight up. **8** (informal) *she's very straight*: **respectable**, conventional, conservative, traditional, old-fashioned, strait-laced; informal stuffy, square, fuddy-duddy.

– OPPOSITES winding, crooked, untidy, evasive.

• **adverb 1** *he looked me straight in the eyes*: **right**, directly, squarely, full; informal smack, (slap) bang; N. Amer. informal spang, smack dab.

**2** *she drove straight home*: **directly**, right, by a direct route. **3** *I'll call you straight back*:

**right away**, straight away, immediately, directly, at once; old use straightway. **4** *I told her straight*: **frankly**, directly, candidly,

honestly, forthrightly, plainly, point-blank, bluntly, flatly, straight from the shoulder, without beating about the bush, without

mincing one's words, unequivocally, unambiguously, in plain English, to someone's face; Brit. informal straight up. **5** *he can't think straight*: **logically**, rationally, clearly, lucidly, coherently, cogently.

■ **go straight** reform, mend one's ways, turn over a new leaf, get back on the straight and narrow.

■ **straight away** at once, right away, (right) now, this/that (very) minute, this/that instant, immediately, instantly, directly, forthwith, without further/more ado, promptly, quickly, without delay, then and there, here and now, asap, as soon as possible, as quickly as possible; N. Amer. in short order; informal straight off, in double quick time, p.d.q., pretty damn quick, pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; old use straightway.

■ **straight from the shoulder**. See **STRAIGHT** adverb sense 4.

**straighten** verb **1** *Rory straightened his tie*:

**make straight**, adjust, arrange, rearrange, (make) tidy, spruce up. **2** *we must straighten things out with Viola*: **put/set right**, sort

out, clear up, settle, resolve, put in order, regularize, rectify, remedy; informal patch up. **3** *he straightened up*: **stand up** (straight), stand upright.

**straightforward** adjective **1** *the process was remarkably straightforward*: **uncomplicated**,

simple, easy, effortless, painless, undemanding, plain sailing, child's play; informal as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, a piece of cake, a cinch, a snip, a doddle,

a breeze, a cakewalk, a walk in the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy, a doss; N. Amer. informal duck soup, a snap; Austral./NZ informal a bludge,

a snack. **2** *a straightforward man*: **honest**, frank, candid, open, truthful, sincere, on the level; forthright, plain-speaking, direct, unambiguous; informal upfront; N. Amer. informal on the up and up.

– OPPOSITES complicated.

– OPPOSITES complicated.

**strain**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *take care that you don't strain yourself*: **overtax**, overwork, overextend,

overreach, drive too far, overdo it; exhaust, wear out; informal knacker, knock oneself

out. **2** *you have strained a muscle*: **injure**,

damage, pull, wrench, twist, sprain. **3** *we*

*strained to haul the guns up the slope*:

**struggle**, labour, toil, make every effort, try very hard, break one's back, push/drive

oneself to the limit; informal pull out all the stops, go all out, bust a gut; Austral. informal

go for the doctor. **4** *the flood of refugees is straining the relief services*: **make excessive**

**demands on**, overtax, be too much for, test, tax, put a strain on. **5** *the bear strained at the chain*: **pull**, tug, heave, haul, jerk; informal

yank. **6** (old use) *she strained the infant to her bosom*: **clasp**, press, clutch, hold tight;

embrace, hug, enfold, envelop. **7** *strain the mixture*: **sieve**, sift, filter, screen, riddle; rare

filtrate.

• **noun 1** *the rope snapped under the strain*: **tension**, tightness, tautness. **2** *muscle strain*: **injury**, sprain, wrench, twist. **3** *the strain of*

*her job: pressure, demands, burdens; stress; informal hassle.* **4** *Melissa was showing signs of strain: stress, (nervous) tension; exhaustion, fatigue, pressure of work, overwork.* **5** *the strains of Brahms's lullaby: sound, music; melody, tune.*

**strain**<sup>2</sup> **noun** **1** *a different strain of flu: variety, kind, type, sort; breed, genus.* **2** *Hawthorne was of Puritan strain: descent, ancestry, origin(s), parentage, lineage, extraction, family, roots.* **3** *there was a strain of insanity in the family: tendency, susceptibility, propensity, proneness; trait, disposition.* **4** *a strain of solemnity: element, strand, vein, note, trace, touch, suggestion, hint.*

**strained** **adjective** **1** *relations between them were strained: awkward, tense, uneasy, uncomfortable, edgy, difficult, troubled.* **2** *Jean's strained face: drawn, careworn, worn, pinched, tired, exhausted, drained, haggard.* **3** *a strained smile: forced, constrained, unnatural; artificial, insincere, false, affected, put-on.*  
– OPPOSITES friendly.

**strainer** **noun** *sieve, colander, filter, sifter, riddle, screen; old use griddle.*

**strait** **noun** **1** *a strait about six miles wide: channel, sound, inlet, stretch of water.* **2** *the company is in desperate straits: a bad/difficult situation, difficulty, trouble, crisis, a mess, a predicament, a plight; informal hot/deep water, a jam, a hole, a bind, a fix, a scrape.*

**straitened** **adjective** *impoverished, poverty-stricken, poor, destitute, penniless, on one's beam-ends, as poor as a church mouse, in penury, impecunious, unable to make ends meet, in reduced circumstances; Brit. on the breadline; informal (flat) broke, strapped for cash, on one's uppers; Brit. informal stony broke, skint, in Queer Street; N. Amer. informal stone broke; formal penurious.*

**strait-laced** **adjective** *prim (and proper), prudish, puritanical, prissy, mimsy, miny-piminy; conservative, old-fashioned, stuffy, staid, narrow-minded; informal starchy, square, fuddy-duddy.*

**S** – OPPOSITES broad-minded.

**strand**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *strands of wool: thread, filament, fibre; length, ply.* **2** *the various strands of the ecological movement: element, component, factor, ingredient, aspect, feature, strain.*

**strand**<sup>2</sup> **noun** (literary) *a walk along the strand: seashore, shore, beach, sands, foreshore, shoreline, seaside, waterfront, front, waterside.*

**stranded** **adjective** **1** *a stranded ship: beached, grounded, run aground, high and dry; shipwrecked, wrecked, marooned.* **2** *she was stranded in a strange city: helpless, without resources, in difficulties; in the lurch, abandoned, deserted.*

**strange** **adjective** **1** *strange things have been happening: unusual, odd, curious, peculiar, funny, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, atypical, anomalous,*

*out of the ordinary, extraordinary, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, inexplicable, singular, freakish; suspicious, questionable; eerie, unnatural; informal fishy, creepy, spooky.* **2** *strange clothes: weird, eccentric, odd, peculiar, funny, bizarre, unusual; unconventional, outlandish, freakish, quirky, zany; informal wacky, way out, freaky, kooky, offbeat, off the wall; N. Amer. informal screwy, wacko.* **3** *visiting a strange house: unfamiliar, unknown, new.* **4** *Jean was feeling strange: ill, unwell, poorly, peaky; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, funny, peculiar, lousy; Brit. informal off, ropy, grotty; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated queer.* **5** *she felt strange with him: ill at ease, uneasy, uncomfortable, awkward, self-conscious.*

– OPPOSITES ordinary, familiar.

**strangeness** **noun** *oddity, eccentricity, peculiarity, curiousness, bizarreness, weirdness, queerness, unusualness, abnormality, unaccountability, inexplicability, incongruousness, outlandishness, singularity.*

**stranger** **noun** *newcomer, new arrival, visitor, outsider; Austral. informal blow-in.*  
■ **a stranger to** *unaccustomed to, unfamiliar with, unused to, new to, fresh to, inexperienced in; old use strange to.*

**strangle** **verb** **1** *the victim was strangled with a scarf: throttle, choke, garrotte; informal strangulate.* **2** *she strangled a sob: suppress, smother, stifle, repress, restrain, fight back, choke back.* **3** *bureaucracy is strangling commercial activity: hamper, hinder, impede, restrict, inhibit, curb, check, constrain, squash, crush, suppress, repress.*

**strap** **noun** *thick leather straps: thong, tie, band, belt.*

• **verb** **1** *a bag was strapped to the bicycle: fasten, secure, tie, bind, make fast, lash, truss.* **2** *his knee was strapped up: bandage, bind.* **3** *his father strapped him.* See **LASH** verb sense 1.

**strapping** **adjective** *big, strong, well built, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, muscular, rugged; informal hunky, beefy; dated stalwart.*

– OPPOSITES weedy.

**stragem** **noun** *plan, scheme, tactic, manoeuvre, ploy, device, trick, ruse, plot, machination, dodge; subterfuge, artifice; Brit. informal wheeze; Austral. informal lurk; old use shift.*

**strategic** **adjective** *planned, calculated, tactical, politic, judicious, prudent, shrewd.*

**strategy** **noun** **1** *the government's economic strategy: master plan, grand design, game plan, plan (of action), policy, programme; tactics.* **2** *military strategy: the art of war, (military) tactics.*

**stratum** **noun** **1** *a stratum of flint: layer, vein, seam, lode, bed.* **2** *this stratum of society: level, class, echelon, rank, grade, group, set; caste; dated station, estate.*

**stray** **verb** **1** *the gazelle had strayed from the herd: wander off, go astray, get separated, get lost.* **2** *we strayed from our original topic:*



**digress**, deviate, wander, get sidetracked, go off at a tangent; get off the subject.

**3** *the young men were likely to stray*: be unfaithful, have affairs, philander; informal play around, play the field. **4** *he strayed from the path of righteousness*: sin, transgress, err, go astray; old use trespass. **5** (literary) *straying about in a strange place*: roam, rove, wander, drift.

• **adjective 1** *a stray dog*: homeless, lost, strayed, gone astray, abandoned. **2** *a stray bullet*: random, chance, freak, unexpected, isolated, lone, single.

• **noun** *wardens who deal with strays*: homeless animal, stray dog/cat, waif.

**streak** **noun 1** *a streak of orange light*: band, line, strip, stripe, vein, slash, ray. **2** *green streaks on her legs*: mark, smear, smudge, stain, blotch; informal splotch. **3** *a streak of self-destructiveness*: element, vein, touch, strain; trait, characteristic. **4** *a winning streak*: period, spell, stretch, run; Brit. informal patch.

• **verb 1** *the sky was streaked with red*: stripe, band, fleck; old use freak. **2** *overalls streaked with paint*: mark, daub, smear; informal splotch. **3** *Miranda streaked across the road*. See **RUN** verb sense 1.

**streaky** **adjective** striped, stripy, streaked, banded, veined, brindled.

**stream** **noun 1** *a mountain stream*: brook, rivulet, rill, runnel, streamlet, freshet; tributary; Scottish & N. English burn; N. English beck; S. English bourn; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ creek; Austral. billabong. **2** *a stream of boiling water*: jet, flow, rush, gush, surge, torrent, flood, cascade, outpouring, outflow; technical efflux. **3** *a steady stream of visitors*: succession, series, string.

• **verb 1** *tears were streaming down her face*: flow, pour, course, run, gush, surge, flood, cascade, spill. **2** *children streamed out of the classrooms*: pour, surge, flood, swarm, pile, crowd. **3** *a flag streamed from the mast*: flutter, float, flap, fly, blow, waft, wave.

**streamer** **noun** pennant, pennon, flag, banderole, banner.

**streamlined** **adjective 1** *streamlined cars*: aerodynamic, smooth, sleek, elegant. **2** *a streamlined organization*: efficient, smooth-running, well run, slick; time-saving, labour-saving.

**street** **noun** *Amsterdam's narrow cobbled streets*: road, thoroughfare, avenue, drive, boulevard, parade; side street/road, lane; N. Amer. highway.

■ **the man/woman in the street** an ordinary person, Mr/Mrs Average; Brit. informal Joe Bloggs, Joe Public, the man on the Clapham omnibus; N. Amer. informal John Doe, Joe Sixpack.

■ **on the streets** homeless, sleeping rough, down and out.

**strength** **noun 1** *enormous physical strength*: power, brawn, muscle, muscularity, burliness, sturdiness, robustness, toughness, hardness; vigour, force, might; informal beef; literary thew. **2** *Oliver began*

*to regain his strength*: health, fitness, vigour, stamina. **3** *her great inner strength*: fortitude, resilience, spirit, backbone, strength of character; courage, bravery, pluck, pluckiness, courageousness, grit; informal guts, spunk. **4** *the strength of the retaining wall*: robustness, sturdiness, firmness, toughness, soundness, solidity, durability. **5** *Europe's military strength*: power, influence, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy; informal clout; literary puissance.

**6** *the strength of feeling against the president*: intensity, vehemence, force, forcefulness, depth, ardour, fervour. **7** *the strength of their argument*: cogency, forcefulness, force, weight, power, potency, persuasiveness, soundness, validity. **8** *what are your strengths?* strong point, advantage, asset, forte, aptitude, talent, skill; speciality. **9** (literary) *my strength and shield*: support, mainstay, anchor. **10** *the strength of the army*: size, extent, magnitude.

– **OPPOSITES** weakness.

■ **on the strength of** because of, by virtue of, on the basis of.

**strengthen** **verb 1** *calcium strengthens growing bones*: make strong/stronger, build up, give strength to. **2** *engineers strengthened the walls*: reinforce, make stronger, buttress, shore up, underpin. **3** *strengthened glass*: toughen, temper, anneal. **4** *the wind had strengthened*: become strong/stronger, gain strength, intensify, pick up. **5** *his insistence strengthened her determination*: fortify, bolster, make stronger, boost, reinforce, harden, stiffen, toughen, fuel. **6** *they strengthened their efforts*: step up, increase, escalate; informal up, crank up, beef up. **7** *the argument is strengthened by this evidence*: reinforce, lend more weight to; support, back up, confirm, bear out, corroborate.

– **OPPOSITES** weaken.

**strenuous** **adjective 1** *a strenuous climb*: arduous, difficult, hard, tough, taxing, demanding, exacting, exhausting, tiring, gruelling, back-breaking; informal killing; Brit. informal knacker; old use toilsome. **2** *strenuous efforts*: vigorous, energetic, zealous, forceful, strong, spirited, intense, determined, resolute, tenacious, tireless, indefatigable, dogged; formal pertinacious.

– **OPPOSITES** easy, half-hearted.

**stress** **noun 1** *he's under a lot of stress*: strain, pressure, (nervous) tension, worry, anxiety, trouble, difficulty; informal hassle. **2** *laying greater stress on education*: emphasis, importance, weight. **3** *the stress falls on the first syllable*: emphasis, accent, accentuation; beat; Prosody ictus. **4** *the stress is uniform across the bar*: pressure, tension, strain.

• **verb 1** *they stressed the need for reform*: emphasize, draw attention to, underline, underscore, point up, place emphasis on, lay stress on, highlight, accentuate, press home. **2** *the last syllable is stressed*: place the emphasis on, emphasize, place the accent on. **3** *all the staff were stressed*: overstretch,

overtax, push to the limit, pressurize, pressure, make tense, worry, harass; informal hassle.

– OPPOSITES play down.

**stressful** adjective **demanding**, trying, taxing, difficult, hard, tough; fraught, traumatic, pressured, tense, frustrating.

– OPPOSITES relaxing.

**stretch** verb **1** *this material stretches: be elastic*, be stretchy, be tensile. **2** *he stretched the elastic: pull (out)*, draw out, extend, lengthen, elongate, expand. **3** *stretch your weekend into a vacation: prolong*, lengthen, make longer, extend, spin out. **4** *my budget won't stretch to a new car: be sufficient* for, be enough for, cover; afford, have the money for. **5** *the court case stretched their finances: put a strain on*, overtax, overextend, drain, sap. **6** *stretching the truth: bend*, strain, distort, exaggerate, embellish. **7** *she stretched out her hand to him: reach out*, hold out, extend, outstretch, proffer; literary outreach. **8** *he stretched his arms: extend*, straighten (out). **9** *she stretched out on the sofa: lie down*, recline, lean back, be recumbent, sprawl, lounge, loll. **10** *the desert stretches for miles: extend*, spread, continue.

– OPPOSITES shorten.

• **noun** **1** *magnificent stretches of forest: expanse*, area, tract, belt, sweep, extent. **2** *a four-hour stretch: period*, time, spell, run, stint, session, shift. **3** (informal) *a ten-year stretch: (prison) sentence*; N. Amer. informal rap. • **adjective** *stretch fabrics: stretchy*, stretchable, elastic.

**strew** verb scatter, spread, disperse, litter, toss; literary bestrew.

**stricken** adjective **troubled**, (deeply) affected, afflicted, struck, hit.

**strict** adjective **1** *a strict interpretation of the law: precise*, exact, literal, faithful, accurate, careful, meticulous, rigorous. **2** *strict controls on spending: stringent*, rigorous, severe, harsh, hard, rigid, tough. **3** *strict parents: stern*, severe, harsh, uncompromising, authoritarian, firm, austere. **4** *this will be treated in strict confidence: absolute*, utter, complete, total. **5** *a strict Roman Catholic: orthodox*, devout, conscientious.

– OPPOSITES loose, liberal.

**strictness** noun **1** *the strictness of the laws: severity*, harshness, rigidity, rigidity, stringency, rigorousness, sternness. **2** *the provision has been interpreted with strictness: precision*, preciseness, accuracy, exactness, faithfulness; meticulousness, scrupulousness.

– OPPOSITES imprecision.

**stricture** noun **1** *the constant strictures of the nuns: criticism*, censure, condemnation, reproof, reproach, admonishment. **2** *the strictures on Victorian women: constraint*, restriction, limitation, restraint, straitjacket, curb, impediment, barrier, obstacle. **3** *an intestinal stricture: narrowing*, constriction.

– OPPOSITES praise, freedom.

**stride** verb *she came striding down the path:*

*march*, pace, step.

• **noun** *long swinging strides: (long/large) step*, pace.

■ **take something in one's stride** deal with easily, cope with easily, not bat an eyelid.

**strident** adjective **harsh**, raucous, rough, grating, rasping, jarring, loud, shrill, screeching, piercing, ear-piercing.

– OPPOSITES soft.

**strife** noun **conflict**, friction, discord, disagreement, dissension, dispute, argument, quarrelling, wrangling, bickering, controversy; ill/bad feeling, falling-out, bad blood, hostility, animosity.

– OPPOSITES peace.

**strike** verb **1** *the teacher struck Mary: hit*, slap, smack, beat, thrash, spank, thump, punch, cuff; cane, lash, whip, club; Austral./NZ informal quilt; informal clout, wallop, belt, whack, thwack, bash, clobber, bop, biff; literary smite. **2** *he struck the gong: bang*, beat, hit; informal bash, wallop. **3** *the car struck a tree: crash into*, collide with, hit, run into, bump into, smash into; N. Amer. impact. **4** *Jennifer struck the ball: hit*, drive, propel; informal clout, wallop, swipe. **5** *he struck a match: ignite*, light. **6** *she was asleep when the killer struck: attack*, set upon someone, fall on someone, assault someone. **7** *the disease is striking 3,000 people a year: affect*, afflict, attack, hit. **8** *striking a balance: achieve*, reach, arrive at, find, attain, establish. **9** *we have struck a bargain: agree (on)*, come to an agreement on, settle on; informal clinch. **10** *he struck a heroic pose: assume*, adopt, take on/up, affect; N. Amer. informal cop. **11** *they have struck oil: discover*, find, come upon. **12** *a thought struck her: occur* to, come to (mind), dawn on one, hit, spring to mind, enter one's head. **13** *you strike me as intelligent: seem to*, appear to, give the impression to. **14** *train drivers are striking: take industrial action*, go on strike, down tools, walk out. **15** *they struck the big tent: take down*, pull down. **16** *Lord Bridport struck his flag: lower*, take down, bring down. **17** *we should strike south: go*, make one's way, head. • **noun** **1** *a 48-hour strike: industrial action*, walkout. **2** *a military strike: (air) attack*, assault, bombing. **3** *a gold strike: find*, discovery. ■ **strike something out** delete, cross out, erase, rub out. ■ **strike something up** **1** *the band struck up another tune: begin* to play, start playing. **2** *we struck up a friendship: begin*, start, commence, embark on, establish.

**striking** adjective **1** *Lizzie bears a striking resemblance to her sister: noticeable*, obvious, conspicuous, evident, marked, notable, unmistakable, strong; remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, amazing, astounding, astonishing, staggering. **2** *Kenya's striking landscape: impressive*, imposing, grand, splendid, magnificent, spectacular, breathtaking, superb, marvellous, wonderful, stunning, staggering, sensational, dramatic. **3** *striking good looks: stunning*, attractive, good-

looking, beautiful, glamorous, gorgeous, prepossessing, ravishing, handsome, pretty; informal knockout; old use fair, comely.

– OPPOSITES unremarkable.

**string** **noun** **1** a ball of string: **twine**, cord, yarn, thread, strand. **2** a string of brewers: **chain**, group, firm, company. **3** a string of convictions: **series**, succession, chain, sequence, run, streak. **4** a string of wagons: **queue**, procession, line, file, column, convoy, train, cavalcade. **5** a string of pearls: **strand**, rope, necklace. **6** a guaranteed loan with no strings: **conditions**, qualifications, provisions, provisos, caveats, stipulations, riders, prerequisites, limitations, limits, constraints, restrictions; informal catches.

• **verb** **1** lights were strung across the promenade: **hang**, suspend, sling, stretch, run; thread, loop, festoon. **2** beads strung on a silver chain: **thread**, loop, link.

■ **string along** go along, come too, accompany, join (up with).

■ **string someone along** (informal) mislead, deceive, take advantage of, dupe, hoax, fool, make a fool of, play with, toy with, dally with, trifle with; informal lead up the garden path, take for a ride.

■ **string something out** **1** stringing out a story: spin out, drag out, lengthen. **2** airfields strung out along the Gulf: spread out, space out, distribute, scatter.

■ **string someone up** (informal) hang, lynch, gibbet.

**stringent** **adjective** **strict**, firm, rigid, rigorous, severe, harsh, tough, tight, exacting, demanding, inflexible, hard and fast.

**stringy** **adjective** **1** stringy hair: straggly, lank, thin. **2** a stringy brunette: **lanky**, gangling, gangly, rangy, wiry, bony, skinny, scrawny, thin, spare, gaunt. **3** stringy meat: **fibrous**, gristly, sinewy, chewy, tough, leathery.

**strip** **verb** **1** he stripped and got into bed: **undress**, strip off, take one's clothes off, unclothe, disrobe, strip naked. **2** stripping off paint: **peel**, remove, take off, scrape, rub, clean. **3** they stripped him of his doctorate: **take away from**, dispossess, deprive, confiscate, divest, relieve. **4** they stripped down my engine: **dismantle**, disassemble, take to bits/pieces, take apart. **5** the house had been stripped: **empty**, clear, clean out, plunder, rob, burgle, loot, pillage, ransack, despoil, sack; old use spoil.

– OPPOSITES dress.

• **noun** the team's new strip: **outfit**, clothes, clothing, garments, dress, garb; Brit. kit; informal gear, get-up; Brit. informal rig-out.

**strip** **noun** a strip of paper: (narrow) piece, bit, band, belt, ribbon, slip, shred.

**stripe** **noun** line, band, strip, belt, bar, streak, vein, flash, blaze; technical stria, striation.

**striped** **adjective**. See **STRIPY**.

**stripling** **noun** youth, adolescent, youngster, boy, schoolboy, lad, teenager, juvenile, minor, young man; Scottish laddie; informal kid, young 'un, nipper, whippersnapper, shaver.

**stripy** **adjective** **striped**, barred, lined, banded; streaky, variegated; technical striated.

**strive** **verb** **1** I shall strive to be virtuous: **try** (hard), attempt, endeavour, aim, venture, make an effort, exert oneself, do one's best, do all one can, do one's utmost, labour, work; informal go all out, give it one's best shot, pull out all the stops; formal essay. **2** scholars must strive against bias: **struggle**, fight, battle, combat; campaign, crusade.

**stroke** **noun** **1** five strokes of the axe: **blow**, hit, thump, punch, slap, smack, cuff, knock; informal wallop, clout, whack, thwack, bash, biff, swipe; old use smite. **2** cricket strokes: **shot**, hit, strike. **3** light upward strokes: **movement**, action, motion. **4** a stroke of genius: **feat**, accomplishment, achievement, master stroke. **5** broad brush strokes: **mark**, line. **6** the budget was full of bold strokes: **detail**, touch, point. **7** he suffered a stroke: **thrombosis**, seizure; Medicine **ictus**.

• **verb** she stroked the cat: **caress**, fondle, pat, pet, touch, rub, massage, soothe.

**stroll** **verb** they strolled along the river: **saunter**, amble, wander, meander, ramble, promenade, walk, go for a walk, stretch one's legs; informal mosey; formal perambulate. • **noun** a stroll in the park: **saunter**, amble, wander, walk, turn, promenade; informal mosey; dated constitutional; formal perambulation.

**strong** **adjective** **1** a strong lad: **powerful**, muscular, brawny, powerfully built, strapping, sturdy, burly, meaty, robust, athletic, tough, rugged, lusty, strong as an ox/horse; informal beefy, hunky, husky; dated stalwart. **2** she isn't very strong: **well**, healthy, in good health, (fighting) fit, robust, vigorous, blooming, thriving, hale and hearty, in fine fettle; informal in the pink. **3** a strong character: **forceful**, determined, spirited, self-assertive, tough, tenacious, formidable, redoubtable, strong-minded; informal gutsy, feisty. **4** a strong fortress: **secure**, well built, indestructible, well fortified, well protected, impregnable, solid. **5** strong cotton bags: **durable**, hard-wearing, heavy-duty, tough, sturdy, well made, long-lasting. **6** the current is very strong: **forceful**, powerful, vigorous, fierce, intense. **7** a strong interest in literature: **keen**, eager, passionate, fervent. **8** strong feelings: **intense**, forceful, passionate, ardent, fervent, fervid, deep-seated; literary pervid. **9** a strong supporter: **keen**, eager, enthusiastic, dedicated, staunch, loyal, steadfast. **10** strong arguments: **compelling**, cogent, forceful, powerful, potent, weighty, convincing, sound, valid, well founded, persuasive, influential. **11** a need for strong action: **firm**, forceful, drastic, extreme. **12** she bore a very strong resemblance to Vera: **marked**, noticeable, pronounced, distinct, definite, unmistakable, notable. **13** a strong voice: **loud**, powerful, forceful, resonant, sonorous, rich, deep, booming. **14** strong language: **bad**, foul, obscene, profane. **15** a strong blue colour: **intense**, deep, rich, bright, brilliant, vivid. **16** strong



*lights*: bright, brilliant, dazzling, glaring.

**17 strong black coffee**: concentrated, undiluted. **18 strong cheese**: highly flavoured, flavourful, flavoursome; piquant, tangy, spicy. **19 strong drink**: alcoholic, intoxicating, hard, stiff; formal spirituous.

– OPPOSITES weak, gentle, mild.

**strong-arm** adjective aggressive, forceful, bullying, coercive, threatening, intimidatory; informal bully-boy.

**strongbox** noun safe, safe-deposit box, cash/money box.

**stronghold** noun **1** *the enemy stronghold*: fortress, fort, castle, citadel, garrison. **2** *a Tory stronghold*: bastion, centre, hotbed.

**strong-minded** adjective determined, firm, resolute, purposeful, strong-willed, uncompromising, unbending, forceful, persistent, tenacious, dogged; informal gutsy, spunky.

**strong point** noun strength, strong suit, forte, speciality.

– OPPOSITES weakness.

**strong-willed** adjective determined, resolute, stubborn, obstinate, wilful, headstrong, strong-minded, self-willed, unbending, unyielding, intransigent, intractable, obdurate, recalcitrant; formal refractory.

**strop** adjective (Brit. informal). See **BAD-TEMPERED**.

**structure** noun **1** *a vast Gothic structure*: building, construction, erection, pile; formal edifice. **2** *the structure of local government*: construction, form, formation, shape, composition, anatomy, make-up, constitution; organization, system, arrangement, design, framework, configuration, pattern.  
• *verb* *the programme is structured around periods of residential study*: arrange, organize, design, shape, construct, build, put together.

**struggle** verb **1** *they struggled to do better*: strive, try hard, endeavour, make every effort, do one's best/utmost, bend over backwards, put oneself out; informal go all out, give it one's best shot; formal essay. **2** *James struggled with the raiders*: fight, grapple, wrestle, scuffle, brawl, spar; informal scrap. **3** *the teams struggled to be first*: compete, contend, vie, fight, battle, jockey. **4** *she struggled over the dunes*: scramble, flounder, stumble, fight/battle one's way, labour.  
• **noun** **1** *the struggle for justice*: endeavour, striving, effort, exertion, labour; campaign, battle, crusade, drive, push. **2** *they were arrested without a struggle*: fight, scuffle, brawl, tussle, wrestling bout, skirmish, fracas, melee; breach of the peace; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up; Brit. informal bust-up, ding-dong; Law, dated affray. **3** *many perished in the struggle*: conflict, fight, battle, confrontation, clash, skirmish; hostilities, fighting, war, warfare, campaign. **4** *a struggle within the leadership*: contest, competition, fight, clash; rivalry, friction, feuding, conflict. **5** *life has been a struggle*

*for me*: effort, trial, trouble, stress, strain, battle; informal grind, hassle.

**strumpet** noun (old use). See **PROSTITUTE** noun.

**strut** verb swagger, swank, parade, stride, sweep; N. Amer. informal sashay.

**stub** noun **1** *a cigarette stub*: butt, (tail) end; informal dog-end. **2** *a ticket stub*: counterfoil, ticket slip, tab. **3** *a stub of pencil*: stump, remnant, (tail) end.

**stubble** noun **1** *a field of stubble*: stalks, straw. **2** *grey stubble*: bristles, whiskers, facial hair; informal five o'clock shadow.

**stubbly** adjective bristly, unshaven, whiskered; prickly, rough, coarse, scratchy.

**stubborn** adjective **1** *you're too stubborn to admit it*: obstinate, stubborn as a mule, headstrong, wilful, strong-willed, pig-headed, obdurate, difficult, contrary, perverse, recalcitrant, inflexible, iron-willed, uncompromising, unbending; informal stiff-necked; Brit. informal bolshie, bloody-minded; N. Amer. informal balky; formal pertinacious, refractory; old use contumacious, froward. **2** *stubborn stains*: indelible, permanent, persistent, tenacious, resistant.

– OPPOSITES compliant.

**stubby** adjective dumpy, stocky, chunky, chubby, squat; short, stumpy, dwarfish.

– OPPOSITES slender, tall.

**stuck** adjective **1** *a message was stuck to his screen*: fixed, fastened, attached, glued, pinned. **2** *the gate was stuck*: immovable, stuck fast, jammed. **3** *if you get stuck, leave a blank*: baffled, beaten, at a loss, at one's wits' end; informal stumped, bogged down, flummoxed, fazed, bamboozled.

■ *get stuck into* (informal) get down to, make a start on, commence, embark on, get to work at, tackle, throw oneself into.

■ *stuck on* (informal) infatuated with, besotted with, smitten with, (head over heels) in love with, obsessed with; informal struck on, crazy about, mad about, wild about, carrying a torch for.

■ *stuck with* lumbered with, left with, made responsible for.

**stuck-up** adjective (informal). See **CONCEITED**.

**studded** adjective dotted, scattered, sprinkled, covered, spangled; literary bespangled, bejewelled.

**student** noun **1** *a university student*: undergraduate, postgraduate, scholar; freshman, freshman, finalist; N. Amer. sophomore; Brit. informal fresher. **2** *a former student*: pupil, schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl, scholar. **3** *a nursing student*: trainee, apprentice, probationer, recruit, novice; informal rookie.

**studied** adjective deliberate, careful, considered, conscious, calculated, intentional; affected, forced, strained, artificial.

**studio** noun workshop, workroom, atelier.

**studious** adjective **1** *a studious nature*: scholarly, academic, bookish, intellectual, erudite, learned, donnish. **2** *studious attention*: diligent, careful, attentive,

assiduous, painstaking, thorough, meticulous. **3** *his studious absence from public view*: deliberate, wilful, conscious, intentional.

**study** noun **1** *two years of study*: learning, education, schooling, academic work, scholarship, tuition, research; informal swotting, cramming. **2** *a study of global warming*: investigation, enquiry, research, examination, analysis, review, survey. **3** *Father was in his study*: office, workroom, studio. **4** *a critical study*: essay, article, work, review, paper, dissertation, disquisition.

• verb **1** *Anne studied hard*: work, revise; informal swot, cram, mug up; old use con. **2** *he studied electronics*: learn, read, be taught. **3** *Thomas was studying child development*: investigate, inquire into, research, look into, examine, analyse, explore, review, appraise. **4** *she studied her friend thoughtfully*: scrutinize, examine, inspect, consider, regard, look at, eye, observe, watch, survey; informal check out; N. Amer. informal eyeball. ■ **in a brown study** lost in thought, in a reverie, musing, ruminating, cogitating, dreaming, daydreaming; informal miles away.

**stuff** noun **1** *suede is tough stuff*: material, fabric, cloth, textile; matter, substance. **2** *first-aid stuff*: items, articles, objects, goods; informal things, bits and pieces, odds and ends. **3** *all my stuff is in the suitcase*: belongings, (personal) possessions, effects, goods (and chattels), paraphernalia; informal gear, things, kit; Brit. informal clobber, gubbins. **4** *he knows his stuff*: facts, information, data, subject; informal onions.

• verb **1** *stuffing pillows*: fill, pack, pad, upholster. **2** *Robyn stuffed her clothes into a bag*: shove, thrust, push, ram, cram, squeeze, force, jam, pack, pile, stick. **3** (informal) *they stuffed themselves with chocolate*: fill, gorge, overindulge; gobble, devour, wolf; informal pig (out), make a pig of oneself. **4** *my nose was stuffed up*: block, bung, congest, obstruct. **5** (Brit. informal) *Scotland stuffed Chile*. See TROUNCE.

■ **stuff and nonsense** (Brit. informal). See NONSENSE sense 1.

**stuffing** noun **1** *the stuffing is coming out of the armchair*: padding, wadding, filling, upholstery, packing, filler. **2** *sage and onion stuffing*: filling, forcemeat, salpicon; N. Amer. dressing.

■ **knock the stuffing out of** (informal) devastate, shatter, crush, shock; informal knock sideways; Brit. informal knock for six.

**stuffy** adjective **1** *a stuffy atmosphere*: airless, close, musty, stale; Brit. frowsty; Brit. informal fuggy. **2** *a stuffy young man*: staid, sedate, sober, prim, priggish, strait-laced, conformist, conservative, old-fashioned; informal square, straight, starchy, fuddy-duddy. **3** *a stuffy nose*: blocked, stuffed up, bunged up.

– OPPOSITES airy, clear.

**stultify** verb **1** *the free market was stultified by the welfare state*: hamper, impede, thwart, frustrate, foil, suppress, smother.

**2** *he stultifies her with too much gentleness*: bore, make bored, dull, numb, benumb, stupefy.

**stumble** verb **1** *he stumbled and fell heavily*: trip (over/up), lose one's balance, lose/miss one's footing, slip. **2** *he stumbled back home*: stagger, totter, teeter, dodder, blunder, hobble, move clumsily. **3** *he stumbled through his speech*: stammer, stutter, hesitate, falter, speak haltingly; informal fluff one's lines.

■ **stumble across/on** come across/upon, chance on, happen on, light on; discover, find, unearth, uncover; informal dig up.

**stumbling block** noun obstacle, hurdle, barrier, bar, hindrance, impediment, handicap, disadvantage; snag, fly in the ointment, hitch, catch, drawback, difficulty, problem, pitfall; informal hiccup.

**stump** verb **1** (informal) *they were stumped by the question*: baffle, perplex, puzzle, confuse, confound, nonplus, defeat, put at a loss; informal flummox, fox, throw, floor; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **2** *she stumped along the landing*: stomp, stamp, clomp, clump, lumber, thump, thud.

■ **stump something up** (Brit. informal) pay (up), dish out, contribute; informal fork out, shell out, lay out, cough up, chip in; N. Amer. informal ante up, pony up.

**stumpy** adjective short, stubby, squat, stocky, chunky.

– OPPOSITES long, thin.

**stun** verb **1** *a glancing blow stunned Gary*: daze, stupefy, knock unconscious, knock out, lay out. **2** *she was stunned by the news*: astound, amaze, astonish, dumbfound, stupefy, stagger, shock, take aback; informal flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over; Brit. informal knock for six.

**stunner** noun (informal). See BEAUTY sense 2.

**stunning** adjective **1** *a stunning win*: remarkable, extraordinary, staggering, incredible, outstanding, amazing, astonishing, marvellous, phenomenal, splendid; informal fabulous, fantastic, tremendous. **2** *she was looking stunning*. See BEAUTIFUL.

– OPPOSITES ordinary.

**stunt<sup>1</sup>** verb *a disease that stunts growth*: inhibit, impede, hamper, hinder, restrict, retard, slow, curb, check.

– OPPOSITES encourage.

**stunt<sup>2</sup>** noun *acrobatic stunts*: feat, exploit, trick.

**stunted** adjective small, undersize(d), diminutive.

**stupefaction** noun **1** *alcoholic stupefaction*: oblivion, obliviousness, unconsciousness, insensibility, stupor, daze. **2** *Don shook his head in stupefaction*: bewilderment, confusion, perplexity, wonder, amazement, astonishment.

**stupefy** verb **1** *the blow had stupefied her*: stun, daze, knock unconscious, knock out, lay out. **2** *they were stupefied*: drug, sedate, tranquillize, intoxicate, inebriate; informal

dope. **3** *the amount stupefied us: shock, stun, astound, dumbfound, overwhelm, stagger, amaze, astonish, take aback, take someone's breath away; informal flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over, floor; Brit. informal knock for six.*

**stupendous** adjective **1** *stupendous achievements: amazing, astounding, astonishing, extraordinary, remarkable, phenomenal, staggering, breathtaking; informal fantastic, mind-boggling, awesome; literary wondrous.* **2** *a building of stupendous size: colossal, immense, vast, gigantic, massive, mammoth, huge, enormous.*  
— OPPOSITES ordinary.

**stupid** adjective **1** *they're rather stupid: unintelligent, ignorant, dense, foolish, dull-witted, slow, simple-minded, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, imbecilic, imbecile, obtuse, doltish; informal thick (as two short planks), dim, dumb, dopey, dozy, moronic, cretinous, pea-brained, half-witted, soft in the head, scatterbrained, boneheaded, thickheaded, wooden-headed, muttonheaded; Brit. informal barmy, daft, not the full shilling.* **2** *a stupid mistake: foolish, silly, unintelligent, idiotic, nonsensical, senseless, unthinking, ill-advised, ill-considered, unwise, injudicious; inane, absurd, ludicrous, ridiculous, laughable, risible, fatuous, asinine, mad, insane, lunatic; informal crazy, dopey, cracked, half-baked, cockeyed, hare-brained, nutty, dotty, batty, gormless, cuckoo, loony, loopy, off one's head, off one's trolley; Brit. informal potty.* **3** *he drank himself stupid: into a stupor, into a daze, into oblivion; stupefied, dazed, unconscious.*  
— OPPOSITES intelligent, sensible.

**stupidity** noun **1** *he cursed their stupidity: lack of intelligence, foolishness, denseness, brainlessness, ignorance, dull-wittedness, slow-wittedness, doltishness, slowness; informal thickness, dimness, dopiness, doziness.* **2** *she blushed at her stupidity: foolishness, folly, silliness, idiocy, brainlessness, senselessness, injudiciousness, ineptitude, inane, inanity, absurdity, ludicrousness, ridiculousness, fatuousness, madness, insanity, lunacy; informal craziness; Brit. informal daftness.*

**stupor** noun *daze, state of unconsciousness, torpor, insensibility, oblivion.*

**sturdy** adjective **1** *a sturdy lad: strapping, well built, muscular, athletic, strong, hefty, brawny, powerful, solid, burly, rugged, robust, tough, hardy, lusty; informal husky, beefy, meaty; dated stalwart; literary thewy, stark.* **2** *sturdy boots: robust, strong, strongly made, well built, solid, stout, tough, resilient, durable, long-lasting, hard-wearing.* **3** *sturdy resistance: vigorous, strong, stalwart, firm, determined, resolute, staunch, steadfast.*  
— OPPOSITES weak.

**stutter** verb *he stuttered over a word: stammer, stumble, falter.*  
• noun *a bad stutter: stammer, speech*

*impediment, speech defect.*

**Stygian** adjective (literary). See **DARK** adjective sense 1.

**style** noun **1** *differing styles of management: manner, way, technique, method, methodology, approach, system, mode, form, modus operandi; informal MO.* **2** *a non-directive style of counselling: type, kind, variety, sort, genre, school, brand, pattern, model.* **3** *wearing clothes with style: flair, stylishness, elegance, grace, gracefulness, poise, polish, suaveness, sophistication, urbanity, chic, dash, panache, élan; informal class, pizzazz.* **4** *Laura travelled in style: comfort, luxury, elegance, opulence, lavishness.* **5** *modern styles: fashion, trend, vogue, mode.*

• verb **1** *sportswear styled by Karl: design, fashion, tailor.* **2** *men who were styled 'knight': call, name, title, entitle, dub, designate, term, label, tag, nickname; formal denominate.*

**stylish** adjective *fashionable, modish, voguish, modern, up to date; smart, sophisticated, elegant, chic, dapper, dashing; informal trendy, nifty, classy, nifty, ritzy, snazzy; N. Amer. informal fly, kicky, tony, spiffy.*  
— OPPOSITES unfashionable.

**stymie** verb (informal). See **HAMPER**².

**suave** adjective *charming, sophisticated, debonair, urbane, polished, refined, poised, self-possessed, dignified, civilized, gentlemanly, gallant; smooth, polite, well-mannered, civil, courteous, affable, tactful, diplomatic.*  
— OPPOSITES unsophisticated.

**suavity** noun *charm, sophistication, polish, urbanity, suaveness, refinement, poise; politeness, courtesy, courteousness, civility, tact.*

**subconscious** adjective *subconscious desires: unconscious, latent, suppressed, repressed, subliminal, dormant, underlying, innermost; informal bottled up.*

• noun *the creative powers of the subconscious: (unconscious) mind, imagination, inner self, psyche.*

**subdue** verb **1** *he subdued all his enemies: conquer, defeat, vanquish, overcome, overwhelm, crush, quash, beat, trounce, subjugate, suppress, bring someone to their knees; informal lick, thrash, hammer.* **2** *she could not subdue her longing: curb, restrain, hold back, constrain, contain, repress, suppress, stifle, smother, keep in check, rein in, control, master, quell; informal keep a/the lid on.*

**subdued** adjective **1** *Lewis's subdued air: sombre, low-spirited, downcast, sad, dejected, depressed, gloomy, despondent, dispirited, disheartened, forlorn, woebegone; withdrawn, preoccupied; informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, in the doldrums.* **2** *subdued voices: hushed, muted, quiet, low, soft, faint, muffled, indistinct.* **3** *subdued light: dim, muted, softened, soft, lowered, subtle.*  
— OPPOSITES cheerful, bright.



**subject** noun **1** *the subject of this chapter:*

theme, subject matter, topic, issue, question, concern, point; substance, essence, gist.

**2** *popular university subjects:* branch of study, discipline, field. **3** *six subjects did the trials:* participant, volunteer; informal guinea pig. **4** *British subjects:* citizen, national; taxpayer, voter. **5** *a loyal subject:* liege, liegeman, vassal, henchman, follower.

• **verb** *they were subjected to violence:* put through, treat with, expose to.

■ **subject to 1** *it is subject to budgetary approval:* conditional on, contingent on, dependent on. **2** *horses are subject to coughs:* susceptible to, liable to, prone to, vulnerable to, predisposed to, at risk of; old use susceptible of. **3** *we are all subject to the law:* bound by, constrained by, accountable to.

**subjection** noun subjugation, domination, oppression, mastery, repression, suppression.

**subjective** adjective personal, individual, emotional, instinctive, intuitive.

– OPPOSITES objective.

**subjugate** verb conquer, vanquish, defeat, crush, quash, bring someone to their knees, enslave, subdue, suppress.

– OPPOSITES liberate.

**sublimate** verb channel, control, divert, transfer, redirect, convert.

**sublime** adjective **1** *sublime music:* exalted, elevated, noble, lofty, awe-inspiring, majestic, magnificent, glorious, superb, wonderful, marvellous, splendid; informal fantastic, fabulous, terrific, heavenly, divine, out of this world. **2** *the sublime confidence of youth:* supreme, total, complete, utter, consummate.

**subliminal** adjective subconscious; hidden, concealed.

– OPPOSITES explicit.

**submerge** verb **1** *the U-boat submerged:* go under water, dive, sink. **2** *submerge the bowl in water:* immerse, plunge, sink. **3** *the farmland was submerged:* flood, inundate, deluge, swamp. **4** *she was submerged in work:* overwhelm, inundate, deluge, swamp, bury, engulf, snow under.

– OPPOSITES surface.

**submission** noun **1** *submission to authority:* yielding, capitulation, acceptance, consent, compliance. **2** *Tim raised his hands in submission:* surrender, capitulation, resignation, defeat. **3** *he wanted her total submission:* compliance, submissiveness, acquiescence, passivity, obedience, docility, deference, subservience, servility, subjection. **4** *a report for submission to the Board:* presentation, presenting, proffering, tendering, proposal, proposing. **5** *his original submission:* proposal, suggestion, proposition, recommendation. **6** *the judge rejected his submission:* argument, assertion, contention, statement, claim, allegation.

– OPPOSITES defiance, resistance.

**submissive** adjective compliant, yielding, acquiescent, unassertive, passive, obedient, biddable, dutiful, docile, pliant; informal

under someone's thumb.

**submit** verb **1** *she submitted under duress:* give in/way, yield, back down, cave in, capitulate; surrender, knuckle under.

**2** *he refused to submit to their authority:* be governed by, abide by, be regulated by, comply with, accept, adhere to, be subject to, agree to, consent to, conform to. **3** *we submitted an unopposed bid:* put forward, present, offer, proffer, tender, propose, suggest; put in, send in, register.

**4** *they submitted that the judgement was inappropriate:* contend, assert, argue, state, claim, posit, postulate.

– OPPOSITES resist, withdraw.

**subordinate** adjective **1** *subordinate staff:* lower-ranking, junior, lower, supporting. **2** *a subordinate rule:* secondary, lesser, minor, subsidiary, subservient, ancillary, auxiliary, peripheral, marginal; supplementary, accessory.

– OPPOSITES senior.

• **noun** *the manager and his subordinates:* junior, assistant, second (in command), number two, right-hand man/woman, deputy, aide, underling, minion; informal sidekick.

– OPPOSITES superior.

**subordination** noun inferiority, subjection, subservience, submission, servitude.

**sub rosa** adverb (formal) *in secret, secretly, in private, privately, behind closed doors, in camera.*

– OPPOSITES openly.

**subscribe** verb **1** *we subscribe to 'Punch':* pay a subscription, take, buy regularly.

**2** *millions subscribe to the NSPCC:* donate, make a donation, give (money), contribute towards. **3** *I can't subscribe to that theory:* agree with, accept, believe in, endorse, back, support, champion; formal accede to. **4** (formal) *he subscribed the document:* sign, countersign, initial, autograph, witness.

**subscriber** noun (regular) reader, member, patron, supporter, backer, contributor.

**subscription** noun **1** *the club's subscription:* membership fee, dues, annual payment, charge. **2** *we put your subscription to good use:* donation, contribution, gift, grant; formal benefaction. **3** *their subscription to capitalism:* agreement, belief, endorsement, backing, support. **4** (formal) *the subscription was witnessed:* signature, initials; addition, appendage.

**subsequent** adjective *the subsequent months:* following, ensuing, succeeding, later, future, coming, to come, next.

– OPPOSITES previous.

**subsequently** adverb later (on), at a later date, afterwards, in due course, following this/that, eventually; informal after a bit; formal thereafter.

**subservient** adjective **1** *subservient women:* submissive, deferential, compliant, obedient, dutiful, biddable, docile, passive, unassertive, subdued, downtrodden; informal under someone's thumb. **2** *individual*

rights are subservient to the interests of the state: **subordinate**, secondary, subsidiary, peripheral, ancillary, auxiliary, less important.

– OPPOSITES intensify, rise.

**subside** verb 1 *wait until the storm subsides:*

**abate**, let up, quieten down, calm, slacken (off), ease (up), relent, die down, recede, lessen, soften, diminish, decline, dwindle, weaken, fade, wane, ebb; old use remit. 2 *the flood has subsided:* recede, ebb, fall, go down, get lower, abate. 3 *the volcano is gradually subsiding:* sink, settle, cave in, collapse, crumple, give way. 4 *Sarah subsided into a chair:* slump, flop, sink, collapse; informal flump, plonk oneself.

– OPPOSITES intensify, rise.

**subsidiary** adjective *a subsidiary company:*

**subordinate**, secondary, ancillary, auxiliary, subservient, supplementary, peripheral.

– OPPOSITES principal.

• noun *two major subsidiaries:* **subordinate company**, branch, division, subdivision, derivative, offshoot.

**subsidize** verb *give money to, pay a subsidy to, contribute to, invest in, sponsor, support, fund, finance, underwrite; informal shell out for, fork out for, cough up for; N. Amer. informal bankroll.*

**subsidy** noun *grant, allowance, endowment, contribution, donation, bursary, handout; backing, support, sponsorship, finance, funding; formal benefaction.*

**subsist** verb 1 *he subsists on his pension:*

survive, live, stay alive, exist, eke out an existence; support oneself, manage, get along/by, make (both) ends meet.

2 *the tenant's rights of occupation subsist:* continue, last, persist, endure, prevail, carry on, remain.

**subsistence** noun 1 *they depend on fish for subsistence:* **survival**, existence, living, life, sustenance, nourishment. 2 *the money needed for his subsistence:* **maintenance**, keep, upkeep, livelihood, board (and lodging), nourishment, food.

**substance** noun 1 *an organic substance:*

**material**, matter, stuff. 2 *ghostly figures with no substance:* **solidity**, body, corporeality; density, mass, weight, shape, structure.

3 *none of the objections has any substance:* **meaningfulness**, significance, importance, import, validity, foundation; formal moment.

4 *the substance of the tale is very thin:* **content**, subject matter, theme, message, essence. 5 *Rangers are a team of substance:* **character**, backbone, mettle. 6 *independent men of substance:* **wealth**, fortune, riches, affluence, prosperity, money, means.

**substandard** adjective *inferior, second-rate, low-quality, poor, below par, imperfect, faulty, defective, shoddy, shabby, unsound, unsatisfactory; informal tenth-rate, crummy, lousy; Brit. informal duff, ropy, rubbish, chronic.*

**substantial** adjective 1 *substantial beings:*

**real**, true, actual; physical, solid, material, concrete, corporeal. 2 *substantial progress had been made:* **considerable**, real,

significant, important, notable, major, valuable, useful. 3 *substantial damages:* **sizeable**, considerable, significant, large, ample, appreciable, goodly. 4 *substantial Victorian villas:* **sturdy**, solid, stout, strong, well built, durable, long-lasting, hard-wearing. 5 *substantial country gentlemen:* **hefty**, stout, sturdy, large, solid, bulky, burly, well built, portly. 6 *substantial City companies:* **successful**, profitable, prosperous, wealthy, affluent, moneyed, well-to-do, rich; informal loaded, stinking rich. 7 *substantial agreement:* **fundamental**, essential, basic.

**substantially** adverb 1 *the cost has fallen*

**substantially:** **considerably**, significantly, to a great/large extent, greatly, markedly, appreciably. 2 *the draft was substantially accepted:* **largely**, for the most part, by and large, on the whole, in the main, mainly, in essence, basically, fundamentally, to all intents and purposes.

– OPPOSITES slightly.

**substantiate** verb *prove, show to be true, give substance to, support, uphold, bear out, justify, vindicate, validate, corroborate, verify, authenticate, confirm, endorse, give credence to.*

– OPPOSITES disprove.

**substitute** noun *substitutes for permanent*

**employees:** **replacement**, deputy, relief, proxy, reserve, surrogate, cover, stand-in, locum (tenens), understudy; informal sub.

• adjective *a substitute teacher:* **acting**, replacement, deputy, relief, reserve, surrogate, stand-in, temporary, caretaker, interim, provisional.

– OPPOSITES permanent.

• verb 1 *curd cheese can be substituted for yogurt:* **exchange**, replace with, use instead of, use as an alternative to, use in place of, swap. 2 *the Senate was empowered to substitute for the President:* **deputize**, act as deputy, act as a substitute, stand in, cover; replace, relieve, take over from; informal sub, fill someone's boots/shoes.

**substitution** noun *exchange, change;*

replacement, replacing, swapping, switching.

**subterfuge** noun 1 *the use of subterfuge by*

**journalists:** **trickery**, intrigue, deviousness, deceit, deception, dishonesty, cheating, duplicity, guile, cunning, craftiness, chicanery, pretence, fraud, fraudulence.

2 *a disreputable subterfuge:* **trick**, hoax, ruse, wile, ploy, stratagem, artifice, dodge, bluff, pretence, deception, fraud, blind, smokescreen; informal con, scam.

**subtle** adjective 1 *subtle colours:*

**understated**, muted, subdued; delicate, faint, pale, soft, indistinct. 2 *subtle distinctions:* **fine**, fine-drawn, nice, overnice, hair-splitting. 3 *a subtle mind:* **astute**, keen, quick, fine, acute, sharp, shrewd, perceptive, discerning, discriminating, penetrating, sagacious, wise, clever, intelligent. 4 *a subtle plan:* **ingenious**, clever, cunning, crafty, wily, artful, devious.

**subtlety** noun **1** *the subtlety of the flavour:*

delicacy, delicateness, subtleness; understatedness, mutedness, softness.

**2** *classification is fraught with subtlety:*

fineness, subtleness, niceness, nicety, nuance. **3** *the subtlety of the human mind:* astuteness, keenness, acuteness, sharpness, canniness, shrewdness, perceptiveness, discernment, discrimination, percipience, perspicacity, wisdom, cleverness, intelligence. **4** *the subtlety of their tactics:* ingenuity, cleverness, skilfulness, adroitness, cunning, guile, craftiness, wiliness, artfulness, deviousness.

**subtract** verb *take away/off*, deduct, debit, dock; informal knock off, minus.

– OPPOSITES add.

**suburb** noun *residential area*, dormitory area, commuter belt; suburbia.

**suburban** adjective **1** *a suburban area:*

residential, commuter, dormitory. **2** *her drab suburban existence:* dull, boring, uninteresting, conventional, ordinary, commonplace, unremarkable, unexceptional; provincial, unsophisticated, parochial, bourgeois, middle-class.

**subversive** adjective *subversive activities:*

disruptive, troublemaking, inflammatory, insurrectionary; seditious, revolutionary, rebellious, rebel, renegade, dissident.

• noun *a dangerous subversive:* troublemaker, dissident, agitator, revolutionary, renegade, rebel.

**subvert** verb **1** *a plot to subvert the state:*

destabilize, unsettle, overthrow, overturn; bring down, topple, depose, oust; disrupt, wreak havoc on, sabotage, ruin, undermine, weaken, damage. **2** *attempts to subvert Soviet youth:* corrupt, pervert, deprave, contaminate, poison, embitter.

**subway** noun **1** *he walked through the subway:* underpass, (pedestrian) tunnel.

**2** *Tokyo's subway:* underground (railway), metro; Brit. informal tube.

**succeed** verb **1** *Darwin succeeded where others had failed:* triumph, achieve success, be successful, do well, flourish, thrive; informal make it, make the grade, make a name for oneself. **2** *the plan succeeded:* be successful, turn out well, work (out), be effective; informal come off, pay off.

**3** *Rosebery succeeded Gladstone as Prime Minister:* replace, take the place of, take over from, follow, supersede; informal step into someone's shoes. **4** *he succeeded to the throne:* inherit, assume, acquire, attain; formal accede to. **5** *embarrassment was succeeded by fear:* follow, come after; follow after.

– OPPOSITES fail, precede.

**succeeding** adjective *subsequent*, successive, following, ensuing, later, future, coming.

**success** noun **1** *the success of the scheme:* favourable outcome, successfulness, successful result, triumph. **2** *the trappings of success:* prosperity, prosperousness, affluence, wealth, riches, opulence. **3** *a West*

*End success:* triumph, best-seller, box-office success, sell-out; informal (smash) hit, winner.

**4** *an overnight success:* star, superstar, celebrity, big name, household name; informal celeb, megastar.

– OPPOSITES failure.

**successful** adjective **1** *a successful campaign:* victorious, triumphant; fortunate, lucky. **2** *a successful designer:* prosperous, affluent, wealthy, rich; doing well, famous, eminent, top; informal on the up and up. **3** *successful companies:* flourishing, thriving, booming, buoyant, doing well, profitable, moneymaking, lucrative; informal on the up and up.

**succession** noun **1** *a succession of exciting events:* sequence, series, progression, chain, cycle, round, string, train, line, run, flow, stream. **2** *his succession to the throne:* accession, elevation, assumption.

■ *in succession* one after the other, in a row, consecutively, successively, in sequence; running; informal on the trot.

**successive** adjective *consecutive*, in a row, straight, sequential, in succession, running; informal on the trot.

**successor** noun *heir (apparent)*, inheritor, next-in-line.

– OPPOSITES predecessor.

**succinct** adjective *concise*, short (and sweet), brief, compact, condensed, crisp, laconic, terse, to the point, pithy, epigrammatic, synoptic, gnomic; formal compendious.

– OPPOSITES verbose.

**succour** noun *providing succour in times of need:* aid, help, a helping hand, assistance; comfort, ease, relief, support.

• verb *the prisoners were succoured:* help, aid, bring aid to, give/render assistance to, assist, lend a (helping) hand to; minister to, care for, comfort, bring relief to, support, take care of, look after, attend to.

**succulent** adjective *juicy*, moist, luscious, soft, tender; choice, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavoursome, tasty, delicious; informal scrumptious, scrummy.

– OPPOSITES dry.

**succumb** verb **1** *she succumbed to temptation:* yield, give in/way, submit, surrender, capitulate, cave in. **2** *he succumbed to the disease:* die from/of; catch, develop, contract, fall ill with; informal come/go down with.

– OPPOSITES resist.

**suck** verb **1** *they sucked orange juice through straws:* sip, sup, siphon, slurp, draw, drink.

**2** *Fran sucked in a deep breath:* draw, pull, breathe, gasp; inhale, inspire. **3** *they got sucked into petty crime:* implicate in, involve in, draw into; informal mix up in. **4** (N. Amer. informal) *the weather sucks:* be very bad, be awful, be terrible, be dreadful, be horrible; informal stink.

■ *suck up* (informal) *they suck up to him, hanging on to his every word:* grovel, creep, toady, be obsequious, be sycophantic, kowtow, bow and scrape, truckle; fawn on; informal lick someone's boots, be all over.



**suckle** verb breastfeed, feed, nurse.

**sudden** adjective unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, unlooked-for; immediate, instantaneous, instant, precipitous, precipitate, abrupt, rapid, swift, quick.

**suddenly** adverb immediately, instantaneously, instantly, straight away, all of a sudden, all at once, promptly, abruptly, swiftly; unexpectedly, without warning, without notice, out of the blue; informal straight off, in a flash, like a shot.

— OPPOSITES gradually.

**suds** plural noun lather, foam, froth, bubbles, soap.

**sue** verb **1** *he sued for negligence: take legal action*, take to court, proceed against; informal have the law on. **2** *suing for peace: appeal*, petition, ask, solicit, request, seek.

**suffer** verb **1** *I hate to see him suffer: hurt*, ache, be in pain, feel pain; be in distress, be upset, be miserable. **2** *he suffers from asthma: be afflicted by*, be affected by, be troubled with, have. **3** *England suffered a humiliating defeat: undergo*, experience, be subjected to, receive, endure, face. **4** *the school's reputation has suffered: be impaired*, be damaged, deteriorate, decline. **5** (old use) *he was obliged to suffer her intimate proximity: tolerate*, put up with, bear, stand, abide, endure; formal brook. **6** (old use) *my conscience would not suffer me to accept: allow*, permit, let, give leave to, sanction.

**suffering** noun hardship, distress, misery, wretchedness, adversity, tribulation; pain, agony, anguish, trauma, torment, torture, hurt, affliction, sadness, unhappiness, sorrow, grief, woe, angst, heartache, heartbreak, stress; literary *do*lour.

**suffice** verb *be enough*, be sufficient, be adequate, do, serve, meet requirements, fit/fill the bill, satisfy demands, answer/meet one's needs, answer/serve the purpose; informal hit the spot.

**sufficient** adjective & determiner enough, adequate, plenty of, ample.

— OPPOSITES inadequate.

**suffocate** verb **1** *she suffocated her victim: smother*, asphyxiate, stifle; choke, strangle. **2** *she was suffocating in the heat: be breathless*, struggle for air; be too hot, swelter; informal roast, bake, boil.

**suffrage** noun franchise, right to vote, the vote, enfranchisement, ballot.

**suffuse** verb permeate, spread over, spread throughout, cover, bathe, pervade, wash, saturate, imbue.

**sugary** adjective **1** *sugary snacks: sweet*, sugared, sickly. **2** *sugary romance: sentimental*, mawkish, cloying, slushy, mushy, sloppy, sickly (sweet), saccharine, syrupy; informal soppy, schmaltzy, cutesy, corny.

— OPPOSITES sour.

**suggest** verb **1** *Ruth suggested a holiday: propose*, put forward, recommend, advocate; advise, urge, encourage, counsel. **2** *evidence suggests that teenagers are responsive to price*

*increases: indicate*, lead to the belief, argue, demonstrate, show; formal evince. **3** *sources suggest that the Prime Minister will change his cabinet: hint*, insinuate, imply, intimate, indicate. **4** *the seduction scenes suggest his guilt and her loneliness: convey*, express, impart, imply, intimate, smack of, evoke, conjure up; formal evince.

**suggestion** noun **1** *some suggestions for tackling this problem: proposal*, proposition, motion, submission, recommendation; advice, counsel, hint, tip, clue, idea. **2** *the suggestion of a smirk: hint*, trace, touch, suspicion, dash, soupçon; ghost, semblance, shadow, glimmer, impression, whisper. **3** *there is no suggestion that he was party to a conspiracy: insinuation*, hint, implication, intimation, innuendo, imputation.

**suggestive** adjective **1** *suggestive remarks: indecent*, indelicate, improper, unseemly, sexual, sexy, smutty, dirty, ribald, bawdy, racy, risqué, lewd, vulgar, coarse, salacious. **2** *an odour suggestive of a brewery: redolent*, evocative, reminiscent; characteristic, indicative, typical.

**suicide** noun self-destruction, taking one's own life, self-murder; informal topping oneself.

**suit** noun **1** *a pinstriped suit: outfit*, set of clothes, ensemble. **2** (informal) *suits in faraway boardrooms: businessman, businesswoman*, executive, bureaucrat, administrator, manager. **3** *a medical malpractice suit: legal action*, lawsuit, (court) case, action, (legal/judicial) proceedings, litigation. **4** *they spurned his suit: entreaty*, request, plea, appeal, petition, supplication, application. **5** *his suit came to nothing: courtship*, wooing, attentions.

• verb **1** *blue really suits you: look good on*, become, flatter, look attractive on, do something for. **2** *savings schemes to suit all pockets: be convenient for*, be acceptable to, be suitable for, meet the requirements of; fit/fill the bill. **3** *recipes ideally suited to students: tailor*, fashion, adjust, adapt, modify, fit, gear, design.

**suitable** adjective **1** *suitable employment opportunities: acceptable*, satisfactory, fitting; informal right up someone's street. **2** *a drama suitable for all ages: appropriate*, fitting, fit, acceptable, right. **3** *music suitable for a lively dinner party: appropriate*, suited, befitting, in keeping with; informal cut out for. **4** *they treated him with suitable respect: proper*, seemly, decent, appropriate, fitting, befitting, correct, due. **5** *suitable candidates: well qualified*, well suited, appropriate, fitting.

— OPPOSITES inappropriate.

**suitcase** noun travelling bag, travel bag, case, valise, overnight case, portmanteau, vanity case; (suitcases) luggage, baggage.

**suite** noun **1** *a penthouse suite: apartment*, flat, (set of) rooms. **2** *the Queen and her suite: retinue*, entourage, train, escort, royal household, court; attendants, retainers, servants.

**suitor** noun admirer, wooer, boyfriend, sweetheart, lover; literary swain; dated beau.

**sulk** verb *Dad was sulking*: mope, brood, be sullen, have a long face, be in a bad mood, be in a huff, be grumpy, be moody; informal be down in the dumps.

• noun *he sank into a deep sulk*: (bad) mood, fit of pique, pet, huff, (bad) temper, the sulks, the blues; informal grump.

**sulky** adjective *sulky faces*: sullen, surly, moping, pouting, moody, sour, piqued, petulant, disgruntled, ill-humoured, in a bad mood, out of humour, put out; bad-tempered, grumpy, huffy, glum, gloomy, morose; informal grouchy, fed up.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**sullen** adjective *surly, sulky, pouting, sour, morose, resentful, glum, moody, gloomy, grumpy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered; unresponsive, uncommunicative, uncivil, unfriendly.*

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**sully** verb *taint, defile, soil, tarnish, stain, blemish, pollute, spoil, mar; literary besmirch, befoul.*

**sultry** adjective **1** *a sultry day*: humid, close, airless, stifling, oppressive, muggy, sticky, sweltering, tropical, heavy; hot; informal boiling, roasting. **2** *a sultry film star*: passionate, attractive, sensual, sexy, voluptuous, erotic, seductive.

– OPPOSITES refreshing.

**sum** noun **1** *a large sum of money*: amount, quantity, volume. **2** *just a small sum*: amount of money, price, charge, fee, cost. **3** *the sum of two numbers*: (sum) total, grand total, tally, aggregate, summation. **4** *the sum of his wisdom*: entirety, totality, total, whole, aggregate, summation, beginning and end. **5** *we did sums at school*: (arithmetical) problem, calculation; (sums) arithmetic, mathematics, computation; Brit. informal maths; N. Amer. informal math.

– OPPOSITES difference.

■ **sum up** summarize the evidence, review the evidence, give a summing-up.

■ **sum someone/something up** **1** *one reviewer summed it up as 'compelling'*: evaluate, assess, appraise, rate, weigh up, gauge, judge, deem, adjudge, estimate, form an opinion of. **2** *he summed up his reasons*: summarize, make/give a summary of, precis, outline, give an outline of, recapitulate, review; informal recap.

**summarily** adverb immediately, instantly, right away, straight away, at once, on the spot, promptly; speedily, swiftly, rapidly, without delay; arbitrarily, without formality, peremptorily, without due process.

**summarize** verb **sum up**, abridge, condense, encapsulate, outline, give an outline of, put in a nutshell, recapitulate, give/make a summary of, give a synopsis of, precis, give a résumé of, give the gist of; informal recap; old use epitomize.

**summary** noun *a summary of the findings*: synopsis, precis, résumé, abstract, digest, encapsulation, abbreviated version; outline,

sketch, rundown, review, summing-up, overview, recapitulation, epitome, conspectus; informal recap.

• adjective **1** *a summary financial statement*: abridged, abbreviated, shortened, condensed, concise, succinct, short, brief, pithy; formal compendious. **2** *summary execution*: immediate, instant, instantaneous, on-the-spot; speedy, swift, rapid, without delay, sudden; arbitrary, without formality, peremptory.

**summer** noun

#### WORD LINKS

aestival relating to or appearing in summer

**summer house** noun gazebo, pavilion, belvedere; literary bower.

**summit** noun **1** *the summit of Mont Blanc*: (mountain) top, peak, crest, crown, apex, tip, cap, hilltop. **2** *the summits of world literature*: acme, peak, height, pinnacle, zenith, climax, high point/spot, highlight, crowning glory, best, finest, nonpareil. **3** *the next superpower summit*: meeting, negotiation, conference, talk(s), discussion.

– OPPOSITES base, nadir.

**summon** verb **1** *he was summoned to the Embassy*: send for, call for, request the presence of; ask, invite. **2** *they were summoned as witnesses*: serve with a summons, summons, subpoena, cite. **3** *the chair summoned a meeting*: convene, assemble, order, call, announce; formal convoke. **4** *he summoned the courage to move closer*: muster, gather, collect, rally, screw up. **5** *summoning up their memories of home*: call to mind, call up/forth, conjure up, evoke, recall, revive, arouse, kindle, awaken, spark (off). **6** *they summoned spirits of the dead*: conjure up, call up, invoke.

**summons** noun **1** *the court issued a summons*: writ, subpoena, warrant, court order; Law citation. **2** *a summons to go to the boss's office*: order, directive, command, instruction, demand, decree, injunction, edict, call, request.

• verb *he was summoned to appear in court*: serve with a summons, subpoena, summon, cite.

**sumptuous** adjective lavish, luxurious, opulent, magnificent, resplendent, gorgeous, splendid, grand, lavishly appointed, palatial, rich; informal plush, ritzy; Brit. informal swish.

– OPPOSITES plain.

**sun** noun sunshine, sunlight, daylight, light, warmth; beams, rays.

#### WORD LINKS

solar relating to the sun

**solstice** each of the two times in the year when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon

**heliocentric** referring to an astronomical system having the sun at its centre

**aphelion** the point in a planet's orbit at which it is furthest from the sun

**perihelion** the point in a planet's orbit at which it is closest to the sun

**parhelion** a bright spot in the sky on either side of the sun  
**zenith** the highest point in the sky reached by the sun

**sunbathe** verb **sun** oneself, bask, get a tan, tan oneself; informal catch some rays.

**sunburnt** adjective **1** *his sunburnt shoulders*: burnt, sunburned, red, scarlet. **2** *a handsome sunburnt face*: tanned, suntanned, brown, bronzed, bronze.

– OPPOSITES pale.

**Sunday** noun the Sabbath, the Lord's Day.

#### WORD LINKS

**dominical** relating to Sunday

**sunder** verb (literary) **divide**, split, cleave, separate, rend, sever, rive.

**sundry** adjective **various**, varied, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diverse, diversified; several, numerous, many, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous; literary divers.

**sunken** adjective **1** *sunken eyes*: hollowed, hollow, depressed, deep-set, concave, indented. **2** *a sunken garden*: below ground level, at a lower level, lowered.

**sunless** adjective **1** *a cold sunless day*: dark, overcast, cloudy, grey, gloomy, dismal, murky, dull. **2** *the sunless side of the house*: shady, shadowy, dark, gloomy.

**sunlight** noun **daylight**, sun, sunshine, sun's rays, (natural) light.

**sunny** adjective **1** *a sunny day*: bright, sunshiny, sunlit, clear, fine, cloudless, without a cloud in the sky. **2** *a sunny disposition*: cheerful, cheery, happy, light-hearted, bright, merry, joyful, bubbly, jolly, jovial, animated, buoyant, ebullient, upbeat, vivacious; literary blithe. **3** *look on the sunny side*: optimistic, rosy, bright, hopeful, auspicious, favourable.

– OPPOSITES dull, miserable.

**sunrise** noun (crack of) **dawn**, daybreak, break of day, first light, (early) morning, cockcrow; N. Amer. sunup; literary aurora, dayspring.

**S sunset** noun **nightfall**, close of day, twilight, dusk, evening; N. Amer. sundown; literary eventide, gloaming.

**sunshine** noun **1** *relaxing in the sunshine*: sunlight, sun, sun's rays, daylight, (natural) light. **2** *his smile was all sunshine*: happiness, cheerfulness, cheer, gladness, laughter, gaiety, merriment, joy, joyfulness, joviality, jollity; literary blitheness. **3** (Brit. informal) *hello, sunshine*: my friend; informal pal, chum; Brit. informal mate, matey, squire, mush; N. Amer. informal bud, buddy, buster.

**super** adjective (informal) **excellent**, superb, superlative, first-class, outstanding, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, splendid, glorious; informal great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific, ace, divine, A1, wicked, cool; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill.

– OPPOSITES rotten.

**superannuated** adjective **1** *a super-*

*annuated civil servant*: pensioned (off), retired; elderly, old. **2** *superannuated computing equipment*: old, old-fashioned, antiquated, out of date, outmoded, broken-down, obsolete, disused, defunct; informal clapped out.

**superb** adjective **1** *he scored a superb goal*: excellent, superlative, first-rate, first-class, outstanding, top-tier, remarkable, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, splendid, admirable, noteworthy, impressive, fine, exquisite, exceptional, glorious; informal great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific, super, awesome, ace, cool, A1; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing. **2** *a superb diamond necklace*: magnificent, majestic, splendid, grand, impressive, imposing, awe-inspiring, breathtaking; gorgeous.

– OPPOSITES poor, inferior.

**supercilious** adjective **arrogant**, haughty, conceited, disdainful, overbearing, pompous, condescending, superior, patronizing, imperious, proud, snobbish, snobby, smug, scornful, sneering; informal hoity-toity, high and mighty, uppity, snooty, stuck-up, snotty, jumped up, too big for one's boots.

**superficial** adjective **1** *superficial burns*: surface, exterior, external, outer, outside, slight. **2** *a superficial friendship*: shallow, surface, skin-deep, artificial; empty, hollow, meaningless. **3** *a superficial investigation*: cursory, perfunctory, casual, sketchy, desultory, token, slapdash, offhand, rushed, hasty, hurried. **4** *a superficial resemblance*: apparent, seeming, outward, ostensible, cosmetic, slight. **5** *a superficial biography*: trivial, lightweight. **6** *a superficial person*: facile, shallow, flippant, empty-headed, trivial, frivolous, silly, inane.

– OPPOSITES deep, thorough.

**superficially** adverb **apparently**, seemingly, ostensibly, outwardly, on the surface, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, at first glance, to the casual eye.

**superfluity** noun **surplus**, excess, overabundance, glut, surfeit, profusion, plethora.

– OPPOSITES shortage.

**superfluous** adjective **1** *superfluous material*: surplus (to requirements), redundant, unneeded, excess, extra, (to) spare, remaining, unused, left over, in excess, waste. **2** *words seemed superfluous*: unnecessary, unneeded, redundant, uncalled for, unwarranted.

– OPPOSITES necessary.

**superhuman** adjective **1** *a superhuman effort*: extraordinary, phenomenal, prodigious, stupendous, exceptional, immense, heroic. **2** *superhuman power*: divine, holy, heavenly. **3** *superhuman beings*: supernatural, preternatural, paranormal, other-worldly, unearthly; rare extramundane.

– OPPOSITES mundane.

**superintend** verb **supervise**, oversee, be in charge of, be in control of, preside



over, direct, administer, manage, run, be responsible for.

**superintendent** noun **1** *the superintendent of the museum:* **manager**, director, administrator, supervisor, overseer, controller, chief, head, governor; informal boss. **2** (N. Amer.) *the building's superintendent:* caretaker, janitor, warden, porter.

**superior** adjective **1** *a superior officer:* higher-ranking, higher-level, senior, higher, higher-up. **2** *the superior candidate:* better, more expert, more skilful; worthier, fitter, preferred. **3** *superior workmanship:* finer, better, higher-grade, of higher quality, greater; accomplished, expert. **4** *superior chocolate:* good-quality, high-quality, first-class, first-rate, top-quality; choice, select, exclusive, prime, prize, fine, excellent, best, choicest, finest. **5** *a superior hotel:* high-class, upper-class, select, exclusive; Brit. upmarket; informal classy, posh. **6** *Jake regarded her with superior amusement:* condescending, supercilious, patronizing, haughty, disdainful, pompous, snobbish; informal high and mighty, hoity-toity, snooty, stuck-up.

– OPPOSITES junior, inferior.

• noun *my immediate superior:* manager, chief, supervisor, senior, controller, foreman; informal boss.

– OPPOSITES subordinate.

**superiority** noun **supremacy**, advantage, lead, dominance, primacy, ascendancy, eminence.

**superlative** adjective excellent, magnificent, wonderful, marvellous, supreme, consummate, outstanding, remarkable, fine, choice, first-rate, first-class, top-tier, premier, prime, unsurpassed, unequalled, unparalleled, unrivalled, pre-eminent; informal crack, ace, wicked; Brit. informal brilliant.

– OPPOSITES mediocre.

**supernatural** adjective **1** *supernatural powers:* paranormal, psychic, magic, magical, occult, mystic, mystical, superhuman, supernormal; rare extramundane. **2** *a supernatural being:* ghostly, phantom, spectral, other-worldly, unearthly, unnatural.

**supersede** verb **replace**, take the place of, take over from, succeed; supplant, displace, oust, overthrow, remove, unseat; informal fill someone's shoes/boots.

**superstition** noun **1** *the old superstitions held by sailors:* myth, belief, old wives' tale; legend, story. **2** *medicine was riddled with superstition:* unfounded belief, credulity; fallacy, delusion, illusion; magic, sorcery.

**superstitious** adjective **1** *superstitious beliefs:* mythical, irrational, illusory, groundless, unfounded; traditional. **2** *he's incredibly superstitious:* credulous, naive, gullible.

– OPPOSITES factual, sceptical.

**supervise** verb **1** *he had to supervise the loading:* **superintend**, oversee, be in charge of, preside over, direct, manage, run, look

after, be responsible for, govern, organize, handle. **2** *you may need to supervise the patient:* watch, oversee, keep an eye on, observe, monitor, mind.

**supervision** noun **1** *the supervision of the banking system:* administration, management, control, charge; superintendence, regulation, government, governance. **2** *keep your children under supervision:* observation, guidance, custody, charge, safe keeping, care, guardianship; control.

**supervisor** noun **manager**, director, overseer, controller, superintendent, governor, chief, head; steward, foreman; Brit. ganger, gangmaster; informal boss; Brit. informal gaffer.

**supine** adjective **1** *she lay supine on the sand:* flat on one's back, face upwards, flat, horizontal, recumbent, stretched out. **2** *a supine media:* weak, spineless, yielding, effete; docile, acquiescent, pliant, submissive, passive, inert, spiritless.

– OPPOSITES prostrate, strong.

**supper** noun **dinner**, evening meal, main meal; snack, bite to eat; Brit. tea; formal repast; literary refecton.

**supplant** verb **1** *motorways supplanted the network of A-roads:* **replace**, supersede, displace, take over from, substitute for, override. **2** *the man he supplanted as Prime Minister:* oust, usurp, overthrow, remove, topple, unseat, depose, dethrone; succeed, come after; informal fill someone's shoes/boots.

**supple** adjective **1** *her supple body:* lithe, limber, lissom(e), willowy, flexible, loose-limbed, agile, acrobatic, nimble, double-jointed. **2** *supple leather:* pliant, pliable, flexible, soft, bendable, workable, malleable, stretchy, elastic, springy, yielding, rubbery.

– OPPOSITES stiff, rigid.

**supplement** noun **1** *a mouse is a keyboard supplement:* addition, supplementation, supplementary, extra, add-on, accessory, adjunct, appendage; Computing peripheral. **2** *a single room supplement:* surcharge, addition, increase. **3** *a supplement to the essay:* appendix, addendum, end matter, tailpiece, codicil, postscript, addition, coda. **4** *a special supplement with today's paper:* pull-out, insert, extra section.

• verb *they supplemented their incomes by spinning:* augment, increase, add to, boost, swell, amplify, enlarge, top up.

**supplementary** adjective **1** *supplementary income:* additional, supplemental, extra, more, further; add-on, subsidiary, auxiliary, ancillary. **2** *a supplementary index:* appended, attached, added, extra, accompanying.

**suppliant** noun *they were not mere suppliants:* petitioner, supplicant, pleader, beggar, applicant.

• adjective *those around her were suppliant:* pleading, begging, imploring, entreating, supplicating; on bended knee.

**supplicate** verb entreat, beg, plead with,

implore, petition, appeal to, call on, urge, enjoin, importune, sue, ask, request; literary beseech.

**supply** verb **1** *they supplied money to rebels:* give, contribute, provide, furnish, donate, bestow, grant, endow, impart; dispense, disburse, allocate, assign; informal fork out, shell out. **2** *the lake supplies the city with water:* provide, furnish, endow, serve, confer; equip, arm. **3** *windmills supply their power needs:* satisfy, meet, fulfil, cater for.

• **noun 1** *a limited supply of food:* stock, store, reserve, reservoir, stockpile, hoard, cache; storehouse, repository; fund, mine, bank.

**2** *the supply of alcoholic liquor:* provision, dissemination, distribution, serving. **3** *go to a supermarket for supplies:* provisions, stores, stocks, rations, food, foodstuffs, eatables, produce, necessities; informal eats; formal comestibles.

• **adjective** *a supply teacher:* substitute, stand-in, fill-in, locum, temporary, stopgap.

**support** verb **1** *a roof supported by pillars:*

hold up, bear, carry, prop up, keep up, brace, shore up, underpin, buttress, reinforce.

**2** *he struggled to support his family:* provide for, maintain, sustain, keep, take care of, look after. **3** *she supported him to the end:*

comfort, encourage, sustain, buoy up, hearten, fortify, console, solace, reassure; informal buck up. **4** *evidence to support the argument:* substantiate, back up, bear out, corroborate, confirm, attest to, verify, prove, validate, authenticate, endorse, ratify. **5** *the money supports charitable projects:* help,

aid, assist; contribute to, back, subsidize, fund, finance; N. Amer. informal bankroll. **6** *an independent candidate supported by locals:* back, champion, help, assist, aid, abet, favour, encourage; vote for, stand behind, defend; sponsor, second, promote, endorse, sanction; informal throw one's weight behind.

**7** *they support human rights:* advocate, promote, champion, back, espouse, be in favour of, recommend, defend, subscribe to. **8** *I could not support the grief:* endure, bear, tolerate, stand, put up with, abide, stomach, sustain; formal brook; old use suffer.

– **OPPOSITES** neglect, contradict, oppose, oppose.

• **noun 1** *bridge supports:* pillar, post, prop, upright, crutch, plinth, brace, buttress; base, substructure, foundation, underpinning.

**2** *he pays support for his wife:* maintenance, keep, sustenance, subsistence. **3** *I was lucky to have their support:* encouragement,

friendship, strength, consolation, solace, succour, relief. **4** *he was a great support:* comfort, help, assistance, tower of strength, prop, mainstay. **5** *support for community services:* contributions, backing, donations, money, subsidy, funding, funds, finance, capital. **6** *they voiced their support for him:* backing, help, assistance, aid, endorsement, approval; votes, patronage. **7** *a surge in support for decentralization:* advocacy,

backing, promotion, championship, espousal, defence, recommendation.

**supporter** noun **1** *supporters of gun control:* advocate, backer, adherent, promoter,

champion, defender, upholder, crusader, proponent, campaigner, apologist. **2** *Labour supporters:* backer, helper, adherent, follower, ally, voter, disciple; member.

**3** *the charity relies on its supporters:* contributor, donor, benefactor, sponsor, backer, patron, subscriber, well-wisher. **4** *the team's supporters:* fan, follower, enthusiast, devotee, admirer; informal buff, addict.

**supportive** adjective **1** *a supportive teacher:* encouraging, caring, sympathetic, reassuring, understanding, concerned, helpful, kind, kindly. **2** *we are supportive of the proposal:* in favour of, favourable to, pro, on the side of, sympathetic to, well disposed to, receptive to.

**suppose** verb **1** *I suppose he's used to this:* assume, presume, expect, dare say, take it (as read); believe, think, fancy, suspect, sense, trust; guess, surmise, reckon, conjecture, deduce, infer, gather; formal opine. **2** *suppose you had a spacecraft:* assume, imagine, (let's) say; hypothesize, theorize, speculate. **3** *the theory supposes rational players:* require, presuppose, imply, assume; call for, need.

**supposed** adjective **1** *the supposed phenomena:* apparent, ostensible, seeming, alleged, putative, reputed, rumoured, claimed, purported; professed, declared, assumed, presumed. **2** *I'm supposed to meet him at 8.30:* meant, intended, expected; required, obliged.

**supposition** noun belief, surmise, idea, notion, suspicion, conjecture, speculation, inference, theory, hypothesis, postulation, guess, feeling, hunch, assumption, presumption.

**suppress** verb **1** *they could suppress the rebellion:* subdue, repress, crush, quell, quash, squash, stamp out; defeat, conquer, overpower, put down, crack down on; end, stop, terminate, halt. **2** *she suppressed her irritation:* conceal, restrain, stifle, smother, bottle up, hold back, control, check, curb, contain, bridle, inhibit, keep a rein on, put a lid on. **3** *the report was suppressed:* censor, keep secret, conceal, hide, hush up, gag, withhold, cover up, stifle; ban, proscribe, outlaw; sweep under the carpet.

– **OPPOSITES** incite, reveal.

**suppurate** verb fester, form pus, discharge, run, weep, become septic; Medicine mature.

**supremacy** noun ascendancy, predominance, primacy, dominion, hegemony, authority, mastery, control, power, rule, sovereignty, influence; dominance, superiority, advantage, the upper hand, the whip hand, the edge; distinction, greatness.

**supreme** adjective **1** *the supreme commander:* highest ranking, chief, head, top, foremost, principal, superior, premier, first, prime; greatest, dominant, predominant, pre-eminent. **2** *a supreme achievement:* extraordinary, remarkable, incredible, phenomenal, rare, exceptional, outstanding, great, incomparable, unparalleled, peerless.

**3 the supreme sacrifice:** ultimate, final, last; utmost, extreme, greatest, highest.

– OPPOSITES subordinate, insignificant.

**sure adjective 1** *I am sure that they didn't:*

certain, positive, convinced, confident, definite, assured, satisfied, persuaded; unhesitating, unwavering, unshakeable.

**2 someone was sure to be blamed:** bound, likely, destined, fated. **3 a sure winner with the children:** guaranteed, unailing, infallible, unerring, assured, certain, inevitable, as sure as eggs is eggs; informal sure-fire. **4 he entered in the sure knowledge that he would win:** unquestionable, indisputable, irrefutable, incontrovertible, undeniable, indubitable, undoubted, absolute, categorical, true, certain; obvious, evident, plain, clear, conclusive, definite.

**5 a sure sign that he's worried:** reliable, dependable, trustworthy, unailing, infallible, certain, unambiguous, true, foolproof, established, effective; informal sure-fire; formal efficacious. **6 the sure hand of the soloist:** firm, steady, stable, secure, confident, steadfast, unfaltering, unwavering.

– OPPOSITES uncertain, unlikely.

• exclamation 'Can I come too?' 'Sure.': yes, all right, of course, indeed, certainly, absolutely, agreed; informal OK, yeah, yep, uh-huh, you bet, I'll say, sure thing.

■ **make sure** check, confirm, make certain, ensure, assure; verify, corroborate, substantiate.

**surely adverb 1** *surely you remembered?*

it must be the case that, assuredly, without question. **2 I will surely die:** certainly, for sure, definitely, undoubtedly, without doubt, doubtless, indubitably, unquestionably, without fail, inevitably.

**3 slowly but surely manipulating the public:** firmly, steadily, confidently, assuredly, unhesitatingly, unfalteringly, unswervingly, determinedly, doggedly.

**surety noun 1** *she's a surety for his*

*obligations:* guarantor, sponsor. **2 bail of £10,000 with a further £10,000 surety:** pledge, collateral, guaranty, guarantee, bond, assurance, insurance, deposit; security, indemnity, indemnification; earnest.

**surface noun 1** *the surface of the door:*

outside, exterior; top, side; finish, veneer.

**2 the surface of police culture:** outward appearance, facade. **3 a floured surface:** worktop, top, work surface, counter, table.

– OPPOSITES inside, interior.

• adjective *surface appearances:* superficial, external, exterior, outward, ostensible, apparent, cosmetic, skin deep.

– OPPOSITES underlying.

• verb **1 a submarine surfaced:** come to the surface, come up, rise. **2 the idea first surfaced in the sixties:** emerge, arise, appear, come to light, crop up, materialize, spring up. **3 (informal) she eventually surfaces for breakfast:** get up, get out of bed, rise, wake, awaken, appear.

– OPPOSITES dive.

■ **on the surface** at first glance, to the casual eye, outwardly, to all appearances, apparently, ostensibly, superficially, externally.

**surfeit noun** *a surfeit of apples:* excess,

surplus, abundance, oversupply, superabundance, superfluity, glut, avalanche, deluge; overdose; too much; informal bellyful.

– OPPOSITES lack.

• verb *we'll all be surfeited with food:* satiate, gorge, overfeed, overfill, glut, cram, stuff, overindulge, fill.

**surge noun 1** *a surge of water:* gush, rush,

outpouring, stream, flow. **2 a surge in oil production:** increase, rise, growth, upswing, upsurge, escalation, leap. **3 a sudden surge of anger:** rush, storm, torrent, blaze, outburst, eruption. **4 the surge of sea:** swell, heaving, rolling, roll, swirling; tide.

• verb **1 the water surged into people's homes:** gush, rush, stream, flow, burst, pour, cascade, spill, overflow, sweep, roll.

**2 the Dow Jones index surged 47.63 points:** increase, rise, grow, escalate, leap. **3 the sea surged:** swell, heave, rise, roll.

**surly adjective** sullen, sulky, moody, sour, unfriendly, unpleasant, scowling, unsmiling; bad-tempered, grumpy, crotchety, prickly, cantankerous, irascible, testy, short-tempered; abrupt, brusque, curt, gruff, churlish, ill-humoured, crabby, uncivil; informal grouchy.

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**surmise verb** guess, conjecture, suspect, deduce, infer, conclude, theorize, speculate, divine; assume, presume, suppose, understand, gather, feel, sense, think, believe, imagine, fancy, reckon; formal opine.

**surmount verb 1** *his reputation surmounts*

*language barriers:* overcome, conquer, prevail over, triumph over, beat, vanquish; clear, cross, pass over; resist, endure.

**2 they surmounted the ridge:** climb over, top, ascend, scale, mount. **3 the dome is surmounted by a statue:** cap, top, crown, finish.

– OPPOSITES descend.

**surname noun** family name, last name; patronymic.

**surpass verb** excel, exceed, transcend; outdo, outshine, outstrip, outclass, overshadow, eclipse; improve on, top, trump, cap, beat, better, outperform.

**surplus noun** *a surplus of grain:* excess, surfeit, superabundance, superfluity, oversupply, glut, profusion, plethora; remainder, residue, remains, leftovers.

– OPPOSITES dearth.

• adjective *surplus adhesive:* excess, leftover, unused, remaining, extra, additional, spare; superfluous, redundant, unwanted, unneeded, dispensable, expendable.

– OPPOSITES insufficient.

**surprise noun 1** *Kate looked at me in surprise:*

astonishment, amazement, wonder, incredulity, bewilderment, stupefaction, disbelief. **2 the test came as a big surprise:**



**shock**, bolt from the blue, bombshell, revelation, rude awakening; informal turn up for the books, eye-opener, shocker.

• **verb 1** *I was so surprised that I dropped it:* **astonish**, amaze, startle, astound, stun, stagger, shock; leave open-mouthed, take someone's breath away, dumbfound, daze, take aback, shake up; informal bowl over, floor, flabbergast; Brit. informal knock for six. **2** *she surprised a burglar:* **take by surprise**, catch unawares, catch off guard, catch red-handed, catch in the act, catch out; Brit. informal catch on the hop.

**surprised** adjective **astonished**, amazed, astounded, startled, stunned, staggered, nonplussed, shocked, taken aback, stupefied, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, speechless, thunderstruck, confounded, shaken up; informal bowled over, flabbergasted, floored, flummoxed.

**surprising** adjective **unexpected**, unforeseen, unpredictable; astonishing, amazing, startling, astounding, staggering, incredible, extraordinary, breathtaking, remarkable; informal mind-blowing.

**surrender** verb **1** *the army surrendered:* **capitulate**, give in, give (oneself) up, give way, yield, concede (defeat), submit, climb down, back down, cave in, relent, crumble; lay down one's arms, raise the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge. **2** *they surrendered power to the government:* give up, relinquish, renounce, forgo, forswear; cede, abdicate, waive, forfeit, sacrifice; hand over, turn over, yield, resign, transfer, grant. **3** *surrender all hope of changing things:* **abandon**, give up, cast aside.

– OPPOSITES resist, seize.

• **noun 1** *the surrender of the hijackers:* **capitulation**, submission, yielding, succumbing, acquiescence; fall, defeat. **2** *a surrender of power to the shop floor:* **relinquishment**, renunciation, cession, abdication, resignation, transfer.

**surreptitious** adjective **secret**, secretive, stealthy, clandestine, sneaky, sly, furtive; concealed, hidden, undercover, covert, veiled, cloak-and-dagger.

– OPPOSITES blatant.

**s surrogate** noun **substitute**, proxy, replacement; deputy, representative, stand-in, standby, stopgap, relief, understudy.

**surround** verb *we were surrounded by cops:* **encircle**, enclose, encompass, ring; fence in, hem in, confine, bound, circumscribe, cut off; besiege, trap.

• **noun** *a fireplace with a wood surround:* **border**, edging, edge, perimeter, boundary, margin, skirting, fringe.

**surrounding** adjective **neighbouring**, nearby, near, neighbourhood, local; adjoining, adjacent, bordering, abutting; encircling, encompassing.

**surroundings** plural noun **environment**, setting, milieu, background, backdrop; conditions, circumstances, situation, context; vicinity, locality, habitat.

**surveillance** noun **observation**, scrutiny,

watch, view, inspection, supervision; spying, espionage, infiltration, reconnaissance; informal bugging, wiretapping, recon.

**survey** verb **1** *he surveyed his work:* **look at**, look over, observe, view, contemplate, regard, gaze at, stare at, eye; scrutinize, examine, inspect, scan, study, consider, review, take stock of; informal size up; literary behold. **2** *they surveyed 4000 drug users:* **interview**, question, canvass, poll, cross-examine, investigate, research, study, probe, sample. **3** *he was asked to survey the house:* **appraise**, assess, prospect; make a survey of, value.

• **noun 1** *a survey of the current literature:* **study**, review, consideration, overview; scrutiny, examination, inspection, appraisal. **2** *a survey of sexual behaviour:* **poll**, review, investigation, inquiry, study, probe, questionnaire, census, research. **3** *a thorough survey of the property:* **appraisal**, assessment, valuation, estimate, estimation.

**survive** verb **1** *he survived by escaping through a hole:* **remain alive**, live, sustain oneself, pull through, get through, hold on/out, make it, keep body and soul together. **2** *the theatre must survive:* **continue**, remain, persist, endure, live on, persevere, abide, go on, carry on, be extant, exist. **3** *he was survived by his sons:* **outlive**, outlast; live longer than.

**susceptible** adjective **1** *susceptible children:* **impressionable**, credulous, gullible, innocent, ingenuous, naive, easily led; defenceless, vulnerable; persuadable, tractable; sensitive, responsive, thin-skinned. **2** *people susceptible to blackmail:* **open to**, receptive to, vulnerable to; an easy target for. **3** *he is susceptible to ulcers:* **liable to**, prone to, subject to, inclined to, predisposed to, disposed to, given to, at risk of; old use susceptible of. **4** *the database will be susceptible of exploitation:* **open to**, capable of, admitting of, receptive of, responsive to.

– OPPOSITES sceptical, immune, resistant.

**suspect** verb **1** *I suspected she'd made a mistake:* **have a suspicion**, have a feeling, feel, (be inclined to) think, fancy, reckon, guess, surmise, conjecture, conclude, have a hunch; suppose, presume, deduce, infer, sense, imagine; fear. **2** *he had no reason to suspect my honesty:* **doubt**, distrust, mistrust, have misgivings about, be sceptical about, have qualms about, be suspicious of, be wary of, harbour reservations about; informal smell a rat.

• **noun** *a murder suspect:* **suspected person**, accused, defendant.

• **adjective** *a suspect package:* **suspicious**, dubious, doubtful, untrustworthy; odd, queer; informal fishy, funny, shady; Brit. informal dodgy.

**suspend** verb **1** *the court case was suspended:* **adjourn**, interrupt, break off, postpone, delay, defer, shelve, put off, intermit, prorogue, hold over, hold in abeyance; cut short, discontinue, dissolve, disband, terminate; N. Amer. table; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, mothball; N. Amer.

informal take a rain check on. **2** *he was suspended from his duties*: **exclude**, **debar**, **remove**, **eliminate**, **expel**, **eject**. **3** *lights were suspended from the ceiling*: **hang**, **sling**, **string**; **swing**, **dangle**.

**suspense** **noun** *I can't bear the suspense*: **tension**, **uncertainty**, **doubt**, **anticipation**, **expectation**, **expectancy**, **excitement**, **anxiety**, **apprehension**, **strain**.

■ **in suspense** **eagerly**, **agog**, **with bated breath**, **on tenterhooks**; **on edge**, **anxious**, **edgy**, **keyed up**, **uneasy**; **informal uptight**, **jumpy**, **jittery**.

**suspension** **noun** **1** *the suspension of army operations*: **adjournment**, **interruption**, **postponement**, **delay**, **deferral**, **deferment**, **stay**, **prorogation**; **armistice**; **cessation**, **end**, **halt**, **stoppage**, **dissolution**, **disbandment**, **termination**. **2** *his suspension from school*: **exclusion**, **debarment**, **removal**, **elimination**, **expulsion**, **ejection**; **Brit. rustication**.

**suspicion** **noun** **1** *she had a suspicion that he didn't like her*: **intuition**, **feeling**, **impression**, **inkling**, **hunch**, **fancy**, **notion**, **supposition**, **belief**, **idea**, **theory**; **presentiment**, **premonition**; **informal gut feeling**, **sixth sense**. **2** *I confronted him with my suspicions*: **misgiving**, **doubt**, **qualm**, **reservation**, **hesitation**, **question**; **scepticism**, **uncertainty**, **distrust**, **mistrust**. **3** *wine with a suspicion of soda*: **trace**, **touch**, **suggestion**, **hint**, **souçon**, **tinge**, **shade**, **whiff**, **bit**, **drop**, **dash**, **taste**, **jot**, **mite**.

**suspicious** **adjective** **1** *she gave Jonathan a suspicious look*: **doubtful**, **unsure**, **dubious**, **wary**, **chary**, **sceptical**, **distrustful**, **mistrustful**, **disbelieving**, **cynical**. **2** *a highly suspicious character*: **disreputable**, **unsavoury**, **dubious**, **suspect**, **dishonest-looking**, **funny-looking**, **slippery**; **informal shifty**, **shady**; **Brit. informal dodgy**. **3** *she disappeared in suspicious circumstances*: **questionable**, **odd**, **strange**, **dubious**, **irregular**, **queer**, **funny**, **doubtful**, **mysterious**, **murky**; **informal fishy**; **Brit. informal dodgy**.

– **OPPOSITES** **trusting**, **honest**, **innocent**.

**sustain** **verb** **1** *the balcony might not sustain the weight*: **bear**, **support**, **carry**, **stand**, **keep up**, **prop up**, **shore up**, **underpin**. **2** *her memories sustained her*: **comfort**, **help**, **assist**, **encourage**, **succour**, **support**, **give strength to**, **buoy up**, **carry**, **cheer up**, **hearten**; **informal buck up**. **3** *they were unable to sustain a coalition*: **continue**, **carry on**, **keep up**, **keep alive**, **maintain**, **preserve**, **conserve**, **perpetuate**, **retain**. **4** *she had bread and cheese to sustain her*: **nourish**, **feed**, **nurture**; **maintain**, **preserve**, **keep alive**, **keep going**, **provide for**. **5** *she sustained slight injuries*: **undergo**, **experience**, **suffer**, **endure**. **6** *the allegation was not sustained*: **uphold**, **validate**, **ratify**, **vindicate**, **confirm**, **endorse**; **verify**, **corroborate**, **substantiate**, **bear out**, **prove**, **authenticate**, **back up**, **evidence**, **justify**.

**sustained** **adjective** **continuous**, **ongoing**, **steady**, **continual**, **constant**, **prolonged**,

**persistent**, **non-stop**, **perpetual**, **unabating**, **relentless**, **unrelieved**, **unbroken**, **never-ending**, **incessant**, **unceasing**, **ceaseless**, **round the clock**.

– **OPPOSITES** **sporadic**.

**sustenance** **noun** **1** *the creature needs sustenance*: **nourishment**, **food**, **nutriment**, **nutrition**, **provisions**, **provender**, **rations**; **informal grub**, **chow**, **scoff**; **formal comestibles**; **literary viands**; **dated victuals**. **2** *the sustenance of his family*: **support**, **maintenance**, **keep**, **living**, **livelihood**, **subsistence**, **income**.

**swagger** **verb** **1** *we swaggered into the arena*: **strut**, **parade**, **stride**; **walk confidently**; **informal sashay**. **2** *he likes to swagger about his kindness*: **boast**, **brag**, **bluster**, **crow**, **gloat**; **strut**, **posture**, **blow one's own trumpet**, **lord it**; **informal show off**, **swank**.

• **noun** **1** *a slight swagger in his stride*: **strut**; **confidence**, **arrogance**, **ostentation**. **2** *he was full of swagger*: **bluster**, **braggadocio**, **bumptiousness**, **vainglory**; **informal swank**.

**swallow** **verb** **1** *she couldn't swallow anything*: **eat**, **gulp down**, **consume**, **devour**, **put away**; **ingest**, **assimilate**; **drink**, **guzzle**, **quaff**, **imbibe**, **sup**, **slug**; **informal polish off**, **scoff**, **swig**, **swill**, **down**. **2** *I can't swallow any more of your insults*: **tolerate**, **endure**, **stand**, **put up with**, **bear**, **abide**, **countenance**, **stomach**, **take**, **accept**; **informal hack**; **Brit. informal stick**; **formal brook**. **3** *he swallowed my story*: **believe**, **credit**, **accept**, **trust**; **informal fall for**, **buy**, **go for**, **{swallow hook, line, and sinker}**. **4** *she swallowed her pride*: **restrain**, **repress**, **suppress**, **hold back**, **fight back**; **overcome**, **check**, **control**, **curb**, **rein in**; **silence**, **muffle**, **stifle**, **smother**, **hide**, **bottle up**; **informal keep a/the lid on**.

■ **swallow someone/something up** **1** *the darkness swallowed them up*: **engulf**, **swamp**, **devour**, **overwhelm**, **overcome**. **2** *the colleges were swallowed up by universities*: **take over**, **engulf**, **absorb**, **assimilate**, **incorporate**.

**swamp** **noun** *his horse got stuck in a swamp*: **marsh**, **bog**, **quagmire**, **mire**, **morass**, **fen**; **quicksand**; **N. Amer. bayou**; **old use quag**.

• **verb** **1** *the rain was swamping the dry roads*: **flood**, **inundate**, **deluge**, **immerse**; **soak**, **drench**, **saturate**. **2** *he was swamped by media attention*: **overwhelm**, **inundate**, **flood**, **deluge**, **engulf**, **snow under**, **overload**, **overpower**, **weigh down**, **besiege**, **beset**.

**swampy** **adjective** **marshy**, **boggy**, **fenny**, **miry**; **soft**, **soggy**, **muddy**, **spongy**, **heavy**, **squelchy**, **waterlogged**, **sodden**, **wet**; **old use quaggy**.

**swap** **verb** **1** *I swapped some toys for a set of dice*: **exchange**, **trade**, **barter**, **interchange**, **bargain**; **switch**, **change**, **replace**. **2** *we swapped jokes*: **bandy**, **exchange**, **trade**, **reciprocate**.

• **noun** **a job swap**: **exchange**, **interchange**, **trade**, **switch**, **trade-off**, **substitution**.

**swarm** **noun** **1** *a swarm of bees*: **hive**, **flock**, **collection**. **2** *a swarm of gendarmes*: **crowd**, **multitude**, **horde**, **host**, **mob**, **gang**, **throng**, **mass**, **army**, **troop**, **herd**, **pack**; **literary myriad**.  
• **verb** *reporters were swarming all over the*

*place:* flock, crowd, throng, surge, stream.

■ **be swarming with** be crowded with, be thronged with, be overrun with, be full of, abound in, be teeming with, bristle with, be alive with, be crawling with, be infested with, overflow with, be prolific in, be abundant in; informal be thick with.

**swarthy** adjective dark-skinned, olive-skinned, dusky, tanned, saturnine, black; old use swart.

– OPPOSITES pale.

**washbuckling** adjective daring, heroic, daredevil, dashing, adventurous, bold, valiant, valorous, fearless, lionhearted, dauntless, devil-may-care; gallant, chivalrous, romantic.

– OPPOSITES timid.

**swathe** verb wrap, envelop, bind, swaddle, bandage, cover, shroud, drape, wind, enfold, sheathe.

**sway** verb 1 *the curtains swayed in the breeze:* swing, shake, oscillate, undulate, move to and fro, move back and forth. 2 *she swayed on her feet:* stagger, wobble, rock, lurch, reel, roll, list, stumble, pitch. 3 *we are swayed by the media:* influence, affect, bias, persuade, talk round, win over; manipulate, bend, mould. 4 *you must not be swayed by emotion:* rule, govern, dominate, control, guide.

• **noun** 1 *the sway of her hips:* swing, roll, shake, oscillation, undulation. 2 *a province under the sway of the Franks:* jurisdiction, rule, government, sovereignty, dominion, control, command, power, authority, ascendancy, domination, mastery.

■ **hold sway** hold power, wield power, exercise power, rule, be in control, predominate; have the upper hand, have the edge, have the whip hand; informal run the show, be in the driving seat, be in the saddle.

**swear** verb 1 *they swore to marry each other:* promise, vow, pledge, give one's word, take an oath, undertake, guarantee; Law depose; formal aver. 2 *she swore she would never go back:* insist, avow, pronounce, declare, proclaim, assert, profess, maintain, contend, emphasize, stress; formal aver. 3 *Kate spilled wine and swore:* curse, blaspheme, utter profanities, utter oaths, use bad language, take the Lord's name in vain; informal cuss, eff and blind; old use execrate.

■ **swear by** (informal) express confidence in, have faith in, trust, believe in; set store by, value; informal rate.

■ **swear off** (informal) renounce, forswear, forgo, abstain from, go without, shun, avoid, eschew, steer clear of; give up, dispense with, stop, discontinue, drop; informal kick, quit; Brit. informal jack in.

**swearing** noun bad language, strong language, cursing, blaspheming, blasphemy; profanities, obscenities, curses, oaths, expletives, swear words; informal cussing, effing and blinding, four-letter words; Brit. informal industrial language; formal imprecation.

**sweat** noun 1 *he was drenched with sweat:* perspiration, moisture, dampness, wetness;

Medicine diaphoresis, hidrosis. 2 (informal) *the sweat of the working classes:* labour, hard work, toil(s), effort(s), exertion(s), industry, drudgery, slog; informal graft, grind, elbow grease.

• **verb** 1 *she was sweating heavily:* perspire, swelter, glow; be damp, be wet; secrete.

2 *I've sweated over this for six months:* work (hard), work like a Trojan, labour, toil, slog, slave, work one's fingers to the bone; informal graft, plug away; old use drudge.

#### WORD LINKS

**sudorific** relating to or causing sweating  
**diaphoresis** excessive sweating as caused by a disease or drug

**sweaty** adjective perspiring, sweating, clammy, sticky, glowing; moist, damp.

**sweep** verb 1 *she swept the floor:* brush, clean, scrub, wipe, mop, dust, scour; informal do. 2 *I swept the crumbs off:* remove, brush, clean, clear, whisk. 3 *he was swept out to sea:* carry, pull, drag, tow. 4 *riots swept the country:* engulf, overwhelm, flood. 5 *he swept down the stairs:* glide, sail, breeze, drift, flit, flounce; stride, stroll, swagger. 6 *a limousine swept past:* glide, sail, rush, race, streak, speed, fly, zoom, whizz, hurtle; informal tear, whip. 7 *police swept the conference room:* search, probe, check, explore, go through, scour, comb.

• **noun** 1 *a great sweep of his hand:* gesture, stroke, wave, movement. 2 *a security sweep:* search, hunt, exploration, probe. 3 *a long sweep of golden sand:* expanse, tract, stretch, extent, plain. 4 *the broad sweep of our interests:* range, span, scope, compass, reach, spread, ambit, remit, gamut, spectrum, extent.

■ **sweep something aside** disregard, ignore, take no notice of, dismiss, shrug off, forget about, brush aside.

■ **sweep something under the carpet** hide, conceal, suppress, hush up, keep quiet about, censor, gag, withhold, cover up, stifle.

**sweeping** adjective 1 *sweeping changes:* extensive, wide-ranging, global, broad, comprehensive, all-inclusive, all-embracing, far-reaching, across the board; thorough, radical; informal wall-to-wall. 2 *a sweeping victory:* overwhelming, decisive, thorough, complete, total, absolute, out-and-out, unqualified. 3 *sweeping statements:* wholesale, blanket, generalized, all-inclusive, unqualified, indiscriminate, universal, oversimplified, imprecise. 4 *sweeping banks of heather:* broad, extensive, expansive, vast, spacious, boundless, panoramic.

– OPPOSITES limited, narrow, focused, small.

**sweet** adjective 1 *sweet biscuits:* sugary, sweetened, saccharine; sugared, honeyed, candied, glacé; sickly, cloying. 2 *the sweet scent of roses:* fragrant, aromatic, perfumed; literary ambrosial. 3 *her sweet voice:* dulcet, melodious, lyrical, mellifluous, musical, tuneful, soft, harmonious, silvery, honeyed, mellow, rich, golden. 4 *life was still sweet:* pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, delightful,



nice, satisfying, gratifying, good, acceptable, fine; informal lovely, great. **5** *the sweet March air*: pure, wholesome, fresh, clean, clear.

**6** *she has a sweet nature*: likeable, appealing, engaging, amiable, pleasant, agreeable, genial, friendly, nice, kind, thoughtful, considerate; charming, enchanting, captivating, delightful, lovely. **7** *she looks quite sweet*: cute, lovable, adorable, endearing, charming, attractive, dear. **8** *my sweet Lydia*: dear, dearest, darling, beloved, loved, cherished, precious, treasured.

– OPPOSITES sour, savoury, harsh, disagreeable.

• **noun 1** *sweets for the children*:

**confectionery**, bonbon, chocolate, toffee; N. Amer. candy; informal sweetie; old use sweetmeat. **2** *a delicious sweet for the guests*: dessert, pudding, second course, last course; Brit. informal afters, pud. **3** *happy birthday my sweet!*: dear, darling, dearest, love, sweetheart, beloved, honey, pet, treasure, angel.

■ **sweet on** (informal) fond of, taken with, attracted to, in love with, enamoured of, captivated by, infatuated with, keen on, devoted to, smitten with; informal gone on, mad about.

**sweeten verb 1** *sweeten the milk with honey*: make sweet, add sugar to, sugar, sugar-coat. **2** *he chewed gum to sweeten his breath*: freshen, refresh, purify, deodorize, perfume. **3** *try to sweeten the bad news*: soften, ease, alleviate, mitigate, temper, cushion; embellish, embroider. **4** (informal) *a bigger dividend to sweeten shareholders*: mollify, placate, soothe, soften up, pacify, appease, win over.

**sweetheart noun 1** *you look lovely, sweetheart*: darling, dear, dearest, love, beloved, sweet; informal honey, sweetie, sugar, baby, babe, poppet. **2** *my high-school sweetheart*: lover, love, girlfriend, boyfriend, beloved, significant other, lady-love, loved one, suitor, admirer; informal steady, flame; literary swain; dated beau; old use paramour.

**swell verb 1** *her lip swelled up*: expand, bulge, distend, inflate, dilate, bloat, puff up, balloon, fatten, fill out, tumefy; rare intumesce. **2** *the population swelled*: grow, enlarge, increase, expand, rise, escalate, multiply, proliferate, snowball, mushroom. **3** *she swelled with pride*: be filled, be bursting, brim, overflow. **4** *the graduate scheme swelled entry numbers*: increase, enlarge, augment, boost, top up, step up, multiply. **5** *the music swelled to fill the house*: grow loud, grow louder, amplify, intensify, heighten.

– OPPOSITES shrink, decrease, quieten.

• **noun 1** *a brief swell in the volume*: increase, rise, escalation, surge, boost. **2** *a heavy swell on the sea*: surge, wave, undulation, roll. **3** (informal, dated) *he was an elegant swell*: dandy, fop, beau, poseur; informal trendsetter; Brit. informal toff; dated popinjay; old use coxcomb.

– OPPOSITES decrease, dip.

• **adjective** (N. Amer. informal, dated) *a swell idea*: excellent, marvellous, wonderful, splendid, magnificent, superb; informal super, great, fantastic.

– OPPOSITES bad.

**swelling noun bump**, lump, bulge, protuberance, enlargement, distension, prominence, protrusion, node, nodule, tumescence; boil, blister, bunion, carbuncle.

**sweltering adjective hot**, stifling, humid, sultry, sticky, muggy, close, stuffy; tropical, torrid, searing, blistering; informal boiling (hot), baking, roasting, sizzling.

– OPPOSITES freezing.

**swerve verb a car swerved into her path**:

veer, deviate, skew, diverge, sheer, weave, zigzag, change direction; Sailing tack.

• **noun** *the bowler regulated his swerve*: curve, curl, deviation, twist; N. Amer. English.

**swift adjective 1** *a swift decision*: prompt, rapid, sudden, immediate, instant, instantaneous; abrupt, hasty, hurried, precipitate, headlong. **2** *swift runners*: fast, rapid, quick, speedy, high-speed, brisk, lively; express, breakneck; fleet-footed; informal nippy, supersonic.

– OPPOSITES slow, leisurely.

**swill verb 1** (informal) *she was swilling pints*:

drink, quaff, swallow, down, gulp, drain, imbibe, sup, slurp, consume, slug; informal swig, knock back, toss off, put away; Brit. informal bevvy; N. Amer. informal chug. **2** *he swilled out a glass*: wash, rinse, sluice, clean, flush.

• **noun 1** (informal) *he took a swill of coffee*: gulp, swallow, drink, draught, mouthful, slug; informal swig. **2** *swill for the pigs*: pigswill, mash, slops, scraps, refuse, scourings, leftovers; old use hogwash.

**swim verb 1** *they swam in the pool*: bathe, take a dip, splash around; float, tread water. **2** *his food was swimming in gravy*: be saturated in, be drenched in, be soaked in, be steeped in, be immersed in, be covered in, be full of.

**swimmingly adverb well**, smoothly, easily, effortlessly, like clockwork, without a hitch, as planned, to plan; informal like a dream, like magic.

**swimming pool noun pool**, baths, lido, piscina; Brit. swimming bath(s); N. Amer. natatorium.

**swimsuit noun bathing suit**, bathing dress, (swimming) trunks, bikini; swimwear; Brit. bathing costume, swimming costume; informal cossie; Austral./NZ informal bathers.

**swindle verb 1** *was swindled out of money*:

defraud, cheat, trick, dupe, deceive, fool, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle; informal fleece, do, con, sting, diddle, swizzle, rip off, take for a ride, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take to the cleaners, gull; N. Amer. informal stiff, euchre; literary cozen; old use sharp.

• **noun** *an insurance swindle*: fraud, trick, deception, deceit, cheat, sham, artifice, ruse, dodge, racket, wile; sharp practice; informal con, fiddle, diddle, rip-off, flimflam, swizzle, swizz; N. Amer. informal bunco.

**swindler** noun fraudster, fraud, (confidence) trickster, cheat, rogue, mountebank, charlatan, impostor, hoaxer; informal con man, con artist, shark, sharp, hustler, phoney, crook.

**swing** verb 1 *the sign swung in the wind:* sway, oscillate, move back and forth, move to and fro, wave, wag, rock, flutter, flap. 2 *Helen swung the bottle:* brandish, wave, flourish, wield, shake, wag, twirl. 3 *this road swings off to the north:* curve, bend, veer, turn, bear, wind, twist, deviate, slew, skew, drift, head. 4 *the balance swung from one party to the other:* change, fluctuate, shift, alter, oscillate, waver, alternate, see-saw, yo-yo, vary. 5 (informal) *their persistence finally swung it for him:* accomplish, achieve, obtain, acquire, get, secure, net, win, attain, bag, hook; informal wangle, land, fix (up). • noun 1 *a swing of the pendulum:* oscillation, sway, wave. 2 *the swing to the Conservatives:* change, move; turnaround, turnaround, reversal, about-turn, about-face, volte-face, change of heart, U-turn, sea change. 3 *a swing towards plain food:* trend, tendency, drift, movement. 4 *a mood swing:* fluctuation, change, shift, variation, oscillation.

**swingeing** adjective (Brit.) severe, extreme, serious, substantial, drastic, harsh, punishing, excessive, heavy. – OPPOSITES minor.

**swipe** (informal) verb 1 *he swiped at her head:* swing, lash out; strike, hit, slap, cuff; informal belt, wallop, sock, biff, clout. 2 *they're always swiping sweets:* steal, thief, take, pilfer, purloin, snatch, shoplift; informal filch, lift, snaffle, rob, nab; Brit. informal nick, pinch, whip; N. Amer. informal glom. • noun *she took a swipe at his face:* swing, stroke, strike, hit, slap, cuff, clip; informal belt, wallop.

**swirl** verb whirl, eddy, billow, spiral, circulate, revolve, spin, twist; flow, stream, surge, seethe.

**switch** noun 1 *the switch on top of the telephone:* button, lever, control, dial. 2 *a switch from direct to indirect taxation:* change, move, shift, transition, transformation; reversal, turnaround, U-turn, changeover, transfer, conversion; substitution, exchange. 3 *a switch of willow:* branch, twig, stick, rod. • verb 1 *he switched sides:* change, shift; reverse; Brit. informal chop and change. 2 *he managed to switch envelopes:* exchange, swap, interchange, trade, substitute, replace, rotate. ■ **switch something on** turn on, put on, activate, start, set going, set in motion, operate, initiate, actuate, initialize, energize. ■ **switch something off** turn off, shut off, stop, cut, halt, deactivate.

**swivel** verb turn, rotate, revolve, pivot, swing; spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, gyrate, pirouette.

**swollen** adjective distended, expanded, enlarged, bulging, inflated, dilated, bloated,

puffed up, puffy, tumescent; inflamed.

**swoop** verb 1 *pigeons swooped down after the grain:* dive, descend, sweep, pounce, plunge, pitch, nosedive; rush, dart, speed, zoom. 2 *police swooped on the flat:* raid, search; pounce on, attack, assault, assail, charge; N. Amer. informal bust. • noun *an early morning swoop by police:* raid; attack, assault; N. Amer. informal bust, takedown.

**sword** noun a ceremonial sword: blade, foil, épée, cutlass, rapier, sabre, scimitar; literary brand.

■ **cross swords** quarrel, disagree, dispute, wrangle, bicker, be at odds, be at loggerheads, lock horns; fight, contend; informal scrap.

■ **put to the sword** kill, execute, put to death, murder, butcher, slaughter, massacre, cut down; literary slay.

**sybarite** noun hedonist, sensualist, voluptuary, libertine, pleasure-seeker, epicure, bon vivant, bon viveur. – OPPOSITES puritan.

**sybaritic** adjective luxurious, extravagant, lavish, self-indulgent, pleasure-seeking, sensual, voluptuous, hedonistic, epicurean, lotus-eating, libertine, debauched, decadent. – OPPOSITES ascetic.

**sycophant** noun toady, creep, crawler, fawner, flatterer, truckler, groveller, doormat, lickspittle, kowtowner, Uriah Heep; informal bootlicker, yes-man.

**sycophantic** adjective obsequious, servile, subservient, deferential, grovelling, toadying, fawning, flattering, ingratiating, cringing, unctuous, slavish; informal smarmy, bootlicking.

**syllabus** noun curriculum, course (of study), programme of study, course outline; timetable, schedule.

**symbol** noun 1 *the lotus is the symbol of purity:* emblem, token, sign, representation, figure, image; metaphor, allegory. 2 *the chemical symbol for helium:* sign, character, mark, letter, ideogram. 3 *the Red Cross symbol:* logo, emblem, badge, stamp, trademark, crest, insignia, coat of arms, seal, device, monogram, hallmark, flag, motif.

**symbolic** adjective 1 *the Colosseum is symbolic of the Roman Empire:* emblematic, representative, typical, characteristic, symptomatic. 2 *symbolic language:* figurative, representative, illustrative, emblematic, metaphorical, allegorical, parabolic, allusive, suggestive; meaningful, significant.

– OPPOSITES literal.

**symbolize** verb represent, stand for, be a sign of, exemplify; denote, signify, mean, indicate, convey, express, imply, suggest, allude to; embody, epitomize, encapsulate, personify, typify; literary betoken.

**symmetrical** adjective regular, uniform, consistent; evenly shaped, aligned, equal; mirror-image; balanced, proportional, even.

**symmetry** noun regularity, evenness,

uniformity, consistency, conformity, correspondence, equality; balance, proportions; formal concord.

**sympathetic** adjective **1** *a sympathetic listener*: **compassionate**, caring, concerned, solicitous, empathetic, understanding, sensitive; commiserative, pitying, consoling, comforting, supportive, encouraging; considerate, kind, tender-hearted. **2** *the most sympathetic character in the book*: **likeable**, pleasant, agreeable, congenial, friendly, genial. **3** *I was sympathetic to his cause*: **in favour of**, in sympathy with, pro, on the side of, supportive of, encouraging of; well disposed to, favourably disposed to, receptive to.

– OPPOSITES unfeeling, opposed.

**sympathize** verb **1** *he sympathized with his wife*: **pity**, feel sorry for, show compassion for, commiserate, offer condolences to, feel for, show concern, show interest; console, comfort, solace, soothe, support, encourage; empathize with, identify with, understand, relate to. **2** *they sympathize with the critique*: **agree with**, support, be in favour of, go along with, favour, approve of, back, side with.

**sympathizer** noun **supporter**, backer, well-wisher, advocate, ally, partisan; collaborator, fraternizer, conspirator, quisling.

**sympathy** noun **1** *he shows sympathy for the poor*: **compassion**, caring, concern, solicitude, empathy; commiseration, pity, condolence, comfort, solace, support, encouragement; consideration, kindness. **2** *sympathy with a fellow journalist*: **rapprochement**, fellow feeling, affinity, empathy, harmony, accord, compatibility; fellowship, camaraderie. **3** *their sympathy with the Republicans*: **agreement**, favour, approval, approbation, support, encouragement, partiality; association, alignment, affiliation. – OPPOSITES indifference, hostility.

**symptom** noun **1** *the symptoms of the disease*: **manifestation**, indication, indicator, sign, mark, feature, trait; Medicine prodrome. **2** *a symptom of the country's present turmoil*:

**expression**, sign, indication, mark, token, manifestation; portent, warning, clue, hint; testimony, evidence, proof.

**symptomatic** adjective **indicative**, characteristic, suggestive, typical, representative, symbolic.

**synopsis** noun **summary**, summarization, precis, abstract, outline, digest, rundown, round-up, abridgement.

**synthesis** noun **combination**, union, amalgam, blend, mixture, compound, fusion, composite, alloy; unification, amalgamation, marrying.

**synthetic** adjective **artificial**, fake, imitation, mock, false, faux, simulated, ersatz, substitute; pseudo, so-called; man-made, manufactured, fabricated; informal phoney, pretend.

– OPPOSITES natural.

**syrupy** adjective **1** *syrupy medicine*: **oversweet**, sweet, sugary, treacly, honeyed, saccharine; thick, sticky, gluey, viscid, glutinous; informal gooey. **2** *syrupy romantic drivel*: **sentimental**, mawkish, cloying, mushy, slushy, sloppy, sickly, saccharine, trite; informal soppy, schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny.

**system** noun **1** *a system of canals*: **structure**, organization, arrangement, complex, network; informal set-up. **2** *a system for regulating sales*: **method**, methodology, technique, process, procedure, approach, practice; means, way, mode, framework, modus operandi; scheme, plan, policy, programme, regimen, formula, routine. **3** *there was no system in his work*: **order**, method, orderliness, systematization, planning, logic, routine. **4** *youngsters have no faith in the system*: **the establishment**, the administration, the authorities, the powers that be; bureaucracy, officialdom; the status quo.

**systematic** adjective **structured**, methodical, organized, orderly, planned, systematized, regular, routine, standardized, standard; logical, coherent, consistent; efficient, businesslike, practical.

– OPPOSITES disorganized.



# Tt

**tab** noun **1** *his name is on the tab of his jacket:* tag, label, flap. **2** (informal) *the company will pick up the tab:* bill, invoice, account, charge, expense, cost; N. Amer. check.

**table** noun **1** *put the plates on the table:* bench, buffet, stand, counter, work surface, worktop; desk, bar. **2** *he provides an excellent table:* meal, food, fare, menu, nourishment; eatables, provisions; informal spread, grub, chow, eats, nosh; literary viands; dated victuals. **3** *the report has numerous tables:* chart, diagram, figure, graph, plan; list, tabulation, index.

•verb *she tabled a question in parliament:* submit, put forward, propose, suggest, move, lodge, file, introduce, air, moot.

**tableau** noun **1** *mythic tableaux:* picture, painting, representation, illustration, image. **2** *the first act consists of a series of tableaux:* pageant, tableau vivant, parade, diorama, scene. **3** *a domestic tableau around the fireplace:* scene, arrangement, grouping, group; picture, spectacle, image, vignette.

**tablet** noun **1** *a carved tablet:* slab, stone, panel, plaque, plate, sign. **2** *a headache tablet:* pill, capsule, lozenge, caplet, pastille, drop, pilule; informal tab. **3** *a tablet of soap:* bar, cake, slab, brick, block, chunk, piece.

**taboo** noun *the taboo against healing on the sabbath:* prohibition, proscription, veto, interdiction, interdict, ban, restriction.

•adjective *taboo language:* forbidden, prohibited, banned, proscribed, interdicted, non licet, outlawed, illegal, illicit, unlawful, restricted, off limits; unmentionable, unspeakable, unutterable, ineffable; rude, impolite; Islam haram; NZ tapu; informal no go.

— OPPOSITES acceptable.

**tabulate** verb *chart, arrange, order, organize, systematize, systemize, catalogue, list, index, classify, class, codify; compile, group, log, grade, rate.*

**tacit** adjective *implicit, understood, implied, inferred, hinted, suggested; unspoken, unstated, unsaid, unexpressed, unvoiced; taken for granted, taken as read.*

— OPPOSITES explicit.

**taciturn** adjective *untalkative, reticent, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, quiet, secretive, tight-lipped, close-mouthed; silent, mute, dumb, inarticulate; reserved, withdrawn.*

— OPPOSITES talkative.

**tack** noun **1** *tacks held the carpet down:* pin, drawing pin, nail, staple, rivet, stud. **2** *the brig bowled past on the opposite tack:* heading, bearing, course, track, path, line. **3** *the defender changed his tack:* approach, way, method; policy, procedure, technique, tactic, plan, strategy, stratagem; path, line, angle, direction, course.

•verb **1** *a photo tacked to the wall:* pin, nail, staple, fix, fasten, attach, secure, affix. **2** *the dress was roughly tacked together:* stitch, baste, sew, bind. **3** *the yachts tacked back and forth:* change course, change direction, swerve, zigzag, veer; Nautical go/come about, beat. **4** *poems tacked on at the end of the book:* add, append, join, tag.

**tackle** noun **1** *fishing tackle:* gear, equipment, apparatus, kit, hardware; implements, instruments, accoutrements, paraphernalia, trappings, appurtenances; informal things, stuff, clobber, bits and pieces; old use equipage. **2** *lifting tackle:* pulleys, gear, hoist, crane, winch, davit, windlass, sheave. **3** *a tackle by the scrum half:* interception, challenge, block, attack.

•verb **1** *we must tackle environmental problems:* get to grips with, address, get to work on, set one's hand to, approach, take on, attend to, see to; deal with, take care of, handle, manage; informal get stuck into, have a crack at, have a go at. **2** *I tackled Nina about it:* confront, speak to, interview, question, cross-examine; accost, waylay; remonstrate with. **3** *he tackled a masked intruder:* confront, face up to, take on, contend with, challenge; seize, grab, grapple with, intercept, block, stop; bring down, floor, fell; informal have a go at. **4** *the winger got tackled:* intercept, challenge, block, stop, attack.

**tacky**<sup>1</sup> adjective *the paint was still tacky:* sticky, wet, gluey, gummy, adhesive, viscous, viscid, treacly; informal gooey.

**tacky**<sup>2</sup> adjective (informal) *a tacky game show:* tawdry, tasteless, kitsch, vulgar, crude, garish, gaudy, showy, trashy, cheap, common, second-rate; informal cheesy; Brit. informal naff.

— OPPOSITES tasteful.

**tact** noun *diplomacy, tactfulness, sensitivity, understanding, thoughtfulness, consideration, delicacy, discretion, prudence, judiciousness, subtlety, savoir*

faire; informal savvy.

**tactful** adjective **diplomatic**, disreputable, considerate, sensitive, understanding, thoughtful, delicate, judicious, politic, perceptive, subtle; courteous, polite, decorous, respectful; informal savvy.

**tactic** noun **1** a *tax-saving tactic*: scheme, stratagem, strategy, plan, manoeuvre; method, expedient, gambit, move, approach, tack; device, trick, ploy, dodge, ruse, machination, contrivance; informal wangle; old use shift. **2** *our fleet's superior tactics*: **battle plans**, game plan, policy, campaign, manoeuvres, logistics; generalship, organization, planning, direction, orchestration.

**tactical** adjective **calculated**, planned, strategic; prudent, politic, diplomatic, judicious, shrewd, cunning, artful.

**tactless** adjective **insensitive**, inconsiderate, thoughtless, indelicate, undiplomatic, impolitic, indiscreet, unsubtle, clumsy, heavy-handed, graceless, awkward, inept, gauche; blunt, frank, outspoken, abrupt, gruff, rough, crude, coarse; imprudent, injudicious, unwise; rude, impolite, uncouth, discourteous, crass, tasteless, disrespectful, boorish.

**tag** noun **1** a *price tag*: label, ticket, badge, mark, marker, tab, sticker, docket, stub, counterfoil, flag. **2** *his jacket was hung up by its tag*: tab, loop, label. **3** *he gained a 'bad boy' tag*: designation, label, description, characterization, identity; nickname, name, epithet, title, sobriquet; informal handle, moniker; formal denomination, appellation. **4** *tags from Shakespeare*: quotation, quote, phrase, platitude, cliché, excerpt; saying, proverb, maxim, adage, aphorism, motto, epigram; slogan, catchphrase.

• **verb 1** *bottles tagged with coloured stickers*: label, mark, ticket, identify, flag, indicate.

**2** *he is tagged as a 'thinking' actor*: label, class, categorize, characterize, designate, describe, identify, classify; mark, stamp, brand, pigeonhole, stereotype, typecast, compartmentalize, typify; name, call, title, entitle, dub, term, style. **3** *a poem tagged on as an afterthought*: add, tack, join; attach, append. **4** *he was tagging along behind her*: follow, trail; come after, go after, shadow, dog; accompany, attend, escort; informal tail.

**tail** noun **1** *the animal's tail*: brush, scut; tailpiece, tail feathers; hindquarters. **2** *the tail of the queue*: rear, end, back, extremity; bottom; Brit. informal fag end. **3** *the tail of the hunting season*: close, end, conclusion, tail end. **4** (informal) *put a tail on that man*: detective, investigator, shadow; informal sleuth, private eye, tec; N. Amer. informal gumshoe.

– **OPPOSITES** head, front, start.

• **verb** (informal) *the paparazzi tailed them*: follow, shadow, stalk, trail, track, hunt, hound, dog, pursue, chase.

■ **tail off/away** fade, wane, ebb, dwindle, decrease, lessen, diminish, decline, subside, abate, drop off, peter out, taper off; let up,

ease off, die away, die down, come to an end.

■ **turn tail** run away, flee, bolt, make off, take to one's heels, cut and run, beat a (hasty) retreat; informal scam, scarper, skedaddle, vamoose.

#### WORD LINKS

caudal relating to an animal's tail  
dock cut an animal's tail short

**tailback** noun traffic jam, queue, line; congestion.

**tailor** noun **outfitter**, dressmaker, couturier, (fashion) designer; clothier, costumer, seamstress; dated modiste.

• **verb** *services can be tailored to customer requirements*: customize, adapt, adjust, modify, change, convert, alter, attune, mould, gear, fit, cut, shape, tune.

**taint** noun *the taint of corruption*: trace, touch, suggestion, hint, tinge; stain, blot, blemish, stigma, black mark, blot on one's escutcheon; discredit, dishonour, disgrace, shame.

• **verb 1** *the wilderness is tainted by pollution*: contaminate, pollute, adulterate, infect, blight, spoil, soil, ruin, destroy; literary be foul. **2** *fraudulent firms taint our firm's reputation*: tarnish, sully, blacken, stain, blot, blemish, stigmatize, mar, corrupt, defile, soil, muddy, damage, harm, hurt; drag through the mud; literary besmirch.

– **OPPOSITES** clean, improve.

**take** verb **1** *she took his hand*: lay hold of, get hold of; grasp, grip, clasp, clutch, grab.

**2** *he took an envelope from his pocket*:

**remove**, pull, draw, withdraw, extract, fish.

**3** *a passage taken from my book*: extract, quote, cite, excerpt, derive, abstract, copy, cull.

**4** *she took a little wine*: drink, imbibe; consume, swallow, eat, ingest. **5** *many prisoners were taken*: capture, seize, catch, arrest, apprehend, take into custody; carry off, abduct. **6** *someone's taken my car*: steal,

remove, appropriate, make off with, pilfer, purloin; informal filch, swipe, snaffle; Brit. informal pinch, nick.

**7** *take four from the total*: subtract, deduct, remove; discount; informal knock off, minus. **8** *all the seats had been taken*: occupy, use, utilize, fill, hold; reserve,

engage; informal bag. **9** *I have taken a room nearby*: rent, lease, hire, charter; reserve,

book, engage. **10** *I took the job*: accept, undertake. **11** *I'd take this over the other*

**option**: pick, choose, select; prefer, favour, opt for, plump for, vote for.

**12** *take, for instance, the English*: consider, contemplate,

ponder, think about, weigh up, mull over, examine, study, meditate over, ruminate

about. **13** *he takes 'The Observer'*: subscribe

to, buy, read. **14** *she took his temperature*:

ascertain, determine, establish, measure,

find out, discover; calculate, compute,

evaluate, rate, assess, appraise, gauge. **15** *he*

*took notes*: write, note (down), jot (down),

scribble, scrawl, record, register, document,

minute. **16** *I took it back to London*: bring,

carry, bear, transport, convey, move,

transfer, shift, ferry; informal cart, tote. **17** *the*

*priest took her home*: escort, accompany,

help, assist, show, lead, guide, see, usher, convey. **18** *he took the train: travel on/by, journey on, go via; use.* **19** *the town takes its name from the lake: derive, get, obtain, come by, acquire, pick up.* **20** *she took the prize for best speaker: receive, obtain, gain, get, acquire, collect, accept, be awarded; secure, come by, win, earn, pick up, carry off; informal land, bag, net, scoop.* **21** *I took the chance to postpone it: act on, take advantage of, capitalize on, use, exploit, make the most of, leap at, jump at, pounce on, seize, grasp, grab, accept.* **22** *he took great pleasure in painting: derive, draw, acquire, obtain, get, gain, extract, procure; experience, undergo, feel.* **23** *Liz took the news badly: receive, respond to, react to, meet, greet; deal with, cope with.* **24** *do you take me for a fool? regard as, consider to be, view as, see as, believe to be, reckon to be, imagine to be, deem to be.* **25** *I take it that you are hungry: assume, presume, suppose, imagine, expect, reckon, gather, dare say, trust, surmise, deduce, guess, conjecture, fancy, suspect.* **26** *I take your point: understand, grasp, get, comprehend, apprehend, see, follow; accept, appreciate, acknowledge, sympathize with, agree with.* **27** *Shirley was rather taken with him: captivate, enchant, charm, delight, attract, beguile, enthrall, entrance, infatuate, dazzle; amuse, divert, entertain; informal tickle someone's fancy.* **28** *I can't take much more: endure, bear, tolerate, stand, put up with, abide, stomach, accept, allow, countenance, support, shoulder; formal brook; old use suffer.* **29** *applicants must take a test: carry out, do, complete, conduct, perform, execute, discharge, accomplish, fulfil.* **30** *I took English and French: study, learn, have lessons in; take up, pursue; Brit. read; informal do.* **31** *the journey took six hours: last, continue for, go on for, carry on for; require, call for, need, necessitate, entail, involve.* **32** *it would take an expert to know that: require, need, necessitate, demand, call for, entail, involve.* **33** *I take size three shoes: wear, use; require, need.* **34** *the dye did not take: be effective, take effect, hold, root, be productive, be effectual, be useful; work, operate, succeed, function; formal be efficacious.*

—OPPOSITES give, free, add, refuse, miss.

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• **noun 1** *the whalers' commercial take: catch, haul, bag, yield, net.* **2** *the state's tax take: revenue, income, gain, profit; takings, proceeds, returns, receipts, winnings, pickings, earnings, spoils; purse.* **3** *a clapperboard for the start of each take: scene, sequence, (film) clip.* **4** *a wry take on gender issues: view of, reading of, version of, interpretation of, understanding of, account of, analysis of, approach to.* ■ **take after** resemble, look like; remind one of, make one think of, recall, conjure up, suggest, evoke; informal favour, be a chip off the old block, be the spitting image of. ■ **take something apart 1** *we took the machine apart: dismantle, pull to pieces, pull apart, disassemble, break up; tear down, demolish, destroy, wreck.* **2** (informal) *the scene*

*was taken apart by the director: See CRITICIZE.*

■ **take someone back 1** *the dream took me back to Vienna: evoke, remind one of, conjure up, summon up; echo, suggest.* **2** *I will never take that girl back: be reconciled to, forgive, pardon, excuse, exonerate, absolve; let bygones be bygones, bury the hatchet.*

■ **take something back 1** *I take back every word: retract, withdraw, renounce, disclaim, unsay, disavow, recant, repudiate; formal abjure.* **2** *I must take the keys back: return, bring back, give back, restore.*

■ **take something down** write down, note down, jot down, set down, record, commit to paper, register, draft, document, minute, pen.

■ **take someone in 1** *she took in paying guests: accommodate, board, house, feed, put up, admit, receive; harbour.* **2** *you were taken in by a hoax: deceive, delude, hoodwink, mislead, trick, dupe, fool, cheat, defraud, swindle, outwit, gull, hoax, bamboozle; informal con, put one over on.*

■ **take something in 1** *she could hardly take in the news: comprehend, understand, grasp, follow, absorb; informal get.* **2** *this route takes in some great scenery: include, encompass, embrace, contain, comprise, cover, incorporate, comprehend, hold.*

■ **take someone in hand** control, be in charge of, dominate, master; reform, improve, correct, change, rehabilitate.

■ **take something in hand** deal with, apply oneself to, get to grips with, set one's hand to, grapple with, take on, attend to, see to, sort out, take care of, handle, manage; informal get stuck into.

■ **take it out of someone** exhaust, drain, enervate, tire, fatigue, wear out, weary, debilitate; informal knacker, poop.

■ **take off 1** *the horse took off at great speed: run away/off, flee, abscond, take flight, decamp, leave, go, depart, make off, bolt, take to one's heels, escape; informal split, clear off, skedaddle, vamoose.* **2** *the plane took off: become airborne, take to the air, take wing; lift off, blast off.* **3** *the idea really took off: succeed, do well, become popular, catch on, prosper, flourish, thrive, boom.*

■ **take someone off** mimic, impersonate, imitate, ape, parody, mock, caricature, satirize, burlesque, lampoon, ridicule; informal spoof, send up.

■ **take someone on 1** *there was no challenger to take him on: compete against, oppose, challenge, confront, face, fight, vie with, contend with, stand up to.* **2** *we took on extra staff: engage, hire, employ, enrol, enlist, sign up; informal take on board.*

■ **take something on 1** *he took on more responsibility: undertake, accept, assume, shoulder, acquire, carry, bear.* **2** *the study took on political meaning: acquire, assume, come to have.*

■ **take one's time** go slowly, dally, dawdle, delay, linger, drag one's feet, waste time, kill time; informal dilly-dally; old use tarry.

■ **take something over** assume control of, take charge of, take command of.



■ **take to 1** *he took to carrying his money in his sock*: make a habit of, resort to, turn to, have recourse to; start, commence. **2** *Ruth took to him instantly*: like, get on with, be friendly towards; informal take a shine to.

**3** *the dog has really taken to racing*: become good at, develop an ability for; like, enjoy.

■ **take something up 1** *he took up abstract painting*: engage in, practise; begin, start, commence. **2** *the meetings took up all her time*: consume, fill, absorb, use, occupy; waste, squander. **3** *her cousin took up the story*: resume, recommence, restart, carry on, continue, pick up, return to. **4** *he took up their offer of a job*: accept, say yes to, agree to, adopt; formal accede to. **5** *take the skirt up an inch*: shorten, turn up; raise, lift.

■ **take up with** become friends with, go around with, fall in with, string along with, get involved with, start seeing; informal knock around with, hang out with.

**take-off** noun **1** *the plane crashed on take-off*: departure, lift-off, launch, blast-off; ascent, flight. **2** (informal) *a take-off of a talent show*: parody, pastiche, mockery, caricature, travesty, satire, lampoon, mimicry, imitation, impersonation, impression; informal send-up, spoof.

– OPPOSITES touchdown.

**takeover** noun **buyout**, merger, amalgamation; purchase, acquisition.

**taking** adjective (dated). See **WINNING** sense 2.

**takings** plural noun **proceeds**, returns, receipts, earnings, winnings, pickings, spoils; profit, gain, income, revenue; gate, purse.

**tale** noun **1** *a tale of witches*: story, narrative, anecdote, report, account, history; legend, fable, myth, parable, allegory, saga; informal yarn. **2** *she told tales to her mother*: lie, fib, falsehood, story, untruth, fabrication, fiction; informal tall story, fairy story/tale, cock and bull story.

**talent** noun **flair**, aptitude, facility, gift, knack, technique, touch, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, faculty; strength, forte, genius, brilliance; dexterity, skill, artistry.

**talented** adjective **gifted**, skilful, skilled, accomplished, brilliant, expert, consummate, masterly, adroit, dexterous, able, competent, capable, apt, deft, adept, proficient; informal crack, ace.

– OPPOSITES inept.

**talisman** noun (lucky) **charm**, fetish, amulet, mascot, totem, juju.

**talk** verb **1** *I was talking to a friend*: speak, chat, chatter, gossip, prattle, babble, rattle on, blather; informal yak, gab, jaw, chew the fat; Brit. informal natter, rabbit, witter, chunter; N. Amer. informal rap; Austral./NZ informal mag. **2** *you're talking rubbish*: utter, speak, say, voice, express, articulate, pronounce, verbalize, vocalize. **3** *they were able to talk in peace*: converse, communicate, speak, confer, consult; negotiate, parley; informal have a confab, chew the fat/rag, rap; formal confabulate. **4** *he talked of suicide*: mention, refer to, speak about, discuss. **5** *I was able to talk English*: speak (in), talk

in, communicate in, converse in, express oneself in; use. **6** *nothing would make her talk*: confess, speak out/up, reveal all, tell tales, give the game away, open one's mouth; informal come clean, blab, squeal, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, grass, sing, rat. **7** *the others will talk*: gossip, pass comment, make remarks; criticize.

• noun **1** *he was bored with all this talk*: chatter, gossip, prattle, jabbering, babbling, gabbling; informal yakking, gabbing; Brit. informal nattering, rabbit. **2** *she needed a talk with Vi*: conversation, chat, discussion, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, dialogue, parley, powwow, consultation, conference, meeting; informal confab, jaw, chit-chat, gossip; formal colloquy, confabulation. **3** *peace talks*: negotiations, discussions; conference, summit, meeting, consultation, dialogue, symposium, seminar, conclave, parley; mediation, arbitration; informal powwow. **4** *she gave a talk on her travels*: lecture, speech, address, discourse, oration, presentation, report, sermon; informal spiel. **5** *there was talk of a takeover*: gossip, rumour, hearsay, tittle-tattle; news, report. **6** *baby talk*: speech, language, slang, idiom, idiolect; words; informal lingo.

■ **talk back** answer back, be impertinent, be cheeky, be rude; contradict, argue with, disagree with.

■ **talk big** (informal). See **BOAST** verb sense 1.

■ **talk something down** denigrate, deprecate, disparage, belittle, diminish, criticize; informal knock, put down.

■ **talk down to** condescend to, patronize, look down one's nose at, put down.

■ **talk someone into something** persuade into, argue into, cajole into, coax into, bring round to, inveigle into, wheedle into, prevail on someone to; informal sweet-talk into, hustle, fast-talk.

**talkative** adjective **chatty**, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, conversational, communicative; gossipy, babbling, blathering; long-winded, wordy, verbose; informal gabby, mouthy.

– OPPOSITES taciturn.

**talker** noun **conversationalist**, speaker, communicator, raconteur, orator; chatter-box, gossip.

**talking-to** noun (informal). See **REPRIMAND** noun.

**tall** adjective **1** *a tall man*: big, large, huge, towering, colossal, gigantic, giant, monstrous; leggy; informal long. **2** *tall buildings*: high, big, lofty, towering, elevated, sky-high; multi-storey. **3** *she's five feet tall*: in height, high, from head to toe; from top to bottom. **4** *a tall tale*: unlikely, improbable, exaggerated, far-fetched, implausible, dubious, unbelievable, incredible, absurd, untrue; informal cock-and-bull. **5** *a tall order*: demanding, exacting, difficult; unreasonable, impossible.

– OPPOSITES short, low, wide, credible, easy.

**tally** noun **1** *he keeps a tally of the score*: running total, count, record, reckoning, register, account, roll; census, poll. **2** *his tally of 1,816 wickets*: total, score, count, sum.

• verb **1** *these statistics tally with government*

*figures: correspond, agree, accord, concur, coincide, match, fit, be consistent, conform, equate, harmonize, be in tune, dovetail, correlate, parallel; informal square; N. Amer. informal jibe. 2 votes were tallied with abacuses: count, calculate, add up, total, compute; figure out, work out, reckon, measure, quantify; Brit. tot up; formal enumerate.*

– OPPOSITES disagree.

**tame** adjective **1** *a tame elephant:*

**domesticated**, domestic, docile, tamed, broken, trained; gentle, mild; pet; Brit. house-trained; N. Amer. housebroken.

**2** (informal) *he has a tame lawyer: amenable, biddable, cooperative, willing, obedient, tractable, acquiescent, docile, submissive, compliant, meek. 3 it was a pretty tame affair: unexciting, uninteresting, uninspiring, dull, bland, flat, insipid, spiritless, pedestrian, colourless, run-of-the-mill, mediocre, ordinary, humdrum, boring; harmless, safe, inoffensive.*

– OPPOSITES wild, uncooperative, exciting.

• **verb 1** *wild rabbits can be tamed:*

**domesticate**, break, train, master, subdue.

**2** *she learned to tame her emotions: subdue, curb, control, calm, master, moderate, overcome, discipline, suppress, repress, mellow, temper, soften, bridle, get a grip on; informal lick.*

**tamper** verb **1** *she saw them tampering with her car: interfere, monkey around, meddle,*

*tinker, fiddle, fool around, play around; doctor, alter, change, adjust, damage, deface, vandalize; informal mess about/around; Brit. informal muck about/around. 2 the defendant tampered with the jury: influence, get at, rig, manipulate, bribe, corrupt, bias; informal fix; Brit. informal nabble.*

**tan** adjective *a tan waistcoat: yellowish-brown, light brown, pale brown, tawny.*

• **verb 1** *use a sunscreen to help you tan: become suntanned, get a suntan, (go) brown, bronze. 2* (informal) *I'll tan his hide.* See **THRASH** sense 1.

**tang** noun **flavour**, taste, savour; sharpness, zest, bite, edge, smack, piquancy, spice; smell, odour, aroma, fragrance, perfume, redolence; informal kick, pep.

**tangible** adjective **1** *we offer a tangible product rather than a service: actual, palpable, material, physical, real, substantial, corporeal, solid, concrete. 2 organizations want to see some tangible benefit from the scheme: visible, noticeable, actual, definite, clear, clear-cut, distinct, manifest, evident, unmistakable, perceptible, discernible.*

– OPPOSITES abstract.

**tangle** verb **1** *the wool got tangled up:*

**entangle**, snarl, catch, entwine, twist, ravel, knot, enmesh, coil, mat, jumble, muddle.

**2** *he tangled with his old rival: come into conflict, dispute, argue, quarrel, fight, wrangle, squabble, contend, cross swords, lock horns.*

• **noun 1** *a tangle of branches: snarl, mass, knot, mesh, mishmash. 2 the defence got into an awful tangle: muddle, jumble, mix-up, confusion, shambles.*

**tangled** adjective **1** *tangled hair: knotted, knotty, ravelled, entangled, snarled (up), twisted, matted, tangly, messy; tousled, unkempt, ratty; informal mussed up. 2 a tangled bureaucratic mess: confused, jumbled, mixed up, messy, chaotic, complicated, involved, complex, intricate, knotty, tortuous.*

– OPPOSITES simple.

**tangy** adjective **zesty**, sharp, acid, acidic, tart, sour, bitter, piquant, spicy, tasty, flavoursome, pungent.

– OPPOSITES bland.

**tank** noun **1** *a hot water tank: container, receptacle, vat, cistern, repository, reservoir, basin. 2 a tank full of fish: aquarium, bowl. 3 the army's use of tanks: armoured vehicle, armoured car, combat vehicle; Panzer.*

**tantalize** verb **tease**, torment, torture, bait; tempt, entice, lure, allure, beguile; excite, fascinate, titillate, intrigue.

**tantamount** adjective *this is tantamount to mutiny: equivalent to, equal to, as good as, more or less, much the same as, comparable to, on a par with, commensurate with.*

**tantrum** noun **fit of temper**, fit of rage, fit, outburst, pet, paroxysm, frenzy, (bad) mood, huff, scene; informal paddy, wax, wobbly; Brit. informal, dated bate; N. Amer. informal hissy fit.

**tap**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *she turned the tap on: valve, stopcock, cock, spout; N. Amer. faucet, spigot, spile. 2 a phone tap in the embassy: listening device, wiretap, wire, bug, bugging device, microphone, receiver.*

• **verb 1** *several barrels were tapped: drain, bleed, milk; broach, open. 2 butlers were tapping ale: pour (out), draw off, siphon off, pump out, decant. 3 their telephones were tapped: bug, wiretap, monitor, overhear, eavesdrop on, spy on. 4 the resources were to be tapped for our benefit: draw on, exploit, milk, mine, use, utilize, turn to account.*

■ **on tap 1** *beers on tap: on draught, cask-conditioned, real-ale, from barrels.*

**2** (informal) *trained staff are on tap: on hand, at hand, available, ready, handy, accessible, standing by.*

**tap**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *she tapped on the door: knock, rap, strike, beat, drum. 2 Dad tapped me on the knee: pat, hit, strike, slap, jab, poke, dig.*

• **noun 1** *a sharp tap at the door: knock, rap, rat-tat. 2 a tap on the shoulder: pat, blow, slap, jab, poke, dig.*

**tape** noun **1** *a package tied with tape: binding, ribbon, string, braid. 2 secure the bandage with tape: adhesive tape, sticky tape, masking tape; trademark Sellotape. 3 they listened to tapes: (audio) cassette, (tape) recording, audio tape, reel, spool; video. • verb 1* *a card was taped to the box: bind, stick, fix, fasten, secure, attach; tie, strap. 2 they taped off the area: cordon, seal, close, shut, mark, fence; isolate, segregate. 3 police*

*taped his confession*: **record**, tape-record; video.

**taper** verb **1** *the leaves taper at the tip*: narrow, thin (out), come to a point, attenuate. **2** *the meetings soon tapered off*: decrease, lessen, dwindle, diminish, reduce, decline, die down, peter out, wane, ebb, slacken (off), fall off, let up, thin out.

– OPPOSITES thicken, increase.

• **noun** *a lighted taper*: **candle**, spill, sconce; historical rushlight.

**tardy** adjective late, unpunctual, behind schedule, running late; behind, overdue, belated, delayed; slow, dilatory.

– OPPOSITES punctual.

**target** noun **1** *targets at a range of 200 yards*: mark, bullseye, goal. **2** *eagles can spot their targets from half a mile*: prey, quarry, game, kill. **3** *their profit target*: objective, goal, aim, end; plan, intention, intent, design, aspiration, ambition, ideal, desire, wish. **4** *she was the target for a wave of abuse*: victim, butt, recipient, focus, object, subject.

• **verb** **1** *he was targeted by a gunman*: pick out, single out, earmark, fix on; attack, aim at, fire at. **2** *the product is targeted at a specific market*: aim, direct, level, intend, focus.

■ **on target** **1** *the striker was bang on target*: accurate, precise, unerring, sure, on the mark; Brit. informal spot on. **2** *the project was on target*: on schedule, on track, on course, on time.

**tariff** noun tax, duty, toll, excise, levy, charge, rate, fee; price list.

**tarnish** verb **1** *gold does not tarnish easily*: discolour, rust, oxidize, corrode, stain, dull, blacken. **2** *it tarnished his reputation*: sully, blacken, stain, blemish, blot, taint, soil, ruin, disgrace, mar, damage, harm, hurt, undermine, dishonour, stigmatize; literary besmirch.

– OPPOSITES polish, enhance.

• **noun** **1** *the tarnish on the candlesticks*: discoloration, oxidation, rust; film. **2** *the tarnish on his reputation*: smear, stain, blemish, blot, taint, stigma.

**tarry** verb (old use) linger, loiter, procrastinate, delay, wait, dawdle; informal hang around/round.

– OPPOSITES hurry.

**tart**<sup>1</sup> noun *a jam tart*: pastry, flan, tartlet, quiche, pie.

**tart**<sup>2</sup> (informal) noun *a tart on a street corner*. See PROSTITUTE noun.

• **verb** **1** *she tarted herself up*: dress up, make up, smarten up, preen oneself, beautify oneself, groom oneself; informal doll oneself up, titivate oneself. **2** *we must tart this place up a bit*: decorate, renovate, refurbish, redecorate; smarten up; informal do up, fix up.

**tart**<sup>3</sup> adjective **1** *a tart apple*: sour, sharp, acid, acidic, zesty, tangy, piquant; lemony, acetic. **2** *a tart reply*: acerbic, sharp, biting, cutting, astringent, caustic, trenchant, incisive, barbed, scathing, sarcastic, acrimonious, nasty, rude, vicious, spiteful, venomous.

– OPPOSITES sweet, kind.

**task** noun *a daunting task*: job, duty, chore, charge, assignment, detail, mission, engagement, occupation, undertaking, exercise, business, responsibility, burden, endeavour, enterprise, venture.

■ **take someone to task** rebuke, reprimand, reprove, reproach, remonstrate with, upbraid, scold, berate, lecture, censure, criticize, admonish, chide, chasten, arraign; informal tell off, bawl out, give someone a dressing-down; Brit. informal tick off, carpet; formal castigate.

**taste** noun **1** *a distinctive sharp taste*:

**flavour**, savour, relish, tang, smack. **2** *a taste of brandy*: mouthful, drop, bit, sip, nip, swallow, touch, soupçon, dash, modicum.

**3** *it's too sweet for my taste*: palate, taste buds, appetite, stomach. **4** *a taste for adventure*: liking, love, fondness, fancy, desire, preference, penchant, predilection, inclination, partiality; hankering, appetite, hunger, thirst, relish. **5** *my first taste of prison*: experience, impression; exposure to, contact with, involvement with. **6** *the house was furnished with taste*: judgement, discrimination, discernment, tastefulness, refinement, finesse, elegance, grace, style. **7** *the photo was rejected on grounds of taste*: decorum, propriety, etiquette, politeness, delicacy, nicety, sensitivity, discretion, tastefulness.

– OPPOSITES dislike.

• **verb** **1** *Adam tasted the wine*: sample, test, try, savour; sip, sup. **2** *he could taste blood*: perceive, discern, make out, distinguish. **3** *a beer that tasted of cashews*: have a flavour, savour, smack, be reminiscent; suggest. **4** *it'll be good to taste real coffee again*: consume, drink, partake of; eat, devour. **5** *he tasted defeat*: experience, encounter, come face to face with, come up against, undergo; know.

#### WORD LINKS

**gustatory**, **gustative** relating to the sense of taste

**palatable** pleasant to taste

**supertaster** a person who is very sensitive to particular tastes

**tasteful** adjective **1** *the decor is simple and tasteful*: aesthetically pleasing, in good taste, refined, cultured, elegant, stylish,

smart, chic, attractive, exquisite. **2** *this video is erotic but tasteful*: decorous, proper, seemly, respectable, appropriate, modest.

– OPPOSITES tasteless, improper.

**tasteless** adjective **1** *the vegetables are tasteless*: flavourless, bland, insipid, unappetizing, savourless, watery, weak.

**2** *tasteless leather panelling*: vulgar, crude, tawdry, garish, gaudy, loud, trashy, showy, ostentatious, cheap, inelegant; informal flashy, flashy, tacky, kitsch; Brit. informal naff. **3** *a tasteless remark*: crude, vulgar, indelicate, uncouth, crass, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, inappropriate, offensive.

– OPPOSITES tasty, tasteful, seemly.

**tasty** adjective delicious, palatable, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, ambrosial,



toothsome, dainty, flavoursome, flavourful; appetizing, tempting; informal yummy, scrummy, scrumptious, finger-licking, moreish; dated flavorful.

– OPPOSITES bland.

**tatters** plural noun *the satin had frayed to tatters*: rags, scraps, shreds, bits, pieces, ribbons.

■ **in tatters** **1** *his clothes were in tatters*: ragged, tattered, torn, ripped, frayed, in pieces, worn out, moth-eaten, falling to pieces, threadbare. **2** *her marriage is in tatters*: in ruins, on the rocks, destroyed, finished, devastated.

**tattle** verb **1** *we were tattling about him*: gossip, tittle-tattle, chatter, chat, prattle, babble, jabber, gabble, rattle on, jaw, yak, gab; Brit. informal natter, chinwag, chit-chat.

**2** *I would tattle on her if I had evidence*: inform; report, talk, tell all, spill the beans; informal squeal, sing, let the cat out of the bag.

● **noun** *tabloid tattle*: gossip, rumour, tittle-tattle, hearsay, scandal.

**taunt** noun *the taunts of his classmates*: jeer, jibe, sneer, insult, barb, catcall; (**taunts**) teasing, provocation, goading, derision, mockery; informal dig, put-down.

● **verb** *she taunted him about his job*: jeer at, sneer at, scoff at, poke fun at, make fun of, get at, insult, tease, chaff, torment, goad, ridicule, deride, mock, heckle; N. Amer. ride; informal rib, needle, rag, guy.

**taut** adjective **1** *the rope was pulled taut*: tight, stretched, rigid. **2** *his muscles remained taut*: flexed, tense, hard, solid, firm, rigid, stiff. **3** *a taut expression*: fraught, strained, stressed, tense; informal uptight. **4** *a taut tale of gang life*: concise, controlled, crisp, pithy, sharp, succinct, compact, terse. **5** *he ran a taut ship*: orderly, tight, trim, neat, disciplined, tidy, spruce, smart, shipshape (and Bristol fashion).

– OPPOSITES slack, relaxed.

**tavern** noun *bar, inn, hostelry, taphouse*; Brit. pub, public house; informal watering hole; Brit. informal local, boozer; dated alehouse; N. Amer. historical saloon.

**tawdry** adjective *gaudy, flashy, showy, garish, loud; tasteless, vulgar, trashy, junky, cheap (and nasty), cheapjack, shoddy, shabby, gimcrack*; informal rubbishy, tacky, kitsch.

– OPPOSITES tasteful.

**tax** noun **1** *higher taxes will dampen consumer spending*: duty, excise, customs, dues; levy, tariff, toll, impost, tithe, charge, fee; VAT, community charge, income tax. **2** *a heavy tax on one's attention*: burden, load, weight, demand, strain, pressure, stress, drain, imposition.

– OPPOSITES rebate.

● **verb** **1** *they tax foreign companies more harshly*: charge (duty on), tithe; formal mulct. **2** *his whining taxed her patience*: strain, stretch, overburden, overload, encumber, push too far; overwhelm, try, wear out, exhaust, sap, drain, weary, weaken.

#### WORD LINKS

**fiscal** relating to government revenue raised through taxes

**progressive** referring to taxes that increase in rate as the amount taxed increases

**regressive** referring to taxes that take a proportionally greater amount from people on lower incomes

**taxing** adjective *demanding, exacting, challenging, burdensome, arduous, onerous, difficult, hard, tough, laborious, back-breaking, strenuous, rigorous, punishing; tiring, exhausting, enervating, wearing, stressful*; informal murderous.

– OPPOSITES easy.

**tea** noun Indian chai; Brit. informal char; rhyming slang Rosie Lee.

**teach** verb **1** *she teaches small children*: educate, instruct, school, tutor, coach, train; enlighten, illuminate, verse, indoctrinate; drill, discipline; formal edify. **2** *I taught English*: give lessons in, lecture in, be a teacher of. **3** *teach your teenager how to negotiate*: train, show, guide, instruct, demonstrate; instil, inculcate.

#### WORD LINKS

**didactic, pedagogic** intended to teach, or relating to teaching

**pedagogy** the profession or theory of teaching

**academia** the world of teaching and research conducted at universities

**autodidact** a self-taught person

**teacher** noun *educator, tutor, instructor, master, mistress, schoolmarm, governess, educationist, preceptor; coach, trainer; lecturer, professor, don; guide, mentor, guru, counsellor*; informal teach; Brit. informal beak; Austral./NZ informal chalkie, schoolie; formal pedagogue; historical schoolman.

**team** noun **1** *the sales team*: group, squad, company, party, crew, troupe, band, side, line-up; informal bunch, gang, posse. **2** *a team of horses*: pair, span, yoke, duo, set, tandem.

● **verb** **1** *the horses are teamed in pairs*: harness, yoke, hitch, couple. **2** *team a T-shirt with matching shorts*: match, coordinate, complement, pair up. **3** *team up with another artist for an exhibition*: join (forces), collaborate, get together, work together; unite, combine, cooperate, link, ally, associate, club together.

**tear**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *I tore up the letter*: rip up, rip in two, pull to pieces, shred. **2** *his flesh was torn*: lacerate, cut (open), gash, slash, scratch, hack, pierce, stab; injure, wound. **3** *the traumas tore her family apart*: divide, split, sever, break up, disunite, rupture; literary rend, sunder, cleave. **4** *Gina tore the book from his hands*: snatch, grab, seize, rip, wrench, wrest, pull, pluck; informal yank. **5** (informal) *Jack tore down the street*: sprint, race, run, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, hare, bolt, fly, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, whizz, zoom, go like lightning, go like the wind; informal pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, belt, zip, whip; Brit. informal go like

the clappers, bomb, bucket; N. Amer. informal hightail it.

– OPPOSITES unite.

• **noun** a *tear in her dress*: rip, hole, split, slash, slit; ladder, snag.

■ **tear something down** demolish, knock down, raze (to the ground), flatten, level, bulldoze; dismantle, disassemble.

**tear<sup>2</sup>** **noun** *tears in her eyes*: teardrop.

■ **in tears** crying, weeping, sobbing, wailing, howling, bawling, whimpering; tearful, upset; informal weepy, teary, blubbing, blubbering.

#### WORD LINKS

lachrymal, lacrimal connected with tears

**tearaway** **noun** hooligan, hoodlum, ruffian, lout, rowdy, roughneck; Austral. larrikin; informal yahoo; Brit. informal yob, yobbo; Scottish informal ned; Austral./NZ informal roughie.

**tearful** **adjective** **1** *Georgina was tearful*: close to tears, emotional, upset, distressed, sad, unhappy; in tears, crying, weeping, sobbing, snivelling; informal weepy, teary; formal lachrymose. **2** *a tearful farewell*: emotional, upsetting, distressing, sad, heartbreaking, sorrowful; poignant, moving, touching, tear-jerking; literary dolorous.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**tease** **verb** *make fun of*, poke fun at, chaff, laugh at, guy, make a monkey (out) of; taunt, bait, goad, pick on; deride, mock, ridicule; informal take the mickey out of, rag, send up, rib, josh, have on, pull someone's leg; Brit. informal wind up; N. Amer. informal pull someone's chain, razz; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at; dated twit.

**technical** **adjective** **1** *an important technical achievement*: practical, scientific, technological, high-tech. **2** *this might seem very technical*: specialist, specialized, scientific; complex, complicated, esoteric. **3** *a technical fault*: mechanical.

**technique** **noun** **1** *different techniques for solving the problem*: method, approach, procedure, system, modus operandi, MO, way; means, strategy, tack, tactic, line; routine, practice. **2** *I was impressed with his technique*: skill, ability, proficiency, expertise, mastery, talent, genius, artistry, craftsmanship; aptitude, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, facility, competence; performance, delivery; informal know-how.

**tedious** **adjective** boring, dull, monotonous, repetitive, unrelieved, unvaried, uneventful; characterless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane; mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome, trying, frustrating; informal deadly, not up to much; Brit. informal samey; N. Amer. informal dullsville.

– OPPOSITES exciting.

**tedium** **noun** monotony, boredom, ennui, uniformity, routine, dreariness, dryness, banality, vapidness, insipidity.

– OPPOSITES variety.

**teem<sup>1</sup>** **verb** *the pond was teeming with fish*: be full of, be filled with, be alive with, be brimming with, abound in, be swarming with; be packed with, be crawling with, be overrun by, bristle with, seethe with, be thick with; informal be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full with.

**teem<sup>2</sup>** **verb** *the rain was teeming down*: pour, pelt, tip, beat, lash, sheet; come down in torrents, rain cats and dogs; informal be chucking it down; Brit. informal bucket down.

**teenage** **adjective** adolescent, teenaged, youthful, young, juvenile; informal teen.

**teenager** **noun** adolescent, youth, young person, minor, juvenile; informal teen, teeny-bopper.

**teeny** **adjective** (informal). See TINY.

**teeter** **verb** **1** *Daisy teetered towards them*: totter, wobble, toddle, sway, stagger, stumble, reel, lurch, pitch. **2** *the situation teetered between tragedy and farce*: see-saw, veer, fluctuate, oscillate, swing, alternate, waver.

**teetotal** **adjective** abstinent, abstemious; sober, dry; informal on the wagon.

– OPPOSITES alcoholic.

**telegram** **noun** telemessage, telex; informal wire; dated radiogram; historical cable, cablegram.

**telepathic** **adjective** psychic, clairvoyant.

**telepathy** **noun** mind-reading, thought transference; extrasensory perception, ESP; clairvoyance, sixth sense; psychometry.

**telephone** **noun** *Sophie picked up the telephone*: phone, handset, receiver; informal blower; N. Amer. informal horn.

• **verb** *he telephoned me last night*: phone, call, dial; get, reach; Brit. ring (up); informal call up, give someone a buzz, get on the blower to; Brit. informal give someone a bell, give someone a tinkle; N. Amer. informal get someone on the horn.

**telescope** **noun** spyglass; informal scope.

• **verb** **1** *the front of the car was telescoped*: concertina, compact, compress, crush, squash. **2** *his experience can be telescoped into a paragraph*: condense, shorten, reduce, abbreviate, abridge, summarize, precis, abstract, shrink, consolidate; truncate, curtail.

**televise** **verb** broadcast, screen, air, telecast; transmit, relay.

**television** **noun** TV; informal the small screen; Brit. informal telly, the box; N. Amer. informal the tube.

**tell** **verb** **1** *why didn't you tell me before?* inform, notify, apprise, let know, make aware, acquaint with, advise, put in the picture, brief, fill in; alert, warn; informal clue in/up. **2** *she told the story slowly*: relate, recount, narrate, unfold, report, recite, describe, sketch, weave, spin; utter, voice, state, declare, communicate, impart, divulge. **3** *she told him to leave*: instruct, order, command, direct, charge, enjoin, call on, require; literary bid. **4** *I tell you, I did nothing wrong*: assure, promise, give one's

word, swear, guarantee. **5** *the figures tell a different story*: reveal, show, indicate, be evidence of, disclose, convey, signify. **6** *promise you won't tell?* give the game away, talk, tell tales, tattle; informal spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, blab; Brit. informal blow the gaff. **7** *she was bound to tell on him*: inform on, tell tales on, give away, denounce, sell out; informal split on, blow the whistle on, rat on, peach on, squeal on; Brit. informal grass on, sneak on, shop; N. Amer. informal finger; Austral./NZ informal dob on. **8** *it was hard to tell what he said*: ascertain, determine, work out, make out, deduce, discern, perceive, see, identify, recognize, understand, comprehend; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss out. **9** *he couldn't tell one from the other*: distinguish, differentiate, discriminate. **10** *the strain began to tell on him*: take its toll, leave its mark; affect. ■ **tell someone off** (informal). See REPRIMAND verb.

**teller** noun **1** *a bank teller*: cashier, clerk. **2** *a teller of tales*: narrator, raconteur; storyteller, anecdotalist.

**telling** adjective revealing, significant, weighty, important, meaningful, influential, striking, potent, powerful, compelling. – OPPOSITES insignificant.

**telling-off** noun (informal). See REPRIMAND noun.

**telltale** adjective *the telltale blush on her face*: revealing, revelatory, suggestive, meaningful, significant, meaning; informal giveaway.

• noun *'Sue did it,' said a telltale*: informer, whistle-blower; N. Amer. tattletale; informal snitch, squealer; Brit. informal sneak; Scottish informal clype; dated talebearer.

**temerity** noun audacity, nerve, effrontery, impudence, impertinence, cheek, gall, presumption; daring; informal face, front, (brass) neck, chutzpah.

**temper** noun **1** *he walked out in a temper*: (fit of) rage, fury, fit of pique, tantrum, (bad) mood, pet, sulk, huff; informal grump, snit; Brit. informal strop, paddy; Brit. informal, dated bate, wax; N. Amer. informal hissy fit. **2** *a display of temper*: anger, fury, rage, annoyance, vexation, irritation, irritability, ill humour, spleen, pique, petulance, testiness, tetchiness, crabbiness; Brit. informal stropiness; literary ire, choler. **3** *she struggled to keep her temper*: composure, equanimity, self-control, self-possession, sangfroid, calm, good humour; informal cool.

• verb **1** *the steel is tempered by heat*: harden, strengthen, toughen, fortify, anneal. **2** *their idealism is tempered with realism*: moderate, modify, modulate, mitigate, alleviate, reduce, weaken, lighten, soften.

■ **lose one's temper** get angry, fly into a rage, erupt, lose control, go berserk, breathe fire, flare up, boil over; informal go mad, go crazy, go bananas, have a fit, see red, fly off the handle, blow one's top, do one's nut, hit the roof, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, lose one's rag, freak out; Brit. informal go spare, go crackers, throw a wobbly.

**temperament** noun disposition, nature, character, personality, make-up, constitution, mind, spirit; stamp, mettle, mould; mood, frame of mind, attitude, outlook, humour.

**temperamental** adjective **1** *a temperamental chef*: volatile, excitable, emotional, mercurial, capricious, erratic, unpredictable, changeable, inconsistent; hot-headed, fiery, quick-tempered, irritable, irascible, impatient; touchy, moody, sensitive, oversensitive, highly strung, neurotic, melodramatic. **2** *a temperamental dislike of conflict*: inherent, innate, natural, inborn, constitutional, deep-rooted, ingrained, congenital. – OPPOSITES placid.

**temperance** noun teetotalism, abstinence, abstention, sobriety, self-restraint; prohibition. – OPPOSITES alcoholism.

**temperate** adjective **1** *temperate climates*: mild, clement, benign, gentle, balmy. **2** *he was temperate in his consumption*: self-restrained, restrained, moderate, self-controlled, disciplined; abstemious, self-denying, austere, ascetic; teetotal, abstinent. – OPPOSITES extreme.

**tempest** noun storm, gale, hurricane; tornado, whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon.

**tempestuous** adjective **1** *the day was tempestuous*: stormy, blustery, squally, wild, turbulent, windy, gusty, blowy, rainy; foul, nasty, inclement. **2** *the tempestuous political environment*: turbulent, stormy, tumultuous, wild, lively, heated, explosive, feverish, frenetic, frenzied. **3** *a tempestuous woman*: emotional, passionate, impassioned, fiery, intense; temperamental, volatile, excitable, mercurial, capricious, unpredictable, quick-tempered. – OPPOSITES calm, peaceful, placid.

**temple** noun house of God, shrine, sanctuary; church, cathedral, mosque, synagogue, shul, gurdwara, mandir, pagoda; old use fane.

**tempo** noun **1** *the tempo of the music*: cadence, speed, rhythm, beat, time, pulse; measure, metre. **2** *the tempo of life in Western society*: pace, rate, speed, velocity.

**temporal** adjective secular, non-spiritual, worldly, profane, material, mundane, earthly, terrestrial; non-religious, lay. – OPPOSITES spiritual.

**temporarily** adverb **1** *the girl was temporarily placed with a foster family*: for the time being, for the moment, for now, for the present, in the interim, for the nonce, in/for the meantime, in the meanwhile; provisionally, pro tem; informal for the minute. **2** *he was temporarily blinded by the light*: briefly, for a short time, momentarily, fleetingly.

– OPPOSITES permanently.

**temporary** adjective **1** *temporary*



**accommodation** | *the temporary captain:* short-term, interim; provisional, pro tem, makeshift, stopgap; acting, fill-in, stand-in, caretaker. **2** *a temporary loss of self-control:* brief, short-lived, momentary, fleeting, passing.

– OPPOSITES permanent, lasting.

**temporize** **verb** *equivocate, procrastinate,* play for time, play a waiting game, stall, use delaying tactics, delay, hang back, prevaricate; Brit. hum and haw; rare tergiversate.

**tempt** **verb** **1** *the manager tried to tempt him to stay:* entice, persuade, convince, inveigle, induce, cajole, coax, woo; informal sweet-talk. **2** *more customers are being tempted by credit:* allure, attract, appeal to, whet the appetite of; lure, seduce, beguile, tantalize, draw.

– OPPOSITES discourage, deter.

**temptation** **noun** **1** *Mary resisted the temptation to answer back:* desire, urge, itch, impulse, inclination. **2** *the temptations of London:* lure, allurement, enticement, seduction, attraction, draw, pull; siren song. **3** *the temptation of travel to exotic locations:* allure, appeal, attraction, fascination.

**tempting** **adjective** **1** *the tempting shops of the Via Nazionale:* enticing, alluring, attractive, appealing, inviting, captivating, seductive, beguiling, fascinating, tantalizing; irresistible. **2** *a plate of tempting cakes:* appetizing, mouth-watering, delicious, toothsome; informal scrumptious, scrummy, yummy.

– OPPOSITES off-putting, uninviting.

**temptress** **noun** *seductress, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari; informal vamp.*

**ten** **cardinal number** *decade.*

#### WORD LINKS

**decimal** relating to a system of numbers based on ten  
**decagon** a plane figure with ten sides  
**decahedron** a solid figure with ten faces  
**decathlon** an athletic event consisting of ten different activities  
**decennial** lasting for or recurring every ten years  
**Decalogue** the Ten Commandments

**tenable** **adjective** *defensible, justifiable, supportable, sustainable, arguable, able to hold water, reasonable, rational, sound, viable, plausible, credible, believable, conceivable.*

– OPPOSITES indefensible.

**tenacious** **adjective** **1** *his tenacious grip:* firm, tight, fast, clinging; strong, forceful, powerful, unshakeable, immovable, iron. **2** *a tenacious man:* persevering, persistent, determined, dogged, strong-willed, tireless, indefatigable, resolute, patient, purposeful, unflagging, staunch, steadfast, untiring, unwavering, unswerving, unshakeable, unyielding, insistent; stubborn, intransigent, obstinate, obdurate, stiff-necked; N. Amer. rock-ribbed; formal pertinacious.

– OPPOSITES weak, irresolute.

**tenacity** **noun** *persistence, determination, perseverance, doggedness, strength of purpose, bulldog spirit, tirelessness, indefatigability, resolution, resoluteness, resolve, firmness, patience, purposefulness, staunchness, steadfastness, staying power, application; stubbornness, intransigence, obstinacy, obduracy; formal pertinacity.*

**tenancy** **noun** *occupancy, occupation, period of occupancy/occupation, residence, habitation, holding, possession; tenure, lease, rental, leasehold.*

**tenant** **noun** *occupant, resident, inhabitant; leaseholder, lessee, renter; Brit. occupier, sitting tenant.*

– OPPOSITES owner, freeholder.

**tend**<sup>1</sup> **verb** **1** *I tend to get very involved in my work:* be inclined, be apt, be disposed, be prone, be liable, have a tendency, have a propensity. **2** *younger voters tended towards the tabloid press:* incline, lean, gravitate, move; prefer, favour; N. Amer. trend.

**tend**<sup>2</sup> **verb** *she tended her cattle:* look after, take care of, care for, minister to, attend to, see to, wait on; watch over, keep an eye on, mind, protect, watch, guard; nurse, nurture, cherish.

– OPPOSITES neglect.

**tendency** **noun** **1** *his tendency to take the law into his own hands:* propensity, proclivity, proneness, aptness, likelihood, inclination, disposition, predisposition, bent, leaning, penchant, predilection, susceptibility, liability; readiness; habit. **2** *this tendency towards cohabitation:* trend, movement, drift, swing, gravitation, direction, course; orientation, bias.

**tender**<sup>1</sup> **adjective** **1** *a gentle, tender man:* caring, kind, kindly, kind-hearted, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, compassionate, sympathetic, warm, warm-hearted, fatherly, motherly, maternal, gentle, mild, benevolent, generous, giving, humane. **2** *a tender kiss:* affectionate, fond, loving, emotional, warm, gentle, soft; amorous, adoring; informal lovey-dovey. **3** *tender love songs:* romantic, sentimental, emotional, emotive, touching, moving, poignant; Brit. informal soppy. **4** *simmer until the meat is tender:* easily chewed, soft; succulent, juicy; tenderized. **5** *tender plants:* delicate, easily damaged, fragile. **6** *her ankle was swollen and tender:* sore, painful, sensitive, inflamed, raw, red, chafed, bruised; hurting, aching, throbbing, smarting. **7** *the tender age of fifteen:* young, youthful, impressionable, inexperienced, immature, unsophisticated, unseasoned, juvenile, callow, green, raw; informal wet behind the ears. **8** *the issue of conscription was a particularly tender one:* difficult, delicate, tricky, awkward, problematic, troublesome, ticklish; controversial, emotive; informal sticky.

– OPPOSITES hard-hearted, callous, tough.

**tender**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *she tendered her resignation:* offer, proffer, present, put forward, propose, suggest, advance, submit, extend, give, render; hand in. **2** *firms of interior*

*decorators tendered for the work: put in a bid, bid, quote, give an estimate.*

• **noun** *six contractors were invited to submit tenders: bid, offer, quotation, quote, estimate, price; proposal, submission.*

**tender-hearted** adjective. See **TENDER** sense 1.

**tenderness** **noun** **1** *I felt an enormous tenderness for her: affection, fondness, love, devotion, loving kindness, emotion, sentiment.* **2** *with unexpected tenderness, he told her what had happened: kindness, kindness, kind-heartedness, tender-heartedness, compassion, care, concern, sympathy, warmth, fatherliness, motherliness, gentleness, benevolence, generosity.* **3** *abdominal tenderness: soreness, pain, inflammation, bruising; ache, aching, smarting, throbbing.*

**tenet** **noun** **principle, belief, doctrine, precept, creed, credo, article of faith, dogma, canon; theory, thesis, conviction, idea, view, opinion, position, hypothesis, postulation; (tenets) ideology, code of belief, teaching(s).**

**tenor** **noun** **1** *the general tenor of his speech: sense, meaning, theme, drift, thread, import, purport, intent, intention, burden, thrust, significance, message; gist, essence, substance, spirit.* **2** *the even tenor of life in the village: course, direction, movement, drift, current, trend.*

**tense** adjective **1** *the tense muscles of his neck: taut, tight, rigid, stretched, strained, stiff.*

**2** *Loretta was feeling tense and irritable: anxious, nervous, on edge, edgy, strained, stressed, under pressure, agitated, ill at ease, uneasy, nervy, restless, worked up, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks, with one's stomach in knots, worried, apprehensive, panicky; informal a bundle of nerves, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, uptight, stressed out; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrely.* **3** *a tense moment: nerve-racking, stressful, anxious, worrying, fraught, charged, strained, nail-biting, difficult, uneasy, uncomfortable; exciting, cliffhanging, knife-edge.*

— **OPPOSITES** slack, calm.

• **verb** *Hebden tensed his muscles: tighten, tauten, tense up, flex, contract, brace, stiffen; screw up, knot, strain, stretch; N. Amer. squinch up.*

— **OPPOSITES** relax.

**tension** **noun** **1** *the tension of the rope: tightness, tautness, rigidity; pull, traction.* **2** *the tension was unbearable: strain, stress, anxiety, pressure; worry, apprehensiveness, apprehension, agitation, nerves, nervousness, jumpiness, edginess, restlessness; suspense, uncertainty, anticipation, excitement; informal butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobblers.* **3** *months of tension between the military and the government: strained relations, strain; ill feeling, friction, antagonism, antipathy, hostility, enmity.*

**tentative** adjective **1** *tentative arrangement | a tentative conclusion: provisional,*

*unconfirmed, pencilled in, preliminary, to be confirmed, TBC, subject to confirmation; speculative, conjectural, untried, unproven, exploratory, experimental, trial, test, pilot.* **2** *he took a few tentative steps: hesitant, uncertain, cautious, timid, hesitating, faltering, shaky, unsteady, halting; wavering, unsure.*

— **OPPOSITES** definite, confident.

**tenterhooks** plural noun

■ **on tenterhooks** *in suspense, waiting with bated breath; anxious, nervous, nervy, apprehensive, worried, worried sick, on edge, edgy, tense, strained, stressed, agitated, restless, worked up, keyed up, with one's stomach in knots, with one's heart in one's mouth, like a cat on a hot tin roof; informal with butterflies in one's stomach, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a state, uptight; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrely.*

**tenuous** adjective **1** *a tenuous connection: slight, insubstantial, flimsy, weak, doubtful, dubious, questionable, suspect; vague, nebulous, hazy.* **2** *a tenuous thread: fine, thin, slender, delicate, gossamer, fragile.*

— **OPPOSITES** convincing, strong.

**tenure** **noun** **1** *residents should have security of tenure: tenancy, occupancy, holding, occupation, residence; possession, title, ownership.* **2** *his tenure as Secretary of State for Industry: incumbency, term (of office), period (of/in office), time (in office).*

**tepid** adjective **1** *tepid water: lukewarm, warmish, slightly warm; at room temperature.* **2** *a tepid response: unenthusiastic, apathetic, half-hearted, indifferent, cool, lukewarm, uninterested; informal unenthused.*

— **OPPOSITES** hot, cold, enthusiastic.

**term** **noun** **1** *scientific and technical terms: word, expression, phrase, turn of phrase, idiom, locution; name, title, designation, label; formal appellation, denomination.*

**2** *a protest in the strongest terms: language, mode of expression, manner of speaking, phraseology, terminology; words, phrases, expressions.* **3** *the terms of the contract: conditions, stipulations, specifications, provisions, provisos; restrictions, qualifications; particulars, details, points.*

**4** *a policy offering more favourable terms: rates, prices, charges, costs, fees; tariff.*

**5** *The President is elected for a four-year term: period, period of time, time, length of time, spell, stint, duration; stretch, run; period of office, incumbency.* **6** (old use) *the whole term of your natural life: duration, length, span.* **7** *the summer term: session; N. Amer. semester, trimester, quarter.*

• **verb** *he has been termed the father of modern theology: call, name, entitle, title, style, designate, describe as, dub, label, tag; nickname; formal denominate.*

■ **come to terms** **1** *the two sides came to terms: reach an agreement/understanding, make a deal, reach a compromise, meet each other halfway.* **2** *she eventually came to terms with her situation: accept, come to accept, reconcile oneself to, learn to live*

with, become resigned to, make the best of; face up to.

**terminal** adjective **1** *a terminal illness*:

incurable, untreatable, inoperable; fatal, mortal, deadly. **2** *terminal patients: dying*, near death; incurable. **3** *a terminal bonus may be payable when a policy matures: final*, last, concluding, closing, end. **4** (informal) *you're making a terminal ass of yourself: complete*, utter, absolute, total, real, thorough, out-and-out, downright, perfect; Brit. informal right, proper; Austral./NZ informal fair.

• **noun** **1** *a railway terminal: station*, last

stop, end of the line; depot; Brit. terminus.

**2** *a computer terminal: workstation*, VDU, visual display unit.

**terminate** verb **1** *treatment was terminated*:

bring to an end, end, bring to a close/conclusion, close, conclude, finish, stop, put an end to, wind up, discontinue, cease, cut short, abort, axe; informal pull the plug on.

**2** *the train will terminate in Stratford: end its journey*, finish up, stop. **3** *the pregnancy was terminated: abort*, end.

– OPPOSITES begin, start, continue.

**termination** noun **1** *the termination of*

a contract: ending, end, closing, close, conclusion, finish, stopping, winding up, discontinuance, discontinuation; cancellation, dissolution; informal wind-up. **2** *she had a termination: abortion*; rare feticide.

– OPPOSITES start, beginning.

**terminology** noun phraseology, terms, expressions, words, language, parlance, vocabulary, nomenclature; usage, idiom; jargon, cant, argot; informal lingo, -speak, -ese.

**terminus** noun (Brit.) *the bus terminus*:

station, last stop, end of the line, terminal; depot, garage.

**terrain** noun land, ground, territory;

topography, landscape, countryside, country.

**terrestrial** adjective **earthly**, worldly, mundane, earthbound; literary sublunary.

**terrible** adjective **1** *a terrible crime | terrible injuries: dreadful*, awful, appalling, horrific, horrifying, horrible, horrendous, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, frightful, shocking, hideous, ghastly, grim, dire, unspeakable, gruesome, monstrous, sickening, heinous, vile; serious, grave, acute; formal grievous.

**2** *a terrible smell: nasty*, disgusting, awful, dreadful, ghastly, horrid, horrible, vile, foul, abominable, frightful, loathsome, revolting, repulsive, odious, nauseating, repellent, horrendous, hideous, appalling, offensive, objectionable, obnoxious; informal gruesome, putrid, diabolical, yucky, sick-making, God-awful, gross, rank; Brit. informal beastly; old use disgusting. **3** *he was in terrible pain: severe*, extreme, intense, excruciating, agonizing, unbearable, intolerable, unendurable.

**4** *that's a terrible thing to say: unkind*, nasty, unpleasant, foul, obnoxious, vile, contemptible, despicable, wretched, shabby; spiteful, mean, malicious, poisonous, mean-spirited, cruel, hateful, hurtful; unfair, uncharitable, uncalled for, below the belt,

unwarranted; Brit. informal beastly. **5** *the film was terrible: very bad*, dreadful, awful, frightful, appalling, abysmal, atrocious, hopeless, poor; informal pathetic, pitiful, useless, lousy, dire; Brit. informal duff, chronic, poxy, rubbish, pants. **6** (informal) *you're a terrible flirt: incorrigible*, outrageous; real, awful, dreadful, frightful, shocking; informal impossible, fearful; Brit. informal right, proper.

**7** *I feel terrible—I've been in bed all day: ill*, poorly, sick, queasy, nauseous, nauseated, green about the gills; faint, dizzy; informal rough, lousy, awful, dreadful; Brit. informal grotty, ropy. **8** *he still feels terrible about what he did to John: guilty*, conscience-stricken, remorseful, guilt-ridden, ashamed, chastened, contrite, sorry.

– OPPOSITES minor, slight, pleasant, wonderful.

**terribly** adverb **1** (informal) *she's terribly*

upset: **very**, extremely, really, terrifically, tremendously, immensely, thoroughly, dreadfully, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily, exceedingly; N. English right; informal awfully, devilishly, seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; informal, dated frightfully; old use exceeding. **2** *he played terribly: very badly*, atrociously, awfully, dreadfully, appallingly, abysmally, execrably; informal pitifully, diabolically. **3** (informal) *I shall miss you terribly: very much*, greatly, a great deal, a lot; informal loads.

**terrific** adjective **1** *a terrific bang*:

tremendous, huge, massive, gigantic, colossal, mighty, great, prodigious, formidable, sizeable, considerable; intense, extreme, extraordinary; informal mega, whopping great, humongous; Brit. informal whacking great, ginormous. **2** (informal)

*a terrific game of top-quality football: marvellous*, wonderful, sensational, outstanding, superb, excellent, first-rate, first-class, dazzling, out of this world, breathtaking; informal great, fantastic, fabulous, fab, mega, super, ace, magic, cracking, cool, wicked, awesome; Brit. informal brilliant, brill, smashing; Austral./NZ informal bonzer; Brit. informal, dated spiffing. **3** (old use) *terrific scenes of slaughter and destruction: dreadful*, terrible, appalling, awful, horrific, horrible, horrendous, horrifying, hideous, grim, ghastly, gruesome, frightful, fearful.

**terrified** adjective petrified, frightened, scared, scared/frightened to death, scared stiff, scared/frightened out of one's wits, scared witless, horrified, with one's heart in one's mouth, shaking in one's shoes.

**terrify** verb petrify, horrify, frighten, scare, scare/frighten to death, scare/frighten the living daylight out of, scare/frighten the life out of, scare/frighten someone out of their wits, scare witless, strike terror into, put the fear of God into; paralyse, transfix; informal scare the pants off; Irish informal scare the bejesus out of.

**territory** noun **1** *British overseas territories*:

area of land, area, region, enclave; country, state, land, dependency, colony,

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dominion, protectorate, fief, possession, holding. **2** *mountainous territory*: **terrain**, land, ground, countryside. **3** *the territory of biblical scholarship*: **domain**, area of concern/interest/knowledge, province, department, field, preserve, sphere, arena, realm, world. **4** *Sheffield was his territory*: **sphere of operations**, area, section; informal turf; Brit. informal patch, manor.

**terror** noun **1** *she screamed in terror*: fear, dread, horror, fear and trembling, fright, alarm, panic, shock. **2** *the terrors of her own mind*: **demon**, fiend, devil, monster; horror, nightmare. **3** (informal) *he turned out to be a right little terror*: **rascal**, devil, imp, monkey, scallywag, mischief-maker; informal scamp, horror; Brit. informal perisher; N. English informal scally; N. Amer. informal varmint.

**terrorist** noun bomber, arsonist; gunman, assassin; hijacker; revolutionary, radical, guerrilla, urban guerrilla, anarchist, freedom fighter.

**terrorize** verb persecute, victimize, torment, tyrannize, intimidate, menace, threaten, bully, browbeat, scare, frighten, terrify, petrify; Brit. informal put the frighteners on.

**terse** adjective brief, short, to the point, concise, succinct, crisp, pithy, incisive, short and sweet, laconic, elliptical; **brusque**, abrupt, curt, clipped, blunt, ungracious. – OPPOSITES long-winded, polite.

**test** noun **1** *a series of scientific tests*: **trial**, experiment, pilot study, try-out; check, examination, assessment, evaluation, appraisal, investigation, inspection, analysis, scrutiny, study, probe, exploration; screening; technical assay. **2** *candidates may be required to take a test*: **exam**, examination; N. Amer. **quiz**. **3** *the test of a good sparkling wine*: **criterion**, proof, indication, yardstick, touchstone, standard, measure, litmus test, acid test.

• **verb 1** *a small-scale prototype was tested*: **try out**, trial, put to the test, put through its paces, experiment with, pilot; check, examine, assess, evaluate, appraise, investigate, analyse, scrutinize, study, probe, explore; sample; screen; technical assay. **2** *such behaviour would test any marriage*: **put a strain on**, strain, tax, try; make demands on, stretch, challenge.

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**testament** noun *an achievement which is a testament to his professionalism and dedication*: **testimony**, witness, evidence, proof, attestation; demonstration, indication, exemplification; monument, tribute.

**testify** verb **1** *you may be required to testify in court*: **give evidence**, bear witness, be a witness, give one's testimony, attest; Law make a deposition. **2** *he testified that he had been threatened by a fellow officer*: **attest**, swear, state on oath, state, declare, assert, affirm; allege, submit, claim; Law depose. **3** *the exhibits testify to the talents of the local sculptors*: **be evidence/proof of**, attest to, confirm, prove, corroborate, substantiate, bear out; show, demonstrate, bear witness

to, indicate, reveal, bespeak.

**testimonial** noun reference, character reference, letter of recommendation, commendation.

**testimony** noun **1** *Smith was in court to hear her testimony*: **evidence**, sworn statement, attestation, affidavit; statement, declaration, assertion, affirmation; allegation, submission, claim; Law deposition. **2** *the work is a testimony to his professional commitment*: **testament**, proof, evidence, attestation, witness; confirmation, corroboration; demonstration, indication.

**testing** adjective **difficult**, challenging, tough, hard, demanding, taxing, stressful. – OPPOSITES easy.

**testy** adjective. See **TETCHY**.

**tetchy** adjective irritable, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, crabby, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit. informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky, ornery. – OPPOSITES good-humoured.

**tête-à-tête** noun conversation, chat, talk, heart-to-heart, one-on-one, one-to-one; informal confab; Brit. informal natter, chinwag; formal confabulation.

**tether** verb *the horse had been tethered to a post*: **tie (up)**, hitch, rope, chain; fasten, secure.

– OPPOSITES unleash.

• noun *a dog on a tether*: **rope**, chain, cord, lead, leash; restraint; halter.

■ *at the end of one's tether* at one's wits' end, desperate, not knowing which way to turn, unable to cope; N. Amer. at the end of one's rope.

**text** noun **1** *a text which explores pain and grief*: **book**, textbook, work, publication. **2** *the pictures are clear and relate well to the text*: **words**, wording; content, body, main body. **3** *a text from the First Book of Samuel*: **passage**, extract, quotation, verse, line; reading. **4** *he took as his text the fact that Australia is a paradise*: **theme**, subject, topic, motif; thesis, argument.

**textile** noun fabric, cloth, material.

**texture** noun feel, touch; appearance, finish, surface, grain; quality, consistency; weave, nap.

**thank** verb express (one's) gratitude to, express one's thanks to, offer/extend thanks to, say thank you to, show one's appreciation to.

**thankful** adjective grateful, filled with gratitude, relieved, pleased, glad.

**thankless** adjective **1** *a thankless task*: **unenviable**, difficult, unpleasant, unrewarding; unappreciated, unrecognized, unacknowledged. **2** *her thankless children*: **ungrateful**, unappreciative, unthankful. – OPPOSITES rewarding, grateful.

**thanks** plural noun *they expressed their thanks and wished her well*: **gratitude**, appreciation;

acknowledgement, recognition, credit.

• **exclamation** *thanks for being so helpful:*

**thank you**, many thanks, thanks very much, thanks a lot, thank you kindly, much obliged, much appreciated, bless you; informal cheers, thanks a million; Brit. informal *ta*.

■ **thanks to** as a result of, owing to, due to, because of, through, as a consequence of, on account of, by virtue of, by dint of; formal by reason of.

**thaw** **verb** melt, unfreeze, soften, liquefy, dissolve; defrost; N. Amer. *unthaw*.

– **OPPOSITES** freeze.

**theatre** **noun** **1** *the local theatre:* playhouse, auditorium, amphitheatre. **2** *what made you want to go into the theatre?* acting, performing, the stage; drama, the dramatic arts, dramaturgy, the thespian art; show business; informal the boards, show biz. **3** *the lecture theatre:* hall, room, auditorium. **4** *the theatre of war:* scene, arena, field/sphere of action.

**theatrical** **adjective** **1** *a theatrical career:* stage, dramatic, thespian, dramaturgical; show-business; informal showbiz; formal histrionic. **2** *Henry looked over his shoulder with theatrical caution:* exaggerated, ostentatious, actressy, stagy, showy, melodramatic, overacted, overdone, histrionic, affected, mannered; informal hammy, ham, camp.

**theft** **noun** robbery, stealing, thieving, larceny, thievery, shoplifting, burglary, misappropriation, embezzlement; raid, hold-up; informal smash-and-grab; N. Amer. informal heist, stick-up; formal peculation.

#### WORD LINKS

kleptomania compulsive theft

**theme** **noun** **1** *the theme of her speech:* subject, topic, subject matter, matter, thesis, argument, text, burden, thrust; thread, motif, keynote. **2** *the first violin takes up the theme:* melody, tune, air; motif, leitmotif.

**then** **adverb** **1** *I was living in Cairo then:* at that time, in those days; at that point (in time), at that moment, on that occasion. **2** *she won the first and then the second game:* next, after that, afterwards, subsequently. **3** *and then there's another problem:* in addition, also, besides, as well, additionally, on top of that, over and above that, moreover, furthermore, what's more, to boot; too. **4** *well, if that's what he wants, then he should leave:* in that case, that being so, it follows that.

**theological** **adjective** religious, scriptural, ecclesiastical, doctrinal; divine, holy.

**theoretical** **adjective** hypothetical, conjectural, academic, suppositional, speculative, notional, postulATORY, assumed, presumed, untested, unproven, unsubstantiated; conceptual, abstract.

– **OPPOSITES** actual, real.

**theorize** **verb** speculate, conjecture, hypothesize, postulate, propose, posit, suppose.

**theory** **noun** **1** *I reckon that confirms my theory:* hypothesis, thesis, conjecture, supposition, speculation, postulation, postulate, proposition, premise, surmise, assumption, presupposition; opinion, view, belief, contention. **2** *modern economic theory:* principles, ideas, concepts; philosophy, ideology, system of ideas, science.

■ **in theory** in principle, on paper, in the abstract, all things being equal, in an ideal world; hypothetically.

**therapeutic** **adjective** healing, curative, remedial, medicinal, restorative, health-giving, tonic, reparative, corrective, beneficial, good, salutary; calming, relaxing, soothing; old use sanative.

– **OPPOSITES** harmful.

**therapist** **noun** psychologist, psychotherapist, analyst, psychoanalyst, psychiatrist; informal shrink; Brit. humorous trick cyclist.

**therapy** **noun** **1** *a wide range of complementary therapies:* treatment, remedy, cure. **2** *he's currently in therapy:* psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, analysis.

**thereabouts** **adverb** **1** *the land thereabouts:* near there, around there. **2** *they sold it for five million or thereabouts:* approximately, or so, give or take a bit, plus or minus a bit, in round numbers, not far off; Brit. getting on for; N. Amer. informal in the ballpark of.

**thereafter** **adverb** after that, following that, afterwards, subsequently, then, next.

**therefore** **adverb** consequently, so, as a result, hence, thus, accordingly, for that reason, ergo, that being the case, on that account; formal whence; old use wherefore.

**thesis** **noun** **1** *the central thesis of his lecture:* theory, contention, argument, line of argument, proposal, proposition, premise, assumption, hypothesis, postulation, surmise, supposition. **2** *a doctoral thesis:* dissertation, essay, paper, treatise, disquisition, composition, monograph, study; N. Amer. theme.

**thick** **adjective** **1** *the walls are five feet thick:* in extent/diameter, across, wide, broad, deep. **2** *his short, thick legs:* stocky, sturdy, chunky, hefty, thickset, beefy, meaty, big, solid; fat, stout, plump. **3** *a thick Aran sweater:* chunky, bulky, heavy, cable-knit; woollen, woolly. **4** *the station was thick with people:* crowded, full, filled, packed, teeming, seething, swarming, crawling, crammed, thronged, bursting at the seams, solid, overflowing, choked, jammed, congested; informal jam-packed, chock-a-block, stuffed; Austral./NZ informal chocker. **5** *the thick summer vegetation:* plentiful, abundant, profuse, luxuriant, bushy, rich, riotous, exuberant; rank, rampant; dense, close-packed, impenetrable, impassable; serried; informal jungly. **6** *a thick paste:* semi-solid, firm, stiff, stiffened, heavy; clotted, coagulated, viscid, viscous, gelatinous; concentrated. **7** *thick fog:* dense, heavy, opaque, impenetrable, soupy, murky. **8** (informal) *he's a bit thick.* See

**STUPID** sense 1. **9** *Guy's voice was thick with desire: husky, hoarse, throaty, guttural, gravelly, rough.* **10** *a thick Scottish accent: obvious, pronounced, marked, broad, strong, rich, decided, distinct.* **11** *she's very thick with him: friendly, intimate, familiar, on the best of terms, hand in glove; close to, devoted to, inseparable from; informal pally, chummy, matey, buddy-buddy, as thick as thieves, well in.*

– **OPPOSITES** thin, slender, sparse.

• **noun** *in the thick of the crisis: midst, centre, hub, middle, core, heart.*

■ **a bit thick** (Brit. informal) unreasonable, unfair, unjust, unjustified, uncalled for, unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive; informal below the belt, a bit much; Brit. informal out of order.

**thicken** verb become thick/thicker, stiffen, condense; solidify, set, gel, congeal, clot, coagulate, cake, inspissate.

**thicket** noun copse, coppice, grove, brake, covert, clump; wood; Brit. spinney; old use hurst.

**thickhead** noun (informal). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**thickness** noun **1** *the gateway is several feet in thickness: width, breadth, depth, diameter.* **2** *several thicknesses of limestone: layer, stratum, stratification, seam, vein; sheet, lamina.*

**thickset** adjective stocky, sturdy, heavily built, well built, chunky, burly, strapping, brawny, solid, heavy, hefty, beefy, meaty; Physiology pyknic.

– **OPPOSITES** slight.

**thick-skinned** adjective insensitive, unfeeling, tough, impervious, hardened, case-hardened; informal hard-boiled.

– **OPPOSITES** sensitive.

**thief** noun robber, burglar, housebreaker, cat burglar, shoplifter, pickpocket, sneak thief, mugger; embezzler, swindler; criminal, villain; kleptomaniac; bandit, pirate, highwayman; informal crook, cracksmen; Brit. rhyming slang tea leaf; literary brigand.

**thieve** verb steal, take, purloin, help oneself to, snatch, pilfer; embezzle, misappropriate; have one's fingers/hand in the till; informal rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle; Brit. informal nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off, nobble; N. Amer. informal heist; formal peculate.

**thievery** noun. See **THEIVING**.

**thieving** noun theft, stealing, thievery, robbery, larceny, pilfering; burglary, shoplifting, embezzlement; formal peculation.

**thin** adjective **1** *a thin white line: narrow, fine, attenuated.* **2** *a thin cotton nightdress: lightweight, light, fine, delicate, floaty, flimsy, diaphanous, gossamer, insubstantial; sheer, gauzy, filmy, chiffony, transparent, see-through.* **3** *a tall, thin woman: slim, lean, slender, rangy, willowy, svelte, sylphlike, spare, slight; skinny, underweight, scrawny, scraggy, bony, angular, raw-boned, hollow-cheeked, gaunt,*

*as thin as a rake/reed, stick-like, skin and bone, emaciated, skeletal, wasted, pinched, undernourished, underfed; lanky, spindly, gangly, gangling, weedy; informal anorexic, like a bag of bones; dated spindle-shanked; old use starveling.* **4** *his thin grey hair: sparse, scanty, wispy, thinning.* **5** *a bowl of thin soup: watery, weak, dilute, diluted; runny, sloppy.* **6** *her thin voice: weak, faint, feeble, small, soft; reedy, high-pitched.* **7** *the plot is very thin: insubstantial, flimsy, slight, feeble, lame, poor, weak, tenuous, inadequate, insufficient, unconvincing, unbelievable, implausible.*

– **OPPOSITES** thick, broad, fat, abundant.

• **verb** **1** *some paint must be thinned down before use: dilute, water down, weaken.* **2** *the crowds were beginning to thin out: disperse, dissipate, scatter; become less dense/numerous, decrease, diminish, dwindle.*

**thing** noun **1** *the room was full of strange things: object, article, item, artefact, commodity; device, gadget, instrument, utensil, tool, implement; entity, body; informal doodah, whatsit, whatchamacallit, thingummy, thingy, thingamabob, thingamajig; Brit. informal gubbins; N. Amer. informal doodad, dingus.* **2** *I'll come back tomorrow to collect my things: belongings, possessions, stuff, property, worldly goods, (personal) effects, paraphernalia, bits and pieces, bits and bobs; luggage, baggage, bags; law goods and chattels; informal gear, junk; Brit. informal clobber.* **3** *his gardening things: equipment, apparatus, gear, kit, tackle, stuff; implements, tools, utensils; accoutrements.* **4** *I've got several things to do today: activity, act, action, deed, undertaking, exploit, feat; task, job, chore.* **5** *I've got other things on my mind just now: thought, notion, idea; concern, matter, worry, preoccupation.* **6** *I keep remembering things he said: remark, statement, comment, utterance, observation, declaration, pronouncement.* **7** *quite a few odd things happened: incident, episode, event, happening, occurrence, phenomenon.* **8** *how are things with you? matters, affairs, circumstances, conditions, relations; state of affairs, situation, life.* **9** *one of the things I like about you is your optimism: characteristic, quality, attribute, property, trait, feature, point, aspect, facet.* **10** *there's another thing you should know: fact, piece of information, point, detail, particular, factor.* **11** *the thing is, I'm not sure if it's what I want: fact of the matter, fact, point, issue, problem.* **12** *you lucky thing! person, soul, creature, wretch; informal devil, beggar, bastard.* **13** *Dora developed a thing about noise: phobia, fear, dislike, aversion; obsession, fixation; complex, neurosis; informal hang-up, bee in one's bonnet.* **14** *she had a thing about men who wore glasses: penchant, preference, taste, inclination, partiality, predilection, soft spot, weakness, fancy, fondness, liking, love; fetish, obsession, fixation.* **15** *books aren't really my*



**thing:** what one likes, what interests one; informal one's cup of tea, one's bag, what turns one on. **16 it's the latest thing:** fashionable, in fashion, popular, all the rage; informal trendy, cool, big, hip, happening.

**think verb 1** *I think he's gone home:* believe, be of the opinion, be of the view, be under the impression; expect, imagine, anticipate; surmise, suppose, conjecture, guess, fancy; conclude, determine, reason; informal reckon, figure; formal opine; old use ween. **2 his family was thought to be enormously rich:** deem, judge, hold, reckon, consider, presume, estimate; regard as, view as. **3 Jack thought for a moment:** ponder, reflect, deliberate, consider, meditate, contemplate, muse, ruminate, be lost in thought, be in a brown study, brood; concentrate, rack one's brains; informal put on one's thinking cap, sleep on it; formal cogitate. **4 she thought of all the visits she had made to her father:** recall, remember, recollect, call to mind, think back to. **5 she forced herself to think of how he must be feeling:** imagine, picture, visualize, envisage; dream about, fantasize about.

■ **think better of** have second thoughts about, think twice about, think again about, change one's mind about; reconsider, decide against; informal get cold feet about.

■ **think something over** consider, contemplate, deliberate about, weigh up, consider the pros and cons of, mull over, ponder, reflect on, muse on, ruminate on.

■ **think something up** devise, dream up, come up with, invent, create, concoct, make up; hit on.

**thinker noun** theorist, ideologist, philosopher, scholar, savant, sage, intellectual, intellect, mind; informal brain.

**thinking adjective** *he seemed a thinking man:* intelligent, sensible, reasonable, rational; logical, analytical; thoughtful, reflective, meditative, contemplative, pensive, philosophical.

—OPPOSITES stupid, irrational.

• **noun** *the thinking behind the campaign:* reasoning, idea(s), theory, thoughts, line of thought, philosophy, beliefs; opinion(s), view(s), position, judgement, assessment, evaluation.

**thin-skinned adjective** sensitive, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily upset/offended/hurt, touchy, defensive.  
—OPPOSITES insensitive.

**third-rate adjective** substandard, bad, inferior, poor, poor-quality, low-grade, inadequate, unsatisfactory, unacceptable; appalling, abysmal, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, execrable, frightful, miserable, wretched, pitiful; jerry-built, shoddy, tinny, trashy; N. Amer. cheapjack; informal lousy, diabolical, rotten, dire, bum, crummy, rubbishy; Brit. informal ropy, duff, pants.

—OPPOSITES excellent.

**thirst noun 1** *I need a drink—I'm dying of thirst:* thirstiness, dryness; dehydration; Medicine polydipsia; old use drought. **2 his**

**thirst for knowledge:** craving, desire, longing, yearning, hunger, hankering, keenness, eagerness, lust, appetite; informal yen, itch; old use appetency.

• **verb** *she thirsted for power:* crave, want, covet, desire, hunger for, lust after, hanker after, have one's heart set on; wish, long.

**thirsty adjective 1** *the boys were hot and thirsty:* longing for a drink, dry, dehydrated; informal parched, gasping; Brit. informal spitting feathers; Austral./NZ informal spitting chips.

**2 the thirsty soil:** dry, arid, dried up/out, as dry as a bone, parched, baked, desiccated.

**3 she was thirsty for power:** eager, hungry, greedy, thirsting, craving, longing, yearning, lusting, burning, desirous, hankering; informal itching, dying.

**thorn noun** prickle, spike, barb, spine.

**thorny adjective 1** *dense thorny undergrowth:* prickly, spiky, barbed, spiny, sharp; technical spinose, spinous. **2 the thorny subject of confidentiality: problematic, tricky, ticklish, delicate, controversial, awkward, difficult, knotty, tough, taxing, trying, troublesome; complicated, complex, involved, intricate; vexed; informal sticky.**

**thorough adjective 1 a thorough investigation:** rigorous, in-depth, exhaustive, thoroughgoing, minute, detailed, close, meticulous, methodical, careful, complete, comprehensive, full, extensive, widespread, sweeping, all-embracing, all-inclusive. **2 he is slow but thorough:** meticulous, scrupulous, assiduous, conscientious, painstaking, punctilious, methodical, careful, diligent, industrious, hard-working. **3 the child is being a thorough nuisance:** utter, downright, thoroughgoing, absolute, complete, total, out-and-out, arrant, real, perfect, proper, sheer, unqualified, unmitigated; Brit. informal right; Austral./NZ informal fair.

—OPPOSITES superficial, cursory, careless.

**thoroughbred adjective** pure-bred, pedigree, pure, pure-blooded.

**thoroughfare noun 1** *the park is being used as a thoroughfare:* thorough route, access route; Brit. informal rat run. **2 the teeming thoroughfares of central London:** street, road, roadway, avenue, boulevard, main road, high road, A road, B road; N. Amer. highway, freeway, throughway.

**thoroughly adverb 1** *we will investigate all complaints thoroughly:* rigorously, in depth, exhaustively, from top to bottom, minutely, closely, in detail, meticulously, scrupulously, assiduously, conscientiously, painstakingly, methodically, carefully, comprehensively, fully. **2 she is thoroughly spoilt:** utterly, downright, absolutely, completely, totally, entirely, really, perfectly, positively, in every respect, through and through; informal plain, clean.

**though conjunction** *though she smiled bravely, she looked pale and tired:* although, even though/if, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that, notwithstanding (the fact) that, for all that.

• **adverb** *You can't always do that. You can*

*try, though:* nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, however, be that as it may, for all that, despite that, having said that; informal still and all.

**thought** noun **1** *what are your thoughts on the matter?* **idea**, notion, opinion, view, impression, feeling, theory; judgement, assessment, conclusion. **2** *he gave up any thought of taking a degree:* **hope**, aspiration, ambition, dream; intention, idea, plan, design, aim. **3** *it only took a moment's thought:* **thinking**, contemplation, musing, pondering, consideration, reflection, introspection, deliberation, rumination, meditation, brooding, reverie, brown study, concentration; formal cogitation. **4** *have you no thought for others?* **compassion**, sympathy, care, concern, regard, solicitude, empathy; consideration, understanding, sensitivity, thoughtfulness, charity.

**thoughtful** adjective **1** *a thoughtful expression:* **pensive**, reflective, contemplative, musing, meditative, introspective, philosophical, ruminative, absorbed, engrossed, rapt, preoccupied, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study, brooding; formal cogitative. **2** *how very thoughtful of you!* **considerate**, caring, attentive, understanding, sympathetic, solicitous, concerned, helpful, friendly, obliging, accommodating, neighbourly, unselfish, kind, compassionate, charitable. – OPPOSITES vacant, inconsiderate.

**thoughtless** adjective **1** *I'm so sorry—how thoughtless of me:* **inconsiderate**, uncaring, insensitive, uncharitable, unkind, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, careless. **2** *a few minutes of thoughtless pleasure:* **unthinking**, heedless, careless, unmindful, absent-minded, injudicious, ill-adviced, ill-considered, imprudent, unwise, foolish, silly, stupid, reckless, rash, precipitate, negligent, neglectful, remiss. – OPPOSITES considerate, careful.

**thousand** cardinal number informal K, grand, thou.

**WORD LINKS**

millennium, millenary a period of a thousand years

t

**thrall** noun **power**, clutches, hands, control, grip, yoke, enslavement, subjection, subjugation, tyranny.

**thrash** verb **1** *she thrashed him across the head and shoulders:* hit, beat, strike, batter, thump, hammer, pound, rain blows on; assault, attack; cudgel, club, birch; informal wallop, belt, bash, whack, thwack, clout, clobber, slug, tan, biff, bop, sock, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a good hiding. **2** (informal) *Newcastle were thrashed 8–1.* See **TROUNCE**. **3** *he was thrashing around in pain:* flail, writhe, thresh, jerk, toss, twist, twitch.

■ **thrash something out** **1** *it's better if we can thrash out our difficulties first:* resolve, settle, sort out, straighten out, iron out, clear up; talk through, discuss, debate,

air, ventilate. **2** *they tried to thrash out an agreement:* work out, negotiate, agree on, bring about, hammer out, produce, effect.

**thread** noun **1** *a needle and thread:* cotton, yarn, filament, fibre. **2** (literary) *the Thames was a thread of silver below them:* **streak**, strand, stripe, line, strip, seam, vein. **3** *she lost the thread of the conversation:* **train of thought**, drift, direction, theme, motif, tenor; storyline, plot.

• verb **1** *he threaded the rope through a pulley:* **pass**, string, work, ease, push, poke. **2** *she threaded her way through the tables:* **weave one's way**, inch one's way, wind one's way, squeeze one's way, make one's way.

**threadbare** adjective **worn**, well worn, old, thin, worn out, holey, moth-eaten, mangy, ragged, frayed, tattered, battered; decrepit, shabby, scruffy, unkempt; having seen better days, falling apart at the seams, falling to pieces; informal tatty, ratty, the worse for wear; N. Amer. informal raggedy.

**threat** noun **1** *Maggie ignored his threats:* **threatening remark**, warning, ultimatum. **2** *a possible threat to aircraft:* **danger**, peril, hazard, menace, risk. **3** *the company faces the threat of liquidation proceedings:* **possibility**, chance, probability, likelihood, risk; sword of Damocles.

**threaten** verb **1** *how dare you threaten me!* **menace**, intimidate, browbeat, bully, terrorize; make/issue threats to. **2** *these events could threaten the stability of Europe:* **endanger**, be a danger/threat to, jeopardize, imperil, put at risk, put in jeopardy. **3** *the grey skies threatened snow:* **herald**, bode, warn of, presage, augur, portend, foreshadow, be a harbinger of, indicate, point to, be a sign of, signal, spell; literary foretold. **4** *as rain threatened, the party moved indoors:* **seem likely**, seem imminent, be on the horizon, be brewing, be gathering, be looming, be on the way, be impending; hang over someone.

**threatening** adjective **1** *a threatening letter:* **menacing**, intimidating, bullying, frightening, hostile; formal minatory. **2** *banks of threatening clouds:* **ominous**, sinister, menacing, dark, black, thunderous.

**three** cardinal number **trio**, threesome; triplets.

**WORD LINKS**

treble, triple, ternary consisting of three parts

hat-trick three successes of the same kind

tercentenary a three-hundredth anniversary

triad a group of three people or things

triangle a three-sided figure

triathlon an athletic contest consisting of three different events

triennial lasting for or recurring every three years

trilogy a group of three related novels, plays, or films

trimester a period of three months

trinity a group of three people or things

triptych a painting on three hinged panels

**triumvirate** a group of three powerful people  
**troika** a group of three political leaders or managers

**threesome** noun **trio**, triumvirate, triad, trinity, troika; triplets.

**threnody** noun **lament**, dirge, requiem, elegy, monody; Irish *keen*; Irish & Scottish *coronach*.

**threshold** noun **1** *the threshold of the church*: **doorstep**, doorway, entrance, entry, door, gate, gateway, portal. **2** *the threshold of a new era*: **start**, beginning, commencement, brink, verge, dawn, inception, day one, opening, debut; informal *kick-off*. **3** *the human threshold of pain*: **lower limit**, minimum; Psychology *limen*.

#### WORD LINKS

**liminal** at or on a threshold  
**subliminal** (of a mental process) below the threshold of sensation or consciousness  
**first-footer** the first person to cross someone's threshold in the New Year

**thrift** noun **frugality**, economy, economizing, thriftiness, providence, prudence, good management/husbandry, saving, scrimping and saving, abstemiousness, parsimony, penny-pinching.

– OPPOSITES extravagance.

**thrifless** adjective **extravagant**, profligate, spendthrift, wasteful, improvident, imprudent, free-spending, prodigal, lavish; immoderate, excessive, reckless, irresponsible.

**thrifty** adjective **frugal**, economical, sparing, careful with money, provident, prudent, abstemious, parsimonious, penny-pinching; N. Amer. *forehanded*.

– OPPOSITES extravagant.

**thrill** noun **1** *the thrill of jumping out of an aeroplane*: **excitement**, stimulation, pleasure, tingle; fun, enjoyment, amusement, delight, joy; informal *buzz*, kick; N. Amer. informal *charge*. **2** *a thrill of excitement ran through her*: **wave**, rush, surge, flash, blaze, stab, dart, throb, tremor, quiver, flutter, shudder.

• **verb 1** *his words thrilled her*: **excite**, stimulate, arouse, rouse, inspire, delight, exhilarate, intoxicate, stir, electrify, galvanize, move, fire (with enthusiasm), fire someone's imagination; informal *give someone a buzz*, *give someone a kick*; N. Amer. informal *give someone a charge*. **2** *he thrilled at the sound of her voice*: **be/feel excited**, tingle; informal *get a buzz out of*, *get a kick out of*; N. Amer. informal *get a charge out of*. **3** *shivers of anticipation thrilled through her*: **rush**, race, surge, course, flood, flow, wash, sweep, flash, blaze.

– OPPOSITES bore.

**thrilling** adjective **exciting**, stirring, action-packed, rip-roaring, gripping, riveting, fascinating, dramatic, hair-raising; rousing, stimulating, moving, inspiring,

inspirational, electrifying, heady, soul-stirring.

– OPPOSITES boring.

**thrive** verb **flourish**, prosper, burgeon, bloom, blossom, do well, advance, make strides, succeed, boom.

– OPPOSITES decline, wither.

**thriving** adjective **flourishing**, prosperous, prospering, growing, developing, burgeoning, blooming, healthy, successful, booming, profitable, expanding; informal *going strong*.

– OPPOSITES moribund.

**throat** noun **gullet**, oesophagus; windpipe, trachea; maw; informal, dated *the red lane*; old use *throttle*, *gorge*.

#### WORD LINKS

**jugal** relating to the throat or neck  
**guttural** (of a speech sound) produced in the throat  
**croup**, **quinsy** inflammation of the throat  
**diphtheria** a serious infectious disease causing inflammation of the throat

**throaty** adjective **gravelly**, husky, rough, guttural, deep, thick, gruff, growly, growling, hoarse, croaky, croaking; rasping, raspy.

– OPPOSITES high-pitched.

**throb** verb *her arms and legs throbbed with tiredness*: **pulsate**, beat, pulse, palpitate, pound, thud, thump, drum, thrum, vibrate, pitter-patter, go pit-a-pat, quiver.

• **noun** *the throb of the ship's engines*:

**pulsation**, beat, beating, pulse, palpitation, pounding, thudding, thumping, drumming, thrumming, pit-a-pat, pitter-patter.

**throes** plural noun *the throes of childbirth*: agony, pain, pangs, suffering, torture; literary *travail*.

■ **in the throes of** in the middle of, in the process of, in the midst of, busy with, occupied with, taken up with/by, involved in; struggling with, wrestling with, grappling with.

**thrombosis** noun **blood clot**, embolism, embolus, thrombus, infarction.

**throne** noun *the tsar risked losing his throne*: **sovereign power**, sovereignty, rule, dominion.

**throng** noun *thongs of people blocked her way*: **crowd**, horde, mass, multitude, host, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, sea, troupe, pack, press, crush; collection, company, gathering, assembly, assemblage, congregation; informal *gaggle*, bunch, gang; old use *roul*.

• **verb 1** *the pavements were thronged with tourists*: **fill**, crowd, pack, cram, jam. **2** *people thronged to see the play*: **flock**, stream, swarm, troop. **3** *visitors thronged round him*: **crowd**, cluster, mill, swarm, congregate, gather.

**throttle** verb **1** *he tried to throttle her*: **choke**, strangle, strangulate, garrote. **2** *attempts to throttle the criminal supply of drugs*: **suppress**, inhibit, stifle, control, restrain,



check, contain, put a/the lid on; stop, put an end to, end, stamp out.

**through** preposition **1** *we drove through the tunnel: into and out of*, to the other/far side of, from one side to the other of. **2** *he got the job through an advertisement: by means of*, by way of, by dint of, via, using, thanks to, by virtue of, as a result of, as a consequence of, on account of, owing to, because of. **3** *he worked through the night: throughout*, all through, for the duration of, until/to the end of.

• **adverb** **1** *as soon as we opened the gate they came streaming through: from one side to the other*, from one end to another, in and out the other side. **2** *I woke up, but Anthony slept through: the whole time*, all the time, from start to finish, without a break, without an interruption, non-stop, continuously, throughout.

• **adjective** *a through train: direct*, non-stop. **■ through and through** in every respect, to the core; thoroughly, utterly, absolutely, completely, totally, wholly, fully, entirely, unconditionally, unreservedly, altogether, out-and-out.

**throughout** preposition **1** *it had repercussions throughout Europe: all over*, in every part of, everywhere in, all through, right through, all round. **2** *Rose had generally been very fit throughout her life: all through*, all, for the duration of, for the whole of, until the end of.

**throw** verb **1** *she threw the ball back: hurl*, toss, fling, pitch, cast, lob, launch, catapult, project, propel; bowl; informal chuck, heave, sling, bung; N. Amer. informal peg; Austral. informal hoy; NZ informal bish; dated shy. **2** *he threw the door open: push, thrust, fling, bang, force*. **3** *a chandelier threw its light over the walls: cast, send, give off, emit, radiate, project*. **4** *he threw another punch: deliver*, give, land. **5** *she threw a withering glance at him: direct*, cast, send, dart, shoot. **6** *the horse threw his rider: unseat, dislodge*. **7** *his question threw me: disconcert*, unnerve, fluster, ruffle, agitate, discomfit, put off, throw off balance, discountenance, unsettle, confuse; informal rattle, faze; N. Amer. informal discombobulate. **8** *the pots were thrown on a wheel: shape*, form, mould, fashion. **9** *he threw a farewell party for them: give*, host, hold, have, provide, put on, lay on, arrange, organize.

• **noun** **1** *we were allowed two throws each: lob, pitch; go; bowl, ball*. **2** (informal) *drinks are only £1 a throw: each*, apiece, per item.

■ **throw something away** **1** *she hated throwing old clothes away: discard*, throw out, dispose of, get rid of, do away with, toss out, scrap, throw on the scrap heap, clear out, dump, jettison; informal chuck (away/out), ditch, bin, junk, get shut of; Brit. informal get shot of. **2** *Cambridge threw away a 15-0 lead: squander*, waste, fritter away, fail to exploit, lose, let slip; informal blow, throw something down the drain.

■ **throw someone off** shake off, get away from, escape, elude, give someone the slip,

throw off the scent, dodge, lose.

■ **throw someone out** expel, eject, evict, drive out, force out, oust, remove; get rid of, depose, topple, unseat, overthrow, bring down, overturn, dislodge, displace, supplant, show someone the door; banish, deport, exile; informal boot out, kick out, give someone the boot; Brit. informal turf out.

■ **throw something out** **1** *throw out food that's past its sell-by date*. See **THROW SOMETHING AWAY** sense 1. **2** *his case was thrown out by the magistrate: reject*, dismiss, turn down, refuse, disallow, veto; informal give the thumbs down to. **3** *a thermal light bulb throws out a lot of heat: radiate*, emit, give off, send out, diffuse.

■ **throw someone over** abandon, leave, desert, discard, turn one's back on, cast aside/off; jilt, break up with, finish with, leave in the lurch, leave high and dry; informal dump, ditch, chuck, drop, walk out on, run out on, leave flat, give someone the push/elbow, give someone the big E; literary forsake.

■ **throw up** (informal). See **VOMIT** verb sense 1.

■ **throw something up** give up, abandon, relinquish, resign (from), leave; informal quit, chuck, pack in; Brit. informal jack in.

**throwaway** adjective **1** *throwaway packaging: disposable*, non-returnable; biodegradable, photodegradable.

**2** *throwaway remarks: casual*, passing, careless, unthinking, unstudied, unconsidered, offhand.

**thrust** verb **1** *she thrust her hands into her pockets: shove*, push, force, plunge, stick, drive, propel, ram, poke. **2** *fame had been thrust on him: force*, foist, impose, inflict. **3** *he thrust his way past her: push*, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, barge.

• **noun** **1** *a hard thrust: shove*, push, lunge, poke. **2** *a thrust by the Third Army: advance*, push, drive, attack, assault, onslaught, offensive, charge, sortie, foray, raid, sally, invasion, incursion. **3** *only one engine is producing thrust: force*, propulsive force, propulsion, power, impetus, momentum. **4** *the thrust of the speech: gist*, substance, drift, burden, meaning, significance, signification, sense, theme, message, import, tenor.

**thrusting** adjective ambitious, pushy, forceful, aggressive, assertive, self-assertive, full of oneself, determined, power-hungry. – **OPPOSITES** meek.

**thud** noun & verb **thump**, clunk, clonk, crash, smack, bang; stomp, stamp, clump, clomp; informal wham.

**thug** noun ruffian, lout, hooligan, bully boy, vandal, hoodlum, gangster, villain, criminal; informal tough, bruiser, heavy, hired gun; Brit. informal rough, bovver boy; N. Amer. informal hood, goon.

**thumb** noun technical pollex, opposable digit.

• **verb** **1** *he thumbed through his notebook:*

leaf, flick, flip, riffle, skim, browse, look.

**2** *his dictionaries were thumbled and ink-stained: soil*, mark, make dog-eared. **3** *he was thumbing his way across France: hitch-hike;*

informal hitch, hitch/thumb a lift.

■ **all thumbs** (Brit. informal) clumsy, awkward, maladroit, inept, unskilful, heavy-handed, inexpert; informal butterfingers, cack-handed, ham-fisted, having two left feet; Brit. informal all fingers and thumbs; N. Amer. informal Klutzy.

■ **thumbs down** (informal) rejection, refusal, veto, no, negation, rebuff; informal knock-back.

■ **thumbs up** (informal) approval, seal of approval, endorsement; permission, authorization, consent, yes, leave, authority, sanction, ratification, licence, dispensation, nod, assent, blessing, rubber stamp, clearance; informal go-ahead, OK, green light, say-so.

**thumbnail** adjective concise, short, brief, succinct, to the point, compact, crisp, short and sweet, quick, rapid; potted.

**thump** verb 1 *the two men kicked and thumped him*: hit, strike, smack, cuff, punch; beat, thrash, batter, belabour, pound, pummel, box someone's ears; informal whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it; Brit. informal stick one on, slosh; N. Amer. informal slug, boff; literary smite. 2 *her heart thumped with fright*: throb, pound, thud, hammer, pulsate, pulse, pump, palpitate, race, beat heavily.

• **noun** 1 *a well-aimed thump on the jaw*: blow, punch, box, cuff, smack; thrashing, hiding; informal whack, thwack, wallop, bash, belt, biff, clout, swipe; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, slug. 2 *she put the box down with a thump*: thud, clunk, clonk, crash, smack, bang.

**thumping** adjective 1 *the thumping beat of her heart*: thudding, pounding, throbbing, pulsating, banging, hammering, drumming. 2 (informal) *a thumping 64 per cent majority* | *a thumping victory*: enormous, huge, massive, vast, tremendous, substantial, prodigious, gigantic, giant, terrific, fantastic, colossal, immense, mammoth, monumental, stupendous; emphatic, decisive, conclusive, striking, impressive, outstanding, notable, memorable, remarkable, extraordinary, resounding, phenomenal; informal whooping, thundering; Brit. informal whacking. • **adverb** (informal) *a thumping good read*. See **VERY** adverb.

**thunder** noun 1 *thunder and lightning*: thunderclap, roll/rumble of thunder, crack/crash of thunder; literary thunderbolt. 2 *the ceaseless thunder of the traffic*: rumble, rumbling, boom, booming, roar, roaring, pounding, thud, thudding, crash, crashing, reverberation. • **verb** 1 *below me the surf thrashed and thundered*: rumble, boom, roar, pound, thud, thump, bang; resound, reverberate, beat. 2 *he thundered against the evils of the age*: rail, fulminate, inveigh, rage; condemn, denounce. 3 *'Answer me!' he thundered*: roar, bellow, bark, yell, shout, bawl; informal holler.

**thundering** adjective *a thundering noise*.

See **THUNDEROUS**.

• **adverb** *a thundering good read*. See **VERY** adverb.

**thunderous** adjective very loud, deafening, ear-splitting, tumultuous, booming, roaring, resounding, reverberating, reverberant, ringing, noisy.

**thunderstruck** adjective astonished, amazed, astounded, staggered, surprised, startled, stunned, shocked, aghast, taken aback, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, stupefied, dazed, speechless; informal flabbergasted; Brit. informal gobsmacked, knocked for six.

**thus** adverb 1 *the studio handled production, thus cutting its costs*: consequently, as a consequence, in consequence, so, that being so, therefore, thereby, ergo, accordingly, hence, as a result, for that reason, because of that, on that account. 2 *legislation forbids such data being held thus*: like that, in that way, so, like so.

**thwack** verb (informal) hit, strike, slap, smack, cuff, punch, thump; beat, thrash, batter, belabour, pound, pummel, box someone's ears; whip, flog, cane; informal whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it, deck, floor; Brit. informal stick one on, slosh; N. Amer. informal slug, boff; literary smite.

**thwart** verb foil, frustrate, baulk, stand in the way of, forestall, derail, dash; stop, check, block, prevent, defeat, impede, obstruct, snooker, hinder, hamper; spike someone's guns; informal put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, stymie; Brit. informal scupper, queer someone's pitch.

– **OPPOSITES** facilitate.

**tic** noun twitch, spasm, jerk, tremor.

**tick** noun 1 *put a tick against the item of your choice*: mark, stroke; N. Amer. check, check mark. 2 *the tick of his watch*: ticking, tick-tock, click, clicking, tap, tapping. 3 (Brit. informal) *I won't be a tick*: moment, second, minute, bit, little while, instant; informal sec, jiffy; Brit. informal mo, two ticks.

• **verb** 1 *tick the appropriate box*: put a tick in/against, mark, check off, indicate; N. Amer. check. 2 *I could hear the clock ticking*: tick-tock, click; tap.

■ **in a tick** (Brit. informal) (very) soon, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute, in no time (at all); N. Amer. momentarily; informal in a sec, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson; Brit. informal in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap; dated directly.

■ **tick someone off** (Brit. informal).

See **REPRIMAND** verb.

**ticket** noun 1 *can I see your ticket?* pass, authorization, permit; token, coupon, voucher. 2 *a price ticket*: label, tag, sticker, tab, marker, docket.

**tickle** verb 1 *he tried to tickle her under*

*the chin: stroke, pet, chuck. 2 he found something that tickled his imagination: stimulate, interest, appeal to, arouse, excite. 3 the idea tickled Lewis: amuse, entertain, divert, please, delight; informal tickle someone pink.*

**ticklish** adjective difficult, problematic, tricky, delicate, sensitive, awkward, prickly, thorny, tough; vexed; informal sticky.

**tide** noun **1** *ships come up the river with the tide: tidal flow, ebb and flow, tidewater, ebb, current. 2 the tide of history: course, movement, direction, trend, current, drift, run, turn, tendency, tenor.*

■ **tide someone over** sustain, keep someone going, keep someone's head above water, see someone through; keep the wolf from the door; help out, assist, aid.

**tidings** plural noun (literary) news, information, intelligence, word, reports, notification, communication, the latest; informal info, the low down.

**tidy** adjective **1** *a tidy room: neat, neat and tidy, as neat as a new pin, orderly, well ordered, in (good) order, well kept, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, immaculate, spick and span, uncluttered, straight, trim, spruce. 2 he's a very tidy person: neat, trim, spruce, dapper, well groomed, well turned out; organized, well organized, methodical, meticulous; fastidious; informal natty. 3 (informal) a tidy sum: large, sizeable, considerable, substantial, generous, significant, appreciable, handsome, respectable, decent, goodly; informal not to be sneezed at.*

– OPPOSITES messy.

• **verb 1** *I'd better tidy up the living room: put in order, clear up, sort out, straighten (up), clean up, spruce up. 2 she tidied herself up in the bathroom: groom oneself, spruce oneself up, freshen oneself up, smarten oneself up; informal titivate oneself.*

**tie** verb **1** *they tied Max to a chair: bind, tie up, tether, hitch, strap, truss, fetter, rope, chain, make fast, moor, lash, attach, fasten, fix, secure, join, connect, link, couple. 2 he bent to tie his shoelaces: do up, lace, knot. 3 women can feel tied by childcare responsibilities: restrict, restrain, limit, tie down, constrain, trammel, confine, cramp, hamper, handicap, hamstring, encumber, shackle, inhibit; cramp someone's style. 4 a pay deal tied to a productivity agreement: link, connect, couple, relate, join, marry; make conditional on, bind up with. 5 they tied for second place: draw, be equal, be even, be neck and neck.*

• **noun 1** *he tightened the ties of his robe: lace, string, cord, fastening, fastener. 2 a collar and tie: necktie, bow tie, string tie; Brit. bootlace tie. 3 family ties: bond, connection, link, relationship, attachment, affiliation, allegiance, friendship; kinship, interdependence. 4 pets can be a tremendous tie: restriction, constraint, curb, limitation, restraint, hindrance, encumbrance, handicap; obligation, commitment. 5 there*

*was a tie for first place: draw, dead heat, deadlock. 6 (Brit.) Turkey's World Cup tie against Holland: match, game, contest, fixture, event.*

■ **tie someone down** *she was afraid of being tied down.* See **tie** verb sense 3.

■ **tie in** *be consistent, tally, agree, be in agreement, accord, concur, fit in, harmonize, be in tune, dovetail, correspond, match; informal square; N. Amer. informal jibe.*

■ **tie someone/something up** *1 robbers tied her up and ransacked her home: bind, bind hand and foot, fasten together, truss (up), fetter, chain up. 2 he is tied up in meetings all morning: occupy, engage, keep busy.*

**3** *they were anxious to tie up the contract: finalize, conclude, complete, finish off, seal, set the seal on, settle, secure, clinch; informal wrap up.*

**tie-in** noun connection, link, association, correlation, tie-up, interrelation, relationship, relation, interconnection; parallel, similarity.

**tier** noun **1** *tiers of empty seats: row, rank, bank, line; layer, level. 2 the most senior tier of management: grade, level, echelon, rung on the ladder.*

**tiff** noun (informal) quarrel, squabble, argument, disagreement, fight, falling-out, difference of opinion, dispute, wrangle, altercation, contretemps, disputation, shouting match; informal slanging match, run-in, spat, set-to; Brit. informal barney, row, bust-up.

**tight** adjective **1** *a tight grip: firm, fast, secure, fixed, clenched. 2 the rope was pulled tight: taut, rigid, stiff, tense, stretched, strained. 3 tight jeans: tight-fitting, close-fitting, narrow, figure-hugging, skintight; informal sprayed on. 4 a tight mass of fibres: compact, compacted, compressed, dense, solid. 5 a tight space: small, tiny, narrow, limited, restricted, confined, cramped, constricted, uncomfortable. 6 the joint will be perfectly tight against petrol leaks: impervious, impenetrable, sealed, sound, hermetic, watertight, airtight. 7 tight limits on the use of pesticides: strict, rigorous, stringent, tough, rigid, firm, uncompromising. 8 he's in a tight spot: difficult, tricky, delicate, awkward, problematic, worrying, precarious; informal sticky; Brit. informal dodgy. 9 a tight piece of writing: succinct, concise, pithy, incisive, crisp, condensed, well structured, to the point. 10 a tight race: close, even, evenly matched, well matched; hard-fought, neck and neck, nip and tuck. 11 money is a bit tight just now: limited, restricted, in short supply, scarce, depleted, diminished, low, inadequate, insufficient. 12 (informal) he's tight with his money: mean, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, close; informal stingy, tight-fisted; N. Amer. informal cheap; formal penurious; old use near. 13 (informal) he came home tight from the pub.* See **drunk** adjective.

– OPPOSITES slack, loose, generous.



**tighten** verb **1** *I tightened up the screws: make tighter*, make fast, screw up. **2** *he tightened his grip: strengthen*, make stronger, harden. **3** *she tightened the rope: tauten*, make/draw taut, make/draw tight, stretch, strain, stiffen, tense. **4** *he tightened his lips: narrow*, constrict, contract, compress, screw up, pucker, purse; N. Amer. squinch. **5** *security in the area has been tightened up: increase*, make stricter, toughen up, heighten, scale up.  
– OPPOSITES loosen, slacken, relax.

**tight-fisted** adjective (informal) **mean**, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, close; informal stingy, tight; N. Amer. informal cheap; formal penurious; old use near.

– OPPOSITES generous.

**tight-lipped** adjective reticent, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, playing one's cards close to one's chest, close-mouthed, silent, taciturn; informal mum.

– OPPOSITES forthcoming.

**till**<sup>1</sup> preposition & conjunction *he stayed till 7 | I'll stay here till you get back*. See UNTIL senses 1, 2.

**till**<sup>2</sup> noun *she counted the money in the till: cash register*, cash box, cash drawer, strongbox; checkout, cash desk.

**till**<sup>3</sup> verb *he went back to tilling the land: cultivate*, work, farm, plough, dig, turn over, prepare.

**tilt** verb **1** *the ground seemed to tilt: slope*, tip, lean, list, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, careen, angle. **2** (historical) *he tilts at his prey: charge*, rush, run; lunge, thrust, jab. **3** (historical) *knights tilting at a tournament: joust*, tourney, enter the lists; contend, spar, fight.

• noun **1** *a tilt of some 45°: slope*, list, camber, gradient, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, bevel, angle. **2** (historical) *knights would take part in a tilt: joust*, tournament, tourney, lists, combat, contest, fight, duel. **3** *another tilt at the European Cup: attempt*, bid; informal go, crack, shot.

■ (at) full tilt **1** *they charged full tilt down the side of the hill: (at) full speed*, (at) full pelt, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a gallop, helter-skelter, headlong, pell-mell, at breakneck speed; informal hell for leather, at the double, a mile a minute, like the wind, like a bat out of hell, like a scalded cat, like (greased) lightning; Brit. informal like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o; N. Amer. informal lickety-split; literary apace. **2** *the marketing blitz has raged at full tilt for some time now: with great force*, with full force, full blast, with all the stops out, all out, with a vengeance; informal like crazy, like mad.

**timber** noun **1** *houses built of timber: wood*; N. Amer. lumber. **2** *the timbers of wrecked ships: beam*, spar, plank, batten, lath, board, joist, rafter.

**timbre** noun tone, tonality, sound, voice, colour, resonance.

**time** noun **1** *what time is it? hour*; dated o'clock. **2** *late at night was the best time to*

*leave: moment*, point (in time), occasion, hour, minute, second, instant, juncture, stage. **3** *he worked there for a time: while*, spell, stretch, stint, span, season, interval, period (of time), length of time, duration, run, space, phase, stage, term; Brit. informal patch. **4** *the time of the dinosaurs: era*, age, epoch, period, years, days; generation, date. **5** *I've known a lot of women in my time: lifetime*, life, life span, days, time on earth, existence, threescore years and ten. **6** *he had been a professional actor in his time: heyday*, day, best days/years, prime. **7** *times are hard at the moment: conditions*, circumstances, life, state of affairs, experiences. **8** *tunes in waltz time: rhythm*, tempo, beat; metre, measure, cadence, pattern.

• verb *the meeting was timed for three o'clock: schedule*, set, set up, arrange, organize, fix, fix up, book, line up, slot in, prearrange, timetable, plan; N. Amer. slate.

■ ahead of time early, in good time, with time to spare, in advance.

■ ahead of one's/its time revolutionary, avant-garde, futuristic, innovative, innovative, trailblazing, pioneering, groundbreaking, advanced.

■ all the time constantly, the entire time, around the clock, day and night, night and day, {morning, noon, and night}, {day in, day out}, at all times, always, without a break, ceaselessly, endlessly, incessantly, perpetually, permanently, interminably, continuously, continually, eternally, unremittingly, remorselessly, relentlessly; N. Amer. without surcease; informal 24-7.

■ at the same time they arrived at the same time: simultaneously, at the same instant/moment, together, all together, as a group, at once, at one and the same time; in unison, in concert, in chorus, as one.

■ at times occasionally, sometimes, from time to time, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically.

■ behind time late, behind, behind schedule, behindhand, running late, overdue.

■ behind the times old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded, outdated, dated, old, passé; informal square, not with it, out of the ark; N. Amer. informal horse-and-buggy, clunky.

■ for the time being for now, for the moment, for the present, in the interim, for the nonce, in/for the meantime, in the meanwhile, for a short time, briefly; temporarily, provisionally, pro tem; informal for the minute.

■ from time to time occasionally, sometimes, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically.

■ in no time (very) soon, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute (now); N. Amer. momentarily; informal in a sec, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson; Brit. informal in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; N. Amer. informal in a snap; dated directly.

■ in time **1** *I came back in time for the party:*

early enough, in good time, punctually, on time, not too late, with time to spare, on schedule. **2** *in time, she forgot about it:* eventually, in the end, in due course, by and by, finally; one day, some day, sometime, sooner or later.

■ **many a time** frequently, regularly, often, very often, all the time, habitually, customarily, routinely; again and again, time and again, over and over again, repeatedly, recurrently, continually; N. Amer. oftentimes; literary oft, oft-times.

■ **on time** punctually, in good time, to/on schedule, when expected; informal on the dot, bang on time.

■ **time after time** repeatedly, frequently, often, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a time; persistently, recurrently, constantly, continually; N. Amer. oftentimes; literary oft, oft-times.

#### WORD LINKS

**chronological, temporal** relating to time

**concurrent, simultaneous, synchronous** happening at the same time

**contemporary, contemporaneous** existing at the same time

**chronometer** an instrument for measuring time accurately

**horology** the study and measurement of time

**metronome** a musician's device that marks time at a selected rate

**time-honoured** adjective **traditional**, established, long-established, long-standing, long-lived, age-old, enduring, lasting, tried and tested.

**timeless** adjective **lasting**, enduring, classic, ageless, permanent, perennial, abiding, unfailing, unchanging, unvarying, never-changing, changeless, unfading, unending, undying, deathless, immortal, eternal, everlasting, immutable.

– OPPOSITES ephemeral.

**timely** adjective **opportune**, well timed, at the right time, convenient, appropriate, expedient, seasonable, felicitous.

– OPPOSITES ill-timed.

**timetable** noun *a bus timetable* | *I have a very full timetable:* **schedule**, programme, agenda, calendar; list, itinerary.  
● **verb** *German lessons were timetabled on Wednesday:* **schedule**, set, arrange, organize, fix, time, line up; N. Amer. slate.

**time-worn** adjective **1** *the carpet was old and time-worn:* **worn out**, worn, well worn, old, tattered, battered, dog-eared, shabby, having seen better days; informal **tatty**. **2** *time-worn faces:* **old**, aged, weathered, lined, wrinkled, hoary. **3** *a time-worn aphorism:* **hackneyed**, trite, banal, platitudinous, clichéd, stock, conventional, unoriginal, overused, overworked, tired, stale; informal **old hat**.

– OPPOSITES new, fresh.

**timid** adjective **easily frightened**, fearful, afraid, faint-hearted, timorous, nervous, scared, frightened, cowardly, pusillanimous,

**lily-livered**, spineless; shy, diffident, self-effacing; informal **wimpish**, wimpy, chicken, gutless.

– OPPOSITES bold.

**timorous** adjective. See **TIMID**.

**tincture** noun **1** *tincture of iodine:* **solution**, suspension, infusion, elixir. **2** *a tincture of bitterness:* **trace**, note, tinge, touch, suggestion, hint, bit, element, suspicion, soupçon.

**tinge** verb **1** *a mass of white blossom tinged with pink:* **tint**, colour, shade, wash. **2** *his optimism is tinged with realism:* **influence**, affect, touch, flavour, colour, modify.

● **noun 1** *the light had a blue tinge to it:* **tint**, colour, shade, tone, hue. **2** *a tinge of cynicism:* **trace**, note, touch, suggestion, hint, bit, scintilla, savour, flavour, element, streak, vein, suspicion, soupçon, tincture.

**tingle** verb *her flesh still tingled from the shock:* **prickle**, sting; tremble, quiver, shiver.

● **noun** *she felt a tingle of anticipation:*

**prickling**, tingling, pricking, sting, stinging; tremor, thrill, quiver, shiver; goose pimples; N. Amer. goosebumps.

**tinker** verb *a workman was tinkering with the engine:* **fiddle with**, adjust, try to mend, play about with; tamper with, interfere with, mess about with, meddle with; informal rearrange the deckchairs on the Titanic; Brit. informal **muck about with**.

**tinkle** verb **1** *the bell tinkled:* **ring**, jingle, jangle, chime, peal, ding, ping. **2** *cool water tinkled in the stone fountain:* **splash**, purl, babble, burble; literary **plash**.

● **noun 1** *the tinkle of the doorbell:* **ring**, chime, peal, ding, ping, jingle, jangle, tinninnabulation. **2** *the faint tinkle of water:* **splash**, purl, babble, burble; literary **plash**.

**tinny** adjective **1** *tinny music:* **jangly**, jangling, jingling, jingly. **2** *a tinny little car:* **cheap**, cheapjack, poor-quality, inferior, low-grade, gimcrack, shoddy, jerry-built; informal **tacky**, **tatty**, **rubbishy**.

**tinsel** noun *the tinsel of Hollywood:*

**ostentation**, showiness, show, glitter, flamboyance, gaudiness; attractiveness, glamour; informal **flashiness**, **glitz**, **glitziness**, **razzle-dazzle**, **razzmatazz**.

● **adjective** *tinsel stardom:* **ostentatious**, showy, glittering, flamboyant, gaudy; informal **flash**, **flashy**, over the top, **OTT**, **glitzy**, **ritz**; N. Amer. informal **superfly**.

**tint** noun **1** *the sky was taking on an apricot tint:* **shade**, colour, tone, hue, tinge, cast, tincture, flush, blush. **2** *a hair tint:* **dye**, colourant, colouring, wash; highlights, lowlights.

**tiny** adjective **minute**, minuscule, microscopic, nanoscopic, very small, little, mini, diminutive, miniature, scaled down, baby, toy, dwarf, pygmy, Lilliputian; Scottish wee; informal **teeny**, **teeny-weeny**, **teeny**, **teeny-weensy**, **itsy-bitsy**, **eeny**, **eeny-weensy**, **tiddly**, **pint-sized**; Brit. informal **titchy**; N. Amer. informal **little-bitty**.

– OPPOSITES huge.

**tip**<sup>1</sup> **noun** **1** *the tip of the spear*: point, end, extremity, head, sharp end, spike, prong, tine, nib. **2** *the tips of the mountains*: peak, point, top, summit, apex, crown, crest, pinnacle. **3** *the sticks have tips fitted to protect them*: cap, cover, ferrule.  
 • **verb** *mountains tipped with snow*: cap, top, crown.

**tip**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *the boat tipped over*: overturn, turn over, topple (over), fall (over); keel over, capsize, turn turtle; Nautical pitchpole. **2** *a whale could tip over a small boat*: upset, overturn, topple over, turn over, knock over, push over, upend, capsize; informal roll; old use overset. **3** *the car tipped to one side*: lean, tilt, list, slope, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, heel, careen. **4** *she tipped the water into the trough*: pour, empty, drain, unload, dump, discharge; decant.  
 • **noun** (Brit.) *rubbish must be taken to the tip*: dump, rubbish dump; Canadian nuisance grounds.

**tip**<sup>3</sup> **noun** **1** *a generous tip*: gratuity, baksheesh; present, gift, reward; Brit. informal dropsy. **2** *useful tips*: piece of advice, suggestion, word of advice, pointer, recommendation; clue, hint; informal wrinkle, tip-off.

**tip-off** **noun** (informal) *piece of information*, warning, lead, forewarning; hint, clue; advice, information, notification.

**tipple** **verb** *boys discovered tipping were punished*: drink alcohol, drink; informal booze, wet one's whistle, hit the bottle; Brit. informal bevvie; N. Amer. informal bend one's elbow; old use tope.  
 • **noun** (informal) *their favourite tippie was claret*: alcoholic drink, drink, liquor; informal booze, poison.

**tippler** **noun** *drinker, imbibor; alcoholic, drunk, drunkard, dipsomaniac, inebriate, sot; informal boozier, alky, lush, barfly, sponge, dipso, wino, soak*; Austral./NZ informal hophead; old use toper.

– OPPOSITES teetotaler.

**tipsy** **adjective** *merry, mellow, slightly drunk*; Brit. informal tiddly, squiffy.

– OPPOSITES sober.

**tirade** **noun** *diatribe, harangue, rant, onslaught, attack, polemic, denunciation, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, censure, criticism, tongue-lashing*; informal blast; literary philippic.

**tire** **verb** **1** *the ascent grew steeper and he began to tire*: get tired, weaken, grow weak, flag, droop. **2** *the journey had tired him*: fatigue, tire out, exhaust, wear out, drain, weary, wash out, overtire, enervate; informal knock out, take it out of, do in, fag out, wear to a frazzle; Brit. informal knacker. **3** *they tired of his difficult behaviour*: weary, get tired, get sick, get bored; informal get fed up, have had something up to here.

**tired** **adjective** **1** *you're just tired from travelling*: exhausted, worn out, weary, fatigued, dog-tired, bone-tired, ready to drop, drained, enervated, jaded; informal done in, all in, dead beat, shattered, bushed,

knocked out, wiped out, bushwhacked; Brit. informal knackered, whacked (out), jiggered; N. Amer. informal pooped, tucked out; Austral./NZ informal stonkered. **2** *are you tired of having him here?* bored with/by, weary of, sick (and tired) of; informal fed up with, up to here with. **3** *tired jokes*: hackneyed, overused, overworked, worn out, stale, clichéd, hoary, stock, stereotyped, predictable, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired, dull, boring, routine; informal old hat, corny, played out.

– OPPOSITES energetic, lively, fresh.

**tiredness** **noun** *fatigue, weariness, exhaustion, enervation, inertia; sleepiness, drowsiness, somnolence*.

– OPPOSITES energy.

**tireless** **adjective** *vigorous, energetic, industrious, determined, enthusiastic, keen, zealous, spirited, dynamic, dogged, tenacious, persevering, stout, untiring, unwearying, indefatigable, unflagging*.

– OPPOSITES lazy.

**tiresome** **adjective** *boring, dull, tedious, wearisome, wearing, uninteresting, uneventful, humdrum; annoying, irritating, trying, irksome, vexatious, troublesome; informal aggravating, pesky*.

– OPPOSITES interesting, pleasant.

**tiring** **adjective** *exhausting, wearying, taxing, fatiguing, wearing, enervating, draining; hard, heavy, arduous, strenuous, onerous, uphill, demanding, gruelling; informal killing, murderous*; Brit. informal knackerings.

**tissue** **noun** **1** *living tissue*: matter, material, substance; flesh. **2** *a box of tissues*: paper handkerchief, paper towel; trademark Kleenex. **3** *a tissue of lies*: web, network, nexus, complex, mass, set, series, chain.

#### WORD LINKS

**histology** the branch of biology concerned with tissue structure

**atrophy** the wasting away of body tissue

**dystrophy** a disorder in which body tissue wastes away

**gangrene, necrosis** the death and decay of body tissue

**sclerosis** abnormal hardening of body tissue

**titanic** **adjective** *huge, great, enormous, gigantic, massive, colossal, monumental, mammoth, immense, tremendous, terrific, mighty, stupendous, prodigious, gargantuan, Herculean; informal humongous, whopping, thumping, mega*; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous.

**titbit** **noun** **1** *tasty titbits*: delicacy, tasty morsel, dainty, bonne bouche, treat; snack, nibble, savoury, appetizer; informal goody; N. Amer. tidbit. **2** *a fascinating titbit*: piece of gossip, bit of scandal, piece of information.

**tit for tat** **noun** *retaliation, reprisal, counter-attack, counterstroke, comeback; revenge, vengeance, retribution, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, as good as one gets, payback*; informal a taste of someone's own medicine.

**titillate** **verb** *arouse, excite, tantalize,*



stimulate, stir, thrill, interest, attract, fascinate; informal turn on.

– OPPOSITES bore.

**titillating** adjective arousing, exciting, stimulating, sexy, thrilling, provocative, tantalizing, interesting, fascinating; suggestive, salacious, lurid; Brit. informal saucy.

– OPPOSITES boring.

**titivate** verb (informal) *she titivated herself in front of the hall mirror*: groom, smarten (up), spruce up, freshen up, preen, primp, prink; tidy, arrange; informal doll up, tart up; N. Amer. informal gussy up.

**title** noun **1** *the title of the book*: name. **2** *the cartoon title*: caption, legend, inscription, label, heading, subheading; credit. **3** *the company publishes 400 titles a year*: publication, work, book, newspaper, paper, magazine, periodical. **4** *the title of Duke of Marlborough*: designation, name, form of address; epithet, style; rank, office, position; informal moniker, handle; formal appellation, denomination. **5** *an Olympic title*: championship, crown, first place; laurels, bays, palm. **6** *the vendor is obliged to prove his title to the land*: ownership, proprietorship, possession, holding, freehold, entitlement, right, claim.

• verb *a policy paper titled 'Law and Order'*: call, entitle, name, dub, designate, style, term; formal denominate.

**titter** verb & noun giggle, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, laugh; informal chortle.

**tittle** noun. See IOTA.

**tittle-tattle** noun *she would never listen to tittle-tattle*: gossip, rumour(s), idle talk, hearsay, whispers, tidbits; scandal; informal dirt, buzz; Brit. informal goss; N. Amer. informal scuttlebutt.

• verb *he was tittle-tattling all over the village*: gossip, spread rumours, spread gossip, tattle, talk, whisper, tell tales.

**titular** adjective **1** *the titular head of a university*: nominal, in title/name only, ceremonial; token, puppet. **2** *the work's titular song*: eponymous, identifying.

**toad** noun

#### WORD LINKS

batrachian, anuran relating to toads

t

**toady** noun *a conniving little toady*:

sycophant, fawner, flatterer, creep, crawler, lickspittle; informal bootlicker, yes-man; old use toad-eater.

• verb *she imagined him toadying to his rich clients*: grovel to, ingratiate oneself with, be obsequious to, kowtow to, pander to, crawl to, truckle to, bow and scrape to, dance attendance on, curry favour with, make up to, fawn on/over; informal suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up.

**toast** noun **1** *he raised his glass in a toast*: tribute, salute, salutation; old use pledge. **2** *he was the toast of the West End*: darling, favourite, pet, heroine, hero; talk; Brit. informal blue-eyed boy/girl; N. Amer. informal fair-haired boy/girl.

• verb **1** *she toasted her hands in front of the fire*: warm (up), heat, heat (up). **2** *we toasted the couple with champagne*: drink (to) the health of, drink to, salute, honour, pay tribute to; old use pledge.

**today** adverb **1** *the work must be finished today*: this (very) day, this morning, this afternoon, this evening. **2** *the complex tasks demanded of computers today*: nowadays, these days, at the present time, in these times, in this day and age, now, currently, at the moment, at present, at this moment in time; in the present climate; N. Amer. presently.

**toddle** verb **1** *the child toddled towards him*: totter, teeter, wobble, falter, waddle, stumble. **2** (informal) *I toddled down to the quay*: amble, potter, wander, meander, stroll, saunter; informal mosey, tootle; N. Amer. informal putter.

**to-do** noun (informal) commotion, fuss, ado, excitement, agitation, bother, stir, palaver, confusion, disturbance, brouhaha, uproar, furore, storm in a teacup, much ado about nothing; informal hoo-ha, ballyhoo, kerfuffle, song and dance, performance, pantomime; Brit. informal carry-on; N. Amer. informal fuss and feathers.

**together** adverb **1** *friends who work together*: with each other, in conjunction, jointly, in cooperation, in collaboration, in partnership, in combination, in league, side by side, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, cheek by jowl; in collusion, hand in glove; informal in cahoots. **2** *they both spoke together*: simultaneously, at the same time, at one and the same time, at once, all together, as a group, in unison, in concert, in chorus, as one, with one accord. **3** *I was not able to get up for days together*: in succession, in a row, at a time, successively, consecutively, running, straight, on end, one after the other, continuously, without a break, without interruption; informal on the trot.

– OPPOSITES separately.

• adjective (informal) *a very together young woman*. See LEVEL-HEADED.

**toil** verb **1** *she toiled all night*: work hard, labour, exert oneself, slave (away), grind away, strive, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/slave, keep one's nose to the grindstone; informal slog away, plug away, peg away, beaver away, work one's socks off, sweat blood; Brit. informal graft; literary travail; old use moil. **2** *she began to toil up the cliff path*: struggle, trudge, tramp, traipse, slog, plod, trek, footslog, drag oneself; Brit. informal yomp; N. Amer. informal schlep.

– OPPOSITES rest, relax.

• noun *a life of toil*: hard work, labour, exertion, slaving, drudgery, effort, industry, {blood, sweat, and tears}; informal slog, elbow grease; Brit. informal graft; literary travail; old use moil.

**toilet** noun **1** *he had to go to the toilet*: lavatory, WC, water closet, (public) convenience, cloakroom, powder room, urinal, privy, latrine, jakes; N. Amer.

washroom, bathroom, rest room, men's/ladies' room, commode, comfort station; Nautical head; informal little girls'/boys' room, smallest room; Brit. informal loo, bog, the Ladies, the Gents, khazi, lav; N. Amer. informal can, john; Austral./NZ informal dunny; old use closet, garderobe. **2** *she had always taken a long time over her toilet: washing, bathing, showering; grooming, dressing, make-up; formal or humorous ablutions; dated toilette.*

**toile** plural noun (literary) **trap**, net, snare.

**token** noun **1** *a token of our appreciation: symbol, sign, emblem, badge, representation, indication, mark, manifestation, expression, pledge, demonstration, recognition; evidence, proof.* **2** *he kept the menu as a token of their golden wedding: memento, souvenir, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, memorial.* **3** *a book token: voucher, coupon.* **4** *a telephone token: counter, disc, jetton, chip, piece, man.* • **adjective 1** *a one-day token strike: symbolic, emblematic, indicative; peppercorn.* **2** *the practice now meets only token resistance: perfunctory, slight, nominal, minimal, minor, mild, superficial, inconsequential.*

**tolerable** adjective **1** *a tolerable noise level: bearable, endurable, supportable, acceptable.* **2** *he had a tolerable voice: fairly good, passable, adequate, all right, acceptable, satisfactory, not (too) bad, average, fair; mediocre, middling, ordinary, indifferent, unremarkable, unexceptional; informal OK, so-so, nothing to write home about, no great shakes.*

– **OPPOSITES** unacceptable.

**tolerance** noun **1** *an attitude of tolerance towards other people: acceptance, toleration; open-mindedness, broad-mindedness, forbearance, liberality, liberalism; patience, charity, indulgence, understanding.* **2** *the plant's tolerance of pollution: endurance, resilience, resistance, immunity.* **3** *a 1% maximum tolerance in measurement: deviation, variation, play; inaccuracy, imprecision.*

**tolerant** adjective **open-minded**, forbearing, broad-minded, liberal, unprejudiced, unbiased; patient, long-suffering, understanding, charitable, lenient, indulgent, permissive, free and easy, easy-going, lax.

– **OPPOSITES** intolerant.

**tolerate** verb **1** *a regime unwilling to tolerate serious dissent: allow, permit, condone, accept, swallow, countenance; formal brook; old use suffer.* **2** *he couldn't tolerate her moods any longer: endure, put up with, bear, take; stand, support, stomach; informal hack, abide; Brit. informal stick, wear, be doing with.*

**toleration** noun **acceptance**, tolerance, endurance; forbearance, liberality, open-mindedness, broad-mindedness, liberalism; patience, charity, indulgence, understanding.

**toll**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *a motorway toll: charge, fee, payment, levy, tariff, tax.* **2** *the toll of dead and injured: number, count, tally, total, sum*

total, grand total, sum; record, list, listing.

**3** *the toll on the environment has been high: adverse effect(s), detriment, harm, damage, injury, hurt; cost, price, loss, disadvantage, suffering, penalty.*

**toll**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *heard the bell toll: ring (out), chime, strike, peal; sound, clang, resound, reverberate; literary knell.*

**tomb** noun **burial chamber**, sepulchre, mausoleum, vault, crypt, undercroft, catacomb; last/final resting place, grave, barrow, burial mound; dolmen, cromlech; historical charnel house.

#### WORD LINKS

**sepulchral** relating to a tomb  
**epitaph** an inscription on a tomb

**tombstone** noun **gravestone**, headstone, stone; memorial, monument.

**tome** noun **volume**, book, work, opus, publication, title.

**tomfoolery** noun **silliness**, fooling around, clowning, capers, antics, pranks, tricks, buffoonery, skylarking, nonsense, horseplay, mischief, foolishness, foolery; informal larks, shenanigans.

**tone** noun **1** *the tone of the tuba: timbre, sound, sound quality, voice, voice quality, colour, tone colour, tonality.* **2** *his friendly tone: intonation, tone of voice, modulation, accentuation.* **3** *the somewhat impatient tone of his letter: mood, air, feel, flavour, note, attitude, character, temper; tenor, vein, drift, gist.* **4** *a dialling tone: note, signal, beep, bleep.* **5** *tones of primrose, lavender, and rose: shade, colour, hue, tint, tinge.*

• **verb** *the caramel shirt toned well with her cream skirt: harmonize, go, blend, coordinate, team; match, suit, complement.*

■ **tone something down 1** *the colour needs to be toned down a bit: soften, lighten, mute, subdue.* **2** *the papers refused to tone down their criticism: moderate, modify, modulate, mitigate, temper, dampen, soften, subdue.*

**tongue** noun **1** *a foreign tongue: language, dialect, patois, vernacular, mother tongue, native tongue; informal lingo.* **2** *her sharp tongue: way of speaking, speech, parlance.*

#### WORD LINKS

**lingual** relating to the tongue

t

**tongue-tied** adjective **lost for words**, speechless, unable to get a word out, struck dumb, dumbstruck; mute, dumb, silent; informal mum.

– **OPPOSITES** loquacious.

**tonic** noun **1** *ginseng can be used as a natural tonic: stimulant, restorative, refresher; informal pick-me-up, bracer; Medicine analeptic.* **2** *we found the change of scene a tonic: stimulant, boost, fillip; informal shot in the arm, pick-me-up.*

**too** adverb **1** *invasion would be too risky: excessively, overly, over, unduly, immoderately, inordinately, unreasonably, extremely, very; informal too-too.* **2** *he was unhappy, too, you know: also, as well, in*

addition, additionally, into the bargain, besides, furthermore, moreover, on top of that, to boot.

**tool** noun **1** *garden tools*: implement, utensil, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, appliance, machine, contrivance, contraption; informal gizmo. **2** *the beautiful Estella is Miss Havisham's tool*: puppet, pawn, creature, cat's paw; minion, lackey; informal stooge.

• **verb** *red leather, tooled in gold*: ornament, embellish, decorate, work, cut, chase.

**tooth** noun *fang, tusk; molar, incisor, canine*; Zoology denticle; informal gnasher; Brit. informal pearly white.

**WORD LINKS**

**dental** relating to teeth

**dentition** the arrangement of the teeth in a particular species

**occlusion** the position of the teeth when the jaws are closed

**odonontology** the scientific study of teeth

**orthodontics** the treatment of irregularities in the teeth

**caries** tooth decay

**plaque** a sticky deposit on teeth

**tartar, scale** a hard deposit formed on teeth

**toothsome** adjective *tasty, delicious, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, succulent; tempting, appetizing, inviting; informal scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, finger-licking; Brit. informal moreish.*

**top** noun **1** *the top of the cliff*: summit, peak, pinnacle, crest, crown, brow, head, tip, apex, vertex. **2** *the top of the table*: upper part, upper surface, upper layer. **3** *the carrots' green tops*: leaves, shoots, stem, stalk. **4** *the top of the coffee jar*: lid, cap, cover, stopper, cork. **5** *a short-sleeved top*: sweater, jumper, jersey, sweat shirt; T-shirt, shirt; blouse. **6** *by 1981 he was at the top of his profession*: high point, height, peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, culmination, climax, crowning point; prime.

– **OPPOSITES** bottom, base.

• **adjective** **1** *the top floor*: highest, topmost, uppermost, upmost. **2** *the world's top scientists*: foremost, leading, principal, pre-eminent, greatest, best, finest, elite; informal top-notch. **3** *the organization's top management*: chief, principal, main, leading, highest, highest-ranking, ruling, commanding, most powerful, most important. **4** *a top Paris hotel*: prime, excellent, superb, superior, choice, select, top-quality, top-tier, top-grade, first-rate, first-class, grade A, best, finest, premier, superlative, second to none; informal A1, top-notch. **5** *they are travelling at top speed*: maximum, maximal, greatest, utmost.

– **OPPOSITES** bottom, lowest, minimum.

• **verb** **1** *sales are expected to top £1.3 billion*: exceed, surpass, go beyond, better, best, beat, outstrip, outdo, outshine, eclipse, go one better than. **2** *their debut CD is currently topping the charts*: lead, head, be at the top of. **3** *they topped the rise of a mist-shrouded valley*: reach the top of, crest, climb, scale, ascend, mount. **4** *chocolate mousse topped*

*with cream*: cover, cap, coat, smother; finish, garnish.

■ **over the top** (informal) excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extreme, exaggerated, extravagant, overblown, too much, unreasonable, disproportionate, undue, unwarranted, uncalled for, unnecessary, going too far; informal a bit much, OTT.

■ **top something up** fill, refill, refresh, freshen, replenish, recharge, resupply; supplement, add to, augment.

**topic** noun *subject, subject matter, theme, issue, matter, point, talking point, question, concern, argument, thesis, text, keynote.*

**topical** adjective *current, up to date, up to the minute, contemporary, recent, relevant; newsworthy, in the news.*

– **OPPOSITES** out of date.

**topmost** adjective **1** *the tree's topmost branches*: highest, top, uppermost, upmost.

**2** *the topmost authority on the subject*: foremost, leading, principal, premier, prime, top, greatest, best, supreme, pre-eminent, outstanding, most important, main, chief; N. Amer. ranking; informal number-one.

**top-notch** adjective (informal) *first-class, first-rate, top-quality, top-tier, five-star; superior, prime, premier, premium, grade A, superlative, best, finest, select, exclusive, excellent, superb, outstanding, splendid; informal tip-top, A1.*

**topple** verb **1** *she toppled over*: fall, tumble, overbalance, overturn, tip, keel; lose one's balance. **2** *protesters toppled a huge statue*: knock over, upset, push over, tip over, upend. **3** *a plot to topple the government*: overthrow, oust, unseat, overturn, bring down, defeat, get rid of, dislodge, eject.

**topsy-turvy** adjective **1** *a topsy-turvy flag*: upside down, the wrong way/side up, inverted. **2** *everything in the flat was topsy-turvy*: in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle, in disorder, disordered, in chaos, chaotic, disorganized, awry, upside down, at sixes and sevens; informal every which way, higgledy-piggledy.

– **OPPOSITES** neat.

**torch** noun **1** *an electric torch*: lamp, light, flashlight. **2** (historical) *a flaming torch*: firebrand, brand; historical cresset, flambeau.

• **verb** (informal) *one of the shops had been torched*: burn, set fire to, set on fire, set light to, set alight, incinerate, put/set a match to.

**torment** noun **1** *months of mental and emotional torment*: agony, suffering, torture, pain, anguish, misery, distress, affliction, trauma, wretchedness; hell, purgatory. **2** *it was a torment to see him like that*: ordeal, affliction, scourge, curse, plague, bane, thorn in someone's side/flesh, cross to bear; sorrow, tribulation, trouble.

• **verb** **1** *she was tormented by shame*: torture, afflict, rack, harrow, plague, haunt, distress, agonize. **2** *she began to torment the two younger boys*: tease, taunt, bait, harass, provoke, goad, plague, bother, trouble, persecute; informal needle.



**torn** adjective **1** *a torn shirt*: ripped, rent, cut, slit; ragged, tattered, in tatters, in-ribbons.

**2** *she was torn between the two options*:

wavering, vacillating, irresolute, dithering, uncertain, unsure, undecided, in two minds.

**tornado** noun **whirlwind**, windstorm, cyclone, typhoon, storm, hurricane; N. Amer. informal twister.

**torpid** adjective **lethargic**, sluggish, inert, inactive, slow, lifeless; languid, listless, lazy, idle, indolent, slothful, supine, passive, apathetic, somnolent, sleepy, weary, tired.

– OPPOSITES energetic.

**torpor** noun **lethargy**, sluggishness, inertia, inactivity, lifelessness, listlessness, languor, lassitude, laziness, idleness, indolence, sloth, accidia, passivity, somnolence, weariness, sleepiness.

**torrent** noun **1** *a torrent of water*: flood, deluge, inundation, spate, cascade, rush, stream, current, flow, overflow, tide.

**2** *a torrent of abuse*: outburst, outpouring, stream, flood, volley, barrage, tide, spate.

– OPPOSITES trickle.

**torrential** adjective **copious**, heavy, teeming, severe, relentless, violent.

**torrid** adjective **1** *a torrid summer*: hot, dry, scorching, searing, blazing, blistering, sweltering, burning; informal boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling. **2** *a torrid affair*: passionate, ardent, lustful, amorous; informal steamy, sizzling, hot.

– OPPOSITES cold.

**tortuous** adjective **1** *a tortuous route*: twisting, twisty, twisting and turning, winding, windy, zigzag, sinuous, snaky, meandering, serpentine. **2** *a tortuous argument*: convoluted, complicated, complex, labyrinthine, involved, confusing, difficult to follow, lengthy, overlong.

– OPPOSITES straight, straightforward.

**torture** noun **1** *the torture of political prisoners*: abuse, ill-treatment, maltreatment, persecution. **2** *the torture of losing a loved one*: torment, agony, suffering, pain, anguish, misery, distress, heartbreak, affliction, trauma, wretchedness; hell, purgatory.

• verb **1** *the security forces routinely tortured suspects*: inflict pain on, ill-treat, abuse, mistreat, maltreat, persecute; informal work over, give someone the works. **2** *he was tortured by grief*: torment, rack, afflict, harrow, plague, agonize, crucify.

**toss** verb **1** *he tossed his tools into the boot*: throw, hurl, fling, sling, cast, pitch, lob, propel, project, launch; informal heave, chuck, bung; dated shy. **2** *he tossed a coin and it landed heads up*: flip, flick, spin. **3** *the ship tossed about on the waves*: pitch, lurch, rock, roll, plunge, reel, list, keel, sway, wallow, make heavy weather. **4** *toss the salad ingredients together*: shake, stir, turn, mix, combine.

**tot**<sup>1</sup> noun **1** *the tot looks just like her mum*: infant, baby, toddler, tiny tot, child, little one, mite; Scottish bairn, wean. **2** *a tot of rum*:

dram, drink, nip, drop, slug; informal shot, finger, snifter.

**tot**<sup>2</sup> verb **1** *he totted up some figures*: add, total, count, calculate, compute, reckon, tally. **2** *we've totted up 89 victories*: accumulate, build up, amass, accrue.

**total** adjective **1** *the total cost*: entire, complete, whole, full, comprehensive, combined, aggregate, gross, overall.

**2** *a total disaster*: complete, utter, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, out-and-out, outright, thoroughgoing, all-out, sheer, arrant, positive, prize, rank, unmitigated, unqualified; Brit. informal right, proper.

– OPPOSITES partial.

• noun *a total of £160,000*: sum, sum total, grand total, aggregate; whole, entirety, totality.

• verb **1** *the prize money totalled £33,050*: add up to, amount to, come to, run to, make, work out as. **2** *he totalled up his score*: add (up), count, reckon, tot up, compute, work out.

**totalitarian** adjective **autocratic**, undemocratic, one-party, dictatorial, tyrannical, despotic, fascist, oppressive, repressive, illiberal; authoritarian, autarchic, absolute, absolutist.

– OPPOSITES democratic.

**totality** noun **entirety**, whole, total, aggregate, sum, sum total; all, everything.

**totally** adverb **completely**, entirely, wholly, thoroughly, fully, utterly, absolutely, perfectly, unreservedly, unconditionally, quite, altogether, downright; in every way, in every respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt; informal dead, deadly.

– OPPOSITES partly.

**totter** verb **1** *he tottered off down the road*: teeter, walk unsteadily, stagger, wobble, stumble, shuffle, shamble, toddle; reel, sway, roll, lurch. **2** *the foundations began to heave and totter*: shake, sway, tremble, quiver, teeter, shudder, judder, rock, quake.

**touch** verb **1** *his shoes were touching the end of the bed*: be in contact with, come into contact with, meet, join, connect with, converge with, be contiguous with, be against. **2** *he touched her cheek*: press lightly, tap, pat; feel, stroke, fondle, caress, pet; brush, graze. **3** *sales touched twenty grand last year*: reach, attain, come to, make; rise to, soar to; sink to, plummet to; informal hit. **4** *nobody can touch him when he's on form*: compare with, be on a par with, equal, match, be a match for, be in the same class/league as, parallel, rival, come/get close to, measure up to; better, beat; informal hold a candle to. **5** *you're not supposed to touch the computer*: handle, hold, pick up, move; meddle with, play about with, fiddle with, interfere with, tamper with, disturb, lay a finger on; use, employ, make use of. **6** *state companies which have been touched by privatization*: affect, have an effect/impact on, make a difference to. **7** *Lisa felt touched by her kindness*: affect, move, tug at someone's heartstrings; leave an impression

on, have an effect on.

• **noun** 1 *her touch on his shoulder*: tap, pat; stroke, caress; brush, graze. 2 *his political touch*: skill, skilfulness, expertise, dexterity, deftness, adroitness, adeptness, ability, talent, flair, facility, proficiency, knack, technique, approach, style. 3 *there was a touch of bitterness in her voice* | *add a touch of vinegar*: trace, bit, suggestion, suspicion, hint, scintilla, tinge, overtone, undertone; dash, taste, spot, drop, dab, pinch, speck, soupçon. 4 *the gas lights are a nice touch*: detail, feature, point; addition, accessory. 5 *have you been in touch with him?* **contact**, communication, correspondence; connection, association.

■ **touch down** land, alight, come down, put down, arrive.

■ **touch something off** 1 *he touched off two of the bombs*: detonate, set off, trigger, explode. 2 *the plan touched off a major political storm*: cause, spark off, trigger (off), start, set in motion, ignite, stir up, provoke, give rise to, lead to, generate.

■ **touch on** 1 *many television programmes have touched on the subject*: refer to, mention, comment on, remark on, bring up, raise, broach, allude to; cover, deal with. 2 *a self-confident manner touching on the arrogant*: come close to, verge on, border on, approach.

■ **touch someone up** (Brit. informal) fondle, molest, feel up; informal grope, paw, maul, goose; N. Amer. informal cop a feel.

■ **touch something up** 1 *these paints are handy for touching up small areas*: repaint, retouch, patch up, fix up; renovate, refurbish, revamp; informal do up. 2 *touch up your CV and improve your interview skills*: improve, enhance, make better, refine; informal tweak.

#### WORD LINKS

tactile relating to the sense of touch  
tangible, palpable able to be touched  
palpate examine a part of the body by touch

**touch-and-go** adjective uncertain, precarious, risky, hazardous, dangerous, critical, suspenseful, cliffhanging, hanging by a thread.

– OPPOSITES certain.

**touched** adjective 1 *he was visibly touched by their plight*: affected, moved. 2 (informal) *her mother was a bit touched*. See **MAD** sense 1.

**touching** adjective moving, affecting, heart-warming, emotional, emotive, tender, sentimental; poignant, sad, tear-jerking.

**touchstone** noun criterion, standard, yardstick, benchmark, barometer, litmus test; measure, point of reference, norm, gauge, test, guide, exemplar, model, pattern.

**touchy** adjective 1 *she can be so touchy*: sensitive, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily offended, thin-skinned, highly strung, tense; irritable, tetchy, testy, crotchety, peevish, querulous, bad-tempered, petulant, pettish; informal snappy, ratty; N. Amer. informal cranky. 2 *a touchy subject*: delicate,

sensitive, tricky, ticklish, embarrassing, awkward, difficult; contentious, controversial.

– OPPOSITES affable.

**tough** adjective 1 *tough leather gloves*: durable, strong, resilient, sturdy, rugged, solid, stout, hard-wearing, long-lasting, heavy-duty, well built, made to last. 2 *the steak was tough*: chewy, leathery, gristly, stringy, fibrous. 3 *he'll survive—he's pretty tough*: robust, resilient, strong, hardy, rugged, fit; informal hard, (as) tough as old boots; dated stalwart. 4 *tough sentencing for persistent offenders*: strict, stern, severe, stringent, rigorous, hard, firm, hard-hitting, uncompromising; unsentimental, unsympathetic. 5 *the training was pretty tough*: arduous, onerous, strenuous, gruelling, exacting, difficult, demanding, hard, heavy, taxing, tiring, exhausting, punishing, laborious, stressful, Herculean; old use toilsome. 6 *these are tough questions for American policy-makers*: difficult, hard, knotty, thorny, tricky.

– OPPOSITES soft, weak, easy.

• **noun** (informal) *a gang of toughs*: ruffian, thug, hoodlum, hooligan, bully boy; Brit. rough; informal roughneck, heavy, bruiser, gorilla, yahoo; Brit. informal yob, yobbo.

**toughen** verb 1 *the process toughens the wood fibres*: strengthen, fortify, reinforce, harden, temper, anneal. 2 *measures to toughen up prison discipline*: make stricter, make more severe, stiffen, tighten up; informal beef up.

**tour** noun 1 *a three-day walking tour*: trip, excursion, journey, expedition, jaunt, outing; trek, safari; old use peregrination.

2 *a tour of the factory*: visit, inspection, guided tour, walkabout. 3 *his tour of duty in Ulster*: stint, stretch, period, spell, turn, assignment.

• **verb** 1 *this hotel is well placed for touring Somerset*: travel round, explore, holiday in; informal do. 2 *the prince toured a local factory*: visit, go round, walk round, inspect.

**tourist** noun holidaymaker, traveller, sightseer, visitor, backpacker, globetrotter, day tripper, tripper; N. Amer. vacationer, vacationist, out-of-towner; Brit. informal grockle.

– OPPOSITES local.

**tournament** noun 1 *a golf tournament*: competition, contest, championship, meeting, meet, event, match, fixture.

2 (historical) *a knight preparing for a tournament*: joust, tourney, tilt; the lists.

**tousled** adjective untidy, dishevelled, wind-blown, messy, disordered, disarranged, messed up, rumpled, uncombed, ungroomed, tangled, wild, unkempt; informal mussed up.

– OPPOSITES neat, tidy.

**tout** verb 1 *street merchants were touting their wares*: peddle, sell, hawk, offer for sale; informal flog. 2 *minicab drivers were touting for business*: solicit, seek, drum up; ask, petition, appeal, canvas. 3 *he's being touted*

as the next Scotland manager: **recommend**, speak of, talk of; predict; Brit. tip.

**tow** verb *the car was towed back to the garage: pull, haul, drag, draw, tug, lug.*

■ **in tow** *he arrived with his new girlfriend in tow:* in attendance, by one's side, in one's charge; accompanying, following.

**towards** preposition *1 they were driving towards her flat:* in the direction of, to; on the way to, on the road to, en route for.

*2 towards evening dark clouds gathered: just before, shortly before, near, nearing, around, approaching, close to, coming to, getting on for. 3 her attitude towards politics: with regard to, as regards, regarding, in/with regard to, respecting, in relation to, concerning, about, apropos.*

*4 a grant towards the cost of new buses: as a contribution to, for, to help with.*

**tower** noun *a church tower: steeple, spire; minaret; turret; bell tower, belfry, campanile.*

• verb *1 snow-capped peaks towered over the valley: soar, rise, rear; overshadow, overhang, hang over, dominate. 2 he towered over most other theologians of his generation: dominate, overshadow, outshine, outclass, eclipse, be head and shoulders above, put someone/something in the shade.*

**towering** adjective *1 a towering skyscraper: high, tall, lofty, soaring, sky-high, skyscraping, multi-storey; giant, gigantic, enormous, huge, massive; informal ginormous.*

*2 a towering intellect: outstanding, pre-eminent, leading, foremost, finest, top, surpassing, supreme, great, incomparable, unrivalled, unsurpassed, peerless. 3 a towering rage: extreme, fierce, terrible, intense, overpowering, mighty, violent, vehement, passionate.*

**town** noun *urban area, conurbation, municipality; city, metropolis, megalopolis; Brit. borough; Scottish burgh; N. Amer. informal burg.*

— OPPOSITES country.

#### WORD LINKS

civic, municipal, urban relating to a town

**toxic** adjective *poisonous, virulent, noxious, dangerous, harmful, injurious, pernicious.*

— OPPOSITES harmless.

**toy** noun *1 a cuddly toy: plaything, game.*

*2 an executive toy: gadget, device; trinket, knick-knack; informal gizmo.*

• adjective *1 a toy gun: model, imitation, replica; miniature. 2 a toy poodle: miniature, small, tiny, diminutive, dwarf, midget, pygmy.*

■ **toy with** *1 I was toying with the idea of writing a book: think about, consider, flirt with, entertain the possibility of; informal kick around. 2 Adam toyed with his glasses: fiddle with, play with, fidget with, twiddle; finger. 3 she toyed with her food: nibble, pick at, peck at, eat listlessly, eat like a bird.*

**trace** verb *1 police hope to trace the owner of the jewellery: track down, find, discover, detect, unearth, turn up, hunt down, ferret*

*out, run to ground. 2 she traced a pattern in the sand with her toe: draw, outline, mark.*

*3 the analysis traces out the consequences of such beliefs: outline, map out, sketch out, delineate, depict, show, indicate.*

• noun *1 no trace had been found of the missing plane: vestige, sign, mark, indication, evidence, clue; remains, remnant, relic, survival. 2 a trace of bitterness crept into her voice: bit, touch, hint, suggestion, suspicion, shadow, whiff; drop, dash, tinge, speck, shred, jot, iota; informal smidgen, tad. 3 the ground was hard and they left no traces: trail, tracks, marks, prints, footprints; spoor.*

**track** noun *1 a gravel track: path, pathway, footpath, lane, trail, route, way, course.*

*2 the final lap of the track: course, racecourse, racetrack; velodrome; Brit. circuit. 3 he found the tracks of a grey fox: traces, marks, prints, footprints, trail, spoor.*

*4 Orkney lies on the track of the Atlantic winds: course, path, line, route, way, trajectory. 5 commuters had to walk along the tracks: rail, line, railway line. 6 the album's title track: song, recording, number, piece.*

• verb *he tracked a bear for 40 km: follow, trail, trace, pursue, shadow, stalk, keep an eye on, keep in sight; informal tail.*

■ **keep track of** *monitor, follow, keep up with, keep an eye on; keep in touch with, keep up to date with; informal keep tabs on.*

■ **track someone/something down** *discover, find, detect, hunt down/out, unearth, uncover, turn up, dig up, ferret out, bring to light, run to earth, run to ground.*

**tract**<sup>1</sup> noun *large tracts of land: area, region, expanse, sweep, stretch, extent, belt, swathe, zone.*

**tract**<sup>2</sup> noun *a political tract: treatise, essay, article, paper, work, monograph, disquisition, dissertation, thesis, homily; pamphlet, booklet, leaflet.*

**tractable** adjective *malleable, manageable, amenable, pliable, governable, yielding, complaisant, compliant, persuadable, accommodating, docile, biddable, obedient, submissive, meek.*

— OPPOSITES recalcitrant.

**traction** noun *grip, purchase, friction, adhesion.*

**trade** noun *1 the illicit trade in stolen cattle: commerce, buying and selling, dealing, traffic, trafficking, business, marketing, merchandising; dealings, transactions. 2 the glazier's trade: craft, occupation, job, career, profession, business, line (of work), métier, vocation, calling, walk of life, field; work, employment.*

• verb *1 he made his fortune trading in beaver pelts: deal, buy and sell, traffic, market, merchandise, peddle; informal hawk, flog.*

*2 the business is trading at a loss: operate, run, do business. 3 I traded the old machine for a newer model: swap, exchange, switch; barter.*

■ **trade on** *exploit, take advantage of, capitalize on, profit from, use, make use of; milk; informal cash in on.*



## WORD LINKS

mercantile relating to trade

**trademark** noun **1** *the company's trademark:* logo, emblem, sign, mark, stamp, symbol, device, badge, crest, monogram, colophon; trade name, brand name, proprietary name. **2** *it had all the trademarks of a Mafia hit:* characteristic, hallmark, telltale sign, sign, trait, quality, attribute, feature, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy.

**trader** noun **dealer**, merchant, buyer, seller, buyer and seller, marketeer, merchandiser, broker, agent; distributor, vendor, purveyor, supplier, trafficker; shopkeeper, retailer, wholesaler.

**tradesman, tradeswoman** noun

**1** *tradesmen standing nonchalantly outside their stores:* shopkeeper, retailer, vendor, wholesaler; N. Amer. storekeeper. **2** *a qualified tradesman:* craftsman, workman, artisan.

**tradition** noun **1** *during a maiden speech, by tradition, everyone keeps absolutely silent:* historical convention, unwritten law; oral history, lore, folklore. **2** *an age-old tradition:* custom, practice, convention, ritual, observance, way, usage, habit, institution; formal praxis.

**traditional** adjective **1** *traditional Christmas fare:* long-established, customary, time-honoured, established, classic, accustomed, standard, regular, normal, conventional, usual, orthodox, habitual, set, fixed, routine, ritual; old, age-old; literary wanted. **2** *traditional beliefs:* handed-down, folk, unwritten, oral.

**traduce** verb **defame**, slander, speak ill of, misrepresent, malign, vilify, denigrate, disparage, slur, impugn, smear, besmirch, run down, blacken the name of, cast aspersions on; informal bad-mouth; formal calumniate.

**traffic** noun **1** *the bridge is not open to traffic:* vehicles, cars, lorries, trucks. **2** *they might be stuck in traffic:* traffic jams, congestion, gridlock, tailbacks, hold-ups, queues; informal snarl-ups. **3** *the increased use of railways for goods traffic:* transport, transportation, freight, conveyancing, shipping. **4** *the illegal traffic in stolen art:* trade, trading, trafficking, dealing, commerce, business, buying and selling; smuggling, bootlegging, black market; dealings, transactions. **5** (old use) *he has little traffic with his neighbours:* contact, communication, intercourse, dealings, relations.

•verb *he confessed to trafficking in gold and ivory:* trade, deal, do business, buy and sell; smuggle, bootleg; informal run.

**tragedy** noun **disaster**, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm, misfortune, reverse, vicissitude, trial, tribulation, affliction, adversity.

**tragic** adjective **1** *a tragic accident:* disastrous, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, devastating, terrible, dreadful, awful, appalling, horrendous; fatal, deadly, mortal, lethal. **2** *a tragic tale:* sad, unhappy, pathetic, moving, distressing,

painful, harrowing, heart-rending, piteous, wretched, sorry; melancholy, doleful, mournful. **3** *a tragic waste of talent:* dreadful, terrible, awful, deplorable, lamentable, regrettable; formal grievous.

– OPPOSITES fortunate, happy.

**trail** noun **1** *he left a trail of clues | a trail of devastation:* series, string, chain, succession, sequence; aftermath. **2** *wolves on the trail of their prey:* track, spoor, path, scent; traces, marks, signs, prints, footprints. **3** *the plane's vapour trail:* wake, tail, stream. **4** *a trail of ants:* line, column, train, file, procession, string, chain, convoy; queue. **5** *country parks with nature trails:* path, pathway, way, footpath, track, course, route.

•verb **1** *her robe trailed along the ground:* drag, sweep, be drawn; dangle, hang (down), droop. **2** *the roses grew wild, their stems trailing over the banks:* hang, droop, fall, spill, cascade. **3** *Sharpe suspected that they were trailing him:* follow, pursue, track, shadow, stalk, hunt (down); run to earth, run to ground; informal tail. **4** *the defending champions were trailing 10–5 at half time:* lose, be down, be behind, lag behind. **5** *I hate trailing round the shops:* trudge, plod, drag oneself, traipse, trek; N. Amer. informal schlep. **6** *her voice trailed off:* fade, tail off/away, grow faint, die away, dwindle, subside, peter out, fizzle out.

**train** verb **1** *an engineer trained in remote-sensing techniques:* instruct, teach, coach, tutor, school, educate, prime, drill, ground; inculcate, indoctrinate. **2** *she's training to be a hairdresser:* study, learn, prepare, take instruction. **3** *with the Olympics in mind, athletes are training hard:* exercise, do exercises, work out, get into shape, practise. **4** *she trained the gun on his chest:* aim, point, direct, level, focus; take aim, zero in on.

•noun **1** *the train for London:* railway train; baby talk choo-choo. **2** *a minister and his train of attendants:* retinue, entourage, cortège, following, staff, household, court, suite, attendants, retainers, followers, bodyguards. **3** *a train of elephants:* procession, line, file, column, convoy, cavalcade, caravan, queue, string, succession. **4** *a bizarre train of events:* chain, string, series, sequence, succession, set, course, cycle, concatenation.

**trainer** noun **coach**, instructor, teacher, tutor; handler.

**training** noun **1** *in-house training for staff:* instruction, teaching, coaching, tuition, tutoring, schooling, education; indoctrination, inculcation. **2** *four months' hard training before the match:* exercise, exercises, working out; practice, preparation.

**traipse** verb **trudge**, trek, tramp, trail, plod, drag oneself, slog; Brit. informal trog; N. Amer. informal schlep.

**trait** noun **characteristic**, attribute, feature, (essential) quality, property; habit, custom, mannerism, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, quirk, oddity, foible.

**traitor** noun **betray**er, back-stabber, double-crosser, double-dealer, renegade, Judas,

quisling, fifth columnist; turncoat, defector, deserter; collaborator, informer, double agent; informal snake in the grass, two-timer.

**traitorous** adjective **treacherous**, disloyal, treasonous, back-stabbing; double-crossing, double-dealing, faithless, unfaithful, two-faced, false-hearted, duplicitous, deceitful, false; informal two-timing; literary perfidious.

– **OPPOSITES** loyal.

**trajectory** noun **course**, path, route, track, line, orbit.

**trammel** (literary) noun *the trammels of tradition*: **restraint**, constraint, curb, check, impediment, obstacle, barrier, handicap, bar, hindrance, encumbrance, disadvantage, drawback, snag, stumbling block; straitjacket, shackles, fetters, bonds.

• **verb** *those less trammelled by convention than himself*: **restrict**, restrain, constrain, hamper, confine, hinder, handicap, obstruct, impede, hold back, hamstring, shackle, fetter.

**tramp** verb **1** *men were tramping through the scrubbery*: **trudge**, plod, stamp, trample, lumber, clump, clomp, stump, stomp; informal traipse, galumph. **2** *he spent ten days tramping through the jungle*: **trek**, slog, footslog, trudge, drag oneself, walk, hike, march; informal traipse; Brit. informal yomp; N. Amer. informal schlep.

• **noun** **1** *a dirty old tramp*: **vagrant**, vagabond, homeless person, down-and-out; traveller, drifter, beachcomber; beggar, mendicant; N. Amer. hobo; Austral./NZ bagman; informal bag lady; N. Amer. informal bum. **2** *the regular tramp of the sentry's boots*: **footstep**, step, footfall, tread, stamp, stomp. **3** *a tramp round Norwich*: **trek**, slog, trudge, hike, march, walk; Brit. informal yomp; N. Amer. informal schlep.

**trample** verb **1** *someone had trampled on the tulips*: **tread**, tramp, stamp, stomp, walk over; squash, crush, flatten. **2** *we do nothing but trample over their feelings*: **treat with contempt**, ride roughshod over, disregard, set at naught, show no consideration for, abuse; encroach on, infringe.

**trance** noun **daze**, stupor, hypnotic state, half-conscious state, dream; Scottish dwam.

**tranquil** adjective **1** *a wonderfully tranquil village*: **peaceful**, calm, restful, quiet, still, relaxing, undisturbed. **2** *Martha smiled, perfectly tranquil*: **calm**, serene, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, unflustered, untroubled, composed, {cool, calm, and collected}; equable, even-tempered, placid, phlegmatic; informal unflappable.

– **OPPOSITES** busy, excitable.

**tranquillity** noun **1** *the tranquillity of the Norfolk countryside*: **peace**, peacefulness, restfulness, repose, calm, calmness, quiet, quietness, stillness. **2** *the incident jolted her out of her tranquillity*: **composure**, calmness, serenity; equanimity, equability, placidity; informal cool, unflappability.

**tranquillize** verb **sedate**, put under sedation, narcotize, drug.

**tranquillizer** noun **sedative**, barbiturate,

calmative, sleeping pill, narcotic, opiate; informal trunk, downer.

– **OPPOSITES** stimulant.

**transact** verb **conduct**, carry out, negotiate, do, perform, execute, take care of; settle, conclude, finish, clinch, accomplish.

**transaction** noun **1** *property transactions*: **deal**, business deal, undertaking, arrangement, bargain, negotiation, agreement, settlement; proceedings. **2** *the transactions of the Historical Society*: **proceedings**, report, record(s), minutes, account; archives. **3** *the transaction of government business*: **conduct**, carrying out, negotiation, performance, execution.

**transcend** verb **1** *an issue that transcended party politics*: **go beyond**, rise above, cut across. **2** *his military exploits far transcended those of his predecessors*: **surpass**, exceed, beat, top, cap, outdo, outclass, outstrip, leave behind, outshine, eclipse, overshadow, throw into the shade, upstage.

**transcendence** noun **excellence**, supremacy, incomparability, matchlessness, peerlessness, magnificence.

**transcendent** adjective **1** *the search for a transcendent level of knowledge*: **mystical**, mystic, transcendental, spiritual; metaphysical. **2** *a transcendent genius*: **incomparable**, matchless, peerless, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/ comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil; exceptional, consummate, unique, perfect, rare, surpassing, magnificent; formal unexampled.

**transcendental** adjective. See **TRANSCENDENT** sense 1.

**transcribe** verb **1** *each interview was taped and transcribed*: **write out**, copy out, put in writing, put on paper. **2** *a person who can take and transcribe shorthand*: **transliterate**, interpret, translate.

**transcript** noun **written version**, printed version, text, transliteration, record, reproduction.

**transfer** verb **1** *the hostages were transferred to a safe house*: **move**, convey, take, bring, shift, remove, carry, transport; transplant, relocate, resettle. **2** *the property was transferred to his wife*: **hand over**, pass on, make over, turn over, sign over, consign, devolve, assign, delegate.

• **noun** *he died shortly after his transfer to hospital*: **move**, conveyance, transfer, transference, relocation, removal, transplantation.

**transfigure** verb **transform**, transmute, change, alter, metamorphose; humorous transmogrify.

**transfix** verb **1** *he was transfixed by the images on the screen*: **mesmerize**, hypnotize, spellbind, bewitch, captivate, entrance, enthral, fascinate, enrapture, grip, rivet; root to the spot, paralyse. **2** *a field mouse is transfixed by the owl's curved talons*: **impale**, stab, spear, pierce, spike, skewer, gore, stick,

t

run through; literary transpierce.

**transform** verb *change, alter, convert, metamorphose, transfigure, transmute; revolutionize, overhaul; remodel, reshape, remould, redo, reconstruct, rebuild, reorganize, rearrange, rework, renew, revamp, remake; humorous transmogrify.*

**transformation** noun *change, alteration, conversion, metamorphosis, transfiguration, transmutation, sea change; revolution, overhaul; remodelling, reshaping, remoulding, redoing, reconstruction, rebuilding, reorganization, rearrangement, reworking, renewal, revamp, remaking; humorous transmogrification.*

**transgress** verb *1 if they transgress the punishment is harsh: misbehave, behave badly, break the law, err, fall from grace, stray from the straight and narrow, sin, do wrong, go astray; old use trespass. 2 she had transgressed an unwritten social law: infringe, breach, contravene, disobey, defy, violate, break, flout.*

**transgression** noun *1 a punishment for past transgressions: offence, crime, sin, wrong, wrongdoing, misdemeanour, misdeed, lawbreaking; error, lapse, fault; old use trespass. 2 Adam's transgression of God's law: infringement, breach, contravention, violation, defiance, disobedience, non-observance.*

**transgressor** noun *wrongdoer, offender, miscreant, lawbreaker, criminal, villain, felon, malefactor, guilty party, culprit; sinner, evildoer; old use trespasser.*

**transient** adjective *transitory, temporary, short-lived, short-term, ephemeral, impermanent, brief, short, momentary, fleeting, passing, fugitive, here today and gone tomorrow; literary evanescent.*

— OPPOSITES permanent.

**transit** noun *the transit of goods between states: transport, transportation, movement, conveyance, shipment, haulage, freightage, carriage, transfer.*

■ **in transit** en route, on the journey, on the way, along/on the road, during transport.

**transition** noun *change, passage, move, transformation, conversion, metamorphosis, alteration, changeover, shift, switch, jump, leap, progression, progress, development, evolution.*

**transitional** adjective *1 a transitional period: intermediate, interim, changeover; changing, fluid, unsettled. 2 the transitional government: interim, temporary, provisional, pro tem, acting, caretaker.*

**transitory** adjective *transient, temporary, brief, short, short-lived, short-term, impermanent, ephemeral, momentary, fleeting, passing, fugitive, here today and gone tomorrow; literary evanescent.*

— OPPOSITES permanent.

**translate** verb *1 the German original had been translated into English: render, put, express, convert, change; transcribe, transliterate. 2 be prepared to translate*

*the jargon into normal English: render, paraphrase, reword, rephrase, convert, decipher, decode, gloss, explain.*

*3 interesting ideas cannot always be translated into effective movies: change, convert, transform, alter, adapt, turn, transmute; humorous transmogrify. 4 in 1228 the bishop was translated from Salisbury to Durham: relocate, transfer, move, remove, shift, transplant.*

**translation** noun *1 the translation of the Bible into English: rendition, rendering, conversion; transcription, transliteration. 2 the translation of these policies into practice: conversion, change, transformation, alteration, adaptation, transmutation; humorous transmogrification.*

**translucent** adjective *semi-transparent, pellucid, limpid, clear; diaphanous, gossamer, sheer.*

— OPPOSITES opaque.

**transmission** noun *1 the transmission of knowledge and culture: transference, transferral, communication, conveyance; dissemination, spreading, circulation. 2 the transmission of the film: broadcasting, relaying, airing, televising. 3 a live transmission: broadcast, programme, show.*

**transmit** verb *1 the use of computers to transmit information: transfer, pass on, hand on, communicate, convey, impart, channel, carry, relay, dispatch; disseminate, spread, circulate. 2 the programme will be transmitted on Sunday: broadcast, relay, send out, air, televise.*

**transmute** verb *change, alter, adapt, transform, convert, metamorphose, translate; humorous transmogrify.*

**transparency** noun *1 the transparency of the glass: translucency, limpidity, glassiness, clearness, clarity. 2 colour transparencies: slide, diapositive.*

**transparent** adjective *1 transparent blue water: clear, crystal clear, see-through, translucent, pellucid, limpid, glassy. 2 fine transparent fabrics: see-through, sheer, filmy, gauzy, diaphanous. 3 the symbolism of this myth is transparent: obvious, unambiguous, unequivocal, clear, crystal clear, plain, (as) plain as the nose on your face, apparent, unmistakable, manifest, conspicuous, patent, palpable, indisputable, evident, self-evident, undisguised, un concealed.*

— OPPOSITES opaque, obscure.

**transpire** verb *1 it transpired that her family had moved away: become known, emerge, come to light, be revealed, turn out, come out, be discovered, prove to be the case. 2 I'm going to find out exactly what transpired: happen, occur, take place, arise, come about, turn up, chance, befall; literary come to pass.*

**transplant** verb *1 it was proposed to transplant the club to the vacant site: transfer, move, remove, shift, relocate, take. 2 the seedlings should be transplanted in larger pots: replant, repot, relocate.*



**3** kidneys must be transplanted within 48 hours of removal: **transfer**, implant.

**transport** verb **1** *the concrete blocks were transported by lorry*: **convey**, carry, take, transfer, move, shift, send, deliver, bear, ship, ferry; informal cart. **2** *he was convicted of theft and transported*: **banish**, exile, deport, expatriate, extradite. **3** *she was completely transported by the excitement*: **thrill**, delight, carry away, enrapture, entrance, enchant, enthrall, electrify, captivate, bewitch, fascinate, spellbind, charm; informal send; literary ravish.

• **noun 1** *alternative forms of transport*: conveyance, transportation; vehicle. **2** *the transport of crude oil*: **transportation**, conveyance, carriage, freight, freightage, shipment, shipping, haulage; transit.

**3** *transports of delight*: **rapture**, ecstasy, elation, exaltation, exhilaration, euphoria, bliss, seventh heaven, heaven, paradise, high; passion, strong feeling/emotion; informal cloud nine.

**transpose** verb **1** *the blue and black plates were transposed*: **interchange**, exchange, switch, swap (round), reverse, invert. **2** *the themes are transposed from the sphere of love to that of work*: **transfer**, shift, relocate, transplant, move, displace.

**transverse** adjective **crosswise**, crossways, cross, horizontal, diagonal, oblique.

**trap** noun **1** *an animal caught in a trap*: **snare**, net, mesh, gin, spring; N. Amer. deadfall. **2** *the question was set as a trap*: **trick**, ploy, ruse, deception, subterfuge; booby trap; informal set-up. **3** (informal) *shut your trap!* See **MOUTH** noun sense 1.

• **verb 1** *police trapped the two men, who admitted blackmail*: **snare**, entrap, ensnare, lay a trap for; capture, catch, corner, ambush; old use ambuscade. **2** *a rat trapped in a barn*: **confine**, cut off, corner, shut in, pen in, hem in; imprison, hold captive. **3** *I hoped to trap him into an admission*: **trick**, dupe, deceive, lure, inveigle, beguile, fool, hoodwink; catch out, trip up.

**trappings** plural noun accessories, accoutrements, appurtenances, trimmings, frills, accompaniments, extras, ornamentation, adornment, decoration; regalia, panoply, paraphernalia, apparatus, finery, equipment, gear, effects, things.

**trash** noun **1** (N. Amer.) *the subway entrance was blocked with trash*: **rubbish**, refuse, waste, litter, junk, detritus; N. Amer. garbage. **2** (informal) *if they read at all, they read trash*: **rubbish**, nonsense, trivia, pulp (fiction), pap; N. Amer. garbage; informal drivel, dreck. **3** (informal) *they're just trash*: **scum**, vermin, the dregs of society, the scum of the earth, the lowest of the low; informal dirt.

• **verb** (N. Amer. informal) **1** *the apartment had been totally trashed*: **wreck**, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, devastate; vandalize; informal total. **2** *his play was trashed by the critics*. See **LAMBASTE**.

**trauma** noun **1** *the trauma of divorce*: **shock**, upheaval, distress, stress, strain, pain,

anguish, suffering, upset, agony, misery, sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak, torture; ordeal, trial, tribulation, trouble, worry, anxiety; nightmare. **2** *the trauma to the liver*: **injury**, damage, wound; cut, laceration, lesion, abrasion, contusion.

**traumatic** adjective **disturbing**, shocking, distressing, upsetting, heartbreaking, painful, agonizing, hurtful, stressful, damaging, injurious, harmful, awful, terrible, devastating, harrowing.

**travail** (literary) noun **1** *years of bitter travail*: ordeals, trials, tribulations, trials and tribulations, trouble, hardship, privation, stress; drudgery, toil, slog, effort, exertion, labour, work, endeavour, sweat, struggle. **2** *a woman in travail*: **labour**, childbirth; contractions, labour pains; old use childbed.

**travel** verb **1** *he spent much of his time travelling abroad*: **journey**, tour, take a trip, voyage, go sightseeing, globetrot, backpack; informal gallivant; old use peregrinate. **2** *we travelled the length and breadth of the island*: **journey through**, cross, traverse, cover; roam, rove, range, trek. **3** *light travels faster than sound*: **move**, be transmitted.

• **noun** *he amassed great wealth during his travels*: **journeys**, expeditions, trips, tours, excursions, voyages, treks, safaris, explorations, wanderings, odysseys, pilgrimages, jaunts; travelling, touring, sightseeing, backpacking, globetrotting; informal gallivanting; old use peregrinations.

**traveller** noun **1** *thousands of travellers were left stranded*: **tourist**, tripper, holidaymaker, sightseer, visitor, globetrotter, backpacker; pilgrim; passenger, commuter, fare; N. Amer. vacationer, vacationist. **2** *a travellers' site*: **Gypsy**, **Romany**, **tzigane**; nomad, migrant, wanderer, itinerant, drifter; tramp, vagrant; dialect didicoi; Brit. derogatory tinker.

**travelling** adjective **1** *the travelling population*: **nomadic**, itinerant, peripatetic, wandering, roaming, roving, wayfaring, migrant, vagrant, of no fixed address/abode; **Gypsy**, **Romany**. **2** *a little travelling clock*: **portable**, easily carried, easy to carry, lightweight, compact.

**traverse** verb **1** *he traversed the deserts of Persia*: **travel over/across**, cross, journey over/across, pass over; cover; ply; wander, roam, range. **2** *a ditch traversed by a wooden bridge*: **cross**, bridge, span; extend across, lie across, stretch across.

**travesty** noun *a travesty of justice*: **misrepresentation**, distortion, perversion, corruption, poor imitation, poor substitute, mockery, parody, caricature; farce, charade, pantomime, sham; informal apology for, excuse for.

**treacherous** adjective **1** *her treacherous brother betrayed her*: **traitorous**, disloyal, faithless, unfaithful, duplicitous, false-hearted, deceitful, false, back-stabbing, double-crossing, double-dealing, two-faced, untrustworthy, unreliable; apostate, renegade; informal two-timing; literary perfidious. **2** *treacherous driving conditions*:

dangerous, hazardous, perilous, unsafe, precarious, risky, deceptive, unreliable; informal dicey, hairy.

– OPPOSITES loyal, faithful, reliable.

**treachery** noun betrayal, disloyalty, faithlessness, unfaithfulness, infidelity, breach of trust, duplicity, deceit, deception, stab in the back, back-stabbing, double-dealing, untrustworthiness; treason; informal two-timing; literary perfidy.

**tread** verb **1** *he trod purposefully down the hall:* walk, step, stride, pace, go; march, tramp, plod, stomp, trudge. **2** *the snow had been trodden down by the horses:* crush, flatten, press down, squash; trample on, tramp on, stamp on, stomp on.

• noun *we heard his heavy tread on the stairs:* step, footstep, footfall, tramp.

**treason** noun treachery, lese-majesty; disloyalty, betrayal, faithlessness; sedition, subversion, mutiny, rebellion; high treason; literary perfidy.

– OPPOSITES allegiance, loyalty.

**treasonable** adjective traitorous, treacherous, disloyal; seditious, subversive, mutinous, rebellious; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES loyal.

**treasure** noun **1** *a casket of treasure:* riches, valuables, jewels, gems, gold, silver, precious metals, money, cash; wealth, fortune; Brit. treasure trove. **2** *art treasures:* valuable object, valuable, work of art, objet of vertu, masterpiece. **3** (informal) *she's a real treasure:* paragon, gem, angel, nonpareil; find, prize; informal star, one of a kind, one in a million, the tops.

• verb *I treasure the photographs I took of Jack:* cherish, hold dear, prize, set great store by, value greatly; adore, dote on, love dearly, be devoted to, worship.

**treasury** noun **1** *the national treasury:* exchequer, purse; bank, coffers; revenues, finances, funds, moneys. **2** *the area is a treasury of early fossils:* rich source, repository, storehouse, treasure house; fund, mine, bank. **3** *a treasury of stories:* anthology, collection, miscellany, compilation, compendium.

**treat** verb **1** *Charlotte treated him very badly:* behave towards, act towards, use; deal with, handle. **2** *police are treating the fires as arson:* regard, consider, view, look on; put down as. **3** *the book treats its subject with insight and responsibility:* deal with, tackle, handle, discuss, explore, investigate; consider, study, analyse. **4** *she was treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital:* care for, nurse, tend, attend to; medicate. **5** *the plants may prove useful in treating cancer:* cure, heal, remedy. **6** *he treated her to a slap-up lunch:* buy, take out for, stand, give; pay for; entertain, wine and dine; informal foot the bill for. **7** *delegates were treated to authentic Indonesian dance performances:* regale with, entertain with/by, fete with, amuse with, divert with. **8** (formal) *propagandists claimed that he was treating with the enemy:* negotiate, discuss terms, have talks, consult,

parley, talk, confer.

• noun **1** *a birthday treat:* celebration, entertainment, amusement; surprise; party, excursion, outing. **2** *I bought you some chocolate as a treat:* present, gift; titbit, delicacy, luxury, indulgence, extravagance; informal goody. **3** *it was a real treat to see them:* pleasure, delight, thrill, joy.

**treatise** noun disquisition, essay, paper, work, exposition, discourse, dissertation, thesis, monograph, study, critique; tract, pamphlet.

**treatment** noun **1** *the company's treatment of its workers:* behaviour towards, conduct towards; handling of, dealings with. **2** *she's responding well to treatment:* medical care, therapy, nursing; medication, drugs, medicaments; cure, remedy. **3** *her treatment of the topic:* discussion, handling, investigation, exploration, consideration, study, analysis, critique.

**treaty** noun agreement, settlement, pact, deal, entente, concordat, accord, protocol, compact, convention, contract, covenant, bargain, pledge; formal concord.

**tree** noun sapling, conifer, evergreen.

#### WORD LINKS

**arboreal** living in trees, or relating to trees

**arboretum** a botanical garden devoted to trees

**dendrology** the scientific study of trees

**silviculture, arboriculture** the cultivation of trees

**trek** noun *a three-day trek across the desert:*

journey, trip, expedition, safari, odyssey; hike, march, slog, footslog, tramp, walk; long haul; Brit. informal yomp, trog.

• verb *we trekked through the jungle:* hike, tramp, march, slog, footslog, trudge, traipse, walk; travel, journey; Brit. informal yomp, trog.

**trellis** noun lattice, framework, espalier; network, mesh, tracery; grille, grid, grating; latticework, trelliswork; technical reticulation.

**tremble** verb **1** *Joe's hands were trembling:* shake, shake like a leaf, quiver, twitch; quaver, waver. **2** *the entire building trembled:* shake, shudder, judder, wobble, rock, vibrate, move, sway, totter, teeter. **3** *she trembled at the thought of what he had in store for her:* be afraid, be frightened, be apprehensive, worry, shake in one's shoes; quail, shrink, blench; informal be in a blue funk, be all of a tremble.

• noun *the slight tremble in her hands:* tremor, shake, shakiness, trembling, quiver, twitch.

– OPPOSITES steadiness.

**tremendous** adjective **1** *tremendous sums of money:* huge, enormous, immense, colossal, massive, prodigious, stupendous, monumental, mammoth, vast, gigantic, giant, mighty, epic, titanic, towering, king-size(d), gargantuan, Herculean; substantial, considerable; informal whopping, thumping, astronomical, humongous; Brit. informal whacking, ginormous. **2** *a tremendous explosion:* very loud,

deafening, ear-splitting, booming, thundering, thunderous, resounding.

**3** (informal) *I've seen him play and he's tremendous*: excellent, splendid, wonderful, marvellous, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, too good to be true; informal super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, to die for, magic, ace, wicked, mind-blowing, far out, out of this world; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; N. Amer. informal boss; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer; Brit. informal, dated champion, wizard, corking, ripping, spiffing, top-hole; N. Amer. informal, dated swell.

– OPPOSITES tiny, small, poor.

**tremor** noun **1** *the sudden tremor of her hands*: trembling, shaking, shakiness, tremble, shake, quivering, quiver, twitching, twitch, tic; quavering, quaver. **2** *a tremor of fear ran through her*: frisson, shiver, spasm, thrill, tingle, stab, dart, shaft; wave, surge, rush, ripple. **3** *the epicentre of the tremor*: earthquake, earth tremor, shock; informal quake; N. Amer. informal tremblor.

**tremulous** adjective **1** *a tremulous voice*: shaky, trembling, shaking, unsteady, quavering, wavering, quivering, quivery, quaking, weak; informal trembly, all of a tremble. **2** *a tremulous smile*: timid, diffident, shy, hesitant, uncertain, nervous, timorous, fearful, frightened, scared, anxious, apprehensive; informal trepidatious.

– OPPOSITES steady, confident.

**trench** noun *ditch, channel, trough, excavation, furrow, rut, conduit, cut, drain, waterway, watercourse; earthwork, entrenchment, moat*; Archaeology fosse.

**trenchant** adjective *incisive, penetrating, sharp, keen, acute, shrewd, razor-sharp, rapier-like, piercing; vigorous, forceful, strong, telling, emphatic, forthright; mordant, cutting, biting, pungent*.

– OPPOSITES vague.

**trend** noun **1** *an upward trend in unemployment*: tendency, movement, drift, swing, shift, course, current, direction, inclination, leaning; bias, bent. **2** *the latest trend in dance music*: fashion, vogue, style, mode, craze, mania, rage; informal fad, thing. • *verb interest rates are trending up*: move, go, head, drift, gravitate, swing, shift, turn, incline, tend, lean, veer.

**trendy** adjective (informal) *fashionable, in fashion, in vogue, popular, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, modern, all the rage, modish, à la mode, trendsetting; stylish, chic, designer; informal cool, funky, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, sharp, groovy, snazzy, with it*; N. Amer. informal tony, kicky.

– OPPOSITES unfashionable.

**trepidation** noun *fear, apprehension, dread, fearfulness, agitation, anxiety, worry, nervousness, tension, misgivings, unease, uneasiness, foreboding, disquiet, dismay, consternation, alarm, panic*; informal butterflies, jitteriness, the jitters, a cold

sweat, a blue funk, the heebie-jeebies, the willies, the shakes, the jim-jams, collywobbles, cold feet; Brit. informal the (screaming) abdots/habdots.

– OPPOSITES equanimity, composure.

**trespass** verb **1** *there is no excuse for trespassing on railway property*: intrude on, encroach on, enter without permission, invade. **2** *I must not trespass on your good nature*: take advantage of, impose on, play on, exploit, abuse; encroach on, infringe. **3** (old use) *he would be the last among us to trespass*: sin, transgress, offend, do wrong, err, go astray, fall from grace, stray from the straight and narrow.

• noun **1** *his alleged trespass on council land*: unlawful entry, intrusion, encroachment, invasion. **2** (old use) *he asked forgiveness for his trespasses*: sin, wrong, wrongdoing, transgression, crime, offence, misdeed, misdemeanour, error, lapse, fall from grace.

**trespasser** noun **1** *a high stone wall discouraged would-be trespassers*: intruder, interloper, unwelcome visitor, encroacher. **2** (old use) *trespassers asking for forgiveness*: sinner, transgressor, wrongdoer, evildoer, malefactor, offender, criminal.

**tresses** plural noun *hair, head of hair, mane, mop of hair, shock of hair; locks, curls, ringlets*.

**trial** noun **1** *the trial is expected to last several weeks*: court case, case, lawsuit, suit, hearing, inquiry, tribunal, litigation, (legal/judicial) proceedings, legal action; court martial; appeal, retrial. **2** *the drug is undergoing clinical trials*: test, try-out, experiment, pilot study; examination, check, assessment, evaluation, appraisal; trial/test period, trial/test run, dummy run; informal dry run. **3** *she could be a bit of a trial at times*: nuisance, pest, bother, irritant, problem, inconvenience, plague, thorn in one's flesh, the bane of one's life, one's cross to bear; bore; informal pain, pain in the neck/backside, headache, drag, nightmare; Scottish informal skelf; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt, nudnik, burr under someone's saddle. **4** *a long account of her trials and tribulations*: trouble, anxiety, worry, burden, affliction, ordeal, tribulation, adversity, hardship, tragedy, trauma, reverse, setback, difficulty, problem, misfortune, bad luck, mishap, misadventure; informal hassle; literary travails.

• adjective *a three-month trial period*:

test, experimental, pilot, exploratory, probationary, provisional.

• *verb the electronic cash card has been trialled by several banks*: test, try out, put to the test, put through its paces; pilot.

**tribe** noun **1** *the nomadic tribes of the Sahara*: ethnic group, people; family, dynasty, house; clan, sept. **2** *a tribe of children trailed after her*: group, crowd, gang, company, body, band, host, bevy, party, pack, army, herd, flock, drove, horde; informal bunch, crew, gaggle, posse.

**tribulation** noun **1** *the tribulations of her personal life*: trouble, difficulty, problem,



worry, anxiety, burden, cross to bear, ordeal, trial, adversity, hardship, tragedy, trauma, affliction; reverse, setback, blow; informal hassle. **2** *his time of tribulation was just beginning: suffering, distress, trouble, misery, wretchedness, unhappiness, sadness, heartache, woe, grief, pain, anguish, agony; literary travail.*

**tribunal** noun **1** *a rent tribunal: arbitration board/panel, board, panel, committee.* **2** *an international war-crimes tribunal: court, court of justice, court of law, law court; court of inquiry; N. Amer. forum.*

**tributary** noun *headwater, branch, feeder, side stream, affluent; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ creek.*

**tribute** noun **1** *tributes flooded in from friends and colleagues: accolade, praise, commendation, salute, testimonial, homage, eulogy, paean, panegyric; congratulations, compliments, plaudits, bouquet; gift, present, offering; formal laudation, encomium.* **2** *it is a tribute to his determination that he ever played again: testimony, indication, manifestation, evidence, proof, attestation.* **3** *the Vikings demanded tributes in silver: payment, contribution, dues, levy, tax, duty, impost.*

— OPPOSITES criticism, condemnation.

■ **pay tribute to** praise, sing the praises of, speak highly of, commend, acclaim, take one's hat off to, applaud, salute, honour, show appreciation of, recognize, acknowledge, pay homage to, extol; formal laud.

**trice** noun

■ **in a trice** very soon, in a moment/second/instant, shortly, any minute (now), in a short time, in (less than) no time, in the twinkling of an eye, in a flash, before you know it, before long; N. Amer. momentarily; informal anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson; Brit. informal in a tick, in a mo, in two ticks; N. Amer. informal in a snap; dated directly.

**trick** noun **1** *he's capable of any mean trick: stratagem, ploy, ruse, scheme, device, manoeuvre, contrivance, machination, artifice, wile, dodge; deceit, deception, trickery, subterfuge, chicanery, sharp practice; swindle, hoax, fraud, confidence trick; informal con (trick), set-up, game, scam, sting, flimflam; Brit. informal wheeze; N. Amer. informal bunco; old use shift.* **2** *I think he's playing a trick on us: practical joke, joke, prank, jape; informal leg-pull, spoof, put-on; Brit. informal cod.* **3** *conjuring tricks: feat, stunt; (tricks) sleight of hand, legerdemain, prestidigitation; magic.* **4** *it was probably a trick of the light: illusion, optical illusion, figment of the imagination; mirage.* **5** *the tricks of the trade: knack, art, skill, technique; secret.* **6** *he sat biting his fingernails, a trick of his when he was excited: mannerism, habit, quirk, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, foible, way; characteristic, trait.* • **verb** *many people have been tricked by villains with false identity cards: deceive, delude, hoodwink, mislead, take in, dupe,*

*fool, double-cross, cheat, defraud, swindle, catch out, gull, hoax, bamboozle; informal con, diddle, rook, put one over on, pull a fast one on, pull the wool over someone's eyes, take for a ride, lead up the garden path, shaft, do, flimflam; N. Amer. informal sucker, snooker, gold-brick; Austral. informal pull a swifty on; literary cozen.*

■ **trick someone/something out** dress (up), attire, array, rig out, garb, get up; adorn, decorate, deck (out), bedeck, embellish, ornament, festoon; literary bedizen, caparison; old use apparel.

**trickery** noun *deception, deceit, dishonesty, cheating, duplicity, double-dealing, legerdemain, sleight of hand, guile, craftiness, deviousness, subterfuge, skulduggery, chicanery, fraud, fraudulence, swindling, sharp practice; informal monkey business, funny business, jiggery-pokery.*

— OPPOSITES honesty.

**trickle** verb *blood was trickling from two cuts in his lip: drip, dribble, ooze, leak, seep, spill.*

— OPPOSITES pour, gush.

• **noun trickles of water: dribble, drip, thin stream, rivulet.**

**trickster** noun *swindler, cheat, fraud, fraudster; charlatan, mountebank, quack, impostor, sham, hoaxer; rogue, villain, scoundrel; informal con man, sharp, flimflammer; Brit. informal twister; N. Amer. informal grifter, bunco artist; Austral. informal illywhacker, magsman; dated confidence man.*

**tricky** adjective **1** *a tricky situation:*

*difficult, awkward, problematic, delicate, ticklish, sensitive, embarrassing, touchy; risky, uncertain, precarious, touch-and-go; thorny, knotty; informal sticky, dicey; N. Amer. informal gnarly.* **2** *a tricky and unscrupulous politician: cunning, crafty, wily, guileful, artful, devious, sly, scheming, calculating, designing, sharp, shrewd, astute, canny; duplicitous, dishonest, deceitful; informal foxy.*

— OPPOSITES straightforward, honest.

**tried and trusted** adjective *reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusted, certain, sure; proven, proved, tested, tried and tested, put to the test, established, fail-safe; reputable.*

**trifle** noun **1** *we needn't bother the headmaster over such trifles: unimportant thing, trivial thing, triviality, thing of no importance/ consequence, bagatelle, inessential, nothing; technicality; (trifles) trivia, minutiae.* **2** *he bought it for a trifle: next to nothing, very small amount; pittance; informal peanuts; N. Amer. informal chump change.* **3** *he went to buy a few trifles for Christmas: bauble, trinket, knick-knack, gimcrack, gewgaw, toy.* ■ **a trifle** a little, a bit, somewhat, a touch, a spot, a mite, a whit; informal a tad.

■ **trifle with** play with, amuse oneself with, toy with, dally with, flirt with, play fast and loose with; informal mess about with; dated sport with.

**trifling** adjective *trivial, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, petty,*

minor, of little/no account, of little/no consequence, footling, pettifoggling, incidental; silly, idle, superficial, small, tiny, inconsiderable, nominal, negligible, nugatory; informal piffing, piddling, fiddling; formal exiguous.

– OPPOSITES important.

**trigger** verb 1 *the incident triggered an acrimonious debate*: precipitate, prompt, trigger off, set off, spark (off), touch off, provoke, stir up; cause, give rise to, lead to, set in motion, occasion, bring about, generate, engender, begin, start, initiate; literary enkindle. 2 *burglars triggered the alarm*: activate, set off, set going, trip.

**trill** verb warble, sing, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, cheep, peep.

**trim** verb 1 *his hair had been washed and trimmed*: cut, barber, crop, bob, shorten, clip, snip, shear; neat, shape, tidy up. 2 *trim off the lower leaves using a sharp knife*: cut off, remove, take off, chop off, lop off; prune, pollard. 3 *production costs need to be trimmed*: reduce, decrease, cut down, cut back on, scale down, prune, slim down, pare down, dock. 4 *the story was severely trimmed for the film version*: shorten, abridge, condense, abbreviate, telescope, truncate. 5 *a pair of black leather gloves trimmed with fake fur*: decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish; edge, pipe, border, hem, fringe.

• noun 1 *white curtains with a blue trim*: decoration, trimming, ornamentation, adornment, embellishment; border, edging, piping, rickrack, hem, fringe, frill; old use purfle. 2 *an unruly mop in desperate need of a trim*: haircut, cut, barbering, clip, snip; pruning; tidy-up.

• adjective 1 *a cropped, fitted jacket looks trim with a long-line skirt*: smart, stylish, chic, spruce, dapper, elegant, crisp; N. Amer. trig; informal natty, sharp; N. Amer. informal spiffy. 2 *a trim little villa*: neat, tidy, neat and tidy, as neat as a new pin, orderly, in (good) order, uncluttered, well kept, well maintained, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, immaculate, spick and span. 3 *her trim figure*: slim, slender, lean, clean-limbed, sleek, willowy, lissom, sylphlike, svelte; streamlined.

– OPPOSITES untidy, messy.

■ in trim fit, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle, in good health, in fine fettle; slim, in shape.

**trimming** noun 1 *a black party dress with lace trimming*: decoration, trim, ornamentation, adornment, passementerie, embroidery; border, edging, piping, rickrack, fringes, fringing, frills; old use purples. 2 *roast turkey with all the trimmings*: accompaniments, extras, frills, accessories, accoutrements, trappings, paraphernalia; garnishing, garnish. 3 *hedge trimmings*: cuttings, clippings, parings, shavings.

**trinket** noun knick-knack, bauble, ornament, bibelot, curio, trifle, toy, novelty, gimcrack, gewgaw; N. Amer. kickshaw; N. Amer. informal tchotchke; old use whim-wham, bijou, gaud.

**trio** noun threesome, three, triumvirate,

triad, troika, trinity; trilogy, triptych; triplets.

**trip** verb 1 *he tripped on the loose stones*: stumble, lose one's footing, catch one's foot, slip, lose one's balance, fall (down), tumble, topple, take a spill. 2 *taxpayers often trip up by not declaring taxable income*: make a mistake, miscalculate, make a blunder, blunder, go wrong, make an error, err; informal slip up, screw up, make a boo-boo; Brit. informal boob; N. Amer. informal goof up. 3 *the question was intended to trip him up*: catch out, trick, outwit, outsmart; throw off balance, disconcert, unsettle, discountenance, discomfit; informal throw, wrong-foot; Brit. informal catch on the hop. 4 *they tripped up the terrace steps*: skip, run, dance, prance, bound, spring, scamper. 5 *Hoffman tripped the alarm*: set off, activate, trigger; turn on, switch on, throw.

• noun 1 *a trip to Paris*: excursion, outing, jaunt; holiday, visit, tour, journey, expedition, voyage; drive, run, day out, day trip; informal junket, spin. 2 *trips and falls cause nearly half such accidents*: stumble, slip, misstep, false step; fall, tumble, spill.

**tripe** noun (informal). See NONSENSE sense 1.

**triple** adjective 1 *a triple alliance*: three-way, tripartite; threefold. 2 *they paid him triple the going rate*: three times, treble.

**tripper** noun (Brit. informal) tourist, holidaymaker, sightseer, day tripper, visitor, traveller; N. Amer. vacationer, vacationist, out-of-towner; Brit. informal grockle.

**trite** adjective banal, hackneyed, clichéd, platitudinous, vapid, commonplace, stock, conventional, stereotyped, overused, overdone, overworked, stale, worn out, time-worn, tired, hoary, hack, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninteresting, dull; informal old hat, corny, played out; N. Amer. informal cornball.

– OPPOSITES original, imaginative.

**triumph** noun 1 *Napoleon's many triumphs*: victory, win, conquest, success; achievement. 2 *his eyes shone with triumph*: jubilation, exultation, elation, delight, joy, happiness, glee, pride, satisfaction. 3 *a triumph of Victorian engineering*: tour de force, masterpiece, crowning example, coup, wonder, sensation, master stroke.

– OPPOSITES defeat, disappointment.

• verb 1 *he triumphed in the British Grand Prix*: win, succeed, come first, be victorious, carry the day, carry all before one, prevail, take the honours, come out on top. 2 *they had no chance of triumphing over the Nationalists*: defeat, beat, conquer, trounce, vanquish, worst, overcome, overpower, overwhelm, get the better of; bring someone to their knees, prevail against, subdue, subjugate; informal lick, best. 3 *'You can't touch me,' she triumphed*: crow, gloat; rejoice, exult.

– OPPOSITES lose.

**triumphant** adjective 1 *the triumphant British team*: victorious, successful,

winning, conquering; undefeated, unbeaten.

**2** *a triumphant expression*: **jubilant**, exultant, elated, rejoicing, joyful, joyous, delighted, gleeful, proud, cock-a-hoop; gloating.

– OPPOSITES unsuccessful, despondent.

**trivia** plural noun (petty) details, minutiae, niceties, technicalities, trivialities, trifles, non-essentials.

**trivial** adjective **1** *trivial problems*:

**unimportant**, insignificant, inconsequential, minor, of no account, of no consequence, of no importance; incidental, inessential, non-essential, petty, trifling, pettifoggling, footling, small, slight, little, inconsiderable, negligible, paltry, nugatory; informal piddling, piffling, fiddling, penny-ante. **2** *I used to be quite a trivial person*: **frivolous**, superficial, shallow, unthinking, empty-headed, feather-brained, lightweight, foolish, silly.

– OPPOSITES important, significant, serious.

**triviality** noun **1** *the triviality of the subject matter*: **unimportance**, insignificance, inconsequence, inconsequentiality, pettiness. **2** *he need not concern himself with such trivialities*: **minor detail**, petty detail, thing of no importance/consequence, trifle, non-essential, nothing; technicality; (trivialities) trivia, minutiae.

**trivialize** verb **minimize**, play down, underestimate, underplay, make light of, treat lightly, dismiss; informal pooch-pooch.

**troop** noun **1** *a troop of tourists*: **group**, party, band, gang, bevy, body, company, troupe, crowd, throng, horde, pack, drove, flock, swarm, multitude, host, army; informal bunch, gaggle, crew, posse. **2** *British troops were stationed here*: **soldiers**, armed forces, service men/women; the services, the army, the military, soldiery.

• verb **1** *we trooped out of the hall*: **walk**, march, file; flock, crowd, throng, stream, swarm, surge, spill. **2** *Caroline trooped wearily home*: **trudge**, plod, traipse, trail, drag oneself, tramp; N. Amer. informal schlep.

**trophy** noun **1** *a swimming trophy*: **cup**, medal; prize, award. **2** *a cabinet full of trophies from his travels*: **souvenir**, memento, keepsake; spoils, booty.

**tropical** adjective *tropical weather*: **very hot**, sweltering, humid, sultry, steamy, sticky, oppressive, stifling, suffocating, heavy; informal boiling.

– OPPOSITES cold, arctic.

**trot** verb *Doyle trotted across the patio*: **run**, jog, jogtrot, dogtrot; scuttle, scurry, bustle, scamper.

■ **on the trot** (Brit. informal) in succession, one after the other, in a row, consecutively, successively; running, straight.

■ **trot something out** (informal) recite, repeat, regurgitate, churn out; come out with, produce.

**troubadour** noun (historical) **minstrel**, singer, balladeer, poet; historical jongleur, trouvère.

**trouble** noun **1** *you've caused enough trouble already*: **problems**, difficulty, bother, inconvenience, worry, anxiety,

distress, stress, agitation, harassment, unpleasantness; informal hassle. **2** *she poured out all her troubles*: **problem**, misfortune, difficulty, trial, tribulation, trauma, burden, pain, woe, grief, heartache, misery, affliction, suffering. **3** *he's gone to a lot of trouble to help you*: **bother**, inconvenience, fuss, effort, exertion, work, labour; pains, care, attention, thought. **4** *I wouldn't want to be a trouble to her*: **nuisance**, bother, inconvenience, irritation, irritant, problem, trial, pest, thorn in someone's flesh/side; informal headache, pain, pain in the neck/backside, drag; N. Amer. informal pain in the butt, burr under someone's saddle, nudnik.

**5** *you're too gullible, that's your trouble*: **shortcoming**, weakness, weak point, failing, fault, imperfection, defect, blemish; problem, difficulty. **6** *he had a history of heart trouble*: **disease**, illness, sickness, ailments, complaints, problems; disorder, disability. **7** *the crash was due to engine trouble*: **malfunction**, dysfunction, failure, breakdown. **8** *a match marred by serious crowd trouble*: **disturbance**, disorder, unrest, fighting, ructions, fracas, breach of the peace; Law, dated affray.

• verb **1** *this matter had been troubling her for some time*: **worry**, bother, concern, disturb, upset, agitate, distress, perturb, annoy, irritate, vex, irk, nag, niggle, prey on someone's mind, weigh down, burden; informal bug. **2** *he was troubled by bouts of ill health*: **afflict**, burden; suffer from, be cursed with; informal be a martyr to. **3** *there is nothing you need trouble about*: **worry**, upset oneself, fret, be anxious, be concerned, concern oneself. **4** *don't trouble to see me out*: **bother**, take the trouble, go to the trouble, exert oneself, go out of one's way. **5** *I'm sorry to trouble you*: **inconvenience**, bother, impose on, disturb, put out, disoblige; informal hassle; formal discommode.

■ **in trouble** in difficulty, in difficulties, in a mess, in a bad way, in a predicament; informal in a tight corner/spot, in a fix, in a hole, in hot water, in a pickle, in the soup, up against it; Brit. informal up a gum tree.

**troubled** adjective **1** *Joanna looked troubled*: **anxious**, worried, concerned, perturbed, disturbed, bothered, ill at ease, uneasy, unsettled, agitated; distressed, upset, dismayed. **2** *we live in troubled times*: **difficult**, problematic, full of problems, unsettled, hard, tough, stressful, dark.

**troublemaker** noun **mischief-maker**, agitator, rabble-rouser, firebrand, agent provocateur, ringleader, incendiary; demagogue; scandalmonger, gossipmonger, meddler; informal stirrer.

**troublesome** adjective **1** *a troublesome problem*: **annoying**, irritating, exasperating, maddening, infuriating, irksome, vexatious, vexing, bothersome, tiresome, worrying, worrisome, disturbing, upsetting, nagging, nagging; difficult, awkward, problematic, taxing; informal aggravating; N. Amer. informal pesky. **2** *a troublesome child*: **difficult**, awkward, trying, demanding, uncooperative,



rebellious, unmanageable, unruly, obstreperous, disruptive, badly behaved, disobedient, naughty, recalcitrant; formal refractory.

– OPPOSITES simple, cooperative.

**trough** noun **1** *a large feeding trough:* manger, feedbox, feeder, fodder rack, crib. **2** *a thirty-yard trough:* channel, conduit, trench, ditch, gully, drain, culvert, cut, flume, gutter.

**trounce** verb defeat utterly, beat hollow, rout, crush, overwhelm; informal hammer, clobber, thrash, drub, pulverize, massacre, crucify, demolish, destroy, annihilate, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, murder; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal shellac, cream, skunk.

**troupe** noun group, company, band, ensemble, set; cast.

**trousers** plural noun slacks, chinos, jeans; N. Amer. pants; Brit. informal trews, strides, kecks, breeches; Austral. informal daks.

**truant** noun absentee; Brit. informal skiver; Austral./NZ informal wag.

• verb pupils who truant. See **PLAY TRUANT**.

■ **play truant** stay away from school, truant; informal sag off; Brit. informal skive (off), bunk off; Irish informal mitch (off); N. Amer. informal play hooky, goof off; Austral./NZ informal play the wag.

**truce** noun ceasefire, armistice, suspension of hostilities, peace; respite, lull; informal let-up.

**truck**<sup>1</sup> noun *a heavily laden truck:* lorry, wagon, heavy goods vehicle, juggernaut; van, pickup (truck); Brit. HGV; dated pantehnicron.

**truck**<sup>2</sup> noun *we are to have no truck with him:* dealings, association, contact, communication, connection, relations; business, trade.

**truckle** verb *an ambitious woman who truckled to no man:* kowtow, submit, defer, yield, bow and scrape, be obsequious, pander, toady, prostrate oneself, grovel; fawn on, dance attendance on, curry favour with, ingratiate oneself with; informal suck up, crawl, lick someone's boots; Austral./NZ informal smooch.

**truculent** adjective defiant, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, pugnacious, confrontational, ready for a fight, obstreperous, argumentative, quarrelsome, uncooperative; bad-tempered, short-tempered, cross, snappish; informal feisty, spoiling for a fight; Brit. informal stroppy, bolshie.

– OPPOSITES cooperative, amiable.

**trudge** verb plod, tramp, drag oneself, walk heavily/slowly, plough, slog, footslog, toil, trek; informal traipse, galumph; Brit. informal trog.

**true** adjective **1** *you'll see that what I say is true:* correct, accurate, right, verifiable, in accordance with the facts, what actually/really happened, the case, so; faithful, literal, factual, unelaborated, unvarnished. **2** *people are still willing to pay for true*

*craftsmanship:* genuine, authentic, real, actual, bona fide, proper; informal honest-to-goodness, kosher, pukka, legit, the real McCoy; Austral./NZ informal dinkum. **3** *the true owner of the goods:* rightful, legitimate, legal, lawful, authorized, bona fide, de jure.

**4** *the necessity for true repentance:* sincere, genuine, real, unfeigned, heartfelt, from the heart. **5** *a true friend:* loyal, faithful, constant, devoted, staunch, steadfast, unswerving, unwavering; trustworthy, trusty, reliable, dependable. **6** *a true reflection of life in the 50s:* accurate, true to life, faithful, telling it like it is, fact-based, realistic, close, lifelike.

– OPPOSITES untrue, false, disloyal, inaccurate.

**true-blue** adjective staunch, loyal, faithful, stalwart, committed, card-carrying, confirmed, dyed-in-the-wool, devoted, dedicated, firm, steadfast, unswerving, unwavering, unfaltering; informal deep-dyed.

**truism** noun platitude, commonplace, cliché, stock phrase, banality, old chestnut, old saw, bromide.

**truly** adverb **1** *tell me truly what you want:*

truthfully, honestly, frankly, candidly, openly, to someone's face, laying one's cards on the table; informal pulling no punches.

**2** *I'm truly grateful to them:* sincerely, genuinely, really, indeed, from the bottom

of one's heart, heartily, profoundly; very, extremely, dreadfully, immensely, tremendously, incredibly, most; informal awfully, terribly, terrifically, fearfully; Brit. informal jolly, ever so; informal, dated frightfully.

**3** *a truly dreadful song:* really, absolutely, simply, utterly, totally, perfectly, thoroughly, positively, completely. **4** *this is truly a miracle:* without (a) doubt, unquestionably, undoubtedly, certainly, surely, definitely, beyond doubt/question, indubitably, undeniably, beyond the shadow of a doubt; in truth, really, in reality, actually, in fact; old use forsooth, in sooth, verily. **5** *the streaming system does not truly reflect children's ability:* accurately, correctly, exactly, precisely, faithfully.

**trump** verb *by wearing the simplest of dresses, she had trumped them all:* outshine, outclass, upstage, put in the shade, eclipse, surpass, outdo, outperform; beat, better, top, cap; informal be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, leave standing; Brit. informal knock spots off; old use outrival.

■ **trump something up** invent, make up, fabricate, concoct, contrive, manufacture, devise, hatch; fake, falsify; informal cook up.

**trumped up** adjective bogus, spurious, specious, false, fabricated, invented, manufactured, contrived, made-up, fake, factitious; informal phoney.

– OPPOSITES genuine.

**trumpety** noun (old use) trinkets, baubles, knick-knacks, ornaments, bibelots, gewgaws, gimcracks.

**trumpet** verb **1** *'come on!' he trumpeted:* shout, bellow, roar, yell, cry out, call out;

informal holler. **2** *companies trumpeted their enthusiasm for the multimedia revolution:* **proclaim**, announce, declare, noise abroad, shout from the rooftops.

■ **blow one's own trumpet** boast, brag, sing one's own praises, show off, swank, congratulate oneself; N. Amer. informal *blow/* toot one's own horn; Austral./NZ informal *skite*.

**truncate** **verb** shorten, cut, cut short, curtail, bring to an untimely end; abbreviate, condense, reduce.

– **OPPOSITES** lengthen, extend.

**truncheon** **noun** (Brit.) club, baton, cudgel, bludgeon; stick, staff; Brit. life preserver; N. Amer. billy, blackjack, nightstick; Brit. informal *cosh*.

**trunk** **noun** **1** *the trunk of a tree:* main stem, bole, stock. **2** *his powerful trunk:* torso, body. **3** *an elephant's trunk:* proboscis, nose, snout. **4** *an enormous tin trunk:* chest, box, crate, coffer; case, portmanteau. **5** (N. Amer.) *the trunk of his car:* luggage compartment; Brit. boot.

**truss** **noun** **1** *the bridge is supported by three steel trusses:* support, buttress, joist, brace, prop, strut, stay, stanchion, pier. **2** *a hernia truss:* surgical appliance, support, pad. • **verb** *they trussed us up with ropes and chains:* tie up, bind, chain up; pinion, fetter, tether, secure.

**trust** **noun** **1** *good relationships are built on trust:* confidence, belief, faith, certainty, assurance, conviction, credence; reliance. **2** *a position of trust:* responsibility, duty, obligation. **3** *the money is to be held in trust for his son:* safe keeping, keeping, protection, charge, care, custody; trusteeship, guardianship.

• **verb** **1** *I should never have trusted her:* put one's trust in, have faith in, have (every) confidence in, believe in, pin one's hopes/faith on. **2** *he can be trusted to carry out an impartial investigation:* rely on, depend on, bank on, count on, be sure of. **3** *I trust we shall meet again:* hope, expect, take it, assume, presume. **4** *they don't like to trust their money to anyone outside the family:* entrust, consign, commit, give, hand over, turn over, assign; formal commend.

– **OPPOSITES** distrust, mistrust, doubt.

**fiduciary** Law involving trust

**trustee** **noun** administrator, agent; custodian, keeper, steward, depository; executor, executrix; Law fiduciary, feoffee.

**trustful** **adjective.** See **TRUSTING**.

**trusting** **adjective** trustful, unsuspecting, unquestioning, unguarded, unwary; naive, innocent, childlike, ingenuous, wide-eyed, credulous, gullible, easily taken in.

– **OPPOSITES** distrustful, suspicious.

**trustworthy** **adjective** reliable, dependable, honest, honourable, upright, principled, true, truthful, as good as one's word, ethical, virtuous, incorruptible, unimpeachable, above suspicion; responsible, sensible, level-headed; loyal, faithful, staunch, steadfast, trusty; safe, sound, reputable; informal on the level; N. Amer. informal straight-up.

– **OPPOSITES** unreliable.

**trusty** **adjective** reliable, dependable, trustworthy, never-failing, unflinching, trusted; loyal, faithful, true, staunch, steadfast, constant, unswerving, unwavering.

– **OPPOSITES** unreliable.

**truth** **noun** **1** *he doubted the truth of her statement:* veracity, truthfulness, verity, sincerity, candour, honesty; accuracy, correctness, validity, factuality, authenticity. **2** *it's the truth, I swear it:* what really happened, the case, so; gospel (truth), the honest truth. **3** *truth is stranger than fiction:* fact(s), reality, real life, actuality. **4** *scientific truths:* fact, verity, certainty, certitude; law, principle.

– **OPPOSITES** lies, fiction, falsehood.

■ **in truth** (in actual) fact, in point of fact, in reality, really, actually, to tell the truth, if truth be told.

**truthful** **adjective** **1** *a truthful answer:* honest, sincere, trustworthy, genuine; candid, frank, open, forthright, straight; informal upfront, on the level; N. Amer. informal on the up and up. **2** *a truthful account:* true, accurate, correct, factual, faithful, reliable; unvarnished, unembellished; formal veracious, veridical.

– **OPPOSITES** deceitful, untrue.

**try** **verb** **1** *try to help him:* attempt, endeavour, make an effort, exert oneself, strive, do one's best, do one's utmost, move heaven and earth; undertake, aim, take it on oneself; informal have a go, give it one's best shot, bend over backwards, bust a gut, do one's damndest, pull out all the stops, go all out, knock oneself out; formal essay; old use assay.

**2** *try it and see what you think:* test, put to the test, sample, taste, inspect, investigate, examine, appraise, evaluate, assess; informal check out, give something a whirl. **3** *Mary tried everyone's patience:* tax, strain, test, stretch, sap, drain, exhaust, wear out. **4** *the case is to be tried by a jury:* adjudicate, consider, hear, adjudge, examine.

• **noun** *I'll have one last try:* attempt, effort, endeavour; informal go, shot, crack, stab, bash, whack; formal essay.

■ **try something out** test, trial, experiment with, pilot; put through its paces; assess, evaluate.

**trying** **adjective** **1** *a trying day:* stressful, taxing, demanding, difficult, tough, hard, pressured, frustrating, fraught; arduous, gruelling, tiring, exhausting; informal hellish. **2** *Steve was very trying:* annoying, irritating, exasperating, maddening, infuriating; tiresome, irksome, troublesome, bothersome; informal aggravating.

– **OPPOSITES** easy, accommodating.

**tub** **noun** **1** *a wooden tub:* container, butt, barrel, cask, drum, keg. **2** *a tub of yogurt:* pot, carton. **3** *a soak in the tub:* bath, bathtub; hot tub.

**tubby** **adjective** (informal) chubby, plump, stout, dumpy, chunky, portly, rotund, round, fat, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, pot-bellied,

corpulent; informal pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery; Brit. informal podgy; N. Amer. informal corn-fed.

– OPPOSITES skinny.

**tuck** verb **1** *he tucked his shirt into his trousers:* push, insert, slip; thrust, stuff, stick, cram; informal pop. **2** *the dress was tucked all over:* pleat, gather, fold, ruffle. **3** *he tucked the knife behind his seat:* hide, conceal, secrete; store, stow; informal stash. • **noun** **1** *a dress with tucks:* pleat, gather, fold, ruffle. **2** (Brit. informal) *they pinched his tuck:* food; informal eats, grub, nosh, chow; Brit. informal scoff; N. Amer. informal chuck; literary viands; dated victuals. ■ **tuck someone in/up** make comfortable, settle down, cover up; put to bed. ■ **tuck in/into** (informal) eat heartily, devour, consume, gobble up, wolf down; informal get stuck into, dispose of, polish off, Hoover up, get outside of, put away, scoff (down), trough; Brit. informal shift; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).

**tuff** noun **clump**, bunch, knot, cluster, tussock, tuffet; lock, wisp; crest, topknot; tassel.

**tug** verb **1** *Ben tugged at her sleeve:* pull, pluck, tweak, twitch, jerk, wrench; catch hold of; informal yank. **2** *she tugged him towards the door:* drag, pull, lug, draw, haul, heave, tow, trail. • **noun** *one good tug would loosen it:* pull, jerk, wrench, heave; informal yank.

**tuition** noun **instruction**, teaching, coaching, tutoring, tutelage, lessons, education, schooling; training, drill, preparation, guidance.

**tumble** verb **1** *he tumbled over:* fall (over/down), topple over, lose one's balance, keel over, take a spill, go headlong, go head over heels, trip (up), stumble; informal come a cropper. **2** *they all tumbled from the room:* hurry, rush, scramble, scurry, bound, pile, bundle. **3** *a brook tumbled over the rocks:* cascade, fall, flow, pour, spill, stream. **4** *oil prices tumbled:* plummet, plunge, fall, dive, nosedive, drop, slump, slide, decrease, decline; informal crash. **5** (informal) *I tumbled to what was happening.* See **REALIZE** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES rise.

• **noun** **1** *I took a tumble in the nettles:* fall, trip, spill; informal nosedive, header, cropper. **2** *a tumble in share prices:* drop, fall, plunge, dive, nosedive, slump, decline, collapse; informal crash.

– OPPOSITES rise.

**tumbledown** adjective **dilapidated**, ramshackle, decrepit, neglected, run down, gone to rack and ruin, falling to pieces, decaying, derelict, crumbling; rickety, shaky; N. Amer. informal shabby.

**tumbler** noun (drinking) glass, beaker, highball glass.

**tumid** adjective **1** *her tumid belly:* swollen, distended, tumescent, engorged, enlarged, bloated, bulging, protuberant, bulbous. **2** *tumid oratory:* bombastic, pompous, turgid, overblown, inflated, high-flown,

pretentious, grandiose, florid, flowery, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund; informal highfalutin, purple, windy.

– OPPOSITES shrunken, simple.

**tummy** noun (informal) **stomach**, abdomen, belly, gut, middle; informal tum, insides; Austral. informal bingy.

**tumour** noun **cancerous growth**, malignant growth, cancer, malignancy; lump, growth, swelling; Medicine carcinoma, sarcoma.

**tumult** noun **1** *she added her voice to the tumult:* clamour, din, noise, racket, uproar, commotion, ruckus, rumpus, hubbub, pandemonium, babel, bedlam, brouhaha, furore, fracas, melee, frenzy; Scottish & N. English stramash; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row. **2** *years of political tumult:* turmoil, confusion, disorder, disarray, unrest, chaos, turbulence, mayhem, havoc, upheaval, ferment, agitation, trouble.

– OPPOSITES tranquillity.

**tumultuous** adjective **1** *tumultuous applause:* loud, deafening, thunderous, uproarious, noisy, clamorous, vociferous. **2** *a tumultuous crowd:* disorderly, unruly, rowdy, turbulent, boisterous, excited, agitated, restless, wild, riotous, frenzied; informal rumbustious.

– OPPOSITES soft, orderly.

**tune** noun *she hummed a cheerful tune:* melody, air, strain, theme; song, jingle, ditty. • **verb** **1** *they tuned their guitars:* adjust, fine-tune. **2** *a body clock tuned to the tides:* attune, adapt, adjust, fine-tune; regulate, modulate.

■ **in tune** in accord, in keeping, in accordance, in agreement, in harmony, in step, in line, in sympathy.

**tuneful** adjective **melodious**, melodic, musical, mellifluous, dulcet, euphonious, harmonious, lyrical, lilting, sweet.

– OPPOSITES discordant.

**tuneless** adjective **discordant**, unmelodious, dissonant, harsh, cacophonous.

– OPPOSITES melodious.

**tunnel** noun *a tunnel under the hills:* underground passage, underpass, subway; shaft; burrow, hole; historical mine, sap. • **verb** *he tunnelled under the fence:* dig, burrow, mine, bore, drill.

**turbid** adjective **murky**, opaque, cloudy, muddy, thick; N. Amer. roily.

– OPPOSITES clear.

**turbulent** adjective **1** *the country's turbulent past:* tempestuous, stormy, unstable, unsettled, tumultuous, chaotic; violent, anarchic, lawless. **2** *turbulent seas:* rough, stormy, tempestuous, storm-tossed, heavy, violent, wild, seething, choppy, agitated, boisterous.

– OPPOSITES peaceful, calm.

**turf** noun **1** *they walked across the turf:* grass, lawn, sod; literary sward, greensward. **2** *devotees of the turf:* horse racing; racecourses, racetracks. **3** (informal) *he was keen to protect his turf:* territory, domain, province, preserve, sphere of influence;



stamping ground; informal bailiwick; Brit. informal patch, manor.

• **verb** *the lawns have been turfed*: grass (over).

■ **turf someone/something out** (informal). See **EJECT** sense 3.

**turgid** **adjective** **1** *his turgid prose*: bombastic, pompous, overblown, inflated, tumid, high-flown, affected, pretentious, grandiose, florid, ornate, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund; informal highfalutin, swollen, windy.

**2** *the tissues become turgid*: swollen, distended, tumescent, engorged, bloated.

– **OPPOSITES** simple.

**turmoil** **noun** *political turmoil*: confusion, upheaval, turbulence, tumult, disorder, disturbance, agitation, ferment, unrest, trouble, disruption, chaos, mayhem; uncertainty; N. Amer. informal tohubohu.

– **OPPOSITES** peace.

■ **in turmoil** confused, in a whirl, at sixes and sevens; reeling, disorientated; informal all over the place.

**turn** **verb** **1** *the wheels were still turning*: go round, revolve, rotate, spin, roll, circle, wheel, whirl, gyrate, swivel, pivot. **2** *I turned and headed back*: change direction, change course, make a U-turn, turn about/round, wheel round. **3** *the car turned the corner*: go round, round, negotiate, take. **4** *the path turned to right and left*: bend, curve, wind, twist, meander, snake, zigzag. **5** *he turned his pistol on Liam*: aim at, point at, level at, direct at, train on. **6** *he turned his ankle*: sprain, twist, wrench; hurt. **7** *their honeymoon turned into a nightmare*: become, develop into, turn out to be; be transformed into, metamorphose into. **8** *Emma turned red*: become, go, grow, get. **9** *he turned the house into flats*: convert, change, transform, make; adapt, modify, rebuild, reconstruct. **10** *I've just turned forty*: reach, get to, become; informal hit. **11** *the milk had turned*: (go) sour, go off, curdle, become rancid, go bad, spoil. **12** *he turned to politics*: take up, become involved in, go in for, enter, undertake. **13** *we can now turn to another topic*: move on to, go on to, consider, attend to, address; take up. **14** *she turned a somersault*: perform, execute, do, carry out. **15** *an object turned on a lathe*: fashion, make, shape, form.

• **noun** **1** *a turn of the wheel*: rotation, revolution, spin, whirl, gyration, swivel.

**2** *a turn to the left*: change of direction, veer, divergence. **3** *we're approaching the turn*:

bend, corner, dog-leg; turning, junction, crossroads; N. Amer. turnout; Brit. hairpin bend. **4** *you'll get your turn in a minute*: opportunity, chance, say; stint, time; try; informal go, shot, stab, crack. **5** *a comic turn*: act, routine, performance, number, piece.

**6** *a turn around the garden*: stroll, walk, saunter, amble, wander, airing, promenade; outing, excursion, jaunt; informal mosey, tootle, spin; Brit. informal pootle. **7** *you gave me quite a turn*: shock, start, surprise, jolt; fright, scare. **8** *she did me some good turns*: service, deed, act; favour, kindness;

disservice, wrong.

■ **in turn** one after the other, one by one, one at a time, in succession, successively, sequentially.

■ **take a turn for the better** improve, pick up, look up, perk up, rally, turn the corner; recover, revive.

■ **take a turn for the worse** deteriorate, worsen, decline, go downhill.

■ **turn back** retrace one's steps, go back, return; retreat.

■ **turn someone/something down** **1** *his novel was turned down*: reject, spurn, rebuff, refuse, decline; Brit. informal knock back.

**2** *Pete turned the sound down*: reduce, lower, decrease, lessen; muffle, mute.

■ **turn someone in** betray, inform on, denounce, sell out, stab someone in the back; informal split on, blow the whistle on, rat on, peach on, squeal on; Brit. informal grass on, shop; N. Amer. informal finger; Austral./NZ informal dob on.

■ **turn someone off** (informal) put off, leave cold, repel, disgust, revolt, offend; disenchant, alienate; bore; N. Amer. informal gross out.

■ **turn something off** switch off, shut off, put off, extinguish, deactivate; informal kill, cut.

■ **turn on the decision turned on the law**: depend on, rest on, hinge on, be contingent on, be decided by.

■ **turn someone on** (informal). See **AROUSE** sense 3.

■ **turn something on** switch on, put on, start up, activate, trip.

■ **turn on someone** attack, set on, fall on, let fly at, lash out at, hit out at, round on; informal lay into, tear into, let someone have it, bite someone's head off, jump down someone's throat; Brit. informal have a go at; N. Amer. informal light into.

■ **turn out** **1** *a huge crowd turned out*: come, be present, attend, appear, turn up, arrive; assemble, gather; informal show up. **2** *it turned out that she had been abroad*: transpire, emerge, come to light, become apparent.

**3** *things didn't turn out as I'd intended*: happen, occur, come about; develop, work out, come out, end up; informal pan out; formal eventuate.

■ **turn something out** **1** *turn out the light*.

See **TURN SOMETHING OFF**. **2** *they turn out a million engines a year*: produce, make, manufacture, fabricate, put out, churn out. **3** *she turned out the cupboards*: clear out, clean out, empty (out).

■ **turn over** overturn, upturn, capsize, keel over, turn turtle, be upended.

■ **turn something over** **1** *I turned over a few pages*: flip over, flick through, leaf through.

**2** *she turned the proposal over in her mind*: think about/over, consider, weigh up, ponder, contemplate, reflect on, chew over, mull over, muse on, ruminate on.

■ **turn of phrase** expression, idiom, phrase, term, word.

■ **turn someone's stomach** nauseate, sicken, make someone's gorge rise.

■ **turn to someone/something** seek help from, have recourse to, approach, apply to,

appeal to; take to, resort to.

■ **turn up 1** *the missing documents turned up*: be found, be discovered, be located, reappear. **2** *the police turned up*: arrive, appear, present oneself; informal show (up), rock up, show one's face. **3** *something better will turn up*: present itself, occur, happen, crop up.

■ **turn something up 1** *she turned up the volume*: increase, raise, amplify, intensify. **2** *they turned up lots of information*: discover, uncover, unearth, find, dig up, ferret out, root out, expose.

**turncoat** noun traitor, renegade, defector, deserter, betrayer, Judas; fifth columnist, quisling; informal rat.

**turning** noun **turn-off**, turn, side road, exit; N. Amer. turnout.

**turning point** noun watershed, critical moment, decisive moment, moment of truth, crossroads, crisis.

**turnout** noun **1** *the lecture attracted a good turnout*: attendance, audience, house; crowd, gathering, throng, assembly, assemblage, congregation. **2** *his turnout was very elegant*: outfit, clothes, clothing, dress, garb, attire, ensemble; informal get-up, gear, togs; Brit. informal clobber, kit; formal apparel.

**turnover** noun **1** *an annual turnover of £2.25 million*: (gross) revenue, income, yield; sales. **2** *a high turnover of staff*: rate of replacement, change, movement.

**turpitude** noun (formal). See DEPRAVITY.

**tussle** noun *his glasses were smashed in the tussle*: scuffle, fight, struggle, skirmish, brawl, scrum, rough and tumble, free-for-all, fracas, fray, rumpus, melee; Irish, N. Amer., & Austral. donnybrook; informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, spat, ruck; Brit. informal ding-dong, bust-up; Scottish informal rammy; Law, dated affray.

● **verb** *demonstrators tussled with police*: scuffle, fight, struggle, brawl, grapple, wrestle, clash; informal scrap; N. Amer. informal rough-house.

**tutor** noun *a history tutor*: teacher, instructor, educator, educationalist, lecturer, trainer, mentor; informal teach; formal pedagogue.

● **verb** *he was tutored at home*: teach, instruct, educate, school, coach, train, drill.

**tutorial** noun lesson, class, seminar.

**twaddle** noun (informal). See NONSENSE sense 1.

**tweak** verb **1** *he tweaked the boy's ear*: pull, jerk, tug, twist, twitch, pinch, squeeze. **2** (informal) *the programme can be tweaked to suit your needs*: adjust, modify, alter, change, adapt; refine.

● **noun 1** *he gave her hair a tweak*: pull, jerk, tug, twist, pinch, twitch, squeeze. **2** (informal) *a few minor tweaks were required*: adjustment, modification, alteration, change; refinement.

**twee** adjective (Brit.) **1** *twee little shops*: quaint, sweet, dainty, pretty; informal cute, cutesy. **2** *the lyrics are too twee in places*: sentimental, over-sentimental, mawkish,

sickly; Brit. informal soppy.

**twelve** cardinal number dozen.

#### WORD LINKS

**duodecimal** relating to a counting system with twelve as a base

**dodecagon** a plane figure with twelve straight sides

**dodecahedron** a solid figure with twelve faces

**gross twelve dozen**

**zodiac** an area of the sky divided by astrologers into twelve equal parts

**twenty** cardinal number score.

#### WORD LINKS

**icosahedron** a solid figure with twenty faces

**vigesimal** relating to the number twenty

**twiddle** verb *she twiddled the dials*: turn, twist, swivel, twirl; adjust, move, jiggle; fiddle with, play with.

■ **twiddle one's thumbs** be idle, kick one's heels, kill time, waste time; informal hang around/round; Brit. informal hang about.

**twig** noun *leafy twigs*: stick, sprig, withy, shoot, stem, branchlet.

**twig** verb (Brit. informal) *she finally twigged what I was on about*: realize, understand, grasp, comprehend, take in, fathom, see, recognize; informal latch on to, cotton on to, tumble to, get, get wise to, figure out; Brit. informal suss.

**twilight** noun **1** *we arrived at twilight*: dusk, sunset, sundown, nightfall, evening, close of day; literary eventide, the gloaming. **2** *it was scarcely visible in the twilight*: half-light, semi-darkness, gloom. **3** *the twilight of his career*: decline, waning, ebb; autumn, final years.

— OPPOSITES dawn.

● **adjective** *he inhabited a sinister twilight world of treason and murder*: shadowy, dark, shady, dim, gloomy, obscure.

#### WORD LINKS

**crepuscular** resembling or relating to twilight

**twin** noun *a sitting room that was the twin of her own*: duplicate, double, carbon-copy, exact likeness, mirror image, replica, lookalike, clone; counterpart, match, pair; informal spitting image, dead ringer.

● **adjective 1** *the twin towers of the stadium*: matching, identical, matched, paired. **2** *the twin aims of conservation and recreation*: twofold, double, dual; related, linked, connected; corresponding, parallel, complementary, equivalent.

● **verb** *the company twinned its brewing with distilling*: combine, join, link, couple, pair.

**twine** noun *a ball of twine*: string, cord, thread, yarn.

● **verb 1** *she twined her arms around him*: wind, entwine, wrap, wreath. **2** *convolvulus twined around the tree*: entwine itself, coil, loop, twist, spiral, curl. **3** *a bloom was twined in her hair*: weave, interlace, intertwine, braid, twist.

**twinge** noun **1** *twinges in her stomach*: pain, spasm, ache, throb; cramp, stitch. **2** *a twinge of guilt*: pang, prick, dart; qualm, scruple, misgiving.

**twinkle** verb **1** *the lights of the city twinkled*: glitter, sparkle, shine, glimmer, shimmer, glint, gleam, glisten, flicker, flash, wink; literary coruscate, glisten. **2** *his feet twinkled over the ground*: dart, dance, skip, flit, glide.

• **noun** *the twinkle of the lights*: glitter, sparkle, glimmer, shimmer, glint, gleam, flicker, flash, wink; literary coruscation.

**twinkling** adjective **sparkling**, glistening, glittering, glimmering, glinting, gleaming, flickering, winking, shining, scintillating; literary coruscating.

**twirl** verb **1** *she twirled her parasol*: spin, whirl, turn, gyrate, pivot, swivel, twist, revolve, rotate. **2** *she twirled her hair round her fingers*: wind, twist, coil, curl, wrap. • **noun** *she did a quick twirl*: pirouette, spin, whirl, turn, twist, rotation, revolution, gyration.

**twist** verb **1** *the impact twisted the chassis*: crumple, crush, buckle, mangle, warp, deform, distort. **2** *her face twisted with rage*: contort, screw up. **3** *Ma anxiously twisted a handkerchief*: wring, squeeze. **4** *he twisted round in his seat*: turn (round), swivel (round), spin (round), pivot, rotate, revolve. **5** *she twisted out of his grasp*: wriggle, squirm, worm, wiggle. **6** *I twisted my ankle*: sprain, wrench, turn, rick, crick. **7** *you are twisting my words*: distort, misrepresent, change, alter, pervert, falsify, warp, skew, misinterpret, misconstrue, misstate, misquote; garble. **8** *he twisted the radio knob*: twiddle, adjust, turn, rotate, swivel. **9** *she twisted her hair round her finger*: wind, twirl, coil, curl, wrap. **10** *the wires were twisted together*: intertwine, twine, interlace, weave, plait, braid, coil, wind. **11** *the road twisted and turned*: wind, bend, curve, turn, meander, weave, zigzag, swerve, snake.

• **noun** **1** *the twist of a dial*: turn, twirl, spin.

**2** *a personality twist*: quirk, idiosyncrasy, foible, eccentricity, peculiarity, oddity, kink; aberration, fault, flaw, imperfection, defect, failing, weakness. **3** (Brit.) *a twist of tobacco*: wad, quid, plug, chew; Brit. screw.

**4** *long twists of black hair*: ringlet, curl, corkscrew, coil; lock, hank. **5** *the twists of the road*: bend, curve, turn, zigzag, kink, dog-leg; Brit. hairpin bend. **6** *the twists of the plot*: convolution, complication, complexity, intricacy; surprise, revelation. **7** *a new twist on an old theme*: interpretation, slant, outlook, angle, approach, treatment; variation.

■ **twist someone's arm** (informal) pressurize, coerce, force; persuade; informal lean on, bulldoze, railroad, put the screws on.

**twisted** adjective **1** *twisted metal*: crumpled, bent, crushed, buckled, warped, misshapen, distorted, deformed. **2** *a twisted smile*: crooked, lopsided; contorted, wry. **3** *his twisted mind*: perverted, warped, deviant,

depraved, corrupt, abnormal, unhealthy, aberrant, distorted, corrupted, debauched, debased; informal sick, kinky, pervy.

**twisty** adjective **winding**, windy, twisting, bendy, zigzag, meandering, curving, sinuous, snaky.

– **OPPOSITES** straight.

**twit** noun (Brit. informal). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

**twitch** verb **1** *he twitched and then lay still*: jerk, convulse, quiver, tremble, shiver, shudder. **2** *he twitched the note out of my hand*: snatch, tweak, pluck, pull, tug; informal yank.

• **noun** **1** *a twitch of her lips*: spasm, convulsion, quiver, tremor, shiver, shudder; tic. **2** *he gave a twitch at his moustache*: pull, tug, tweak; informal yank. **3** *he felt a twitch of annoyance*: pang, twinge, dart, stab, prick.

**twitter** verb **1** *sparrows twittered under the eaves*: chirp, chirrup, cheep, tweet, peep, chatter, trill, warble, sing. **2** *stop twittering about Francis*: prattle, babble, chatter, gabble, jabber, go on, yap, blether, blither, ramble; informal yak, yabber; Brit. informal witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle.

• **noun** **1** *a bird's twitter*: chirp, chirrup, cheep, tweet, peep, trill, warble, song. **2** *her non-stop twitter*: prattle, chatter, babble, talk, gabble, blether; informal yackety-yak; Brit. informal wittering, nattering, chuntering. **3** (informal) *she got into a real twitter*. See **STEW** noun sense 2.

**two** cardinal number pair, duo, duet, double; old use twain.

#### WORD LINKS

**binary, dual** composed of or involving two parts or things

**biannual** taking place twice a year

**biennial** taking place every two years

**bicentenary, bicentennial** the two-

hundredth anniversary of an event

**biped** an animal that walks on two feet

**bisect** divide into two parts

**dichotomy** a division or contrast between two things

**diptych** a painting on two hinged panels

**duple** referring to musical rhythm based on two main beats to the bar

**dyad** a thing consisting of two elements or parts

**two-faced** adjective **deceitful**, insincere, double-dealing, hypocritical, backstabbing, false, untrustworthy, duplicitous, deceiving, dissembling, dishonest; disloyal, treacherous, faithless; literary perfidious.

– **OPPOSITES** sincere.

**twosome** noun couple, pair, duo.

**tycoon** noun magnate, mogul, businessman, captain of industry, industrialist, financier, entrepreneur; millionaire, multimillionaire; informal big shot, bigwig, honcho; Brit. informal supremo; N. Amer. informal big wheel, kahuna; derogatory fat cat.

**type** noun **1** *a curate of the old-fashioned type*: kind, sort, variety, class, category, set, genre, species, order, breed, race; style, nature, manner, rank; generation, vintage; stamp,



ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould; N. Amer. stripe.  
**2** (informal) *sporty types*: **person**, individual, character, sort; Brit. informal bod. **3** *his sayings are the type of modern wisdom*: **epitome**, quintessence, essence, archetype, paradigm, model, embodiment. **4** *italic type*: **print**, typeface, face, characters, lettering, letters; font; Brit. fount.

**typhoon** noun cyclone, tropical storm, storm, tornado, hurricane, whirlwind; N. Amer. informal twister.

**typical** adjective **1** *a typical example of art deco*: **representative**, classic, quintessential, archetypal, model, prototypical, stereotypical. **2** *a fairly typical day*: **normal**, average, ordinary, standard, regular, routine, run-of-the-mill, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional; informal bog-standard. **3** *it's typical of him to forget*: **characteristic**, in keeping, usual, normal, par for the course, predictable, true to form; customary, habitual.

– OPPOSITES unusual, exceptional, uncharacteristic.

**typify** verb **1** *he typified the civil servant*: **epitomize**, exemplify, characterize, be representative of; personify, embody.  
**2** *the sun typified the Greeks*: **symbolize**,

represent, stand for, be emblematic of.

**tyrannical** adjective dictatorial, despotic, autocratic, oppressive, repressive, totalitarian, undemocratic, illiberal; authoritarian, high-handed, imperious, harsh, strict, iron-handed, severe, cruel, brutal, ruthless.

– OPPOSITES liberal.

**tyrannize** verb **dominate**, dictate to, browbeat, intimidate, bully, lord it over; persecute, victimize, torment; oppress, rule with a rod of iron, repress, crush, subjugate; informal push around.

**tyranny** noun **despotism**, absolute power, autocracy, dictatorship, totalitarianism, Fascism; oppression, repression, subjugation, enslavement; authoritarianism, bullying, severity, cruelty, brutality, ruthlessness.

**tyrant** noun **dictator**, despot, autocrat, authoritarian, oppressor; slave-driver, martinet, bully.

**tyro** noun **novice**, beginner, learner, neophyte, newcomer, initiate, fledgling; apprentice, trainee, probationer; N. Amer. tenderfoot; informal rookie, newie, newbie; N. Amer. informal greenhorn.

– OPPOSITES veteran.

# Uu

**ubiquitous** adjective omnipresent, ever present, everywhere, all over the place, all-pervasive; universal, worldwide, global; rife, prevalent, far-reaching, inescapable.  
– OPPOSITES rare.

**ugly** adjective **1** *an ugly face*: unattractive, ill-favoured, hideous, plain, unlovely, unprepossessing, unsightly, horrible, frightful, awful, ghastly, unpleasant, vile, revolting, repellent, repugnant; grotesque, monstrous, reptilian, misshapen, deformed, disfigured; N. Amer. homely; informal not much to look at; Brit. informal no oil painting. **2** *things got pretty ugly*: unpleasant, nasty, disagreeable, alarming, tense, charged, serious, grave; dangerous, perilous, threatening, menacing, hostile, ominous, sinister. **3** *an ugly rumour*: horrible, despicable, reprehensible, nasty, appalling, objectionable, offensive, obnoxious, vile, dishonourable, rotten, vicious, spiteful.

– OPPOSITES beautiful, pleasant.

**ulcer** noun sore, ulceration, abscess, boil, carbuncle, blister, gumboil, wen; Medicine aphtha, chancre, furuncle.

**ulterior** adjective underlying, undisclosed, undivulged, concealed, hidden, covert, secret, personal, private, selfish.

– OPPOSITES overt.

**ultimate** adjective **1** *the ultimate collapse of the Empire*: eventual, final, concluding, terminal, end; resulting, ensuing, consequent, subsequent. **2** *ultimate truths about civilization*: fundamental, basic, primary, elementary, elemental, absolute, central, key, crucial, essential, pivotal. **3** *the ultimate gift for cat lovers*: best, ideal, greatest, supreme, paramount, superlative, highest, utmost, optimum, quintessential. • noun *the ultimate in luxury living*: utmost, optimum, last word, height, epitome, peak, pinnacle, acme, zenith, nonpareil, dernier cri, ne plus ultra; informal the bee's knees, the cat's pyjamas/whiskers.

**ultimately** adverb **1** *the cost will ultimately fall on us*: eventually, in the end, in the long run, at length, finally, sooner or later, in time, in the fullness of time, when all is said and done, one day, some day, sometime; informal when push comes to shove; Brit. informal at the end of the day. **2** *two ultimately contradictory reasons*: fundamentally,

basically, primarily, essentially, at heart, deep down.

**ultra-** combining form *an ultra-conservative view*: extremely, exceedingly, excessively, immensely, especially, exceptionally; N. English right; informal mega, mucho, majorly, oh-so; Brit. informal dead, ever so, well; N. Amer. informal real; informal, dated devilish; old use exceeding. • noun *ultras in the animal rights movement*: extremist, radical, fanatic, zealot, diehard, militant.

**umbrage** noun

■ take umbrage take offence, take exception, be aggrieved, be affronted, be annoyed, be angry, be indignant, be put out, be insulted, be resentful, be disgruntled; informal be miffed, have one's nose put out of joint; Brit. informal get the hump.

**umbrella** noun **1** *they huddled under the umbrella*: parasol, sunshade; Brit. informal brolly; Brit. informal, dated gamp. **2** *the groups worked under the umbrella of the Liberal Party*: aegis, auspices, patronage, protection, guardianship, support, backing, agency, guidance, care, charge, responsibility, cover.

**umpire** noun *the umpire reversed his decision*: referee, linesman, adjudicator, arbitrator, judge, moderator; informal ref; N. Amer. informal ump.

• verb *he umpired a boat race*: referee, adjudicate, arbitrate, judge, moderate, oversee; Cricket stand; informal ref.

**umpteenth** adjective (informal). See COUNTLESS.

**unabashed** adjective *unashamed*, shameless, unembarrassed, brazen, audacious, barefaced, blatant, flagrant, bold, unrepentant, undaunted, unconcerned, fearless.

– OPPOSITES sheepish.

**unable** adjective powerless, impotent, at a loss, inadequate, incompetent, unfit, unqualified, incapable.

**unabridged** adjective complete, entire, whole, intact, uncut, unshortened, unexpurgated.

**unacceptable** adjective intolerable, insufferable, unsatisfactory, inadmissible, inappropriate, unsuitable, undesirable, unreasonable, insupportable; offensive, obnoxious, disagreeable, disgraceful, deplorable, beyond the pale, bad; informal not on, a bit much, too much, out of order; Brit.

informal a bit thick, a bit off, not cricket; formal exceptionable.

– OPPOSITES satisfactory.

**unaccompanied** adjective *alone*, on one's own, by oneself, solo, lone, solitary, single-handed; escorted, unattended, unchaperoned; informal by one's lonesome; Brit. informal on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones; Austral./NZ informal on one's Pat Malone.

**unaccomplished** adjective

**1** *unaccomplished works*: **uncompleted**, incomplete, unfinished, undone, half-done, unfulfilled, neglected. **2** *an unaccomplished poet*: **inexpert**, unskilful, unskilled, amateur, amateurish, unqualified, untrained; incompetent, maladroit.

– OPPOSITES complete, skilful.

**unaccountable** adjective **1** *for some unaccountable reason*: **inexplicable**, insoluble, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, mysterious, inscrutable, peculiar, strange, queer, odd, obscure; informal weird, freaky; Brit. informal rum. **2** *the Council is unaccountable to anyone*: **unanswerable**, not liable; free, exempt, immune; unsupervised.

**unaccustomed** adjective **1** *she was unaccustomed to being bossed about*: **unused**, new, fresh; unfamiliar with, inexperienced in, unconservant with, unacquainted with. **2** *he showed unaccustomed emotion*: **unusual**, unfamiliar, uncommon, unwonted, exceptional, extraordinary, rare, surprising, abnormal, atypical.

– OPPOSITES habitual.

**unacquainted** adjective *unfamiliar*, unaccustomed, unused; inexperienced, ignorant, uninformed, unenlightened, unconservant; informal in the dark; literary nescent.

– OPPOSITES familiar.

**unadorned** adjective *unembellished*, unornamented, undecorated, unfussy, nononsense, no-frills; plain, basic, restrained; bare, bald, austere, stark, spartan, clinical.

– OPPOSITES ornate.

**unadventurous** adjective *cautious*, careful, circumspect, wary, hesitant, timid; conservative, conventional, unenterprising, unexciting, unimaginative; boring, straitlaced, stuffy, narrow-minded; informal square, straight, stick-in-the-mud.

– OPPOSITES enterprising.

**unaffected** adjective **1** *they are unaffected by the cabinet reshuffle*: **unchanged**, unaltered, uninfluenced; untouched, unmoved, unresponsive to; proof against, impervious to, immune to. **2** *his manner was unaffected*: **unassuming**, unpretentious, down-to-earth, natural, easy, uninhibited, open, artless, guileless, ingenuous, unsophisticated. **3** *she was welcomed with unaffected warmth*: **genuine**, real, sincere, honest, earnest, wholehearted, heartfelt, true, bona fide, frank, open; informal upfront.

– OPPOSITES influenced, pretentious, false, feigned.

**unafraid** adjective *undaunted*, unabashed, fearless, brave, courageous, plucky, intrepid, stout-hearted, bold, daring, confident, audacious, mettlesome, unshrinking; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES timid.

**unanimous** adjective **1** *doctors were unanimous about the effects*: **united**, in agreement, in accord, of one mind, in harmony, concordant, undivided. **2** *a unanimous vote*: **uniform**, consistent, united, concerted, congruent.

– OPPOSITES divided.

**unanswerable** adjective **1** *an unanswerable case*: **irrefutable**, indisputable, undeniable, incontestable, incontrovertible; conclusive, absolute, positive. **2** *unanswerable questions*: **insoluble**, unsolvable, insolvable, inexplicable, unexplainable.

– OPPOSITES weak, obvious.

**unanswered** adjective *unresolved*, undecided, unsettled, undetermined; pending, open to question, up in the air, doubtful, disputed.

**unappetizing** adjective *unpalatable*, uninviting, unappealing, unpleasant, off-putting, disagreeable, distasteful, unsavoury, insipid, tasteless, flavourless, dull; inedible, uneatable, revolting; informal yucky, gross.

– OPPOSITES tempting.

**unapproachable** adjective *her boss appeared unapproachable*: **aloof**, distant, remote, detached, reserved, withdrawn, uncommunicative, guarded, undemonstrative, unresponsive, unforthcoming, unfriendly, unsympathetic, unsociable; cool, cold, frosty, stiff, formal; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES accessible, friendly.

**unarmed** adjective *defenceless*, weaponless; unprotected, undefended, unguarded, unshielded, vulnerable, exposed, assailable, pregnable.

**unassailable** adjective **1** *an unassailable fortress*: **impregnable**, invulnerable, impenetrable, inviolable, invincible, unconquerable; secure, safe, strong, indestructible. **2** *his logic was unassailable*: **indisputable**, undeniable, unquestionable, incontestable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, indubitable, watertight, sound, good, sure, manifest, patent, obvious.

– OPPOSITES defenceless.

**unassertive** adjective *passive*, retiring, unforthcoming, submissive, unassuming, self-effacing, modest, humble, meek, unconfident, diffident, shy, timid, insecure; informal mousy.

– OPPOSITES bold.

**unassuming** adjective *modest*, self-effacing, humble, meek, reserved, diffident; unobtrusive, unostentatious, unpretentious, unaffected, natural, artless, ingenuous.

**unattached** adjective **1** *they were both unattached*: **single**, unmarried, unwed, partnerless, uncommitted, available,



footloose and fancy free, on one's own; on the shelf, unloved. **2** *we are unattached to any organization*: **unaffiliated**, unallied; autonomous, independent, non-aligned, self-governing, neutral, separate, unconnected, detached.

– OPPOSITES married.

**unattended** adjective **1** *his cries went unattended*: ignored, disregarded, neglected, passed over. **2** *an unattended vehicle*: **unguarded**, unwatched, alone, solitary; abandoned. **3** *she had to walk there unattended*: **unaccompanied**, unescorted, partnerless, unchaperoned, alone, on one's own, by oneself, solo; Brit. informal on one's tod.

**unattractive** adjective ugly, plain, ill-favoured, unappealing, unsightly, unlovely, unprepossessing, displeasing; hideous, monstrous, grotesque; N. Amer. homely; informal not much to look at, as ugly as sin; Brit. informal no oil painting.

– OPPOSITES beautiful.

**unauthorized** adjective **unofficial**, unsanctioned, unaccredited, unlicensed, unwarranted, unapproved; disallowed, prohibited, banned, barred, forbidden, outlawed, illegal, illegitimate, illicit, proscribed.

– OPPOSITES official.

**unavailing** adjective **ineffective**, ineffectual, inefficacious, vain, futile, useless, unsuccessful, fruitless, profitless, unprofitable, to no avail, abortive; old use bootless.

– OPPOSITES effective.

**unavoidable** adjective **inescapable**, inevitable, inexorable, assured, certain, predestined, predetermined, ineluctable; necessary, compulsory, required, obligatory, mandatory.

**unaware** adjective **ignorant**, unknowing, unconscious, heedless, unmindful, oblivious, unsuspecting, uninformed, unenlightened, unwitting, innocent; inattentive, unobservant, unperceptive, blind, deaf; informal in the dark; literary nescient.

– OPPOSITES conscious.

**unawares** adverb **1** *brigands caught them unawares*: by surprise, unexpectedly, without warning, suddenly, abruptly, unprepared, off-guard; informal with one's trousers down, napping; Brit. informal on the hop. **2** *the roach approached the pike unawares*: **unknowingly**, unwittingly, unconsciously; unintentionally, inadvertently, accidentally, by mistake.

– OPPOSITES prepared, knowingly.

**unbalanced** adjective **1** *he is unbalanced and dangerous*: **unstable**, mentally ill, deranged, demented, disturbed, unhinged, insane, mad, out of one's mind, non compos mentis; informal crazy, loopy, loony, nuts, nutty, cracked, screwy, batty, dotty, cuckoo, bonkers, mental, off one's head, round the bend/twist; Brit. informal barmy, potty, crackers, barking, off one's rocker; N. Amer.

informal nutso, squirrely; dated touched.

**2** *a most unbalanced article*: **biased**, prejudiced, one-sided, partisan, inequitable, unjust, unfair, parti pris.

– OPPOSITES sane, unbiased.

**unbearable** adjective **intolerable**, insufferable, insupportable, unendurable, unacceptable, unmanageable, more than flesh and blood can stand, overpowering; informal too much.

– OPPOSITES tolerable.

**unbeatable** adjective **invincible**, unstoppable, unassailable, indomitable, unconquerable, unsurpassable, matchless, peerless; supreme.

**unbeaten** adjective **undefeated**, unconquered, unsurpassed, unequalled, unrivalled; triumphant, victorious, supreme, matchless, second to none.

**unbecoming** adjective **1** *an unbecoming sundress*: **unflattering**, unattractive, unsightly, plain, ugly, hideous; unsuitable. **2** *conduct unbecoming to the Senate*: **inappropriate**, unfitting, unbefitting, unsuitable, unsuited, inapt, out of keeping, untoward, incorrect, unacceptable; unworthy, improper, unseemly, undignified.

– OPPOSITES flattering, appropriate.

**unbelief** noun **atheism**, non-belief, agnosticism, apostasy, irreligion, godlessness, nihilism; scepticism, cynicism, disbelief, doubt.

– OPPOSITES faith.

**unbelievable** adjective **incredible**, beyond belief, inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable; unconvincing, far-fetched, implausible, improbable; informal hard to swallow.

– OPPOSITES credible.

**unbend** verb **1** *I couldn't unbend my knees*: **straighten (out)**, extend, flex, uncurl. **2** *if you'd only unbend a little*: **relax**, unwind, de-stress, loosen up, let oneself go; informal let one's hair down, let it all hang out, hang loose.

**unbending** adjective **1** *an unbending man*: aloof, formal, stiff, reserved, remote, forbidding, cool, unfeeling, unemotional, unfriendly, austere; informal uptight, stand-offish. **2** *unbending attitudes*: **uncompromising**, inflexible, unyielding, hard-line, tough, strict, firm, resolute, determined, unrelenting, relentless, inexorable, intransigent, immovable.

**unbiased** adjective **impartial**, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan, disinterested, detached, dispassionate, objective, open-minded, equitable, even-handed, fair.

– OPPOSITES prejudiced.

**unbidden** adjective **1** *an unbidden guest*: **uninvited**, unasked, unsolicited; unwanted, unwelcome. **2** *unbidden excitement*: **spontaneous**, unprompted, voluntary, unforced, unplanned, unpremeditated; informal off-the-cuff.

**unbind** verb **untie**, unchain, unfetter,

unshackle, unfasten, untether, undo, loosen; release, free, liberate.

**unblemished** adjective *impeccable*, flawless, faultless, perfect, pure, whiter than white, clean, spotless, unsullied, unspoil, undefiled, untouched, untarnished, unpolluted; incorrupt, guiltless, sinless, innocent, blameless, informal squeaky clean.

– OPPOSITES flawed.

**unborn** adjective *1 your unborn child:*

*embryonic*, fetal, in utero; expected.

*2 the unborn generations:* future, coming, forthcoming, subsequent.

**unbounded** adjective *unlimited*, boundless, limitless, illimitable; unrestrained, unrestricted, unconstrained, uncontrolled, unchecked, unbridled; untold, immeasurable, endless, unending, interminable, everlasting, infinite, inexhaustible.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**unbreakable** adjective *shatterproof*, indestructible, imperishable, durable, long-lasting; toughened, sturdy, stout, resistant, hard-wearing, heavy-duty.

– OPPOSITES fragile.

**unbridled** adjective *unrestrained*, unconstrained, uncontrolled, uninhibited, unrestricted, unchecked, uncurbed, rampant, runaway, irrepressible, unstoppable, intemperate, immoderate.

– OPPOSITES restrained.

**unbroken** adjective *1 the last unbroken*

*window:* undamaged, unimpaired, unharmed, unscathed, untouched, sound, intact, whole, perfect. *2 an unbroken*

*horse:* untamed, undomesticated, wild, feral. *3 an unbroken chain of victories:*

uninterrupted, continuous, endless, constant, unremitting, ongoing. *4 his record is still unbroken:* unbeaten, undefeated, unsurpassed, unrivalled, unmatched, supreme.

**unburden** verb *she had a sudden wish to unburden herself:* open one's heart, confess, tell all; informal come clean; old use unbosom oneself.

**uncalled for** adjective *gratuitous*, unnecessary, needless, inessential; undeserved, unmerited, unwarranted, unjustified, unreasonable, unfair, inappropriate, pointless; unasked, unsolicited, unrequested, unprompted, unprovoked, unwelcome.

**uncanny** adjective *1 the silence was uncanny:* eerie, unnatural, unearthly, other-worldly, ghostly, strange, abnormal, weird, bizarre, freakish; Scottish eldritch; informal creepy, spooky, freaky. *2 an uncanny resemblance:* striking, remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, incredible, noteworthy, notable, arresting.

**unceasing** adjective *incessant*, ceaseless, constant, continual, unabating, interminable, endless, unending, never-ending, everlasting, eternal, perpetual, continuous, non-stop, uninterrupted, unbroken, unremitting, persistent,

relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained.

**unceremonious** adjective *1 an*

*unceremonious dismissal:* abrupt, sudden, hasty, hurried, summary, perfunctory, undignified; rude, impolite, discourteous, offhand. *2 an unceremonious man:* informal, casual, relaxed, easy-going, familiar, natural, open; informal laid-back.

– OPPOSITES formal.

**uncertain** adjective *1 the effects are*

*uncertain:* unknown, debatable, open to question, in doubt, undetermined, unsure, in the balance, up in the air; unpredictable, unforeseeable, incalculable; risky, chancy; informal iffy. *2 uncertain weather:* changeable, variable, changeful, irregular, unpredictable, unreliable, unsettled, erratic, fluctuating.

*3 Ed was uncertain about the decision:* unsure, doubtful, dubious, undecided, irresolute, hesitant, blowing hot and cold, vacillating, vague, unclear, ambivalent, in two minds. *4 an uncertain smile:* hesitant, tentative, faltering, unsure, unconfident.

– OPPOSITES predictable, sure, confident.

**unchangeable** adjective *unalterable*, immutable, invariable, changeless, fixed, hard and fast, cast-iron, set in stone, established, permanent, enduring, abiding, lasting, indestructible, ineradicable, irreversible.

– OPPOSITES variable.

**unchanging** adjective consistent, constant, regular, unvarying, predictable, stable, steady, fixed, permanent, perpetual, eternal; sustained, lasting, persistent.

**uncharitable** adjective *mean*, mean-spirited, unkind, selfish, self-centred, inconsiderate, thoughtless, insensitive, unfriendly, unsympathetic, uncaring, ungenerous, ungracious, unfair.

**uncharted** adjective *unexplored*, undiscovered, unmapped, untravelled, unfamiliar, unplumbed, unknown.

**uncivil** adjective *impolite*, rude, discourteous, disrespectful, unmannerly, bad-mannered, impertinent, impudent, ungracious; brusque, sharp, curt, offhand, gruff, churlish; informal off, fresh.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**uncivilized** adjective *uncouth*, coarse, rough, boorish, vulgar, philistine, uneducated, uncultured, uncultivated, benighted, unsophisticated, unpolished; ill-bred, ill-mannered, thuggish, loutish; barbarian, primitive, savage, brutish; old use rude.

**unclean** adjective *1 unclean premises:* dirty, filthy, grubby, grimy, mucky, foul, impure, tainted, soiled, unwashed; polluted, contaminated, infected, insanitary, unhygienic, unhealthy, germ, disease-ridden; informal yucky, cruddy; Brit. informal grotty, gungy. *2 sex was considered unclean:* sinful, immoral, bad, wicked, evil, corrupt, impure, unwholesome, sordid, disgusting, debased, degenerate, depraved. *3 an unclean meat:* impure; forbidden, taboo.

– OPPOSITES pure, halal, kosher.

**unclear** adjective uncertain, unsure, unsettled, up in the air, debatable, open to question, in doubt, doubtful; ambiguous, equivocal, indefinite, vague, mysterious, obscure, hazy, foggy, nebulous; informal iffy.

– OPPOSITES evident.

**unclothed** adjective naked, bare, nude, stripped, undressed, in a state of nature; informal in one's birthday suit, in the buff, in the raw, in the altogether, in the nuddy; Brit. informal starkers; Scottish informal in the scud; N. Amer. informal buck naked.

– OPPOSITES dressed.

**uncomfortable** adjective **1** *an uncomfortable chair*: painful, disagreeable, intolerable, unbearable, confining, cramped.

**2** *I felt uncomfortable in her presence*: uneasy, awkward, nervous, tense, strained, edgy, restless, embarrassed, troubled, worried, anxious, unquiet, fraught; informal rattled, twitchy; N. Amer. informal discombobulated, antsy.

– OPPOSITES relaxed.

**uncommitted** adjective **1** *uncommitted voters*: floating, undecided, non-partisan, unaffiliated, neutral, impartial, independent, undeclared, uncertain; informal sitting on the fence. **2** *the uncommitted male*: unmarried, unattached, unwed, partnerless; footloose and fancy free, available, single, lone.

– OPPOSITES aligned, attached.

**uncommon** adjective **1** *an uncommon plant*: unusual, abnormal, rare, atypical, unconventional, unfamiliar, strange, odd, curious, extraordinary, outlandish, novel, singular, peculiar, queer, bizarre; alien; informal weird, oddball, offbeat. **2** *abductions are uncommon*: rare, scarce, few and far between, exceptional, abnormal, isolated, infrequent, irregular; Brit. out of the common. **3** *an uncommon capacity for hard work*: remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, singular, particular, marked, outstanding, noteworthy, significant, especial, special, signal, superior, unique, unparalleled, prodigious; informal mind-boggling.

**uncommonly** adverb unusually, remarkably, extraordinarily, exceptionally, singularly, particularly, especially, decidedly, notably, eminently, extremely, very; N. English right; informal awfully, terribly, seriously; Brit. informal jolly, dead.

**uncommunicative** adjective taciturn, quiet, unforthcoming, reserved, reticent, laconic, tongue-tied, mute, silent, tight-lipped; guarded, secretive, close, private; distant, remote, aloof, withdrawn, unsocial; informal mum, stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES talkative.

**uncomplicated** adjective simple, straightforward, clear, accessible, undemanding, unchallenging, unsophisticated, trouble-free, painless, effortless, easy, elementary, idiot-proof, plain sailing; informal a piece of cake, child's play, a cinch, a doddle, a breeze, a walk in

the park; Brit. informal easy-peasy.

– OPPOSITES complex.

**uncompromising** adjective inflexible, unbending, unyielding, unshakeable, resolute, rigid, hard-line, immovable, intractable, firm, determined, iron-willed, obstinate, stubborn, adamant, obdurate, intransigent, headstrong, pig-headed; Brit. informal bloody-minded.

– OPPOSITES flexible.

**unconcerned** adjective **1** *he is unconcerned about their responses*: indifferent, unmoved, apathetic, uninterested, incurious, dispassionate, heedless, unmindful; cool, lukewarm, unenthusiastic. **2** *she tried to look unconcerned*: untroubled, unworried, unruffled, insouciant, nonchalant, blasé, carefree, casual, relaxed, at ease, (cool, calm, and collected); informal laid-back.

– OPPOSITES interested, anxious.

**unconditional** adjective unquestioning, unqualified, unreserved, unlimited, unrestricted, wholehearted; complete, total, entire, full, absolute, out-and-out, unequivocal.

**unconnected** adjective **1** *the earth wire was unconnected*: detached, disconnected, loose. **2** *unconnected tasks*: unrelated, dissociated, separate, independent, distinct, different, disparate, discrete. **3** *unconnected chains of thought*: disjointed, incoherent, disconnected, rambling, wandering, diffuse, disorderly, haphazard, disorganized, garbled, mixed, muddled, aimless.

– OPPOSITES attached, related, coherent.

**unconscionable** adjective **1** *the unconscionable use of test animals*: unethical, amoral, immoral, unprincipled, indefensible, wrong; unscrupulous, unfair, underhand, dishonourable. **2** *we had to wait an unconscionable time*: excessive, unreasonable, unwarranted, uncalled for, unfair, inordinate, immoderate, undue, inexcusable, unnecessary, needless; informal over the top, OTT.

– OPPOSITES ethical, acceptable.

**unconscious** adjective **1** *she made sure he was unconscious*: insensible, senseless, insentient, insensate, comatose, inert, knocked out, stunned; motionless, immobile, prostrate; informal out cold, out for the count, dead to the world; Brit. informal spark out. **2** *she was unconscious of the pain*: heedless, unmindful, disregarding, oblivious to, insensible to, impervious to, unaffected by, unconcerned by, indifferent to; unaware, unknowing. **3** *an unconscious desire*: subconscious, latent, suppressed, subliminal, sleeping, inherent, instinctive, involuntary, uncontrolled, spontaneous; unintentional, unthinking, unwitting, inadvertent; informal gut.

– OPPOSITES aware, voluntary.

• noun *fantasies raging in the unconscious*: subconscious, psyche, ego, id, inner self.

**uncontrollable** adjective **1** *the crowds were uncontrollable*: unmanageable, out of control, ungovernable, wild,



unruly, disorderly, recalcitrant, turbulent, disobedient, delinquent, defiant, undisciplined; formal refractory. **2 an uncontrollable rage:** ungovernable, irrepressible, unstoppable, unquenchable; wild, violent, frenzied, furious, mad, hysterical, passionate.

– OPPOSITES compliant.

**unconventional** adjective **unusual**, irregular, unorthodox, unfamiliar, uncommon, unwonted, out of the ordinary, atypical, singular, alternative, different; new, novel, innovative, groundbreaking, pioneering, original, unprecedented; eccentric, idiosyncratic, quirky, odd, strange, bizarre, weird, outlandish, curious; abnormal, anomalous, aberrant, extraordinary; nonconformist, bohemian, avant-garde; informal way out, far out, offbeat, wacky, madcap, zany; Brit. informal rum; N. Amer. informal kooky, wacko.

– OPPOSITES orthodox.

**unconvincing** adjective **improbable**, unlikely, implausible, incredible, unbelievable, questionable, dubious, doubtful; strained, laboured, far-fetched, unrealistic, fanciful, fantastic; feeble, weak, transparent, poor, lame, ineffectual, half-baked; informal hard to swallow.

– OPPOSITES persuasive.

**uncooperative** adjective **unhelpful**, awkward, disobliging, recalcitrant, perverse, contrary, stubborn, wilful, stiff-necked, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, immovable, obstructive, difficult, obstreperous, disobedient; Brit. informal bloody-minded.

– OPPOSITES obliging.

**uncoordinated** adjective **clumsy**, awkward, blundering, bumbling, lumbering, flat-footed, heavy-handed, graceless, gawky, ungainly, ungraceful; inept, unhandy, unskilful, inexpert, maladroit, bungling; informal butterfingers, cack-handed, ham-fisted; Brit. informal all (fingers and) thumbs; N. Amer. informal klutzy.

– OPPOSITES dexterous.

**uncouth** adjective **uncivilized**, uncultured, uncultivated, unrefined, unpolished, unsophisticated, common, low, rough, coarse, crude, loutish, boorish, oafish; churlish, uncivil, rude, impolite, discourteous, disrespectful, unmannerly, bad-mannered, ill-bred, indecorous, vulgar, crass, indelicate; Brit. informal yobbish.

– OPPOSITES refined.

**uncover** verb **1** *she uncovered the sandwiches:* expose, reveal, lay bare; unwrap, unveil; strip, denude. **2** *they uncovered a money-laundering plot:* detect, discover, come across, stumble on, chance on, find, turn up, unearth, dig up; expose, bring to light, unmask, unveil, reveal, lay bare, make known, make public, betray, give away; informal blow the whistle on.

**unctuous** adjective **sycophantic**, ingratiating, obsequious, fawning, servile, grovelling, subservient, cringing, humble,

hypocritical, insincere, gushing, effusive; glib, smooth, slick, slippery, oily, greasy; informal smarmy, slimy, sucky, soapy.

**undaunted** adjective **unafraid**, undismayed, unflinching, unshrinking, unabashed, fearless, dauntless, intrepid, bold, valiant, brave, courageous, plucky, mettlesome, gritty, indomitable, confident, audacious, daring; informal gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES fearful.

**undecided** adjective **unresolved**, uncertain, unsure, unclear, unsettled, indefinite, undetermined, unknown, in the balance, up in the air, debatable, arguable, moot, open to question, doubtful, dubious, borderline, ambiguous, vague; indecisive, irresolute, hesitant, tentative, wavering, vacillating, uncommitted, ambivalent, in two minds; informal iffy.

– OPPOSITES certain.

**undefined** adjective **1** *some matters are still undefined:* unspecified, unexplained, unspecific, indeterminate, unsettled; unclear, woolly, imprecise, inexact, indefinite, vague. **2** *undefined shapes:* indistinct, indefinite, formless, indistinguishable, vague, hazy, misty, shadowy, nebulous, blurred, blurry.

– OPPOSITES definite, distinct.

**undemonstrative** adjective **unemotional**, unaffectionate, impassive, dispassionate, restrained, reserved, unresponsive, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, stiff, guarded, aloof, distant, detached, remote, withdrawn; cool, cold, frosty, frigid; informal stand-offish.

**undeniable** adjective **indisputable**, indubitable, unquestionable, beyond doubt, beyond question, undebatable, incontrovertible, incontestable, irrefutable, unassailable; certain, sure, definite, positive, conclusive, plain, obvious, unmistakable, self-evident, patent, emphatic, categorical, unequivocal.

– OPPOSITES questionable.

**under** preposition **1** *they hid under a bush:* beneath, below, underneath. **2** *the rent is under £250:* less than, lower than, below. **3** *branch managers are under the retail director:* subordinate to, junior to, inferior to, subservient to, answerable to, responsible to, subject to, controlled by. **4** *forty homes are under construction:* undergoing, in the process of. **5** *the town was under water:* flooded by, immersed in, submerged by, sunk in, engulfed by, inundated by. **6** *our finances are under pressure:* subject to, liable to, at the mercy of.

– OPPOSITES above, over.

• **adverb** *coughing and spluttering she went under:* down, lower, below, underneath, beneath; underwater.

**underclothes** plural noun **underwear**, undergarments, underclothing, underthings, lingerie; informal undies, frillies; Brit. informal smalls; old use underlinen.

**undercover** adjective **covert**, secret,

clandestine, underground, surreptitious, furtive, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, hugger-mugger, stealthy, hidden, concealed; informal hush-hush, sneaky.

– OPPOSITES overt.

**undercurrent** **noun** **1** *dangerous undercurrents in the cove:* undertow, underflow, underswell, underset. **2** *the undercurrent of despair in his words:* undertone, overtone, suggestion, connotation, intimation, hint, nuance, trace, suspicion, whisper, tinge; feeling, atmosphere, aura, echo; informal vibes.

**undercut** **verb** **1** *the firm undercut their rivals:* stake less than, undersell, underbid. **2** *his authority was being undercut:* undermine, weaken, impair, sap, threaten, subvert, sabotage, ruin, destabilize, wreck.

**underdog** **noun** weaker party, victim, loser, scapegoat; informal little guy, fall guy, stooge.

**underestimate** **verb** underrate, undervalue, do an injustice to, be wrong about, sell short, play down, understate; minimize, de-emphasize, underemphasize, diminish, downgrade, gloss over, trivialize; miscalculate, misjudge, misconstrue, misread.

– OPPOSITES exaggerate.

**undergo** **verb** go through, experience, undertake, face, submit to, be subjected to, come in for, receive, sustain, endure, brave, bear, tolerate, stand, withstand, weather; Brit. informal wear.

**underground** **adjective** **1** *an underground car park:* subterranean, buried, sunken, basement. **2** *underground organizations:* clandestine, secret, surreptitious, covert, undercover, closet, hole-and-corner, cloak-and-dagger, hugger-mugger, back-alley, hidden, sneaky, furtive; resistance, subversive; informal hush-hush. **3** *the underground art scene:* alternative, radical, revolutionary, unconventional, unorthodox, avant-garde, experimental, innovative. • **noun** **1** *he took the underground:* underground railway, metro; N. Amer. subway; Brit. informal tube. **2** *information from the French underground:* resistance (movement); partisans, guerrillas, freedom fighters; (historical) Maquis.

**undergrowth** **noun** shrubbery, vegetation, greenery, ground cover, underwood, brushwood, brush, scrub, covert, thicket, copse; bushes, plants, brambles, herbage; N. Amer. underbrush.

**underhand** **adjective** deceitful, dishonest, dishonourable, disreputable, unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, fraudulent, dubious, unfair; treacherous, duplicitous, double-dealing; devious, artful, crafty, conniving, scheming, sly, wily; clandestine, sneaky, furtive, covert, cloak-and-dagger; N. Amer. sly; informal crooked, shady, bent, low-down; Brit. informal dodgy; Austral./NZ informal shonky.

– OPPOSITES honest.

**underline** **verb** **1** *she underlined a phrase:* underscore, mark, pick out, emphasize,

highlight. **2** *the programme underlines the benefits of exercise:* emphasize, stress, highlight, accentuate, accent, focus on, spotlight, point up, play up; informal rub in.

**underling** **noun** subordinate, inferior, junior, minion, lackey, flunkey, menial, retainer, vassal, subject, hireling, servant, henchman, factotum, gofer; Brit. informal skivvy, dogsbody.

– OPPOSITES boss.

**underlying** **adjective** **1** *the underlying aims of the research:* fundamental, basic, primary, prime, central, principal, chief, key, elementary, intrinsic, essential. **2** *an underlying feeling of irritation:* latent, repressed, suppressed, unrevealed, undisclosed, unexpressed, concealed, hidden, masked.

**undermine** **verb** **1** *their integrity is being undermined:* subvert, sabotage, threaten, weaken, compromise, diminish, reduce, impair, mar, spoil, ruin, damage, hurt, injure, cripple, sap, shake. **2** *we undermined the building:* tunnel under, dig under, burrow under, sap. **3** *the damp had so undermined the wall that it collapsed:* erode, wear away, eat away at.

– OPPOSITES strengthen, support.

**underprivileged** **adjective** needy, deprived, disadvantaged, poor, destitute, in straitened circumstances, on one's uppers, on one's beam-ends, impoverished, poverty-stricken, indigent; Brit. on the breadline; formal penurious.

– OPPOSITES wealthy.

**underrate** **verb** undervalue, underestimate, do an injustice to, sell short, play down, understate, minimize, diminish, downgrade, trivialize.

– OPPOSITES exaggerate.

**undersized** **adjective** underdeveloped, stunted, small, short, little, tiny, petite, slight, compact, miniature, mini, diminutive, dwarfish, pygmy; Scottish wee; informal pint-sized, pocket-sized, knee-high to a grasshopper, baby, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy.

– OPPOSITES overgrown.

**understand** **verb** **1** *he couldn't understand anything we said:* comprehend, grasp, take in, see, apprehend, follow, make sense of, fathom; unravel, decipher, interpret; informal work out, figure out, make head or tail of, get one's head around, take on board, get the drift of, catch on to, get; Brit. informal twig, suss (out). **2** *she understood how hard he'd worked:* appreciate, recognize, realize, acknowledge, know, be aware of, be conscious of; informal be wise to; formal be cognizant of. **3** *I understand that you wish to go:* believe, gather, take it, hear (tell), notice, see, learn; conclude, infer, assume, surmise, fancy.

**understandable** **adjective** **1** *make it understandable to the layman:* comprehensible, intelligible, coherent, clear, explicit, unambiguous, transparent, plain, straightforward, digestible, user-friendly. **2** *an understandable desire to be*

**happy:** unsurprising, expected, predictable, inevitable; reasonable, acceptable, logical, rational, normal, natural; justifiable, justified, defensible, excusable, pardonable, forgivable.

**understanding** **noun** **1** *test your understanding of the language:*

**comprehension**, apprehension, grasp, mastery, appreciation, assimilation, absorption; knowledge, awareness, insight, skill, expertise, proficiency; informal know-how; formal cognizance.

**2** *a young man of brilliant understanding:* **intellect**, intelligence, brainpower, brains, judgement, reasoning, mentality; insight, intuition, shrewdness, acumen, sagacity, wisdom, wit; informal nous, savvy, know-how. **3** *it was my understanding that this was free:* **belief**, perception, view, conviction, feeling, opinion, intuition, impression, assumption, supposition.

**4** *he treated me with understanding:* **compassion**, sympathy, pity, feeling, concern, consideration, kindness, sensitivity, decency, humanity, charity, goodwill, mercy, tolerance. **5** *we had a tacit understanding:* **agreement**, arrangement, deal, bargain, settlement, pledge, pact, compact, contract, covenant, bond.

– **OPPOSITES** ignorance, indifference.

• **adjective** *an understanding friend:* **compassionate**, sympathetic, sensitive, considerate, tender, kind, thoughtful, tolerant, patient, forbearing, lenient, merciful, forgiving, humane; approachable, supportive, perceptive.

**understate** **verb** **play down**, downplay, understate, underplay, de-emphasize, trivialize, minimize, diminish, downgrade, brush aside, gloss over; informal soft-pedal, sell short.

– **OPPOSITES** exaggerate.

**understudy** **noun** **stand-in**, substitute, replacement, reserve, fill-in, locum, proxy, back-up, relief, standby, stopgap, second, ancillary; informal sub; N. Amer. informal pinch-hitter.

**undertake** **verb** **tackle**, take on, assume, shoulder, handle, manage, deal with, be responsible for; engage in, take part in, go about, set about, get down to, get to grips with, embark on; attempt, try, endeavour; informal have a go at; formal essay.

**undertaker** **noun** **funeral director**; N. Amer. mortician.

**undertaking** **noun** **1** *a risky undertaking:* **enterprise**, venture, project, campaign, scheme, plan, operation, endeavour, effort, task, activity, pursuit, exploit, business, affair, procedure; mission, quest. **2** *sign this undertaking to comply with the rules:* **pledge**, agreement, promise, oath, covenant, vow, commitment, guarantee, assurance, contract.

**undertone** **noun** **1** *he said something in an undertone:* **low voice**, murmur, whisper, mutter. **2** *the story's dark undertones:* **undercurrent**, overtone, suggestion,

nuance, vein, atmosphere, aura, tenor, flavour; vibrations.

**undervalue** **verb** **underrate**, underestimate, play down, understate, underemphasize, diminish, minimize, downgrade, reduce, brush aside, gloss over, trivialize, hold cheap; informal sell short.

**underwater** **adjective** **submerged**, immersed, sunken, subaqueous; undersea, submarine.

**underwear** **noun** **underclothes**, underclothing, undergarments, underthings, lingerie; informal undies, frillies; Brit. informal smalls; old use underlinen.

**underworld** **noun** **1** *Osiris, god of the underworld:* **the netherworld**, the nether regions, hell, the abyss; eternal damnation; Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol, Hades; Brit. the other place; literary the pit. **2** *the violent underworld of Southwark:* **criminal world**, gangland; criminals, gangsters; informal mobsters.

– **OPPOSITES** heaven.

#### WORD LINKS

**chthonic** relating to or inhabiting the underworld

**Cerberus** (in Greek mythology) the dog guarding the entrance to the underworld

**Charon** (in Greek mythology) the man who ferried the souls of the dead to the underworld

**Styx** (in Greek mythology) a river in the underworld

**underwrite** **verb** **sponsor**, support, back, insure, indemnify, subsidize, pay for, finance, fund; informal foot the bill for; N. Amer. informal bankroll.

**undesirable** **adjective** **1** *undesirable side effects:* **unpleasant**, disagreeable, nasty, unwelcome, unwanted, unfortunate, infelicitous. **2** *some very undesirable people:* **unpleasant**, disagreeable, obnoxious, nasty, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, repulsive, repellent, abhorrent, loathsome, hateful, detestable, deplorable, horrible, appalling, insufferable, intolerable, despicable, contemptible, odious, vile, unsavoury; informal ghastly, horrid; Brit. informal beastly.

– **OPPOSITES** pleasant, agreeable.

**undignified** **adjective** **unseemly**, demeaning, unbecoming, unworthy, unbecoming, degrading, shameful, dishonourable, ignominious, discreditable, ignoble, untoward, unsuitable; scandalous, disgraceful, indecent, low, base; informal infra dig.

**undisciplined** **adjective** **unruly**, disorderly, disobedient, badly behaved, recalcitrant, wilful, wayward, delinquent, naughty, rebellious, insubordinate, disruptive, errant, out of control, uncontrollable, wild; disorganized, unsystematic, unmethodical, lax, slapdash, slipshod, sloppy; Brit. informal stropic, bolshie; formal refractory.

**undisguised** **adjective** **obvious**, evident, patent, manifest, transparent, overt,



unconcealed, unhidden, unmistakable, undeniable, plain, clear, clear-cut, explicit, naked, visible; blatant, flagrant, glaring, bold; informal standing/sticking out a mile.

**undisputed** adjective **undoubted**,

indubitable, uncontested, incontestable, unchallenged, incontrovertible, unequivocal, undeniable, irrefutable, unmistakable, sure, certain, definite, accepted, acknowledged, recognized.

— OPPOSITES doubtful.

**undistinguished** adjective **unexceptional**,

indifferent, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, ordinary, average, commonplace, mediocre, humdrum, lacklustre, forgettable, uninspired, uneventful, unremarkable, inconsequential, featureless, nondescript, middling, moderate; N. Amer. garden-variety; informal nothing special, no great shakes, nothing to write home about, OK, so-so, bog standard; Brit. informal common or garden; N. Amer. informal bush-league.

— OPPOSITES extraordinary.

**undivided** adjective **complete**, full, total,

whole, entire, absolute, unqualified, unreserved, unmitigated, unbroken, consistent, thorough, exclusive, dedicated; focused, engrossed, absorbed, attentive, committed.

**undo** verb **1** *he undid another button:*

unfasten, unbutton, unhook, untie, unlace; unlock, unbolt; loosen, disentangle, extricate, release, detach, free, open; disconnect, disengage, separate. **2** *they will undo a decision by the law lords:* **revoke**, overrule, overturn, repeal, rescind, reverse, countermand, cancel, annul, nullify, invalidate, void, negate; Law vacate; formal abrogate. **3** *she undid much of the good work done:* **ruin**, undermine, subvert, overturn, scotch, sabotage, spoil, impair, mar, destroy, wreck, eradicate, obliterate; cancel out, neutralize, thwart, foil, frustrate, hamper, hinder, obstruct; informal blow, put the kibosh on, foul up, muck up; Brit. informal scupper; N. Amer. informal rain on someone's parade.

— OPPOSITES fasten, ratify, enhance.

**undoing** noun **1** *she plotted the king's*

*undoing:* **downfall**, defeat, conquest, deposition, overthrow, ruin, ruination, elimination, end, collapse, failure, debasement; Waterloo. **2** *their complacency was their undoing:* **fatal flaw**, Achilles' heel, weakness, weak point, failing, misfortune, affliction, curse.

**undone** adjective **1** *some work was left*

*undone:* **unfinished**, incomplete, half-done, unaccomplished, unfulfilled, unconcluded; omitted, neglected, disregarded, ignored; remaining, outstanding, deferred, pending, on ice; informal on the back burner. **2** (formal) *she had lost and was utterly undone:* **done for**, finished, ruined, destroyed, doomed, lost, defeated, beaten; informal washed up.

— OPPOSITES finished, successful.

**undoubted** adjective **undisputed**,

unchallenged, unquestioned, indubitable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, incontestable,

sure, certain, unmistakable; definite, accepted, acknowledged, recognized.

**undoubtedly** adverb **doubtless**,

indubitably, doubtlessly, no doubt, without (a) doubt; unquestionably, indisputably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, clearly, obviously, patently, certainly, definitely, surely, of course, indeed.

**undress** verb *he undressed and got into bed:*

**strip (off)**, disrobe, take off one's clothes; Brit. informal peel off.

■ **in a state of undress** naked, (in the) nude, bare, stripped, unclothed, undressed, in a state of nature; informal in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the buff, in the nuddy; Brit. informal starkers.

**undue** adjective **excessive**, immoderate, intemperate, inordinate, disproportionate; uncalled for, unneeded, unnecessary, non-essential, needless, unwarranted, unjustified, unreasonable; inappropriate, unmerited, unsuitable, improper.

— OPPOSITES appropriate.

**undulate** verb **rise and fall**, surge, swell, heave, ripple, flow; wind, wobble, oscillate.

**undying** adjective **abiding**, lasting, enduring, permanent, constant, infinite; unceasing, perpetual, ceaseless, incessant, unending, never-ending; immortal, eternal, deathless.

**unearth** verb **1** *workmen unearthed an*

*artillery shell:* **dig up**, excavate, exhume, disinter, root out, unbury. **2** *I unearthed an interesting fact:* **discover**, uncover, find, come across, hit on, bring to light, expose, turn up, hunt out, nose out.

**unearthly** adjective **1** *an unearthly chill in the air:* **other-worldly**, supernatural, preternatural, alien; ghostly, spectral, phantom, mysterious, spine-chilling, hair-raising; uncanny, eerie, strange, weird, unnatural, bizarre; Scottish eldritch; informal spooky, creepy, scary. **2** (informal) *they rose at some unearthly hour:* **unreasonable**, preposterous, abnormal, extraordinary, absurd, ridiculous, unheard of; informal ungodly, unholy.

— OPPOSITES normal, reasonable.

**uneasy** adjective **1** *the doctor made him*

*feel uneasy:* **worried**, anxious, troubled, disturbed, agitated, nervous, tense, nervy, overwrought, edgy, apprehensive, restless, discomfited, perturbed, fearful, uncomfortable, unsettled; informal jittery. **2** *he had an uneasy feeling:* **worrying**, disturbing, troubling, alarming, dismaying, disquieting, unsettling, disconcerting, upsetting. **3** *the victory ensured an uneasy peace:* **tense**, awkward, strained, fraught; precarious, unstable, insecure.

— OPPOSITES calm, stable.

**uneconomic, uneconomical** adjective

**unprofitable**, uncommercial, non-viable, loss-making, worthless; wasteful, inefficient, improvident.

**uneducated** adjective **untaught**,

unschooled, untutored, untrained, unread, unscholarly, illiterate, unlettered, ignorant, ill-informed, uninformed;

uncouth, unsophisticated, uncultured, unaccomplished, unenlightened, philistine, benighted, backward.

– OPPOSITES learned.

**unemotional** adjective reserved, undemonstrative, sober, restrained, passionless, emotionless, unsentimental, unexcitable, impassive, phlegmatic, stoical, equable; cold, cool, unfeeling.

**unemployed** adjective jobless, out of work, between jobs, unwaged, unoccupied, redundant, laid off; on benefit; Brit. signing on; N. Amer. on welfare; Brit. informal on the dole, 'resting'.

**unending** adjective endless, never-ending, interminable, perpetual, eternal, ceaseless, incessant, unceasing, non-stop, uninterrupted, continuous, continual, constant, persistent, unbroken, unabating, unremitting, relentless.

**unendurable** adjective intolerable, unbearable, insufferable, insupportable, more than flesh and blood can stand.

**unenthusiastic** adjective indifferent, apathetic, half-hearted, lukewarm, casual, cool, lacklustre, offhand, unmoved; cursory, perfunctory.

– OPPOSITES keen.

**unenviable** adjective disagreeable, nasty, unpleasant, undesirable, horrible, thankless; unwanted, unwished-for.

**unequal** adjective **1** *they are unequal in length*: different, dissimilar, unlike, unlike, disparate, unmatched, uneven, irregular, varying, variable. **2** *the unequal distribution of wealth*: unfair, unjust, disproportionate, inequitable, biased. **3** *an unequal contest*: one-sided, uneven, unfair, ill-matched, unbalanced, lopsided. **4** *she felt unequal to the task*: inadequate for, incapable of, unqualified for, unsuited to, incompetent at, not up to; informal not cut out for.

– OPPOSITES identical, fair.

**unequaled** adjective unbeaten, matchless, unmatched, unrivalled, unsurpassed, unparalleled, peerless, incomparable, inimitable, second to none, unique.

**unequivocal** adjective unambiguous, unmistakable, indisputable, incontrovertible, indubitable, undeniable; clear, clear-cut, plain, explicit, specific, categorical, straightforward, blunt, candid, emphatic, manifest.

– OPPOSITES ambiguous.

**unerring** adjective unailing, infallible, perfect, flawless, faultless, impeccable, unimpeachable; sure, true, assured, deadily; informal sure-fire.

**unethical** adjective immoral, amoral, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest, wrong, deceitful, unconscionable, fraudulent, underhand, wicked, evil, corrupt; unprofessional, improper.

**uneven** adjective **1** *uneven ground*: bumpy, rough, lumpy, stony, rocky, potholed, rutted, pitted, jagged. **2** *uneven teeth*: irregular, unequal, unbalanced, lopsided, askew,

crooked, asymmetrical, unsymmetrical.

**3** *uneven quality*: inconsistent, variable, varying, fluctuating, irregular, erratic, patchy. **4** *an uneven contest*: one-sided, unequal, unfair, unjust, inequitable, ill-matched, unbalanced.

– OPPOSITES flat, regular, equal.

**uneventful** adjective unexciting, uninteresting, monotonous, boring, dull, tedious, humdrum, routine, unvaried, ordinary, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, mundane, predictable.

– OPPOSITES exciting.

**unexceptional** adjective ordinary, average, typical, everyday, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, indifferent; informal OK, so-so, nothing special, no great shakes, fair-to-middling.

**unexpected** adjective unforeseen, unanticipated, unpredicted, unlooked-for, without warning; sudden, abrupt, surprising, out of the blue.

**unfailing** adjective *his unfailing good humour*: constant, reliable, dependable, steadfast, steady; endless, undying, unfading, inexhaustible, boundless, ceaseless.

**unfair** adjective **1** *the trial was unfair*: unjust, inequitable, prejudiced, biased, discriminatory; one-sided, unequal, uneven, unbalanced, partisan. **2** *his comments were unfair*: undeserved, unmerited, uncalled for, unreasonable, unjustified; Brit. informal out of order. **3** *unfair play*: unsporting, unsportsmanlike, dirty, below the belt, underhand, dishonourable. **4** *you're being very unfair*: inconsiderate, thoughtless, insensitive, selfish, mean, unkind, unreasonable.

– OPPOSITES just, justified.

**unfaithful** adjective **1** *her husband had been unfaithful*: adulterous, faithless, fickle, untrue, inconstant; informal cheating, two-timing. **2** *an unfaithful friend*: disloyal, treacherous, traitorous, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable, false, two-faced, double-crossing, deceitful; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES loyal.

**unfaltering** adjective steady, resolute, resolved, firm, steadfast, fixed, decided, unswerving, unwavering, tireless, indefatigable, persistent, unyielding, relentless, unremitting, unrelenting.

– OPPOSITES unsteady.

**unfamiliar** adjective **1** *an unfamiliar part of the city*: unknown, new, strange, foreign, alien. **2** *the unfamiliar sounds*: unusual, uncommon, unconventional, novel, different, exotic, unorthodox, odd, peculiar, curious, uncharacteristic, anomalous, out of the ordinary. **3** *investors unfamiliar with the stock market*: unacquainted, unused, unaccustomed, unconversant, inexperienced, uninformed, unenlightened, ignorant, new to, a stranger to.

**unfashionable** adjective out of fashion, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded, out of style, dated, unstylish, passé, démodé;

informal out, square, out of the ark.

**unfasten** verb **undo**, open, disconnect, remove, untie, unbutton, unzip, loose, loosen, free, unlock, unbolt.

**unfathomable** adjective **1** *his dark and unfathomable eyes: inscrutable*, incomprehensible, enigmatic, indecipherable, obscure, esoteric, mysterious, mystifying, deep, profound.

**2** *unfathomable water: deep*, immeasurable, unfathomed, unplumbed, bottomless.

– OPPOSITES penetrable.

**unfavourable** adjective **1** *unfavourable comment: adverse*, critical, hostile, inimical, unfriendly, unsympathetic, negative; discouraging, disapproving, uncomplimentary, unflattering.

**2** *the unfavourable economic climate: disadvantageous*, adverse, inauspicious, unpropitious, gloomy; unsuitable, inappropriate, inopportune.

– OPPOSITES positive.

**unfeeling** adjective *he is not an unfeeling man: uncaring*, unsympathetic, unemotional, uncharitable; heartless, hard-hearted, hard, harsh, austere, cold, cold-hearted.

– OPPOSITES compassionate.

**unfeigned** adjective *sincere*, genuine, real, true, honest, unaffected, unforced, heartfelt, wholehearted.

– OPPOSITES insincere.

**unfettered** adjective *unrestrained*, unrestricted, unconstrained, free, unbridled, unchecked, uncontrolled.

– OPPOSITES restricted.

**unfinished** adjective **1** *an unfinished essay: incomplete*, uncompleted; partial, undone, half-done; imperfect, unpolished, unrefined, sketchy, fragmentary, rough. **2** *the door can be supplied unfinished: unpainted*, unvarnished, untreated.

– OPPOSITES complete.

**unfit** adjective **1** *the film is unfit for children | unfit for duty: unsuitable*, unsuited, inappropriate, unequipped, inadequate, not designed; incapable of, unable to do something, not up to, not equal to; informal not cut out for, not up to scratch. **2** *I am unfit: unhealthy*, out of condition/shape, in poor condition.

**unflagging** adjective *tireless*, persistent, dogged, tenacious, determined, resolute, staunch, single-minded, unrelenting, unfaltering, unailing.

– OPPOSITES inconstant.

**unflappable** adjective (informal) *imperturbable*, unexcitable, cool, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, self-controlled, cool-headed, level-headed; informal laid-back.

– OPPOSITES excitable.

**unflattering** adjective **1** *an unflattering review: unfavourable*, uncomplimentary, harsh, unsympathetic, critical, hostile, scathing. **2** *an unflattering dress: unattractive*, unbecoming, unsightly, ugly, plain, ill-fitting.

– OPPOSITES complimentary, becoming.

**unflinching** adjective *resolute*, determined, single-minded, dogged, resolved, firm, committed, steady, unwavering, unflagging, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, undaunted, fearless.

**unfold** verb **1** *May unfolded the map: open out*, spread out, flatten, straighten out, unroll. **2** *I watched the events unfold: develop*, evolve, happen, take place, occur, transpire, progress. **3** *she unfolded her tale to Joanna: narrate*, relate, recount, tell, reveal, disclose, divulge, communicate, report, recite.

**unforeseen** adjective *unpredicted*, unexpected, unanticipated, unplanned, unlooked-for, not bargained for.

– OPPOSITES expected.

**unforgettable** adjective *memorable*, not/never to be forgotten, haunting, catchy; striking, impressive, outstanding, extraordinary, exceptional.

– OPPOSITES unexceptional.

**unforgivable** adjective *inexcusable*, unpardonable, unjustifiable, indefensible, inexpiable, irremissible.

– OPPOSITES venial.

**unfortunate** adjective **1** *unfortunate people: unlucky*, hapless, out of luck, luckless, wretched, miserable, forlorn, poor, pitiful; informal down on one's luck. **2** *an unfortunate start to our holiday: adverse*, disadvantageous, unfavourable, unlucky, unwelcome, unpromising, inauspicious, unpropitious; formal grievous.

**3** *an unfortunate remark: regrettable*, inappropriate, unsuitable, infelicitous, tactless, injudicious.

– OPPOSITES lucky, auspicious.

**unfortunately** adverb *unluckily*, sadly, regrettably, unhappily, alas, sad to say; informal worse luck.

**unfounded** adjective *groundless*, baseless, unsubstantiated, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated, unconfirmed, unverified, unattested, without basis, without foundation, speculative, conjectural.

– OPPOSITES proven.

**unfriendly** adjective **1** *an unfriendly look: hostile*, disagreeable, antagonistic, aggressive; ill-natured, unpleasant, surly, sour, unamiable, uncongenial; inhospitable, unneighbourly, unwelcoming, unkind, unsympathetic; unsociable, antisocial; aloof, cold, cool, frosty, distant, unapproachable; informal stand-offish, starchy. **2** *unfriendly terrain: unfavourable*, disadvantageous, unpropitious, inauspicious, hostile.

– OPPOSITES amiable, favourable.

**ungainly** adjective *awkward*, clumsy, ungraceful, graceless, inelegant, gawky, maladroit, gauche, uncoordinated; old use lumberly.

– OPPOSITES graceful.

**ungodly** adjective **1** *ungodly behaviour: unholy*, godless, irreligious, impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious; immoral, corrupt, depraved, sinful, wicked, evil,



iniquitous. **2** (informal) *he called at an ungodly hour*: **unreasonable**, unsocial, antisocial; informal **unearthly**.

**ungovernable** adjective **uncontrollable**, unmanageable, anarchic, intractable; unruly, disorderly, rebellious, riotous, wild, mutinous, undisciplined.

**ungracious** adjective **rude**, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, uncouth, disrespectful, insolent, impertinent, offhand.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**ungrateful** adjective **unappreciative**, unthankful, ungracious.

– OPPOSITES thankful.

**unguarded** adjective **1** *an unguarded frontier*: **undefended**, unprotected, unfortified; vulnerable, insecure, open to attack. **2** *an unguarded remark*: **careless**, ill-considered, incautious, thoughtless, rash, foolhardy, foolish, indiscreet, imprudent, injudicious, ill-judged, insensitive; literary temerarious. **3** *an unguarded moment*: **unwary**, inattentive, off guard, distracted, absent-minded.

**unhappiness** noun **sadness**, sorrow, dejection, depression, misery, cheerlessness, downheartedness, despondency, despair, desolation, wretchedness, glumness, gloom, gloominess, dolefulness; melancholy, low spirits, mournfulness, woe, heartache, distress, chagrin, grief, pain; informal the blues.

**unhappy** adjective **1** *an unhappy childhood*: **sad**, miserable, sorrowful, dejected, despondent, disconsolate, morose, broken-hearted, heartbroken, down, downcast, dispirited, downhearted, depressed, melancholy, mournful, gloomy, glum, despairing, doleful, forlorn, woebegone, woeful, long-faced, joyless, cheerless; informal down in the mouth/dumps, fed up, blue. **2** *in the unhappy event of litigation*: **unfortunate**, unlucky, luckless; ill-starred, ill-fated, doomed; informal jinxed; literary star-crossed. **3** *I was unhappy with the service I received*: **dissatisfied**, displeased, discontented, disappointed, disgruntled. **4** *'disorganized capitalism' seems an unhappy term*: **inappropriate**, unsuitable, inapt, unfortunate; regrettable, ill-chosen.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**unharmed** adjective **1** *they released the hostage unharmed*: **uninjured**, unhurt, unscathed, safe (and sound), alive and well, in one piece, without a scratch. **2** *the tomb was unharmed*: **undamaged**, unbroken, unmarred, unspoiled, unsullied, unmarked; sound, intact, perfect, unblemished, pristine.

– OPPOSITES injured, damaged.

**unhealthy** adjective **1** *an unhealthy lifestyle*: **harmful**, detrimental, destructive, injurious, damaging, deleterious; malign, noxious, poisonous, insalubrious, baleful. **2** *an unhealthy pallor*: **ill-looking**, ill, unwell, in poor health, ailing, sick, sickly,

poorly, indisposed, weak, frail, delicate, infirm, washed out, run down, peaky.

**3** *an unhealthy obsession with drugs*: **unwholesome**, morbid, macabre, twisted, abnormal, warped, depraved, unnatural; informal sick.

**unheard of** adjective **1** *such behaviour was unheard of*: **unprecedented**, exceptional, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, unthought of, undreamed of, unbelievable, inconceivable, unimaginable, unthinkable; formal unexampled. **2** *a game unheard of in the UK*: **unknown**, unfamiliar, new.

– OPPOSITES common, well known.

**unheeded** adjective **disregarded**, ignored, neglected, overlooked, unnoted, unrecognized.

**unhinged** adjective **deranged**, demented, unbalanced, out of one's mind, crazed, mad, insane, disturbed; informal crazy, mental, bonkers, batty, loopy, bananas, touched.

– OPPOSITES sane.

**unholy** adjective **1** *a grin of unholy amusement*: **ungodly**, godless, irreligious, impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious, profane, irreverent; wicked, evil, immoral, corrupt, depraved, sinful. **2** (informal) *an unholy row*: **shocking**, dreadful, outrageous, appalling, terrible, horrendous, frightful. **3** *an unholy alliance*: **unnatural**, unusual, improbable, made in Hell.

**unhoped for** adjective **unexpected**, unanticipated, unforeseen, unlooked-for, undreamed of, out of the blue.

– OPPOSITES expected.

**unhurried** adjective **leisurely**, easy, easy-going, relaxed, slow, deliberate, measured, calm.

– OPPOSITES hasty.

**unhygienic** adjective **insanitary**, unsanitary, dirty, filthy, contaminated, unhealthy, unwholesome, insalubrious, polluted, foul.

– OPPOSITES sanitary.

**unidentified** adjective **unknown**, unnamed, anonymous, incognito, nameless, unfamiliar, strange.

– OPPOSITES known.

**unification** noun **union**, merger, fusion, fusing, amalgamation, coalition, combination, confederation, federation, synthesis, joining.

**uniform** adjective **1** *a uniform temperature*: **constant**, consistent, steady, invariable, unvarying, unfluctuating, unchanging, stable, static, regular, fixed, even, equal. **2** *pieces of uniform size*: **identical**, matching, similar, equal; same, like, homogeneous, consistent.

– OPPOSITES variable.

• noun **a soldier in uniform**: **costume**, livery, regalia, suit, ensemble, outfit; regimentals, colours; informal get-up, rig, gear; old use habit.

**uniformity** noun **1** *uniformity in tax law*: **constancy**, consistency, conformity, invariability, stability, regularity, evenness, homogeneity, homogeneousness, equality.

**2 a dull uniformity:** monotony, tedium, tediousness, dullness, dreariness, flatness, sameness.

– OPPOSITES variation, variety.

**unify** verb **unite**, bring together, join (together), merge, fuse, amalgamate, coalesce, combine, blend, mix, bind, consolidate.

– OPPOSITES separate.

**unimaginable** adjective **unthinkable**, inconceivable, incredible, unbelievable, unheard of, unthought of, untold, undreamed of, beyond one's wildest dreams.

**unimaginative** adjective **uninspired**, uninventive, unoriginal, uncreative, commonplace, pedestrian, mundane, ordinary, routine, humdrum, workaday, run-of-the-mill, hackneyed, trite.

**unimpeachable** adjective **trustworthy**, reliable, dependable, above suspicion, irreproachable.

– OPPOSITES unreliable.

**unimpeded** adjective **unrestricted**, unhindered, unblocked, unhampered, free, clear.

**unimportant** adjective **insignificant**, inconsequential, trivial, minor, trifling, of little/no importance, of little/no consequence, of no account, irrelevant, peripheral, extraneous, petty, paltry; informal piddling; formal of no moment.

**uninhabited** adjective **1 much of this land was uninhabited:** unpopulated, unpeopled, unsettled. **2 an uninhabited hut:** vacant, empty, unoccupied, untenanted, to let.

**uninhibited** adjective **1 uninhibited dancing:**

unrestrained, unrepressed, abandoned, wild, reckless; unrestricted, uncontrolled, unchecked, intemperate, wanton.

**2 I'm pretty uninhibited:** unreserved, unrepressed, liberated, unself-conscious, free and easy, relaxed, informal, open, outgoing, extrovert, outspoken, frank, forthright; informal upfront.

– OPPOSITES repressed.

**uninspired** adjective **unimaginative**, uninventive, pedestrian, mundane, unoriginal, commonplace, ordinary, routine, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, hackneyed, trite; spiritless, passionless.

**uninspiring** adjective **boring**, dull, dreary, unexciting, unstimulating; dry, colourless, bland, lacklustre, tedious, humdrum, run-of-the-mill.

**unintelligent** adjective **stupid**, ignorant, dense, brainless, mindless, foolish, dull-witted, slow, simple-minded, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, obtuse; informal thick, dim, dumb, dopey, half-witted, dozy.

**unintelligible** adjective **1 unintelligible sounds:** incomprehensible, indiscernible, mumbled, indistinct, unclear, slurred, inarticulate, incoherent, garbled. **2 unintelligible graffiti:** illegible, indecipherable, unreadable.

**unintentional** adjective **unintended**, accidental, inadvertent, involuntary,

unwitting, unthinking, unpremeditated, unconscious.

– OPPOSITES deliberate.

**uninterested** adjective **indifferent**, unconcerned, uninvolved, apathetic, lukewarm, unenthusiastic.

**uninteresting** adjective **unexciting**, boring, dull, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, dreary, lifeless, humdrum, colourless, bland, insipid, banal, dry, pedestrian; informal samey.

– OPPOSITES exciting.

**uninterrupted** adjective **unbroken**, continuous, continual, undisturbed, untroubled.

– OPPOSITES intermittent.

**uninvited** adjective **1 an uninvited guest:**

unasked, unexpected; unwelcome, unwanted. **2 uninvited suggestions:**

unsolicited, unrequested, unsought.

**uninviting** adjective **unappealing**, unattractive, unappetizing, off-putting; bleak, cheerless, dreary, dismal, depressing, grim, inhospitable.

– OPPOSITES tempting.

**union** noun **1 the union of art and nature:**

unification, uniting, joining, merging, merger, fusion, fusing, amalgamating, amalgamation, coalition, combination, synthesis, blend, blending, mingling. **2 the crowd moved in union:** unity, accord, union, harmony, agreement, concurrence; formal concord. **3 his daughter's union:** marriage, wedding, alliance; coupling, intercourse, copulation. **4 representation by a union:** association, trade union, league, guild, confederation, federation.

– OPPOSITES separation, parting.

**unique** adjective **1 each site is unique:**

distinctive, individual, special, idiosyncratic; single, sole, lone, unrepeatable, unrepeatable, solitary, exclusive, rare, uncommon, unusual; informal one-off. **2 a unique insight into history:** remarkable, special, singular, noteworthy, notable, extraordinary; unequalled, unparalleled, unmatched, unsurpassed, incomparable; formal unexampled. **3 species unique to the island:** peculiar, specific.

**unison** noun

■ **in unison 1 they lifted their arms in unison:** simultaneously, at (one and) the same time, (all) at once, (all) together. **2 we are in complete unison:** in agreement, in accord, in harmony, as one; formal in concord.

**unit** noun **1 the family is the fundamental unit of society:** component, element, constituent, subdivision. **2 a unit of currency:** quantity, measure, denomination. **3 a guerrilla unit:** detachment, contingent, division, company, squadron, corps, regiment, brigade, platoon, battalion; cell, faction.

**unite** verb **1 uniting the nation:** unify, join, link, connect, combine, amalgamate, fuse, weld, bond, bring together, knit together. **2 environmentalists and activists united:** join together, join forces, combine, band together, ally, cooperate, collaborate, work together, pull together, team up. **3 he sought**

to unite comfort with elegance: **merge**, mix, blend, mingle, combine; literary commingle.

– OPPOSITES divide.

**united** adjective **1** a *united* Germany:

**unified**, integrated, amalgamated, joined, merged; federal, confederate. **2** a *united* response: **common**, shared, joint, combined, communal, cooperative, collective, collaborative, concerted. **3** they were *united* in their views: in **agreement**, agreed, in unison, of the same opinion, like-minded, as one, in accord, in harmony, in unity.

**United States of America** noun

America, the USA, the US; informal the States, the US of A, Uncle Sam; literary Columbia.

**unity** noun **1** *European unity*: **union**,

unification, integration, amalgamation; coalition, federation, confederation. **2** *unity between opposing factions*: **harmony**, accord, cooperation, collaboration, agreement, consensus, solidarity; formal concord. **3** *the organic unity of the universe*: **oneness**, singleness, wholeness, uniformity, homogeneity.

– OPPOSITES division, discord.

**universal** adjective **general**, ubiquitous,

comprehensive, common, omnipresent, all-inclusive; global, worldwide, international, widespread.

**universally** adverb **invariably**, always,

without exception, in all cases; everywhere, worldwide, globally, internationally; widely, commonly, generally.

**universe** noun **1** *the physical universe*:

**cosmos**, macrocosm, totality; infinity, all existence. **2** *the universe of computer hardware*: **province**, world, sphere, preserve, domain.

#### WORD LINKS

**cosmic** relating to the universe  
**cosmology** the science of the origin and development of the universe  
**astronomy** the study of stars, planets, and the universe

**Big Bang** the explosion of dense matter said to have marked the origin of the universe

**university** noun college, academy,

institute; alma mater; N. Amer. school; historical polytechnic.

#### WORD LINKS

**matriculation** university enrolment  
**freshman** a first-year university student  
**undergraduate** a student who has not taken their first degree  
**graduate** a person who has been awarded a degree  
**postgraduate** a student studying for a second degree  
**don, professor** a university teacher  
**campus** a university's grounds and buildings  
**tenure** a permanent teaching post at a university

**unjust** adjective **1** *the attack was unjust*:

**biased**, prejudiced, unfair, inequitable, discriminatory, partisan, partial, one-sided. **2** *an unjust law*: **wrongful**, unfair,

undeserved, unmerited, unwarranted, uncalled for, unreasonable, unjustifiable, indefensible.

– OPPOSITES fair.

**unjustifiable** adjective **1** *an unjustifiable*

*extravagance*: **indefensible**, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, uncalled for, without justification, unwarrantable; excessive, immoderate. **2** *an unjustifiable slur on his character*: **groundless**, unfounded, baseless, unsubstantiated, unconfirmed, uncorroborated.

– OPPOSITES reasonable.

**unkempt** adjective **untidy**, messy, scruffy,

disordered, dishevelled, disarranged, rumpled, wind-blown, ungroomed, bedraggled, in a mess, messed up; tousled, uncombed; N. Amer. informal mussed up.

– OPPOSITES tidy.

**unkind** adjective **1** *everyone was being*

*unkind to him*: **uncharitable**, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, mean, mean-spirited, cruel, vicious, spiteful, malicious, callous, unsympathetic, unfeeling, uncaring, hurtful, ill-natured, hard-hearted, cold-hearted; unfriendly, uncivil, inconsiderate, insensitive, hostile; informal bitchy, catty; Brit. informal beastly. **2** *unkind weather*: **inclement**, intemperate, rough, severe, filthy.

**unkindness** noun nastiness,

unpleasantness, disagreeableness, cruelty, malice, meanness, mean-spiritedness, viciousness, callousness, hard-heartedness, cold-heartedness; unfriendliness, inconsiderateness, hostility; informal bitchiness, cattiness.

**unknown** adjective **1** *the outcome was*

*unknown*: **undisclosed**, unrevealed, secret; undetermined, undecided, unresolved, unsettled, unsure, unascertained.

**2** *unknown country*: **unexplored**, uncharted, unmapped, untravelled, undiscovered.

**3** *persons unknown*: **unidentified**, unnamed, nameless, anonymous. **4** *firearms were*

*unknown to the Indians*: **unfamiliar**, unheard of, new, novel, strange. **5** *unknown artists*: **obscure**, unheard of, unsung, minor, insignificant, unimportant, undistinguished.

– OPPOSITES familiar.

**unlawful** adjective **illegal**, illicit,

illegitimate, against the law; criminal, felonious; prohibited, banned, outlawed, proscribed, forbidden.

– OPPOSITES legal.

**unleash** verb let loose, release, (set) free,

unloose, untie, untether, unchain.

**unlettered** adjective **illiterate**, uneducated,

poorly educated, unschooled, unlearned, ignorant.

– OPPOSITES educated.

**unlike** preposition **1** *England is totally unlike*

*Jamaica*: **different from**, unlike, dissimilar to. **2** *unlike Linda, Chrissy was a bit of a radical*: **in contrast to**, as opposed to.

– OPPOSITES similar too.

• adjective *a meeting of unlike minds*:

**dissimilar**, unlike, disparate, contrasting, antithetical, different, diverse,



heterogeneous, divergent, at variance, varying, at odds; informal like chalk and cheese.

**unlikely** adjective **1** *it is unlikely they will ever recover*: **improbable**, doubtful, dubious.

**2** *an unlikely story*: **implausible**, improbable, questionable, unconvincing, far-fetched, unrealistic, incredible, unbelievable, inconceivable, unimaginable; informal tall, cock-and-bull.

– OPPOSITES probable, believable.

**unlimited** adjective **1** *unlimited supplies of water*: **inexhaustible**, limitless, illimitable, boundless, immeasurable, incalculable, untold, infinite, endless, never-ending.

**2** *unlimited travel*: **unrestricted**, unconstrained, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, uncurbed. **3** *unlimited power*: **total**, unqualified, unconditional, unrestricted, absolute, supreme.

– OPPOSITES finite, restricted.

**unload** verb **1** *we unloaded the van*: **unpack**, empty; old use **unlade**. **2** *they unloaded the cases from the lorry*: **remove**, offload, discharge. **3** *the state unloaded its 25 per cent stake*: **sell**, discard, jettison, offload, get rid of, dispose of; palm something off on someone, foist something on someone, fob something off on someone; informal dump, junk, get shot/shut of.

**unlock** verb **unbolt**, unlatch, unbar, unfasten, open.

**unlooked-for** adjective **unexpected**, unforeseen, unanticipated, unsought, unpredicted, undreamed of, fortuitous, chance, serendipitous.

**unloved** adjective **uncared-for**, unwanted, friendless, unvalued; rejected, unwelcome, shunned, spurned, neglected, abandoned.

**unlucky** adjective **1** *he was unlucky not to score*: **unfortunate**, luckless, out of luck, hapless, ill-fated, ill-starred, unhappy; informal down on one's luck; literary star-crossed.

**2** *an unlucky number*: **unfavourable**, inauspicious, unpropitious, ominous, cursed, ill-fated, ill-omened, disadvantageous, unfortunate.

– OPPOSITES fortunate, favourable.

**unmanageable** adjective **1** *the huge house was unmanageable*: **troublesome**, awkward, inconvenient; cumbersome, bulky, unwieldy. **2** *his behaviour was becoming unmanageable*:

**uncontrollable**, ungovernable, unruly, disorderly, out of hand, difficult, disruptive, undisciplined, wayward; informal stropky; old use contumacious.

**unmanly** adjective **effeminate**, effete, unmasculine; weak, soft, timid, timorous, limp-wristed; informal sissy, wimpish, wimpy.

– OPPOSITES virile.

**unmannerly** adjective **rude**, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, bad-mannered, ill-mannered, disrespectful, impertinent, impudent, insolent; uncouth, boorish, oafish, loutish, ill-bred, coarse.

– OPPOSITES polite.

**unmarried** adjective **unwed(d)**, single;

spinster, bachelor; unattached, available, eligible, free.

**unmatched** adjective **1** *a talent for publicity unmatched by any other politician*: **unequaled**, unrivalled, unparalleled, unsurpassed. **2** *unmatched clarity and balance*: **peerless**, matchless, without equal, without parallel, incomparable, inimitable, superlative, second to none, in a class of its own.

**unmentionable** adjective **taboo**, censored, forbidden, banned, proscribed, prohibited, not to be spoken of, ineffable, unspeakable, unutterable, unprintable, off limits; informal no go.

**unmerciful** adjective **ruthless**, cruel, harsh, merciless, pitiless, cold-blooded, hard-hearted, callous, brutal, severe, unforgiving, inhumane, inhuman, heartless, unsympathetic, unfeeling.

**unmistakable** adjective **distinctive**, distinct, telltale, indisputable, indubitable, undoubted; plain, clear, definite, obvious, evident, self-evident, manifest, patent, unambiguous, unequivocal, pronounced, as plain as the nose on your face.

**unmitigated** adjective **absolute**, unqualified, categorical, complete, total, downright, outright, utter, out-and-out, undiluted, unequivocal, veritable, perfect, consummate, pure, sheer.

**unmoved** adjective **1** *he was totally unmoved by her outburst*: **unaffected**, untouched, unimpressed, undismayed, unworried; aloof, cool, cold, dry-eyed; unconcerned, uncaring, indifferent, impassive, unemotional, stoical, phlegmatic, equable; impervious (to), oblivious (to), heedless (of), deaf to. **2** *he remained unmoved on the crucial issues*: **steadfast**, firm, unwavering, unswerving, resolute, decided, resolved, inflexible, unbending, implacable, adamant.

**unnatural** adjective **1** *wanting to help other people is not unnatural*: **abnormal**, unusual, uncommon, extraordinary, strange, freak, odd, peculiar, unorthodox, exceptional, irregular, atypical. **2** *a flash of unnatural colour*: **artificial**, man-made, synthetic, manufactured. **3** *unnatural vice*: **perverted**, warped, twisted, deviant, depraved, degenerate; informal kinky, pervy, sick. **4** *her voice sounded unnatural*: **affected**, artificial, stilted, forced, laboured, strained, false, fake, insincere; informal put on, phoney. **5** *they condemned her as an unnatural woman*: **uncaring**, unfeeling, heartless, cold-blooded, hard-hearted, callous, cruel, inhumane.

– OPPOSITES normal, genuine.

**unnecessary** adjective **unneeded**, inessential, not required, uncalled for, useless, unwarranted, unwanted, undesired, dispensable, unimportant, optional, extraneous, expendable, disposable, redundant, pointless, purposeless.

– OPPOSITES essential.

**unnerve** verb **demoralize**, discourage, dishearten, dispirit, daunt, alarm, frighten,

dismay, disconcert, discompose, perturb, upset, discomfit, take aback, unsettle, disquiet, fluster, agitate, shake, ruffle, throw off balance; informal rattle, faze, shake up; Brit. informal put the wind up; N. Amer. informal discombobulate.

– OPPOSITES hearten.

**unobtrusive** adjective **1** *she was unobtrusive and shy*: self-effacing, retiring, unassuming, quiet; shy, bashful, timid, timorous, reserved, withdrawn, introvert(ed), unforthcoming, unassertive. **2** *unobtrusive service*: inconspicuous, unnoticeable, low-key, discreet, circumspect, understated, unostentatious.

– OPPOSITES extrovert, conspicuous.

**unoccupied** adjective **1** *an unoccupied house*: vacant, empty, uninhabited; free, available, to let. **2** *an unoccupied territory*: uninhabited, unpopulated, unpeopled, unsettled. **3** *many young people were unoccupied*: at leisure, idle, free, with time on one's hands, at a loose end.

– OPPOSITES inhabited, populated, busy.

**unofficial** adjective **1** *unofficial figures*: unauthenticated, unconfirmed, uncorroborated, unsubstantiated, off the record. **2** *an unofficial committee*: informal, casual; unauthorized, unsanctioned, unaccredited.

– OPPOSITES confirmed, formal.

**unorthodox** adjective **1** *unorthodox views on management*: unconventional, unusual, radical, nonconformist, avant-garde, eccentric; informal off the wall, way out, offbeat. **2** *unorthodox religious views*: heterodox, heretical, nonconformist, dissenting.

– OPPOSITES conventional.

**unpaid** adjective **1** *unpaid bills*: unsettled, outstanding, due, overdue, owing, owed, payable, undischarged; N. Amer. delinquent, past due. **2** *unpaid charity work*: voluntary, volunteer, honorary, unremunerative, unsalaried, pro bono (publico).

**unpalatable** adjective **1** *unpalatable food*: unappetizing, unappealing, unsavoury, inedible, uneatable; disgusting, revolting, nauseating, tasteless, flavourless. **2** *the unpalatable truth*: disagreeable, unpleasant, regrettable, unwelcome, lamentable, dreadful, hateful.

– OPPOSITES tasty.

**unparalleled** adjective exceptional, unique, singular, rare, unequalled, unprecedented, without parallel, without equal; matchless, peerless, unrivalled, unsurpassed, unexcelled, incomparable, second to none; formal unexampled.

**unperturbed** adjective untroubled, undisturbed, unworried, unconcerned, unmoved, unflustered, unruffled, undismayed; calm, composed, cool, collected, unemotional, self-possessed, self-assured, level-headed, unfazed, laid-back.

**unpleasant** adjective **1** *a very unpleasant situation*: disagreeable, irksome, troublesome, annoying, irritating,

vexatious, displeasing, distressing, nasty, horrible, terrible, awful, dreadful, hateful, miserable, invidious, objectionable, offensive, obnoxious, repugnant, repulsive, repellent, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, nauseating, unsavoury. **2** *an unpleasant man*: nasty, disagreeable, unfriendly, rude, spiteful, mean, mean-spirited; insufferable, unbearable, obnoxious, annoying, irritating.

**3** *an unpleasant taste*: unappetizing, unpalatable, unsavoury, unappealing, bitter, sour, rancid; disgusting, revolting, nauseating, sickening.

– OPPOSITES agreeable, likeable.

**unpolished** adjective **1** *unpolished wood*: unvarnished, unfinished, untreated, natural. **2** *his unpolished ways*: unsophisticated, unrefined, uncultured, uncultivated, coarse, vulgar, crude, rough (and ready), awkward, clumsy, gauche. **3** *an unpolished performance*: slipshod, rough, crude, uneven.

– OPPOSITES varnished, sophisticated.

**unpopular** adjective disliked, friendless, unliked, unloved; unwelcome, avoided, ignored, rejected, shunned, spurned, cold-shouldered.

**unprecedented** adjective unparalleled, unequalled, unmatched, unrivalled, without parallel, without equal, out of the ordinary, unusual, exceptional, singular, remarkable, unique; unheard of, unknown, new, groundbreaking, revolutionary, pioneering; formal unexampled.

**unpredictable** adjective **1** *unpredictable results*: unforeseeable, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, dubious, in the balance, up in the air, arbitrary. **2** *unpredictable behaviour*: erratic, moody, volatile, unstable, capricious, temperamental, mercurial, changeable, variable.

**unprejudiced** adjective **1** *unprejudiced observation*: objective, impartial, unbiased, neutral, non-partisan, detached, disinterested. **2** *unprejudiced attitudes*: unbiased, non-discriminatory, tolerant, liberal, broad-minded, unbigoted.

– OPPOSITES partisan, intolerant.

**unpremeditated** adjective unplanned, unprepared, spontaneous, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, unrehearsed; informal off-the-cuff.

– OPPOSITES planned.

**unprepared** adjective **1** *we were unprepared for the new VAT regime*: unready, off (one's) guard, surprised, taken aback; informal caught napping, caught on the hop. **2** *they are unprepared to support the reforms*: unwilling, disinclined, loath, reluctant, resistant, opposed.

– OPPOSITES ready, willing.

**unpretentious** adjective **1** *he was thoroughly unpretentious*: unaffected, modest, unassuming, without airs, natural, straightforward, open, honest, sincere, frank. **2** *an unpretentious hotel*: simple, plain, modest, humble, unostentatious, homely, unsophisticated.

**unprincipled** adjective immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest, deceitful, devious, corrupt, crooked, wicked, evil, villainous, shameless, base, low.  
– OPPOSITES ethical.

**unproductive** adjective **1** *unproductive soil*: sterile, barren, infertile, unfruitful; poor. **2** *unproductive meetings*: fruitless, futile, vain, idle, useless, worthless, valueless, pointless, ineffective, ineffectual, unprofitable, unrewarding.  
– OPPOSITES fruitful.

**unprofessional** adjective **1** *unprofessional conduct*: improper, unethical, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, disreputable, unseemly, unbecoming, indecorous; informal, shady, crooked. **2** *he accused the detectives of being unprofessional*: amateurish, amateur, unskilled, unskilful, inexperienced, unqualified, inexperienced, incompetent, second-rate, inefficient.

**unpromising** adjective inauspicious, unfavourable, unpropitious, discouraging, disheartening, gloomy, bleak, black, portentous, ominous, ill-omened.  
– OPPOSITES auspicious.

**unqualified** adjective **1** *an unqualified accountant*: uncertificated, unlicensed, untrained, inexperienced. **2** *those unqualified to look after children*: unsuitable, unfit, ineligible, incompetent, unable, incapable. **3** *unqualified support*: unconditional, unreserved, unlimited, without reservations, categorical, unequivocal, unambiguous, wholehearted; complete, absolute, downright, undivided, total, utter.

**unquestionable** adjective indubitable, undoubted, beyond question, beyond doubt, indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, incontestable, incontrovertible, unequivocal; certain, sure, definite, self-evident, evident, manifest, obvious, apparent, patent.

**unravel** verb **1** *he unravelled the strands*: untangle, disentangle, separate out, unwind, untwist. **2** *detectives are trying to unravel the mystery*: solve, resolve, clear up, puzzle out, get to the bottom of, explain, clarify, make head or tail of; informal figure out, suss (out). **3** *society is starting to unravel*: fall apart, fail, collapse, go wrong.  
– OPPOSITES entangle.

**unreadable** adjective **1** *unreadable writing*: illegible, hard to read, indecipherable, unintelligible, scrawled, crabbed. **2** *heavy, unreadable novels*: dull, tedious, boring, uninteresting, dry, wearisome, difficult, heavy. **3** *Nathan's expression was unreadable*: inscrutable, enigmatic, impenetrable, cryptic, mysterious, deadpan, poker-faced.  
– OPPOSITES legible, accessible.

**unreal** adjective imaginary, fictitious, pretend, make-believe, made-up, dreamed-up, mock, false, illusory, mythical, fanciful; hypothetical, theoretical; informal phoney.

**unrealistic** adjective **1** *it is unrealistic to expect changes overnight*: impractical,

impracticable, unfeasible, non-viable; unreasonable, irrational, illogical, senseless, silly, foolish, fanciful, idealistic, romantic, starry-eyed. **2** *unrealistic images*: unlikelike, non-realistic, unnatural, non-representational, abstract.

– OPPOSITES pragmatic, lifelike.

**unreasonable** adjective **1** *an unreasonable woman*: uncooperative, unhelpful, disobliging, unaccommodating, awkward, contrary, difficult; obstinate, obdurate, wilful, headstrong, pig-headed, intractable, intransigent, inflexible; irrational, illogical, prejudiced, intolerant. **2** *unreasonable demands*: unacceptable, preposterous, outrageous; excessive, immoderate, disproportionate, undue, inordinate, intolerable, unjustified, unwarranted, uncalled for.

**unrecognizable** adjective unidentifiable, unknowable; disguised.

**unrefined** adjective **1** *unrefined clay*: unprocessed, untreated, crude, raw, natural, unprepared, unfinished. **2** *unrefined men*: uncultured, uncultivated, uncivilized, uneducated, unsophisticated; boorish, oafish, loutish, coarse, vulgar, rude, uncouth.

– OPPOSITES processed.

**unrelated** adjective **1** *unrelated incidents*: separate, unconnected, independent, unassociated, distinct, discrete, disparate. **2** *a reason unrelated to my work*: irrelevant, immaterial, inapplicable, unconcerned, beside the point, not pertinent, not germane.

**unrelenting** adjective **1** *the unrelenting heat*: continual, constant, continuous, relentless, unremitting, unabating, unrelieved, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, persistent. **2** *an unrelenting opponent*: implacable, inflexible, uncompromising, unyielding, unbending, relentless, determined, dogged, tireless, unflagging, unshakeable, unswerving, unwavering.  
– OPPOSITES intermittent.

**unreliable** adjective **1** *unreliable volunteers*: undependable, untrustworthy, irresponsible, fickle, capricious, erratic, unpredictable, inconstant, faithless. **2** *an unreliable indicator*: questionable, open to doubt, doubtful, dubious, suspect, unsound, tenuous, fallible; risky, chancy, inaccurate; informal iffy, dicey.

**unremitting** adjective relentless, unrelenting, continual, constant, continuous, unabating, unrelieved, sustained, unceasing, ceaseless, endless, unending, persistent, perpetual, interminable.

**unrepentant** adjective impenitent, unrepenting, remorseless, unashamed, unapologetic, unabashed.

**unreserved** adjective **1** *unreserved support*: unconditional, unqualified, without reservations, unlimited, categorical, unequivocal, unambiguous; absolute, complete, thorough, wholehearted, total,



utter, undivided. **2** *an unreserved young man*: **uninhibited**, extrovert, outgoing, unrestrained, open, unconstrained, unselfconscious, outspoken, frank, candid. **3** *unreserved seats*: **unbooked**, unallocated, unoccupied, free, empty, vacant.

– OPPOSITES qualified, reticent, booked.

**unresolved** adjective **undecided**, unsettled, undetermined, uncertain, open, pending, open to debate/question, doubtful, in doubt, up in the air.

– OPPOSITES decided.

**unrest** noun **disruption**, disturbance, trouble, turmoil, disorder, chaos, anarchy; discord, dissension, dissent, strife, protest, rebellion, uprising, rioting.

– OPPOSITES peace.

**unrestrained** adjective **uncontrolled**, unconstrained, unrestricted, unchecked, unbridled, unlimited, unfettered, uninhibited, unbounded, undisciplined.

**unrestricted** adjective **unlimited**, open, free, clear, unhindered, unimpeded, unhampered, unchecked, unrestrained, unconstrained, unblocked, unbounded, unconfined, unqualified.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**unripe** adjective **immature**, unready, green, sour.

**unrivalled** adjective **unequalled**, without equal, unparalleled, without parallel, unmatched, unsurpassed, unexcelled, incomparable, beyond compare, inimitable, second to none.

**unruffled** adjective **1** *an unruffled voice*: calm, composed, self-controlled, self-possessed, untroubled, unperturbed, at ease, relaxed, serene, cool, {cool, calm, and collected}, cool-headed, unemotional, equanimous, equable, stoical; informal unfazed. **2** *an unruffled sea*: **tranquil**, calm, smooth, still, flat, motionless, placid, waveless, pacific, like a millpond.

**unruly** adjective **disorderly**, rowdy, wild, unmanageable, uncontrollable, disobedient, disruptive, undisciplined, wayward, wilful, headstrong, irrepressible, obstreperous, difficult, intractable, out of hand, recalcitrant; boisterous, lively; formal refractory; old use contumacious.

– OPPOSITES disciplined.

**unsafe** adjective **1** *the building was unsafe*: **dangerous**, risky, perilous, hazardous, life-threatening, high-risk, treacherous, insecure, unsound; harmful, injurious, toxic. **2** *the verdict was unsafe*: **unreliable**, insecure, unsound, questionable, open to question/doubt, doubtful, dubious, suspect, fallible; informal iffy.

– OPPOSITES harmless, secure.

**unsaid** adjective **unspoken**, unuttered, unstated, unexpressed, unvoiced, untalked-of, suppressed; tacit, implicit, understood, not spelled out, taken as read, inferred, implied.

**unsanitary** adjective **unhygienic**, insanitary, dirty, filthy, unclean, contaminated,

unhealthy, germ-ridden, disease-ridden, infested, insalubrious, polluted.

– OPPOSITES hygienic.

**unsatisfactory** adjective **disappointing**, dissatisfying, undesirable, disagreeable, displeasing; inadequate, unacceptable, poor, bad, substandard, weak, mediocre, not good enough, not up to par, defective, deficient, imperfect, inferior; informal leaving a lot to be desired, no great shakes, not much cop.

**unsavoury** adjective **1** *unsavoury portions of food*: **unpalatable**, unappetizing, distasteful, disagreeable, unappealing, unattractive; inedible, uneatable, disgusting, revolting, nauseating, sickening, foul, nasty, vile; tasteless, bland, flavourless; informal yucky.

**2** *an unsavoury character*: **disreputable**, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, mean, rough; immoral, degenerate, dishonourable, dishonest, unprincipled, unscrupulous, low, villainous; informal shady, crooked.

– OPPOSITES tasty, appetizing.

**unscathed** adjective **unharm**ed, unhurt, uninjured, undamaged, in one piece, intact, safe (and sound), unmarked, untouched, unscratched.

– OPPOSITES harmed, injured.

**unscrupulous** adjective **unprincipled**, unethical, immoral, conscienceless, shameless, reprobate, exploitative, corrupt, dishonest, dishonourable, deceitful, devious, underhand, unsavoury, disreputable, evil, wicked, villainous; informal crooked, shady; dated dastardly.

**unseat** verb **1** *the horse unseated his rider*: **dislodge**, throw, dismount, upset, unhorse.

**2** *an attempt to unseat the party leader*:

**depose**, oust, remove from office, topple, overthrow, bring down, dislodge, supplant, usurp, overturn, eject.

**unseemly** adjective **indecorous**, improper, unbecoming, unfitting, unbecoming, unworthy, undignified, indiscreet, indelicate, ungentlemanly, unladylike.

– OPPOSITES decorous.

**unseen** adjective **hidden**, concealed, obscured, camouflaged, out of sight, imperceptible, undetectable, unnoticeable, unnoticed, unobserved.

**unselfish** adjective **altruistic**, disinterested, selfless, self-denying, self-sacrificing; generous, philanthropic, public-spirited, charitable, benevolent, caring, kind, considerate, noble.

**unsettle** verb **discompose**, unnerve, upset, disturb, disquiet, perturb, discomfit, disconcert, alarm, dismay, trouble, bother, agitate, fluster, ruffle, shake (up), throw, unbalance, destabilize; informal rattle, faze.

**unsettled** adjective **1** *an unsettled life*: **aimless**, directionless, purposeless, without purpose; rootless, nomadic. **2** *an unsettled child*: **restless**, restive, fidgety, anxious, worried, troubled, fretful; agitated, ruffled, uneasy, disconcerted, discomposed, unnerved, ill at ease, edgy, on edge, tense, nervous, apprehensive, disturbed, perturbed; informal rattled. **3** *unsettled*

*weather*: **changeable**, changing, variable, varying, inconstant, inconsistent, ever-changing, erratic, unstable, undependable, unreliable, uncertain, unpredictable, protean. **4 the question remains unsettled**: **undecided**, to be decided, unresolved, undetermined, uncertain, open to debate, doubtful, in doubt, up in the air. **5 the debt remains unsettled**: **unpaid**, payable, outstanding, owing, owed, to be paid, due, undischarged; N. Amer. delinquent, past due. **6 unsettled areas**: **uninhabited**, unpopulated, unpeopled, desolate, lonely.

**unshakeable** adjective **steadfast**, resolute, staunch, firm, decided, determined, unswerving, unwavering; unyielding, inflexible, dogged, obstinate, persistent, indefatigable, tireless, unflagging, unremitting, unrelenting, relentless.

**unsightly** adjective **ugly**, unattractive, unprepossessing, unlovely, disagreeable, displeasing, hideous, horrible, repulsive, revolting, offensive, grotesque, monstrous, ghastly.

– OPPOSITES attractive.

**unskilful** adjective **inexpert**, incompetent, inept, unskilled, amateurish, unprofessional, inexperienced, untrained, unpractised; informal ham-fisted, ham-handed, cack-handed.

**unskilled** adjective **untrained**, unqualified; manual, blue-collar, labouring, menial; inexpert, inexperienced, unpractised, amateurish, unprofessional.

**unsociable** adjective **unfriendly**, uncongenial, unneighbourly, unapproachable, introverted, reticent, reserved, withdrawn, aloof, distant, remote, detached, unsocial, antisocial, taciturn, silent, quiet; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES friendly.

**unsolicited** adjective **uninvited**, unsought, unasked for, unrequested.

**unsophisticated** adjective **1 she seemed terribly unsophisticated**: **unworldly**, naive, simple, innocent, ignorant, green, immature, callow, inexperienced, childlike, artless, guileless, ingenuous, natural, unaffected, unassuming, unpretentious. **2 unsophisticated software**: **simple**, crude, basic, rudimentary, primitive, rough and ready; straightforward, uncomplicated, uninvolved.

**U unsound** adjective **1 structurally unsound**: **rickety**, flimsy, wobbly, unstable, crumbling, damaged, rotten, ramshackle, insubstantial, unsafe, dangerous. **2 this submission appears unsound**: **untenable**, flawed, defective, faulty, ill-founded, flimsy, unreliable, questionable, dubious, tenuous, suspect, fallacious, fallible; informal iffy. **3 of unsound mind**: **disordered**, deranged, disturbed, demented, unstable, unbalanced, unhinged, insane; informal touched.

– OPPOSITES strong.

**unsparing** adjective **1 he is unsparing in his criticism**: **merciless**, pitiless, ruthless, relentless, remorseless, unmerciful,

unforgiving, implacable, uncompromising; stern, strict, severe, harsh, tough, rigorous. **2 unsparing approval**: **ungrudging**, unstinting, willingly given, free, free-handed, ready; lavish, liberal, generous, magnanimous, open-handed.

**unspeakable** adjective **1 unspeakable delights**: **indescribable**, beyond description, inexpressible, unutterable, indefinable, unimaginable, inconceivable, marvellous, wonderful. **2 an unspeakable crime**: **dreadful**, awful, appalling, horrific, horrifying, horrendous, abominable, frightful, fearful, shocking, ghastly, gruesome, monstrous, heinous, egregious, deplorable, despicable, execrable, vile.

**unspecified** adjective **unnamed**, unstated, unidentified, undesignated, undefined, unfixed, undecided, undetermined, uncertain; nameless, unknown, indefinite, indeterminate, vague.

**unspectacular** adjective **unremarkable**, unexceptional, undistinguished, unmemorable; ordinary, average, commonplace, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, indifferent.

– OPPOSITES remarkable.

**unspoilt** adjective **unimpaired**, as good as new/before, perfect, pristine, immaculate, unblemished, unharmed, unflawed, undamaged, untouched, unmarked, untainted.

**unspoken** adjective **unstated**, unexpressed, unuttered, unsaid, unvoiced, unarticulated, undeclared, not spelled out; tacit, implicit, implied, understood, taken as read.

– OPPOSITES explicit.

**unstable** adjective **1 icebergs are notoriously unstable**: **unsteady**, rocky, wobbly, rickety, shaky, unsafe, insecure, precarious. **2 unstable coffee prices**: **changeable**, volatile, variable, fluctuating, irregular, unpredictable, erratic. **3 he was mentally unstable**: **unbalanced**, of unsound mind, mentally ill, deranged, demented, disturbed, unhinged.

– OPPOSITES steady, firm.

**unsteady** adjective **1 she was unsteady on her feet**: **unstable**, rocky, wobbly, rickety, shaky, tottery, dodder, insecure. **2 an unsteady flow**: **irregular**, uneven, varying, variable, erratic, spasmodic, changeable, changing, fluctuating, inconstant, intermittent, fitful.

– OPPOSITES stable, regular.

**unstinted** adjective **unintended praise**: **lavish**, liberal, generous, open-handed, ungrudging, unsparing, willingly given, ready, profuse, abundant, ample.

**unstudied** adjective **natural**, easy, unaffected, unforced, uncontrived, unstilted, unpretentious, without airs, artless.

**unsubstantiated** adjective **unconfirmed**, unsupported, uncorroborated, unverified, unattested, unproven; unfounded, groundless, baseless, without foundation.

**unsuccessful** adjective **1 an unsuccessful**

**attempt:** failed, without success, abortive, ineffective, fruitless, profitless, unproductive; vain, futile, useless, pointless, worthless. **2 an unsuccessful business:** unprofitable, loss-making. **3 an unsuccessful candidate:** failed, losing, beaten; unlucky, out of luck.

**unsuitable** adjective **1 an unsuitable product:** inappropriate, unsuited, ill-suited, inapt, inapposite, unacceptable, unfitting, unbecoming, incompatible, out of place/keeping. **2 an unsuitable moment:** inopportune, infelicitous; formal malapropos.  
– OPPOSITES appropriate, opportune.

**unsullied** adjective spotless, untarnished, unblemished, unspoil, untainted, impeccable, undamaged, unimpaired, stainless, immaculate, unflawed.  
– OPPOSITES tarnished.

**unsung** adjective unacknowledged, uncelebrated, unacclaimed, unapplauded, unhailed; neglected, unrecognized, overlooked, forgotten.  
– OPPOSITES celebrated.

**unsure** adjective **1 she felt very unsure:** unconfident, unassertive, insecure, hesitant, diffident, anxious, apprehensive. **2 Sally was unsure what to do:** undecided, irresolute, dithering, equivocating, in two minds, in a quandary. **3 some teachers are unsure about the proposed strike:** dubious, doubtful, sceptical, uncertain, unconvinced. **4 the date is unsure:** not fixed, undecided, uncertain.  
– OPPOSITES confident.

**unsurpassed** adjective unmatched, unrivalled, unparalleled, unequalled, matchless, peerless, without equal, inimitable, incomparable, unsurpassable; formal unexemplary.

**unsurprising** adjective predictable, foreseeable, (only) to be expected, foreseen, anticipated, par for the course; informal inevitable, on the cards.

**unsuspecting** adjective unsuspecting, unwary, unaware, unconscious, ignorant, unwitting; trusting, gullible, credulous, ingenuous, naive.  
– OPPOSITES wary.

**unswerving** adjective unwavering, unflinching, steadfast, unshakeable, staunch, firm, resolute, stalwart, dedicated, committed, constant, single-minded, dogged, indefatigable, unyielding, unbending, indomitable.

**unsympathetic** adjective **1 unsympathetic staff:** uncaring, unconcerned, unfeeling, insensitive, unkind, pitiless, heartless, hard-hearted. **2 the government was unsympathetic to these views:** opposed, against, (dead) set against, antagonistic, ill-disposed; informal anti. **3 an unsympathetic character:** unlikeable, disagreeable, unpleasant, objectionable, unsavoury, uncongenial, unfriendly, unneighbourly, unapproachable.  
– OPPOSITES caring.

**unsystematic** adjective unmethodical,

uncoordinated, disorganized, unplanned, indiscriminate; random, inconsistent, irregular, erratic, casual, haphazard, chaotic.

**untamed** adjective wild, feral, undomesticated, unbroken.

**untangle** verb **1 I untangled the fishing tackle:** disentangle, unravel, unsnarl, straighten out, untwist, untwine, unknot. **2 untangling a mystery:** solve, resolve, puzzle out, fathom, clear up, clarify, get to the bottom of; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss out.

**untarnished** adjective unsullied, unblemished, untainted, impeccable, undamaged, unspoil, unimpaired, spotless, stainless.

**untenable** adjective indefensible, undefendable, insupportable, unsustainable, unjustified, unjustifiable, flimsy, weak, shaky.

**unthinkable** adjective unimaginable, inconceivable, unbelievable, incredible, beyond belief, implausible.

**unthinking** adjective **1 an unthinking woman:** thoughtless, inconsiderate, insensitive; tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet. **2 an unthinking remark:** absent-minded, heedless, thoughtless, careless, injudicious, imprudent, unwise, foolish, reckless, rash, precipitate; involuntary, inadvertent, unintentional, spontaneous, impulsive, unpremeditated.

– OPPOSITES thoughtful, intentional.

**untidy** adjective **1 untidy hair:** scruffy, tousled, dishevelled, unkempt, messy, disordered, disarranged, messed up, rumpled, bedraggled, uncombed, ungroomed, straggly, ruffled, tangled, matted, wind-blown; informal mussed up; N. Amer. informal raggedy. **2 the room was untidy:** disordered, messy, in a mess, disorderly, disorganized, in disorder, cluttered, in a muddle, muddled, in chaos, chaotic, haywire, topsy-turvy, in disarray, at sixes and sevens; informal higgledy-piggledy.  
– OPPOSITES neat, orderly.

**untie** verb undo, unknot, unbind, unfasten, unlace, untether, unhitch, unmoor; loose, (set) free, release, let go.

**until** preposition & conjunction **1 I was working until midnight:** (up) till, up to, up until; N. Amer. through. **2 this did not happen until 1998:** before, prior to, previous to, up to, up until, (up) till, earlier than.

**untimely** adjective **1 an untimely interruption:** ill-timed, badly timed, mistimed; inopportune, inappropriate; inconvenient, unwelcome, infelicitous; formal malapropos. **2 his untimely death:** premature, (too) early, too soon, before time.  
– OPPOSITES opportune.

**untiring** adjective vigorous, energetic, determined, resolute, enthusiastic, keen, zealous, spirited, dogged, tenacious, persistent, persevering, staunch; tireless, unflagging, unfailing, unflinching,



unwavering, indefatigable, unrelenting, unswerving; formal pertinacious.

**untold** adjective **1** *untold damage*: boundless, measureless, limitless, unlimited, infinite, immeasurable, incalculable. **2** *untold billions*: countless, innumerable, endless, limitless, numberless, an infinite number of, without number, uncountable; numerous, many, multiple; literary multitudinous, myriad. **3** *the untold story*: unreported, unrecounted, unrevealed, undisclosed, undivulged, unpublished.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**untouched** adjective **1** *the food was untouched*: uneaten, unconsumed, undrunk. **2** *one of the few untouched areas*: unspoilt, unmarked, unblemished, unsullied, undefiled, undamaged, unharmed; pristine, natural, immaculate, in perfect condition, unaffected, unchanged, unaltered.

**untoward** adjective **unexpected**, unanticipated, unforeseen, unpredictable, unpredicted, surprising, unusual; unwelcome, unfavourable, adverse, unfortunate, infelicitous; formal malapropos.

**untrained** adjective **unskilled**, untaught, unschooled, untutored, unpractised, inexperienced; unqualified, unlicensed, amateur, non-professional.

**untried** adjective **untested**, unestablished, new, experimental, unattempted, trial, test, pilot, unproven.

– OPPOSITES established.

**untroubled** adjective **unworried**, unperturbed, unconcerned, unruffled, undismayed, unbothered, unagitated, unflustered; insouciant, nonchalant, blasé, carefree, serene, relaxed, at ease, happy-go-lucky; informal laid-back.

**untrue** adjective **1** *these suggestions are totally untrue*: false, untruthful, fabricated, made up, invented, concocted, trumped up; erroneous, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate; fallacious, unsound, unfounded, misguided. **2** *he was untrue to his friends*: unfaithful, disloyal, faithless, false, treacherous, traitorous, deceitful, deceiving, duplicitous, double-dealing, insincere, unreliable, undependable, inconstant; informal two-timing; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES correct, faithful.

**untrustworthy** adjective **dishonest**, deceitful, double-dealing, treacherous, traitorous, two-faced, duplicitous, dishonourable, unprincipled, unscrupulous, corrupt; unreliable, undependable.

– OPPOSITES reliable.

**untruth** noun **1** *a patent untruth*: lie, falsehood, fib, fabrication, invention, falsification, cock and bull story, half-truth, exaggeration; story, myth, piece of fiction; informal tall story, fairy tale, whopper; Brit. informal porky (pie). **2** *the total untruth of the story*: falsity, falsehood, falseness, untruthfulness, fallaciousness, fictitiousness; fabrication, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness.

**untruthful** adjective **1** *the answers may be*

*untruthful*: false, untrue, fabricated, made up, invented, trumped up; erroneous, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate, fallacious, fictitious.

**2** *an untruthful person*: lying, mendacious, dishonest, deceitful, duplicitous, false, double-dealing, two-faced; informal crooked, bent; literary perfidious.

– OPPOSITES honest.

**untutored** adjective **uneducated**, untaught, unschooled, ignorant, unsophisticated, uncultured, unenlightened.

– OPPOSITES educated.

**untwine** verb. See **untwist**.

**untwist** verb **untwine**, disentangle, unravel, unsnarl, unwind, unroll, uncoil, unfurl, open (out), straighten (out).

**unused** adjective **1** *the notebook is unused* | *unused food*: **unutilized**, unemployed, unexploited, not in service; left over, remaining, uneaten, unconsumed, unneeded, not required, to spare, surplus.

**2** *he was unused to such directness*:

**unaccustomed**, new, a stranger, unfamiliar, unacquainted, old use strange.

– OPPOSITES accustomed.

**unusual** adjective **1** *an unusual sight*: **uncommon**, abnormal, atypical, unexpected, surprising, unfamiliar, different; strange, odd, curious, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, unorthodox, unconventional, outlandish, singular, peculiar, bizarre; rare, scarce, few and far between, thin on the ground, exceptional, isolated, occasional, infrequent; informal weird, offbeat, way out, freaky. **2** *a man of unusual talent*: **remarkable**, extraordinary, exceptional, singular, particular, outstanding, notable, noteworthy, distinctive, striking, significant, special, unique, unparalleled, prodigious.

– OPPOSITES common.

**unutterable** adjective **1** *an existence of unutterable boredom*: **indescribable**, beyond description, inexpressible, unspeakable, undefinable, inconceivable; extreme, great, overwhelming; dreadful, awful, appalling, terrible. **2** *unutterable joy*: **marvellous**, wonderful, superb, splendid, unimaginable, profound, deep.

**unvarnished** adjective **1** *unvarnished wood*: **bare**, unpainted, unpolished, unfinished, untreated. **2** *the unvarnished truth*: **straightforward**, plain, simple, stark; truthful, realistic, candid, honest, frank, forthright, direct, blunt, straight from the shoulder.

**unveil** verb **reveal**, present, disclose, divulge, make known, make public, communicate, publish, broadcast; display, show, exhibit, put on display; release, bring out.

**unwanted** adjective **1** *an unwanted development*: **unwelcome**, undesirable, undesired, unpopular, unfortunate, unlucky, unfavourable, untoward; unpleasant, disagreeable, displeasing, distasteful, objectionable; regrettable, deplorable, lamentable; unacceptable, intolerable, awful, terrible, wretched, appalling. **2** *tins of unwanted pet food*: **unused**, left over,

surplus, superfluous; uneaten, unconsumed, untouched. **3** *an unwanted guest*: **uninvited**, unbidden, unasked, unrequested, unsolicited. **4** *many ageing people feel unwanted*: **friendless**, unloved, uncared-for, forsaken, rejected, shunned; superfluous, useless, unnecessary.

– OPPOSITES welcome.

**unwarranted** adjective **1** *the criticism is unwarranted*: **unjustified**, unjustifiable, indefensible, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, uncalled for, unnecessary, unreasonable, unjust, groundless, excessive, immoderate, disproportionate.

**2** *an unwarranted invasion of privacy*:

**unauthorized**, unsanctioned, unapproved, uncertified, unlicensed; illegal, unlawful, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, actionable.

– OPPOSITES justified.

**unwary** adjective **incautious**, careless, thoughtless, heedless, inattentive, unwatchful, off one's guard.

**unwavering** adjective **steady**, fixed, resolute, resolved, firm, steadfast, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, unyielding, relentless, unremitting, unrelenting, sustained.

– OPPOSITES unsteady.

**unwelcome** adjective **1** *I was made to feel unwelcome*: **unwanted**, uninvited. **2** *even a small increase is unwelcome*: **undesirable**, undesired, unpopular, unfortunate, unlucky; disappointing, upsetting, distressing, disagreeable, displeasing; regrettable, deplorable, lamentable.

**unwell** adjective **ill**, sick, poorly, indisposed, ailing, not (very) well, not oneself, under/below par, peaky, queasy, nauseous; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, not up to snuff, funny, peculiar, lousy, rough; Brit. informal grotty; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated queer.

**unwholesome** adjective **1** *unwholesome air*: **unhealthy**, noxious, poisonous; insalubrious, unhygienic, insanitary; harmful, injurious, detrimental, destructive, damaging, deleterious, baleful. **2** *unwholesome Web pages*: **improper**, immoral, indecent, corrupting, depraving, salacious.

– OPPOSITES healthy, seemly.

**unwieldy** adjective **cumbersome**, unmanageable, unmanoeuvrable; awkward, clumsy, massive, heavy, hefty, bulky, weighty.

– OPPOSITES manageable.

**unwilling** adjective **1** *unwilling conscripts*: **reluctant**, unenthusiastic, hesitant, resistant, grudging, involuntary, forced. **2** *he was unwilling to take on that responsibility*: **disinclined**, reluctant, averse, loath; **(be unwilling to do something)** not have the heart to, baulk at, demur at, shy away from, flinch from, shrink from, have qualms about, have misgivings about, have reservations about.

– OPPOSITES keen.

**unwillingness** adjective **disinclination**,

reluctance, hesitation, diffidence, wavering, vacillation, resistance, objection, opposition, doubts, second thoughts, scruples, qualms, misgivings; old use disrelish.

**unwind** verb **1** *Ella unwound the scarf from her neck*: **unroll**, uncoil, unravel, untwine, untwist, disentangle, open (out), straighten (out). **2** *unwinding after work*: **relax**, loosen up, ease up/off, slow down, de-stress, unbend, rest, put one's feet up, take it easy; informal chill out, wind down, let it all hang out, cool out; N. Amer. informal hang loose.

**unwise** adjective **injudicious**, ill-advised, imprudent, foolish, silly, inadvisable, impolitic, misguided, foolhardy, irresponsible, rash, hasty, overhasty, reckless.

– OPPOSITES sensible.

**unwitting** adjective **1** *an unwitting accomplice*: **unknowing**, unconscious, unsuspecting, oblivious, unaware, innocent. **2** *an unwitting mistake*: **unintentional**, unintended, inadvertent, involuntary, unconscious, accidental.

– OPPOSITES conscious.

**unwonted** adjective **unusual**, uncommon, unaccustomed, unfamiliar, unprecedented, exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable, singular, surprising.

– OPPOSITES usual.

**unworldly** adjective **1** *a gauche, unworldly girl*: **naïve**, simple, inexperienced, innocent, green, raw, callow, immature, unsophisticated, gullible, ingenuous, artless, guileless, childlike, trusting, credulous. **2** *unworldly beauty*: **unearthly**, otherworldly, ethereal, ghostly, preternatural, supernatural, paranormal, mystical; rare extramundane. **3** *an unworldly religious order*: **non-materialistic**, spiritualistic, religious.

**unworthy** adjective **1** *he was unworthy of trust*: **undeserving**, ineligible, unqualified, unfit. **2** *unworthy behaviour*: **unbecoming**, unsuitable, inappropriate, unbefitting, unfitting, unseemly, improper; discreditable, shameful, dishonourable, despicable, ignoble, contemptible, reprehensible.

– OPPOSITES deserving, becoming.

**unwritten** adjective **tacit**, implicit, unvoiced, taken for granted, accepted, recognized, understood; traditional, customary, conventional; oral, verbal, spoken, vocal, word-of-mouth.

**unyielding** adjective **1** *unyielding spikes of cane*: **stiff**, inflexible, unbending, inelastic, firm, hard, solid, tough, tight, compact, compressed, dense. **2** *an unyielding policy*: **resolute**, inflexible, uncompromising, unbending, unshakeable, unwavering, immovable, intractable, intransigent, rigid, stiff, firm, determined, dogged, obstinate, stubborn, adamant, obdurate, tenacious, relentless, implacable, single-minded; formal pertinacious.

**up-and-coming** adjective **promising**, budding, rising, on the up and up, with potential; talented, gifted, able.

**upbeat** adjective (informal) optimistic, cheerful, cheery, positive, confident, hopeful, sanguine, bullish, buoyant.

– OPPOSITES pessimistic, negative.

**upbraid** verb reprimand, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, reprove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task, lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, lecture; informal tell off, give someone a talking-to, dress down, give someone an earful, rap over the knuckles, bawl out, lay into; Brit. informal tick off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket/rollicking; N. Amer. informal chew out, ream out; Austral. informal monster; formal castigate; rare reprehend.

**upbringing** noun childhood, early life, formative years, teaching, instruction, care, bringing-up, rearing.

**update** verb **1** *security measures are continually updated*: modernize, upgrade, bring up to date, improve, overhaul; N. Amer. bring up to code. **2** *I'll update him on today's developments*: brief, bring up to date, inform, fill in, tell, notify, apprise, keep posted; informal clue in, put in the picture, bring/keep up to speed.

**upgrade** verb **1** *there are plans to upgrade the rail system*: improve, modernize, update, bring up to date, make better, ameliorate, reform; rehabilitate, recondition, refurbish, renovate; N. Amer. bring up to code. **2** *he was upgraded to a seat in the cabinet*: promote, give promotion to, elevate, move up, raise; old use prefer.

– OPPOSITES downgrade, demote.

**upheaval** noun disruption, disturbance, trouble, turbulence, disorder, confusion, turmoil, pandemonium, chaos, mayhem, cataclysm; revolution, change.

**uphill** adjective **1** *an uphill path*: upward, rising, ascending, climbing. **2** *an uphill job*: arduous, difficult, hard, tough, taxing, demanding, exacting, stiff, formidable, exhausting, tiring, wearisome, laborious, gruelling, back-breaking, punishing, burdensome, onerous, Herculean; informal no picnic, killing; old use toilsome.

– OPPOSITES downhill.

**uphold** verb **1** *the court upheld his claim for damages*: confirm, endorse, sustain, approve, support, back (up), stand by, champion, defend. **2** *they've a tradition to uphold*: maintain, sustain, continue, preserve, protect, keep, hold to, keep alive, keep going.

– OPPOSITES overturn, oppose.

**upkeep** noun **1** *the upkeep of the road*: maintenance, repair(s), service, servicing, care, preservation, conservation; running. **2** *the child's upkeep*: (financial) support, maintenance, keep, subsistence, care.

**uplift** verb *she needs something to uplift her spirits*: boost, raise, buoy up, lift, cheer up, perk up, enliven, brighten up, lighten, stimulate, inspire, ginger up, revive, restore; informal buck up.

**uplifted** adjective raised, upraised, elevated, upthrust; held high, erect, proud.

**uplifting** adjective inspiring, stirring, inspirational, rousing, moving, touching, affecting, cheering, heartening, encouraging, life-affirming.

**upper** adjective **1** *the upper floor*: higher, superior; top. **2** *the upper echelons of the party*: senior, superior, higher-level, higher-ranking, top.

– OPPOSITES lower.

■ **the upper hand** an advantage, the edge, the whip hand, a lead, a head start, ascendancy, superiority, supremacy, sway, control, power, mastery, dominance, command.

**upper-class** adjective aristocratic, noble, of noble birth, patrician, titled, blue-blooded, high-born, well born, elite, landowning, landed, born with a silver spoon in one's mouth; Brit. county, upmarket; informal upper-crust, top-drawer, {huntin', shootin', and fishin'}, classy; Brit. informal posh; old use gentle, of gentle birth.

**uppermost** adjective **1** *the uppermost branches*: highest, top, topmost. **2** *their own problems remained uppermost in their minds*: predominant, of greatest importance, to the fore, foremost, dominant, principal, chief, main, paramount, major.

**uppish** adjective (informal) arrogant, bumptious, full of oneself, puffed up, conceited, swollen-headed, pompous, self-assertive, overbearing, throwing one's weight about, cocky, cocksure, haughty, self-important, superior, presumptuous, overweening; informal snooty, uppity, high and mighty, too big for one's boots.

**upright** adjective **1** *an upright position*: vertical, perpendicular, plumb, straight (up), straight up and down, bolt upright, erect, on end; on one's feet; Heraldry rampant. **2** *an upright member of the community*: honest, honourable, upstanding, respectable, high-minded, law-abiding, right-minded, worthy, moral, ethical, righteous, decent, good, virtuous, principled, high-principled, of principle, noble, incorruptible.

– OPPOSITES horizontal, dishonourable.

**uprising** noun rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, revolution, insurgence, rioting, riot; civil disobedience, unrest, anarchy; coup, coup d'état, putsch.

**uproar** noun **1** *the uproar in the kitchen continued for some time*: turmoil, disorder, confusion, chaos, commotion, disturbance, rumpus, tumult, turbulence, mayhem, pandemonium, bedlam, noise, din, clamour, hubbub, racket; shouting, yelling, babel; informal hullabaloo; Brit. informal row. **2** *there was an uproar when he was dismissed*: outcry, furore, fuss, commotion, hue and cry, rumpus, ruckus, brouhaha; informal hullabaloo, stink, ructions; Brit. informal row.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**uproarious** adjective *an uproarious party*: riotous, rowdy, noisy, loud, wild,



unrestrained, unruly, rip-roaring, rollicking, boisterous; informal rumbustious; N. Amer. informal rambunctious.

– OPPOSITES quiet.

**uproot** verb **1** *don't pick or uproot wild flowers: pull up, root out, deracinate, grub out/up.* **2** *a revolution is necessary to uproot the social order: eradicate, get rid of, eliminate, root out, destroy, put an end to, do away with, wipe out, stamp out.*

– OPPOSITES plant.

**upset** verb **1** *the accusation upset her: distress, trouble, perturb, dismay, disturb, discompose, unsettle, disconcert, disquiet, worry, bother, agitate, fluster, throw, ruffle, unnerve, shake; hurt, sadden, grieve.* **2** *he upset a tureen of soup: knock over, overturn, upend, tip over, topple (over); spill; old use overset.* **3** *the dam will upset the ecological balance: disrupt, interfere with, disturb, throw out, turn topsy-turvy, throw into confusion, mess up.*

• noun **1** *a legal dispute will cause worry and upset: distress, trouble, perturbation, dismay, disquiet, worry, bother, agitation; hurt, grief.* **2** *a stomach upset: disorder, complaint, ailment, illness, sickness, malady; informal bug; Brit. informal lurgy.*

• adjective **1** *I was upset by the news: distressed, troubled, perturbed, dismayed, disturbed, unsettled, disconcerted, worried, bothered, anxious, agitated, flustered, ruffled, unnerved, shaken; hurt, saddened, grieved; informal cut up, choked; Brit. informal gutted.* **2** *an upset stomach: disturbed, unsettled, queasy, bad, poorly; informal gippy.*

– OPPOSITES unperturbed, calm.

**upshot** noun result, end result, consequence, outcome, conclusion; effect, repercussion, reverberations, ramification; dated issue.

– OPPOSITES cause.

**upside down** adjective **1** *an upside-down canoe: upturned, upended, wrong side up, overturned, inverted; capsized.* **2** *they left the flat upside down: in disarray, in disorder, jumbled up, in a muddle, untidy, disorganized, chaotic, all over the place, in chaos, in confusion, topsy-turvy, at sixes and sevens; informal higgledy-piggledy.*

**upstanding** adjective **1** *an upstanding member of the community: honest, honourable, upright, respectable, high-minded, law-abiding, right-minded, worthy, moral, ethical, righteous, decent, good, virtuous, principled, high-principled, of principle, noble, incorruptible.* **2** *the upstanding feathered plumes: upright, erect, vertical; standing, on one's feet; Heraldry rampant.*

– OPPOSITES dishonourable.

**upstart** noun parvenu(e), arriviste, nouveau riche, vulgarian; status-seeker, social climber.

**up to date** adjective **1** *up-to-date equipment: modern, contemporary, the latest, state-of-the-art, new, present-day, up to the minute; advanced; informal bang up to date, mod.* **2** *the newsletter will keep you up to*

*date: informed, up to speed, in the picture, in touch, au fait, au courant, conversant, familiar, knowledgeable, acquainted, aware; informal plugged-in.*

– OPPOSITES out of date, old-fashioned.

**upturn** noun improvement, upswing, turn for the better; recovery, revival, rally, resurgence, increase, rise, jump, leap, upsurge, boost, escalation.

– OPPOSITES fall, slump.

**upward** adjective *an upward trend: rising, on the rise, ascending, climbing, mounting; uphill.*

– OPPOSITES downward.

• adverb *the smoke drifts upward.* See UPWARDS.

**upwards** adverb *he inched his way upwards: up, upward, uphill; to the top.*

– OPPOSITES downward.

■ **upward(s)** of more than, above, over, in excess of, exceeding, beyond.

**urban** adjective town, city, municipal, metropolitan, built-up, inner-city, suburban.

– OPPOSITES rural.

**urbane** adjective suave, sophisticated, debonair, worldly, cultivated, cultured, civilized; smooth, polished, refined, self-possessed; courteous, polite, civil, well mannered, mannerly, charming, gentlemanly, gallant.

– OPPOSITES uncouth, unsophisticated.

**urchin** noun ragamuffin, waif, stray; imp, rascal; derogatory guttersnipe; dated gamin; old use mudlark, scapegrace, street Arab.

**urge** verb **1** *she urged him to try again: encourage, exhort, enjoin, press, entreat, implore, call on, appeal to, beg, plead with; egg on, spur, push, pressure, pressurize; formal adjure; literary beseech.* **2** *she urged her horse down the lane: spur (on), force, drive, impel.* **3** *I urge caution in interpreting these results: advise, counsel, advocate, recommend.*

• noun *his urge to travel: desire, wish, need, compulsion, longing, yearning, hankering, craving, appetite, hunger, thirst; fancy, impulse; informal yen, itch.*

**urgent** adjective **1** *the urgent need for more funding: acute, pressing, dire, desperate, critical, serious, grave, intense, crying, burning, compelling, extreme, high-priority, top-priority; life-and-death.* **2** *an urgent whisper: insistent, persistent, importunate, earnest, pleading, begging.*

**urinate** verb pass water, relieve oneself; informal spend a penny, have/take a leak, pee, piddle, widdle; Brit. informal wee, have a Jimmy (Riddle), have a slash; N. Amer. informal take a whizz; formal micturate.

**usable** adjective ready/fit for use, able to be used, at someone's disposal; working, in working order, functioning, functional, serviceable, operational, up and running.

**usage** noun **1** *energy usage: use, consumption, utilization.* **2** *the usage of equipment: use, utilization, operation,*

manipulation, running, handling. **3** *the intricacies of English usage*: **phraseology**, parlance, idiom, way of speaking/writing, mode of expression; **idiolect**. **4** *the usages of polite society*: **custom**, practice, habit, tradition, convention, rule, observance; way, procedure, form; formal praxis, wont; (**usages**) mores.

**use verb 1** *she used her key to open the front door*: **utilize**, make use of, avail oneself of, employ, work, operate, wield, ply, apply, manoeuvre, manipulate, put to use, put into service. **2** *the court will use its discretion in making an order*: **exercise**, employ, bring into play, practise, apply. **3** *use your troops well and they will not let you down*: **manage**, handle, treat, deal with, behave/act towards. **4** *I couldn't help feeling that she was using me*: **take advantage of**, exploit, manipulate, take liberties with, impose on, abuse; capitalize on, profit from, trade on, milk; informal cash in on, walk all over. **5** *we have used all the available funds*: **consume**, get/go through, exhaust, deplete, expend, spend; waste, fritter away, squander, dissipate. **• noun 1** *the use of such weapons*: **utilization**, usage, application, employment, operation, manipulation. **2** *his use of other people for his own ends*: **exploitation**, manipulation; abuse. **3** *what is the use of that?*: **advantage**, benefit, service, utility, usefulness, help, good, gain, avail, profit, value, worth, point, object, purpose, sense, reason. **4** *composers have not found much use for the device*: **need**, necessity, call, demand, requirement.

**used adjective** *a used car*: **second-hand**, pre-owned, nearly new, old; worn, hand-me-down, handed-down, cast-off; Brit. informal reach-me-down.

– OPPOSITES new.

■ **used to** accustomed to, no stranger to, familiar with, at home with, in the habit of, experienced in, versed in, conversant with, acquainted with.

**useful adjective 1** *a useful multi-purpose tool*: **functional**, practical, handy, convenient, utilitarian, serviceable, of use, of service; informal nifty. **2** *a useful experience*: **beneficial**, advantageous, helpful, worthwhile, profitable, rewarding, productive, constructive, valuable, fruitful. **3** (informal) *they had some very useful players*: **competent**, capable, able, skilful, skilled, talented, proficient, accomplished, good, handy.

– OPPOSITES useless, disadvantageous, incompetent.

**useless adjective 1** *it was useless to try | a piece of useless knowledge*: **futile**, to no avail, in vain, vain, pointless, to no purpose, unavailing, hopeless, ineffectual, ineffective, to no effect, fruitless, unprofitable, profitless, unproductive; broken, kaput; old use bootless. **2** (informal) *he was useless at his job*: **incompetent**, inept, ineffective, incapable, inadequate, hopeless, bad; informal pathetic, a dead loss.

– OPPOSITES useful, beneficial, competent.

**usher verb** *she ushered him to a window seat*:

escort, accompany, take, show, see, lead, conduct, guide, steer, shepherd.

• **noun** *ushers showed them to their seats*: **guide**, attendant, escort.

■ **usher something** in herald, mark the start of, signal, ring in, show in, set the scene for, pave the way for; start, begin, introduce, open the door to, get going, set in motion, get under way, kick off, launch.

**usual adjective** **habitual**, customary, accustomed, normal, routine, regular, standard, typical, established, set, settled, stock, conventional, traditional, expected, predictable, familiar; average, general, ordinary, everyday; literary wonted.

– OPPOSITES exceptional.

**usually adverb** **normally**, generally, habitually, customarily, routinely, typically, ordinarily, commonly, conventionally, traditionally; as a rule, in general, more often than not, in the main, mainly, mostly, for the most part.

**usurp verb 1** *Richard usurped the throne*: seize, take over, take possession of, take, commandeer, assume. **2** *the Hanoverian dynasty had usurped the Stuarts*: **oust**, overthrow, remove, topple, unseat, depose, dethrone; supplant, replace.

**utensil noun** **implement**, tool, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, appliance, contrivance, contraption, aid; informal gizmo.

**utilitarian adjective** **practical**, functional, serviceable, useful, sensible, efficient, utility, workaday; plain, unadorned, undecorative.

– OPPOSITES decorative.

**utility noun** **usefulness**, use, benefit, value, advantage, advantageousness, help, helpfulness, profitability, practicality, effectiveness, avail, service; formal efficacy.

**utilize verb** **use**, make use of, put to use, employ, avail oneself of, bring/press into service, bring into play, deploy, draw on, exploit.

**utmost adjective 1** *a matter of the utmost importance*: **greatest**, highest, maximum, most, uttermost; extreme, supreme, paramount. **2** *the utmost tip of Shetland*: **furthest**, farthest, furthestmost, farthestmost, extreme, very, uttermost, outermost, endmost.

• **noun** *a plot that stretches credulity to the utmost*: **uttermost**, maximum, limit.

**Utopia noun** **paradise**, heaven, heaven on earth, Eden, Garden of Eden, Shangri-La, Elysium; idyll, nirvana, ideal place; literary Arcadia.

**Utopian adjective** **idealistic**, visionary, romantic, starry-eyed, fanciful, unrealistic; ideal, perfect, paradisaal, heavenly, idyllic, blissful, Elysian; literary Arcadian.

**utter<sup>1</sup> adjective** *that's utter nonsense*: **complete**, total, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, out-and-out, outright, thoroughgoing, all-out, sheer, arrant, positive, prize, rank, pure, real, veritable,

consummate, categorical, unmitigated, unqualified, unadulterated, unalloyed.

**utter**<sup>2</sup> **verb** **1** *he uttered an exasperated snort:* emit, let out, give, produce. **2** *he hardly uttered a word:* say, speak, voice, express, articulate, pronounce, enunciate, verbalize, vocalize.

**utterance** **noun** remark, comment, word, statement, observation, declaration, pronouncement.

**utterly** **adverb** completely, totally,

absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, quite, altogether, one hundred per cent, downright, outright, in all respects, unconditionally, perfectly, really, to the hilt, to the core; informal dead.

**uttermost** **adjective & noun.** See **UTMOST**.

**U-turn** **noun** *a complete U-turn in economic policy;* volte-face, turnaround, about-face, reversal, shift, change of heart, change of mind, backtracking, change of plan; Brit. about-turn.



# Vv

**vacancy** noun **1** *there are vacancies for computer technicians:* opening, position, situation vacant, post, job, opportunity, place. **2** *Cathy stared into vacancy, seeing nothing:* empty space, emptiness, nothingness, void. **3** *a vacancy of mind:* empty-headedness, lack of intelligence, brainlessness, vacuousness, vacuity, stupidity.

**vacant** adjective **1** *a vacant house:* empty, unoccupied, available, not in use, free, unfilled; uninhabited, untenanted.

**2** *a vacant look:* blank, expressionless, unresponsive, emotionless, impassive, uninterested, vacuous, empty, glazed, glassy; unintelligent, dull-witted, dense, brainless, empty-headed.

– OPPOSITES full, occupied, expressive.

**vacate** verb **1** *he was forced to vacate the premises:* leave, move out of, evacuate, quit, depart from; abandon, desert. **2** *he will be vacating his post next year:* resign from, leave, stand down from, give up, bow out of, relinquish, retire from; informal quit.

– OPPOSITES occupy, take up.

**vacation** noun **1** *his summer vacations in France:* holiday, trip, tour, break, mini-break; leave, time off, recess, furlough; informal hol, vac; formal sojourn. **2** *the squatters' vacation of the occupied land:* departure, evacuation, abandonment, desertion.

**vacillate** verb *dither*, be indecisive, be undecided, waver, hesitate, be in two minds, blow hot and cold, keep changing one's mind; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal dilly-dally, shilly-shally.

**vacillating** adjective *irresolute*, indecisive, dithering, undecided, hesitant, wavering, ambivalent, divided, uncertain, in two minds, blowing hot and cold; informal dilly-dallying, shilly-shallying.

– OPPOSITES resolute.

**vacuous** adjective *silly*, inane, unintelligent, foolish, stupid, fatuous, idiotic, brainless, witless, vapid, vacant, empty-headed; informal dumb, gormless, moronic, brain-dead.

– OPPOSITES intelligent.

**vacuum** noun **1** *people longing to fill the spiritual vacuum in their lives:* emptiness, void, nothingness, vacancy. **2** *the political vacuum left by the Emperor's death:* gap, space, lacuna, void. **3** (informal) *I use the*

*vacuum for cleaning the rug:* vacuum cleaner; Brit. informal vac; trademark Hoover.

**vagabond** noun. See **VAGRANT** noun.

**vagary** noun *change*, fluctuation, variation, quirk, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, unpredictability, caprice, foible, whim, whimsy, fancy.

**vagrant** noun *a temporary home for vagrants:* tramp, drifter, down-and-out, derelict, beggar, itinerant, wanderer, nomad, traveller, vagabond, transient, homeless person, beachcomber; informal knight of the road; N. Amer. hobo; Austral. bagman; informal bag lady; N. Amer. informal bum; literary wayfarer. • adjective *vagrant beggars:* homeless, drifting, transient, roving, roaming, itinerant, wandering, nomadic, travelling, vagabond, rootless, of no fixed address/abode.

**vague** adjective **1** *a vague shape:* indistinct, indefinite, indeterminate, unclear, ill-defined; hazy, fuzzy, misty, blurred, blurry, faint, shadowy, dim, obscure, nebulous, amorphous. **2** *a vague description:* imprecise, rough, approximate, inexact, non-specific, generalized, ambiguous, equivocal, hazy, woolly. **3** *they had only vague plans:* hazy, uncertain, undecided, unsure, unclear, unsettled, indefinite, indeterminate, unconfirmed, up in the air, speculative. **4** *she was so vague in everyday life:* absent-minded, forgetful, dreamy, abstracted, with one's head in the clouds; informal scatty, not with it.

– OPPOSITES clear, precise, certain.

**vaguely** adverb **1** *she looks vaguely familiar:* slightly, a little, a bit, somewhat, rather, in a way; faintly, obscurely; informal sort of, kind of. **2** *he fired his rifle vaguely in our direction:* roughly, more or less, approximately.

**3** *he smiled vaguely:* absent-mindedly, abstractedly, vacantly.

– OPPOSITES very, exactly.

**vain** adjective **1** *he was vain about his looks:* conceited, narcissistic, self-loving, self-admiring, self-regarding, egotistic, egotistical; proud, arrogant, boastful, cocky, immodest, swaggering; informal big-headed; literary vainglorious. **2** *a vain attempt:* futile, useless, pointless, to no purpose, in vain; ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious, impotent, unavailing, to no avail, fruitless,

profitless, unproductive, unsuccessful, failed, abortive, for nothing; thwarted, frustrated, foiled; old use bootless.

– OPPOSITES modest, successful.

■ **in vain** **1** *they tried in vain to save him:* unsuccessfully, without success, to no avail, to no purpose, fruitlessly. **2** *his efforts were in vain.* See **VAIN** sense 2.

**valediction** **noun** farewell, goodbye, adieu, leave-taking.

**valedictory** **adjective** farewell, goodbye, leaving, parting; last, final.

**valet** **noun** manservant, man, personal attendant, gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves; Military, dated batman.

**valetudinarian** **noun** *an elderly valetudinarian:* hypochondriac; invalid.

• **adjective** *he was earnest, fussy, and valetudinarian:* hypochondriac, obsessed with one's health, neurotic; sickly, ailing, poorly, in poor health, weak, infirm, valetudinary.

**valiant** **adjective** brave, courageous, plucky, valorous, intrepid, heroic, gallant, lionhearted, bold, fearless, daring, audacious; unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, indomitable, mettlesome, stout-hearted, spirited; informal game, gutsy, spunky.

– OPPOSITES cowardly.

**valid** **adjective** **1** *a valid criticism:* well founded, sound, reasonable, rational, logical, justifiable, defensible, viable, bona fide; cogent, effective, powerful, convincing, credible, forceful, strong, weighty. **2** *a valid contract:* legally binding, lawful, legal, official, signed and sealed, contractual; in force, in effect, effective.

**validate** **verb** **1** *clinical trials now exist to validate this claim:* prove, substantiate, corroborate, verify, support, back up, bear out, confirm, justify, vindicate, authenticate. **2** *250 course proposals were validated:* ratify, endorse, approve, agree to, accept, authorize, legalize, legitimize, warrant, license, certify, recognize.

– OPPOSITES disprove.

**valley** **noun** dale, vale; hollow, gully, gorge, ravine, canyon, rift; Brit.combe, dene; N. English clough; Scottish glen, strath; literary dell, dingle.

**valour** **noun** bravery, courage, pluck, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism, backbone, spirit; informal guts, spunk; Brit. informal bottle; N. Amer. informal moxie.

– OPPOSITES cowardice.

**valuable** **adjective** **1** *a valuable watch:* precious, costly, high-priced, high-cost, expensive, dear; worth its weight in gold, worth a king's ransom, priceless. **2** *a valuable contribution:* useful, helpful, beneficial, invaluable, productive, constructive, effective, advantageous, worthwhile, worthy, important.

– OPPOSITES cheap, worthless, useless.

**valuables** **plural noun** precious items, costly items, prized possessions, personal effects, treasures.

**value** **noun** **1** *houses exceeding £250,000 in value:* price, cost, worth; market price, monetary value, face value. **2** *the value of adequate preparation cannot be understated:* worth, usefulness, advantage, benefit, gain, profit, good, help, helpfulness, avail; importance, significance. **3** *society's values are passed on to us as children:* principles, ethics, moral code, morals, standards, code of behaviour.

• **verb** **1** *his estate was valued at £45,000:* evaluate, assess, estimate, appraise, price, put/set a price on. **2** *she valued his opinion:* think highly of, have a high opinion of, hold in high regard, rate highly, esteem, set (great) store by, appreciate, respect; prize, cherish, treasure.

**valued** **adjective** cherished, treasured, dear, prized; esteemed, respected, highly regarded.

**valueless** **adjective** worthless, of no value, useless, to no purpose, (of) no use, profitless, futile, pointless, vain, in vain, to no avail, to no effect, fruitless, unproductive, idle, ineffective, unavailing; old use bootless.

**vamp**<sup>1</sup> **verb** (informal) *the design had been vamped up:* improve, revamp, redesign, remodel, restyle, rework, make over; renovate, refurbish, redecorate, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, repair; informal do up, give something a facelift; N. Amer. informal rehab.

**vamp**<sup>2</sup> **noun** (informal) *a raven-haired vamp:* seductress, temptress, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari; flirt, coquette, tease.

**van** **noun** *he was in the van of the movement.* See **VANGUARD**.

**vanguard** **noun** forefront, van, advance guard, spearhead, front, front line, fore, lead, cutting edge; leaders, founders, founding fathers, pioneers, trailblazers, trendsetters, innovators, groundbreakers.

– OPPOSITES rear.

**vanish** **verb** **1** *he vanished into the darkness:* disappear, be lost to sight/view, become invisible, vanish into thin air, recede from view. **2** *all hope of freedom vanished:* fade (away), evaporate, melt away, come to an end, end, cease to exist, pass away, die out, be no more.

– OPPOSITES appear, materialize.

**vanity** **noun** **1** *she had none of the vanity often associated with beautiful women:* conceit, narcissism, self-love, self-admiration, self-regard, egotism; pride, arrogance, boastfulness, cockiness, swagger; informal big-headedness; literary vainglory. **2** *the vanity of all desires of the will:* futility, uselessness, pointlessness, worthlessness, fruitlessness.

– OPPOSITES modesty.

**vanquish** **verb** conquer, defeat, beat, trounce, rout, triumph over, be victorious

over, get the better of, worst; overcome, overwhelm, overpower, overthrow, quash, subdue, subjugate, quell, crush, bring someone to their knees; informal lick, hammer, clobber, thrash, demolish, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter, annihilate; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal cream, shellac.

**vapid** adjective insipid, uninspired, colourless, uninteresting, feeble, flat, dull, boring, tedious, tired, unexciting, uninspiring, unimaginative, lifeless, tame, vacuous, bland, trite.

– OPPOSITES lively, colourful.

**vapour** noun haze, mist, steam, condensation; fumes, exhalation, fog, smog, smoke.

**variable** adjective changeable, changing, varying, shifting, fluctuating, changeful, irregular, inconstant, inconsistent, fluid, unsteady, unstable, unsettled, fitful, mutable, protean, wavering, vacillating, capricious, fickle, volatile, unpredictable, unreliable; informal up and down.

– OPPOSITES constant.

**variance** noun difference, variation, discrepancy, dissimilarity, disagreement, conflict, divergence, deviation, contrast, contradiction, imbalance, incongruity.  
**■ at variance 1** *his recollections were at variance with documentary evidence:* inconsistent, at odds, not in keeping, out of keeping, out of line, out of step, in conflict, in disagreement, different, differing, divergent, discrepant, dissimilar, contrary, incompatible, contradictory, irreconcilable, incongruous. **2** *they were at variance with their previous allies:* in disagreement, at odds, at cross purposes, at loggerheads, in conflict, in dispute, at outs, quarrelling.

**variant** noun *there are a number of variants of the same idea:* variation, form, alternative, adaptation, alteration, modification, permutation.

• adjective *a variant spelling:* alternative, other, different, divergent, derived, modified.

**variation** noun **1** *regional variations in farming practice:* difference, dissimilarity; disparity, contrast, discrepancy, imbalance; technical differential; formal dissimilitude. **2** *opening times are subject to variation:* change, alteration, modification; diversification. **3** *there was very little variation from an understood pattern:* deviation, variance, divergence, departure, fluctuation. **4** *hurling is an Irish variation of hockey:* variant, form, alternative form; development, adaptation, alteration, diversification, modification.

**varied** adjective diverse, assorted, miscellaneous, mixed, sundry, wide-ranging, heterogeneous, multifarious; disparate, motley.

**variegated** adjective multicoloured, particoloured, multicolour, many-coloured, many-hued, polychromatic, colourful,

prismatic, rainbow-like, kaleidoscopic; mottled, striated, marbled, streaked, speckled, flecked, dappled; informal splotchy, splodgy.

– OPPOSITES plain, monochrome.

**variety** noun **1** *the lack of variety in the curriculum:* diversity, variation, diversification, multifariousness, heterogeneity, many-sidedness; change, difference. **2** *a wide variety of flowers and shrubs:* assortment, miscellany, range, array, collection, selection, mixture, medley, multiplicity; mixed bag, motley collection, potpourri. **3** *fifty varieties of pasta:* sort, kind, type, class, category, style, form; make, model, brand; strain, breed, genus.

– OPPOSITES uniformity.

**various** adjective diverse, different, differing, varied, varying, a variety of, assorted, mixed, sundry, miscellaneous, heterogeneous, disparate, motley; literary divers.

**varnish** noun & verb lacquer, shellac, japan, enamel, glaze; polish.

**vary** verb **1** *estimates of the development cost vary:* differ, be different, be dissimilar. **2** *rates of interest vary over time:* fluctuate, rise and fall, go up and down, change, alter, shift, swing. **3** *the diaphragm is used for varying the aperture of the lens:* modify, change, alter, adjust, regulate, control, set; diversify. **4** *the routine never varied:* change, alter, deviate, differ, fluctuate.

**vassal** noun (historical) vassal, liegeman, man, vavasour, serf, helot.

**vast** adjective huge, extensive, expansive, broad, wide, boundless, immeasurable, limitless, infinite; enormous, immense, great, massive, colossal, tremendous, mighty, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monumental; giant, towering, mountainous, titanic, Brobdingnagian; informal jumbo, mega, monster, whopping, humongous, astronomical; Brit. informal ginormous.

– OPPOSITES tiny.

**vat** noun tub, tank, cistern, barrel, butt, cask, tun, drum, basin; vessel, receptacle, container, holder, reservoir.

**vault<sup>1</sup>** noun **1** *the highest Gothic vault in Europe:* arched roof, dome, arch. **2** *the vault under the church:* cellar, basement, underground chamber; crypt, undercroft, catacomb, burial chamber. **3** *valuables stored in the vault:* strongroom, safe deposit, safety deposit.

**vault<sup>2</sup>** verb *he vaulted over the gate:* jump over, leap over, spring over, bound over; hurdle, clear.

**vaunt** verb boast about, brag about, make much of, crow about, parade, flaunt; acclaim, praise, extol, celebrate; informal show off about; formal laud.

**veer** verb turn, swerve, swing, sheer, career, weave, wheel; change direction/course, go off course, deviate.

**vegetate** verb do nothing, idle, languish,



laze, lounge, loll; moulder, stagnate; informal veg out, slob out; Brit. informal slummock; N. Amer. informal bum around, lollygag.

**vegetation** noun plants, flora; greenery, foliage, herbage, verdure.

#### WORD LINKS

herbicide a substance used to kill vegetation

**vehement** noun passion, force, forcefulness, ardour, fervour, violence, urgency, strength, vigour, intensity, keenness, enthusiasm, zeal.

**vehement** adjective passionate, forceful, ardent, impassioned, heated, spirited, urgent, fervent, violent, fierce, strong, forcible, powerful, emphatic, vigorous, intense, earnest, keen, enthusiastic, zealous.  
– OPPOSITES mild, apathetic.

**vehicle** noun **1** a *stolen vehicle*: means of transport, conveyance; car, automobile, motorcycle, motorbike, van, bus, coach, lorry, truck; N. Amer. informal auto. **2** a *vehicle for the communication of original ideas*: channel, medium, means (of expression), agency, agent, instrument, mechanism, organ, apparatus.

#### WORD LINKS

automotive relating to vehicles

tare the weight of a vehicle without its fuel or load

weighbridge a machine for weighing vehicles

tachograph a device recording a commercial road vehicle's speed over a period of time

**veil** noun a *thin veil of high cloud made the sun hazy*: covering, cover, screen, curtain, mantle, cloak, mask, blanket, shroud, canopy, cloud, pall.

• verb the peak was veiled in mist: envelop, surround, swathe, enfold, cover, conceal, hide, screen, shield, cloak, blanket, shroud; obscure; literary enshroud, mantle.

**veiled** adjective *veiled threats*: disguised, camouflaged, masked, covert, hidden, concealed, suppressed, underlying, implicit, implied, indirect.

– OPPOSITES overt.

**vein** noun **1** a *vein in his neck pulsed*: blood vessel. **2** the *mineral veins in the rock*: layer, lode, seam, stratum, stratification, deposit. **3** *white marble with grey veins*: streak, marking, mark, line, stripe, strip, band, thread, strand; technical stria, striation. **4** he closes the article in a *humorous vein*: mood, humour, frame of mind, temper, disposition, attitude, tenor, tone, key, spirit, character, feel, flavour, quality, atmosphere; manner, way, style.

#### WORD LINKS

vascular, venous relating to veins

phlebotomy surgical incision of a vein

**velocity** noun speed, pace, rate, tempo, momentum, impetus; swiftness, rapidity; literary fleetness, celerity.

**venal** adjective corrupt, corruptible, bribable, open to bribery; dishonest, dishonourable,

untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled; mercenary, greedy; informal bent.

– OPPOSITES honourable, honest.

**vendetta** noun feud, blood feud, quarrel, argument, falling-out, dispute, fight, war; bad blood, enmity, rivalry, conflict, strife.

**vendor** noun seller, retailer, purveyor, dealer, trader, tradesman, shopkeeper, merchant, supplier, stockist; huckster, pedlar, hawk; N. Amer. storekeeper.

**veneer** noun **1** *American cherry wood with a maple veneer*: surface, lamination, layer, overlay, facing, covering, finish, exterior. **2** a *veneer of sophistication*: facade, front, false front, show, outward display, appearance, impression, semblance, guise, disguise, mask, masquerade, pretence, camouflage, cover.

**venerable** adjective respected, venerated, revered, revered, honoured, esteemed, hallowed, august, distinguished, eminent, great.

**venerate** verb revere, reverence, worship, hallow, hold sacred, exalt, adore, honour, respect, esteem; old use magnify.

**eneration** noun reverence, worship, adoration, exaltation, devotion, honour, respect, esteem, high regard.

**vengeance** noun revenge, retribution, retaliation, requital, reprisal, satisfaction, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth).  
■ with a *vengeance* vigorously, strenuously, energetically, with a will, with might and main, with all the stops out, for all one is worth, all out, flat out, at full tilt; informal hammer and tongs, like crazy, like mad; Brit. informal like billy-o.

**vengeful** adjective vindictive, revengeful, out for revenge, unforgiving, grudge-bearing.

– OPPOSITES forgiving.

**venial** adjective forgivable, pardonable, excusable, allowable, permissible; slight, minor, unimportant, insignificant, trivial, trifling.

– OPPOSITES unforgivable, mortal.

**venom** noun **1** *snake venom*: poison, toxin; old use bane. **2** his voice was full of *venom*: rancour, malevolence, vitriol, spite, vindictiveness, malice, maliciousness, ill will, animosity, animus, bitterness, antagonism, hostility, bile, hate, hatred; informal bitchiness, cattiness.

**venomous** adjective **1** a *venomous snake* | the spider's *venomous bite*: poisonous, toxic; dangerous, deadly, lethal, fatal, mortal. **2** *venomous remarks*: vicious, spiteful, rancorous, malevolent, vitriolic, vindictive, malicious, poisonous, virulent, bitter, acrimonious, antagonistic, hostile, cruel; informal bitchy, catty; literary malefic, maleficent.

– OPPOSITES harmless, benevolent.

**vent** noun an *air vent*: outlet, inlet, opening, aperture, hole, gap, orifice, space; duct, flue, shaft, well, passage, airway.

• verb the crowd vented their fury on the

**pitch:** let out, give vent to, give free rein to, release, pour out, express, give expression to, air, voice, give voice to, ventilate.

**ventilate** verb **1** *the greenhouse must be properly ventilated:* air, aerate, oxygenate, air-condition; freshen, cool. **2** *the workers ventilated their discontent:* express, give expression to, air, communicate, voice, give voice to, verbalize, discuss, debate, talk over.

**venture** noun *a business venture:* enterprise, undertaking, project, scheme, operation, endeavour, speculation, plunge, gamble, experiment.

•verb **1** *we ventured across the moor:* set out, go, travel, journey. **2** *may I venture an opinion?* put forward, advance, proffer, offer, air, suggest, submit, propose, moot, ventilate. **3** *I ventured to ask her to come and dine with me:* dare, make so bold as, presume; take the liberty of; informal stick one's neck out, go out on a limb.

**veracious** adjective (formal). See **TRUTHFUL** senses 1, 2.

**verbal** adjective oral, spoken, stated, said, verbalized; unwritten.

**verbatim** adverb word for word, letter for letter, line for line, to the letter, literally, exactly, precisely, closely, faithfully; formal literatim.

**verbiage** noun verbosity, padding, wordiness, prolixity, long-windedness; Brit. informal waffle.

**verbose** adjective wordy, loquacious, garrulous, talkative, voluble; long-winded, lengthy, prolix, tautological, pleonastic, periphrastic, circumlocutory, circuitous, discursive, digressive, rambling; informal mouthy, gabby; Brit. informal waffly.

– **OPPOSITES** succinct, laconic.

**verbosity** noun wordiness, loquacity, garrulity, talkativeness, volubility; long-windedness, lengthiness, verbiage, prolixity, tautology, circumlocution, discursiveness; Brit. informal waffle.

**verdant** adjective green, leafy, grassy; lush, rich; literary verdured, verdurous.

**verdict** noun judgement, adjudication, decision, finding, ruling, resolution, pronouncement, conclusion, opinion; Law determination.

**verge** noun **1** *the verge of the lake:* edge, border, margin, side, brink, rim, lip; fringe, boundary, perimeter; literary bourn, marge, skirt. **2** *Spain was on the verge of an economic crisis:* brink, threshold, edge, point.

•verb *a degree of caution that verged on the obsessive:* approach, border on, be close/near to, be tantamount to; tend towards, approximate to, resemble.

**verification** noun confirmation, substantiation, proof, corroboration, support, attestation, validation, authentication, endorsement.

**verify** verb substantiate, confirm, prove, corroborate, back up, bear out, justify, support, uphold, attest to, testify to, validate, authenticate, endorse, certify.

– **OPPOSITES** refute.

**vernacular** noun **1** *he wrote in the vernacular to reach a wider audience:* everyday language, colloquial language, conversational language, common parlance; dialect, regional language, regionalisms, patois; informal lingo, local lingo. **2** (informal) *the vernacular of today's youth:* language, parlance; idiom, slang, jargon; informal lingo, -speak, -ese.

**versatile** adjective adaptable, flexible, all-round, multifaceted, multitalented, resourceful; adjustable, multi-purpose, all-purpose, handy.

**verse** noun **1** *Elizabethan verse:* poetry, versification; poems, lyrics, balladry; literary poesy. **2** *a verse he'd composed to mark my anniversary:* poem, lyric, ballad, sonnet, ode; limerick, rhyme, ditty. **3** *a poem with sixty verses:* stanza, canto, couplet; strophe.

– **OPPOSITES** prose.

**version** noun **1** *his version of events:* account, report, statement, description, record, story, rendering, interpretation, explanation, understanding, reading, impression, side. **2** *the English version will be published next year:* edition, translation, impression. **3** *they have replaced coal-burning fires with gas versions:* form, sort, kind, type, variety, variant.

**vertex** noun apex, peak, tip, top.

**vertical** adjective upright, erect, perpendicular, plumb, straight up and down, on end, standing, upstanding, bolt upright, upended.

– **OPPOSITES** horizontal.

**vertigo** noun dizziness, giddiness, light-headedness, loss of balance; Veterinary Medicine sturdy.

**verve** noun enthusiasm, vigour, energy, pep, dynamism, go, elan, vitality, vivacity, buoyancy, liveliness, animation, zest, sparkle, spirit, ebullience, life, brio, gusto, eagerness, keenness, passion, zeal, relish, feeling, ardour, fire; informal zing, zip, vim, pizzazz, oomph.

**very** adverb *that's very kind of you:* extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, extraordinarily, tremendously, immensely, hugely, intensely, acutely, abundantly, singularly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly, supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily; informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn, damned; Brit. informal ever so, well, hellish, dead, jolly; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful, darned; informal, dated devilish, frightfully; old use exceeding.

– **OPPOSITES** slightly.

•adjective **1** *those were his very words:* exact, actual, precise. **2** *the very thought of food made her feel ill:* mere, simple, pure; sheer.

**vessel** noun **1** *a fishing vessel:* boat, ship, craft, watercraft; literary barque. **2** *pour the mixture into a heatproof vessel:* container, receptacle; basin, bowl, pan, pot; urn, cask, barrel, drum, butt, vat.

**vest** verb *executive power is vested in the President: confer on, entrust to, invest in, bestow on, grant to, give to; endow, lodge, lay, place.*

**vestibule** noun *entrance hall, hall, hallway, entrance, porch, portico, foyer, lobby, anteroom, antechamber, waiting room.*

**vestige** noun **1** *the last vestiges of colonialism: remnant, fragment, relic, echo, indication, sign, trace, mark, legacy, reminder; remains.* **2** *she showed no vestige of emotion: bit, touch, hint, suggestion, suspicion, shadow, scrap, tinge, speck, shred, jot, iota, whit, scintilla, glimmer; informal smidgen, tad.*

**vestigial** adjective **1** *vestigial limbs: rudimentary, undeveloped; non-functional; Biology primitive.* **2** *he felt a vestigial flicker of anger from last night: remaining, surviving, residual, leftover, lingering.*

**vestments** noun *robes, clothes, garments, attire, costume, garb, uniform, trappings, finery, regalia.*

**vet** verb *press releases are vetted by an executive council: check, examine, scrutinize, investigate, inspect, look over, screen, assess, evaluate, appraise; informal check out.*

• noun *I took the cat to the vet: veterinary surgeon, animal doctor, horse doctor; N. Amer. veterinarian; dated veterinary.*

**veteran** noun *a veteran of 16 political campaigns: old hand, past master, doyen; informal old-timer, old stager, old warhorse.*

– OPPOSITES novice.

• adjective *a veteran diplomat: long-serving, seasoned, old, hardened; adept, expert, well trained, practised, experienced; informal battle-scarred.*

**veto** noun *parliament's right of veto: rejection, dismissal; prohibition, proscription, embargo, ban, interdict.*

– OPPOSITES approval.

• verb *the president vetoed the bill: reject, turn down, throw out, dismiss; prohibit, forbid, interdict, proscribe, disallow, embargo, ban; informal kill, put the kibosh on, give the thumbs down to.*

– OPPOSITES approve.

**vex** verb *annoy, irritate, anger, infuriate, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, nettle, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up, give someone the hump, get someone's dander up; Brit. informal wind up, nark, get on someone's wick; N. Amer. informal tee off, tick off, burn up, rankle; informal, dated give someone the pip.*

**vexation** noun *annoyance, irritation, exasperation, indignation, anger, crossness, displeasure, pique, disgruntlement; informal aggravation.*

**vexatious** adjective *annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating, maddening,*

*trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, irksome, vexing, galling; informal aggravating, pesky.*

**vexed** adjective **1** *a vexed expression: annoyed, irritated, cross, angry, infuriated, exasperated, irked, piqued, displeased, put out, disgruntled; informal aggravated, peeved, nettled, miffed, miffy, riled, hacked off, hot under the collar; Brit. informal narked, shirty; N. Amer. informal teed off, ticked off, sore, bent out of shape; old use wroth.* **2** *the vexed issue of immigration: disputed, in dispute, contested, in contention, contentious, debated, at issue, controversial, moot; problematic, difficult, knotty, thorny.*

**viable** adjective *feasible, workable, practicable, practical, usable, possible, realistic, achievable, attainable, realizable; informal doable.*

– OPPOSITES impracticable.

**vibrant** adjective **1** *a vibrant and passionate woman: spirited, lively, full of life, energetic, vigorous, vital, full of vim and vigour, animated, sparkling, effervescent, vivacious, dynamic, stimulating, exciting, passionate, fiery; informal peppy, feisty.* **2** *she was vibrant with excitement: quivering, trembling, shaking, shivering, shuddering, quavering, quaking.* **3** *vibrant colours: vivid, bright, striking, brilliant, strong, rich.* **4** *his vibrant voice: resonant, sonorous, reverberant, resounding, ringing, echoing; strong, rich, full.*

– OPPOSITES lifeless, pale.

**vibrate** verb **1** *the floor beneath them vibrated: quiver, shake, tremble, shiver, shudder, judder, throb, pulsate; rock, oscillate, swing, sway, move to and fro.* **2** *a low rumbling sound began to vibrate through the car: reverberate, resonate, resound, ring, echo.*

**vibration** noun *tremor, shaking, quivering, quaking, judder, juddering, shuddering, throb, throbbing, pulsation.*

**vicar** noun *minister, rector, priest, parson, clergyman, clergywoman, cleric, churchman, churchwoman, ecclesiastic, pastor, father, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of god, curate, chaplain, preacher; Scottish kirkman; N. Amer. dominie; informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot; Austral. informal josser; dated divine.*

**vicarious** adjective *indirect, second-hand, secondary, derivative, derived, surrogate, substitute; empathetic, empathic.*

**vice** noun **1** *youngsters may be driven to vice: immorality, wrongdoing, wickedness, badness, evil, iniquity, villainy, corruption, misconduct; sin, sinfulness, ungodliness; depravity, degeneracy, dissolution, dissipation, debauchery, decadence, lechery; crime, transgression; formal turpitude; old use trespass.* **2** *smoking is my only vice: shortcoming, failing, flaw, fault, defect, weakness, deficiency, limitation, imperfection, blemish, foible, frailty.*

– OPPOSITES virtue.

**vice versa** adverb *conversely, inversely,*



contrariwise; reciprocally.

**vicinity** noun 1 *she lives in the vicinity:*

neighbourhood, surrounding area, locality, locale, (local) area, district, region, quarter, zone; environs, surroundings, precincts; N. Amer. vicinage; informal neck of the woods.

2 (old use) *the forest's vicinity to the dockyards.* See PROXIMITY.

■ **in the vicinity** of around, about, nearly, circa, approaching, roughly, something like, more or less; in the region of, in the neighbourhood of, near to, close to; Brit. getting on for.

**vicious** adjective 1 *a vicious killer:* brutal,

ferocious, savage, violent, dangerous, ruthless, remorseless, merciless, heartless, callous, cruel, harsh, cold-blooded, inhuman, fierce, barbarous, barbaric, brutish, bloodthirsty, fiendish, sadistic, monstrous, murderous, homicidal. 2 *a vicious hate campaign:* malicious, malevolent, malignant, malign, spiteful, vindictive, venomous, poisonous, rancorous, mean, cruel, bitter, acrimonious, hostile, nasty; defamatory, slanderous; informal catty.

– OPPOSITES gentle, kindly.

**vicissitude** noun change, alteration, transition, shift, reversal, downturn; inconstancy, instability, uncertainty, unpredictability, chanciness, fickleness, variability, changeability, fluctuation, vacillation; ups and downs.

**victim** noun 1 *a victim of crime:* sufferer, injured party, casualty; fatality, loss; loser.

2 *the victim of a confidence trick:* dupe, stooge, gull, fool; target, prey, quarry, object, subject, focus, recipient; informal sucker, fall guy, chump, muggins, charlie; N. Amer. informal patsy, pigeon, sap. 3 *a sacrificial victim:* sacrifice, (burnt) offering, scapegoat.

■ **fall victim** to fall ill with, be stricken with, catch, develop, contract, pick up; succumb to; informal go down with.

**victimize** verb persecute, pick on, push around, bully, abuse, discriminate against, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, terrorize; exploit, prey on, take advantage of, dupe, cheat, double-cross; informal get at, have it in for, give someone a hard time, hassle, lean on.

**victor** verb winner, champion, conqueror, vanquisher, hero; prizewinner, medallist; informal champ, top dog.

– OPPOSITES loser.

**victorious** adjective triumphant, conquering, vanquishing, winning, champion, successful, top, first.

**victory** noun success, triumph, conquest, win, favourable result, landslide, coup, vanquishment; mastery, superiority, supremacy; informal walkover, thrashing, trouncing.

– OPPOSITES defeat.

**virtuals** plural noun (dated). See FOOD sense 1.

**vie** verb compete, contend, contest, struggle, fight, battle, cross swords, lock horns, jockey; war, feud.

**view** noun 1 *the view from her flat:*

outlook, prospect, panorama, vista, scene, aspect, perspective, spectacle, sight; scenery, landscape. 2 *we agree with this view:* opinion, point of view, viewpoint, belief, judgement, thinking, notion, idea, conviction, persuasion, attitude, feeling, sentiment, concept, hypothesis, theory; stance, standpoint, approach. 3 *the church came into view:* sight, perspective, vision, visibility.

• **verb** 1 *they viewed the landscape:* look at, eye, observe, gaze at, stare at, ogle, contemplate, regard, scan, survey, inspect, scrutinize; informal check out, get a load of, gawp at; Brit. informal clock; N. Amer. informal eyeball; literary espy, behold. 2 *the law was viewed as a last resort:* consider, regard, look on, see, perceive, judge, deem, reckon.

■ **in view** of considering, bearing in mind, taking into account, on account of, in the light of, owing to, because of, as a result of.

■ **on view** on display, on exhibition, on show.

**viewer** noun watcher, spectator, onlooker, observer; (**viewers**) audience, crowd; literary beholder.

**viewpoint** noun. See VIEW noun sense 2.

**vigilant** adjective watchful, observant, attentive, alert, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, on the lookout, on one's toes, on the qui vive; wide awake, on one's guard, cautious, wary, circumspect, heedful, mindful; informal beady-eyed.

– OPPOSITES inattentive.

**vigorous** adjective 1 *the child was vigorous:*

robust, healthy, hale and hearty, strong, sturdy, fit; hardy, tough, athletic; bouncing, thriving, flourishing, blooming; energetic, lively, active, perky, spirited, vibrant, vital, zestful; informal peppy, bouncy, in the pink.

2 *a vigorous defence of policy:* strenuous, powerful, forceful, spirited, mettlesome, determined, aggressive, eager, zealous, ardent, fervent, vehement, passionate; tough, blunt, hard-hitting; informal punchy.

– OPPOSITES weak, feeble.

**vigorously** adverb strenuously, strongly, powerfully, forcefully, energetically, heartily, with might and main, for dear life, for all one is worth, all out, fiercely, hard; informal like mad, like crazy; Brit. informal like billy-o.

**vigour** noun robustness, health, hardiness, strength, sturdiness, toughness; bloom, radiance, energy, life, vitality, verve, spirit; zeal, passion, determination, dynamism, zest, pep, drive; informal oomph, get-up-and-go; Brit. informal welly.

– OPPOSITES lethargy.

**vile** adjective foul, nasty, unpleasant, bad, disagreeable, horrid, horrible, dreadful, abominable, atrocious, offensive, obnoxious, odious, unsavoury, repulsive, disgusting, distasteful, loathsome, hateful, nauseating, sickening, disgraceful, appalling, shocking, sorry, shabby, shameful, dishonourable, execrable, heinous, abhorrent, deplorable, monstrous, wicked, evil, iniquitous,

depraved, debased; contemptible, despicable, reprehensible; informal gross, rank, God-awful, low-down, lousy; Brit. informal beastly; old use scurvy.

– OPPOSITES pleasant.

**vilify** verb **disparage**, denigrate, defame, run down, revile, abuse, speak ill of, criticize, condemn; malign, slander, libel; N. Amer. slur; informal pull apart, lay into, slam, bad-mouth; Brit. informal rubbish, slate; Austral./NZ informal bag, monster; formal derogate, calumniate.

– OPPOSITES commend.

**villain** noun **criminal**, lawbreaker, offender, felon, convict, malefactor, miscreant, wrongdoer; gangster, gunman, thief, robber; rogue, scoundrel, reprobate, ruffian, hoodlum; Law malfeasant; informal crook, con, crim, baddy; dated cad, knave; old use blackguard.

**villainous** adjective **wicked**, evil, iniquitous, sinful, nefarious, vile, foul, monstrous, outrageous, atrocious, abominable, reprehensible, hateful, odious, contemptible, horrible, heinous, egregious, diabolical, fiendish, vicious, murderous; criminal, illicit, unlawful, illegal, lawless; immoral, corrupt, degenerate, sordid, depraved, dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled; informal crooked, bent, low-down, dirty, shady; dated dastardly.

– OPPOSITES virtuous.

**villainy** noun **wickedness**, badness, evil, iniquity, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, roguery, delinquency; crime, vice, criminality, lawlessness, lawbreaking, corruption; Law malfeasance; informal crookedness; formal turpitude; old use knavery.

**vindicate** verb **1** *he was vindicated by the jury*: acquit, clear, absolve, exonerate; discharge, liberate, free, redeem; informal let off (the hook); formal exculpate. **2** *I had fully vindicated my request*: justify, warrant, substantiate, ratify, authenticate, verify, confirm, corroborate, prove, defend, support, back, evidence, endorse.

**vindictive** adjective **vengeful**, revengeful, unforgiving, resentful, acrimonious, bitter; spiteful, mean, rancorous, venomous, malicious, malevolent, nasty, cruel, unkind; informal catty.

– OPPOSITES forgiving.

**vintage** noun **1** *1986 was a classic vintage*: year. **2** *he lost a vintage through frost*: (grape) harvest, crop, yield. **3** *furniture of Louis XV vintage*: period, era, epoch, time, origin; genre, style, kind, sort, type. • adjective **1** *vintage French wine*: high-quality, quality, choice, select, superior, best. **2** *vintage motor vehicles*: classic, ageless, timeless; old, antique, heritage, historic. **3** *his reaction was vintage Francis*: characteristic, typical, pure.

**violate** verb **1** *this violates fundamental human rights*: **contravene**, breach, infringe, break, transgress, overstep, disobey, defy, flout; disregard, ignore. **2** *the tomb was violated*: **desecrate**, profane, defile, degrade,

debase; damage, vandalize, deface, destroy.

**3** *he drugged and then violated her*: **rape**, assault, force oneself on, abuse, molest, interfere with; dated deflower, defile, dishonour, ruin; literary ravish.

– OPPOSITES respect.

**violation** noun **1** *a violation of human rights*: **contravention**, breach, infringement, infraction, transgression, defiance; neglect. **2** *a violation of their private lives*: **invasion**, breach, infraction; trespass, intrusion, encroachment. **3** *she was threatened with violation*: **rape**, (sexual) assault, (sexual) abuse, molestation, interference; dated defloration, defilement, dishonour; old use ravishment.

**violence** noun **1** *police violence*: **brutality**, brute force, ferocity, savagery, cruelty, sadism, barbarity, brutishness. **2** *the violence of the blow*: **forcefulness**, force, power, strength, might, savagery, ferocity, brutality. **3** *the violence of his passion*: **intensity**, severity, strength, force, vehemence, power, potency, fervency, ardency, ferocity, fury.

**violent** adjective **1** *a violent alcoholic*: **brutal**, vicious, savage, rough, aggressive, threatening, fierce, wild, ferocious; barbarous, barbaric, thuggish, cut-throat, homicidal, murderous, cruel. **2** *a violent blow*: **powerful**, forceful, hard, sharp, smart, strong, vigorous, mighty, hefty; savage, ferocious, brutal, vicious. **3** *violent jealousy*: **intense**, extreme, strong, powerful, vehement, intemperate, unbridled, uncontrollable, ungovernable, inordinate, consuming, passionate.

– OPPOSITES gentle, weak, mild.

**VIP** noun **celebrity**, famous person, very important person, personality, big name, star, superstar; dignitary, luminary, worthy, grandee, lion, notable, notability, personage; informal heavyweight, celeb, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, nob, honcho, top dog, megastar; N. Amer. informal big wheel, (big) kahuna, high muckamuck.

**virago** noun **harridan**, shrew, dragon, termagant, vixen; fishwife, witch, hellcat, she-devil, tartar, martinet, spitfire, ogress; informal battleaxe; old use scold.

**virgin** noun *she remained a virgin*: chaste woman, celibate; formal virgo intacta; literary maiden, maid, vestal.

• adjective **1** *virgin forest*: **untouched**, unspoilt, untainted, immaculate, pristine, flawless; spotless, unsullied, unpolluted, undefiled, perfect; unchanged, intact; unexplored, uncharted, unmapped. **2** *virgin girls*: **chaste**, virginal, celibate, abstinent; unmarried, unwed, maiden, maidenly; pure, uncorrupted, incorrupt, undefiled, unsullied, innocent; literary vestal.

**virginal** adjective. See **VIRGIN** adjective sense 2.

**virginity** noun **chastity**, maidenhood, honour, purity, innocence; celibacy, abstinence; informal cherry; old use virtue.

**virile** adjective **manly**, masculine, male; strong, tough, vigorous, robust, muscular, muscly, brawny, rugged, sturdy, husky;

red-blooded, fertile; informal macho, laddish, butch, beefy, hunky.

– OPPOSITES effeminate.

**virtual** adjective effective, in effect, near (enough), essential, practical, to all intents and purposes; indirect, implied, implicit, unacknowledged, tacit.

**virtually** adverb almost, practically, nearly, close to, verging on, just about, as good as, essentially, to all intents and purposes, effectively, in effect, all but, more or less, as near as dammit; roughly, approximately; informal pretty much, pretty well.

**virtue** noun **1** *the simple virtue of peasant life*: goodness, virtuousness, righteousness, morality, integrity, dignity, rectitude, honour, decency, respectability, nobility, worthiness, purity; principles, ethics.

**2** *promptness was not one of his virtues*: good point, good quality, strong point, asset, forte, attribute, strength, talent. **3** *I can see no virtue in this*: merit, advantage, benefit, usefulness, strength, efficacy.

– OPPOSITES vice, failing, disadvantage.

■ **by virtue of** because of, on account of, by dint of, by means of, by way of, via, through, as a result of, as a consequence of, on the strength of, owing to, thanks to, due to, by reason of.

**virtuosity** noun skill, skilfulness, mastery, expertise, prowess, proficiency, ability, aptitude; excellence, brilliance, talent, genius, artistry, flair, panache, finesse, wizardry; informal know-how.

**virtuoso** noun *the pianist is clearly a virtuoso*: genius, expert, (past) master, maestro, artist, prodigy, marvel, adept, professional, doyen, veteran; star, champion; informal hotshot, wizard, pro, ace; Brit. informal dab hand.

– OPPOSITES duffer.

● adjective *a virtuoso violinist*: skilful, expert, accomplished, masterly, master, consummate, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, able, good, competent, capable; impressive, outstanding, exceptional, magnificent, supreme, first-rate, brilliant, excellent; informal superb, mean, ace.

– OPPOSITES incompetent.

**virtuous** adjective righteous, good, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary; law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honest, honourable, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, worthy, meritorious; pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic; informal squeaky clean.

**virulent** adjective **1** *virulent herbicides*: poisonous, toxic, venomous, noxious, deadly, lethal, fatal, mortal, dangerous, harmful, injurious, pernicious, damaging, destructive; literary deathly, noxious. **2** *a virulent epidemic*: infectious, infective, contagious, communicable, transmittable, transmissible, spreading, pestilential; informal catching. **3** *a virulent attack on morals*: vitriolic, malicious, malevolent, hostile, spiteful, venomous, vicious, vindictive,

bitter, rancorous, acrimonious, scathing, caustic, withering, nasty, savage, harsh.

– OPPOSITES harmless, amicable.

**viscous** adjective sticky, gummy, gluey, adhesive, tacky, adherent, treacly, syrupy; glutinous, gelatinous, thick, viscid, mucous, mucoid, mucilaginous; informal gooey, gloopy; N. Amer. informal gloppy.

**visible** adjective perceptible, perceivable, seeable, observable, noticeable, detectable, discernible; in sight, in/on view, on display; evident, apparent, manifest, transparent, plain, clear, conspicuous, obvious, patent, unmistakable, unconcealed, undisguised, prominent, salient, striking, glaring.

**vision** noun **1** *her vision was blurred by tears*: eyesight, sight, observation, (visual) perception; eyes; view, perspective.

**2** *nightmarish visions of the dead*:

apparition, spectre, phantom, ghost, wraith, manifestation; hallucination, illusion, mirage; informal spook; literary phantasm, shade. **3** *visions of a better future*: dream, daydream, reverie; plan, hope; fantasy, pipe dream, delusion. **4** *his speech lacked vision*: imagination, creativity, inventiveness, innovation, inspiration, intuition, perception, insight, foresight, prescience.

**5** *Melissa was a vision in lilac*: beautiful sight, feast for the eyes, pleasure to behold, delight, dream, beauty, picture, joy, marvel, sensation; informal sight for sore eyes, stunner, knockout, looker, peach; Brit. informal smasher.

#### WORD LINKS

visual, optical relating to vision

**visionary** adjective **1** *a visionary leader*:

inspired, imaginative, creative, inventive, ingenious, enterprising, innovative; insightful, perceptive, intuitive, prescient, discerning, shrewd, wise, clever, resourceful; idealistic, romantic, quixotic, dreamy; informal starry-eyed. **2** (old use) *a visionary image*. See IMAGINARY.

● noun **1** *a visionary pictured him in hell*: seer, mystic, oracle, prophet(ess), soothsayer, augur, diviner, clairvoyant, crystal-gazer; Scottish spaewife; literary sibyl. **2** *a visionary can't run a business effectively*: dreamer, daydreamer, idealist, romantic, fantasist, utopian.

**visit** verb **1** *I visited my dear uncle*: call on, pay a visit to, go to see, look in on; stay with, holiday with; stop by, drop by; N. Amer. visit with, go see; informal pop in on, drop in on, look up. **2** *Alex was visiting America*: stay in, stop over in, spend time in, holiday in, vacation in; tour, explore, see; informal do. **3** *they were visited with many epidemics*: afflict, attack, trouble, torment; old use smite. ● noun **1** *she paid a visit to her mum*: (social) call. **2** *a visit to the museum*: trip to, tour of, look round; stopover, stay; holiday, break, vacation; formal sojourn.

**visitation** noun **1** *the bishop's pastoral visitations*: (official) visit, tour of inspection, survey, examination.



**2** a visitation from God: **apparition**, vision, appearance, manifestation, materialization.

**3** *Jehovah punished them by visitations:*

**affliction**, scourge, bane, curse, plague, blight, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe; punishment, retribution, vengeance.

**visitor** **noun** **1** *I am expecting a visitor:*

**guest**, caller; company; old use **visitant**. **2** *the monument attracts foreign visitors:* **tourist**, traveller, holidaymaker, day tripper, tripper, vacationer, vacationist, sightseer; pilgrim; foreigner, outsider, stranger, alien; Brit. informal **emmet**, grockle.

**vista** **noun** **view**, prospect, panorama, aspect, perspective, spectacle, sight; scenery, landscape.

**visual** **adjective** **1** *visual defects:* **optical**, optic, ocular, eye; vision, sight. **2** *a visual indication that the alarm works:* **visible**, perceptible, perceivable, discernible.

**visualize** **verb** **envisage**, envision, conjure up, picture, call to mind, see, imagine, evoke, dream up, fantasize about, conceptualize, contemplate.

**vital** **adjective** **1** *it is vital that action is taken:* **essential**, of the essence, critical, crucial, indispensable, all-important, imperative, mandatory, urgent, pressing, burning, compelling, high-priority; informal earth-shattering, world-shaking. **2** *the vital organs:* **major**, main, chief; essential, necessary. **3** *he is young and vital:* **lively**, energetic, active, sprightly, spry, spirited, vivacious, exuberant, bouncy, enthusiastic, vibrant, zestful, sparkling, dynamic, vigorous, lusty, hale and hearty; informal peppy, punky, full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

– **OPPOSITES** unimportant, minor, listless.

**vitality** **noun** **liveliness**, life, energy, spirit, vivacity, exuberance, buoyancy, bounce, verve, vim, pep, brio, zest, sparkle, dynamism, passion, fire, vigour, drive; informal get-up-and-go.

**vitriolic** **adjective** **acrimonious**, rancorous, bitter, caustic, mordant, acerbic, trenchant, virulent, spiteful, savage, venomous, poisonous, malicious, splenetic; nasty, mean, cruel, unkind, harsh, vindictive, scathing, barbed, wounding, sharp, cutting, withering, sarcastic; informal bitchy, catty.

**vituperate** **verb** (old use). See **REVILE**.

**vituperation** **noun** **invective**, revilement, condemnation, opprobrium, scolding, criticism, disapprobation, fault-finding; blame, abuse, insults, vilification, denunciation, obloquy, denigration, disparagement, slander, libel, defamation, slurs, aspersions; vitriol, venom; informal flak; Brit. informal stick; formal castigation.

– **OPPOSITES** praise.

**vivacious** **adjective** **lively**, spirited, bubbly, ebullient, buoyant, sparkling, light-hearted, jaunty, merry, happy, jolly, cheery, cheerful, perky, sunny, breezy, enthusiastic, irrepressible, vibrant, vital, zestful, energetic, dynamic; informal peppy, bouncy, upbeat, chirpy; dated gay.

– **OPPOSITES** dull.

**vivid** **adjective** **1** *a vivid blue sea:* **bright**, colourful, brilliant, radiant, vibrant, strong, bold, deep, intense, rich, warm. **2** *a vivid account of urban poverty:* **graphic**, evocative, realistic, lifelike, faithful, authentic, clear, detailed, lucid, striking, arresting, impressive, colourful, rich, dramatic, lively, stimulating, interesting, fascinating, scintillating; memorable, powerful, stirring, moving, haunting.

– **OPPOSITES** dull, vague.

**viz.** **adverb** **namely**, that is to say, in other words, to wit, specifically; such as, as, like, for instance, for example; formal **videlicet**.

**vocabulary** **noun** **1** *she has an extensive vocabulary:* **lexicon**, **lexis**. **2** *we listed the terms in a vocabulary:* **wordbook**, dictionary, wordfinder, glossary, lexicon, thesaurus.

**vocal** **adjective** **1** *vocal sounds:* **vocalized**, voiced, uttered, articulated, oral; spoken, said. **2** *a vocal critic of the government:* **vociferous**, outspoken, forthright, plain-spoken, blunt, frank, candid, open; vehement, vigorous, emphatic, insistent, forceful, zealous, clamorous.

**vocation** **noun** **calling**, life's work, mission, purpose, function; profession, occupation, career, job, employment, trade, craft, business, line (of work), **métier**.

**vociferous** **adjective**. See **VOCAL** sense 2.

**vogue** **noun** *the skirt is enjoying a new vogue:* **fashion**, trend, fad, fancy, craze, rage, enthusiasm, passion, obsession, mania; fashionableness, popularity, currency, favour; informal trendiness.

■ **in vogue** fashionable, vogueish, stylish, modish, up to date, up to the minute, modern, current; prevalent, popular, in favour, in demand, sought-after, all the rage; chic, smart, le dernier cri; informal trendy, hip, cool, big, happening, now, in, with it; N. Amer. informal tony, kicky.

**voice** **noun** **1** *she lost her voice:* **power of speech**. **2** *he gave voice to his anger:* **expression**, utterance, verbalization, vocalization. **3** *the voice of the people:* **opinion**, view, feeling, wish, desire, vote, input. **4** *a powerful voice for conservation:* **mouthpiece**, representative, spokesperson, intermediary; forum, vehicle, instrument, channel, organ, agent.

• **verb** *they voiced their opposition:* **express**, vocalize, communicate, declare, state, assert, reveal, proclaim, announce, table, air, ventilate, vent; utter, say, speak, articulate; informal come out with.

#### WORD LINKS

**vocal** relating to the human voice  
**register** a particular part of the range of a voice

**falsestto** a high-pitched voice above the normal range

**inflection, intonation, lilt, modulation** variation in the tone or pitch of the voice

**ventriloquist** an entertainer who seems to make their voice come from a dummy

**void** noun *the void of space*: vacuum, emptiness, nothingness, blankness, vacuity; (empty) space, gap, cavity, chasm, abyss, gulf, pit.

• **verb 1** *the contract was voided*: invalidate, annul, nullify; negate, quash, cancel, countermand, repeal, revoke, rescind, retract, withdraw, reverse, undo, abolish; Law vacate; formal abrogate. **2** *they voided their bladders*: evacuate, empty, drain, clear, purge. **3** *bacteria are voided in the urine*: eject, expel, emit, discharge, pass, excrete, exude, eliminate.

– OPPOSITES validate, fill.

• **adjective 1** *vast void spaces*: empty, vacant, blank, bare, clear, free, unfilled, unoccupied, uninhabited. **2** *a country void of man or beast*: devoid of, empty of, vacant of, bereft of, free from; lacking, wanting, without. **3** *the election was void*: invalid, null, ineffective, non-viable, useless, worthless, nugatory.

– OPPOSITES full, occupied, valid.

**volatile** adjective **1** *a volatile personality*: unpredictable, changeable, variable, inconstant, inconsistent, erratic, irregular, unstable, turbulent, blowing hot and cold, varying, shifting, fluctuating, fluid, mutable; mercurial, capricious, whimsical, fickle, flighty, impulsive, temperamental, highly strung, excitable, emotional, fiery, moody, tempestuous. **2** *the atmosphere is too volatile for an election*: tense, strained, fraught, uneasy, uncomfortable, charged, explosive, inflammatory, turbulent; informal nail-biting; Brit. informal dodgy. **3** *a volatile organic compound*: evaporative, vaporous; explosive, inflammable; unstable, labile.

– OPPOSITES stable, calm.

**volition** noun

■ *of one's own volition* of one's own free will, of one's own accord, by choice, by preference; voluntarily, willingly, readily, freely, intentionally, consciously, deliberately, on purpose, purposely; gladly, with pleasure.

**volley** noun *barrage, cannonade, battery, bombardment, salvo, fusillade; storm, hail, shower, deluge, torrent; historical broadside.*

**voluble** adjective *talkative, loquacious, garrulous, verbose, wordy, chatty, gossipy, effusive, gushing, forthcoming, conversational, communicative, expansive; articulate, fluent; informal mouthy, gabby, gassy, windy.*

– OPPOSITES taciturn.

**volume** noun **1** *a volume from the library*:

book, publication, tome, hardback, paperback, title; manual, almanac, compendium. **2** *a glass syringe of known volume*: capacity, cubic measure, size, magnitude, mass, bulk, extent; dimensions, proportions, measurements. **3** *a huge volume of water*: quantity, amount, proportion, measure, mass, bulk. **4** *she turned the volume down*: loudness, sound, amplification.

**voluminous** adjective *capacious, roomy, spacious, ample, full, big, large, generous; billowing, baggy, loose-fitting; formal commodious.*

**voluntarily** adverb *of one's own free will, of one's own accord, of one's own volition, by choice, by preference; willingly, readily, freely, intentionally, deliberately, on purpose, purposely, spontaneously; gladly, with pleasure.*

**voluntary** adjective **1** *attendance is voluntary*: optional, discretionary, elective, non-compulsory, volitional; Law permissive. **2** *voluntary work*: unpaid, unsalaried, for free, without charge, for nothing; honorary, volunteer; Law pro bono (publico).

– OPPOSITES compulsory, paid.

**volunteer** verb **1** *I volunteered my services*: offer, tender, proffer, put forward, put up, venture. **2** *he volunteered as a driver*: offer one's services, present oneself, make oneself available.

• **noun** *each volunteer was tested three times*: subject, participant, case, client, patient; informal guinea pig.

**voluptuous** adjective **1** *a voluptuous model*: curvaceous, shapely, ample, buxom, full-figured, Junoesque, Rubenesque; seductive, alluring, sultry, sensuous, sexy; informal curvy, busty. **2** *she was voluptuous by nature*: hedonistic, sybaritic, epicurean, pleasure-loving, self-indulgent; decadent, intemperate, immoderate, dissolute, sensual, licentious.

– OPPOSITES scrawny, ascetic.

**vomit** verb **1** *he needed to vomit*: be sick, spew, fetch up; heave, retch, reach, gag; N. Amer. get sick; informal throw up, puke, chunder, chuck up, hurl; Brit. informal honk; Scottish informal boke; N. Amer. informal barf, upchuck. **2** *I vomited my breakfast*: regurgitate, bring up, spew up, cough up; informal chuck up, throw up, puke; Brit. informal sick up; N. Amer. informal spit up. **3** *the printer is vomiting paper*: eject, issue, emit, expel, discharge, disgorge, throw out, spew out, belch.

• **noun** *a coat stained with vomit*: sick; informal chunder, puke, spew; N. Amer. informal barf; Medicine vomitus.

**voracious** adjective *insatiable, unquenchable, unappeasable, prodigious, uncontrollable, compulsive, gluttonous, greedy, rapacious; enthusiastic, eager, keen, avid, desirous, hungry, ravenous; informal piggyish.*

**vortex** noun *whirlwind, whirlpool, gyre, maelstrom, eddy, swirl.*

**vote** noun **1** *a rigged vote*: ballot, poll, election, referendum, plebiscite; show of hands. **2** *in 1918 women got the vote*: suffrage, voting rights, franchise; voice, say.

• **verb 1** *only half of them voted*: go to the polls, cast one's vote. **2** *I vote we have one more game*: suggest, propose, recommend, advocate, move, table, submit.

■ *vote someone in* elect, return, select,

choose, pick, adopt, appoint, designate, opt for, plump for, decide on.

#### WORD LINKS

**psephology** the study of elections and voting  
**electorate** all the people entitled to vote  
**enfranchise** give someone the right to vote  
**abstain** formally choose not to vote  
**teller** a person appointed to count votes

#### vouch verb

■ **vouch for** attest to, confirm, affirm, verify, swear to, testify to, bear out, back up, support, stick up for, corroborate, substantiate, prove, uphold, give credence to, endorse, certify, warrant, validate.

#### voucher noun

**coupon**, token, ticket, licence, permit, carnet, pass; chit, slip, stub, docket; Brit. informal chitty; N. Amer. informal ducat, comp.

**vouchsafe verb 1** *the grace which God had vouchsafed him:* grant, give, accord; confer on, bestow on, favour with. **2** *you never vouchsafed that information before:* disclose, reveal, divulge, impart, give away, make known, broadcast, air; informal blab, spill; Brit. informal cough. **3** *if he would only vouchsafe to talk with them:* deign, condescend, stoop, lower oneself, humble oneself, demean oneself.

– OPPOSITES withhold, conceal.

**vow noun** *a vow of silence:* oath, pledge, promise, bond, covenant, commitment, avowal, profession, affirmation, attestation, assurance, guarantee; word (of honour); formal troth.

• **verb** *I vowed to do better:* swear, pledge, promise, avow, undertake, engage, make a commitment, give one's word, guarantee; old use plight.

#### WORD LINKS

**votive** offered in fulfilment of a vow  
**votary** a person who has taken vows to dedicate their life to God

**voyage noun** *the voyage lasted 120 days:*

journey, trip, expedition, excursion, tour; hike, trek; pilgrimage, quest, crusade, odyssey; cruise, passage, flight, drive.  
 • **verb** *he voyaged through Peru:* travel, journey, tour, globetrot; sail, steam, cruise, fly, drive; informal gallivant; old use peregrinate.

**vulgar adjective 1** *a vulgar joke:* rude,

indecent, indelicate, offensive, distasteful, coarse, crude, ribald, risqué, naughty, suggestive, racy, earthy, off colour, bawdy, obscene, lewd, salacious, smutty, dirty, filthy, pornographic, X-rated; informal sleazy, raunchy, blue, locker-room; Brit. informal saucy, close to the bone; N. Amer. informal gamy; euphemistic adult. **2** *the decor was lavish but vulgar:* tasteless, crass, tawdry, ostentatious, flamboyant, overdone, showy, gaudy, garish, brassy, kitsch, tinselly, loud; informal flash, flashy, tacky, over the top. **3** *it was vulgar for a woman to whistle:* impolite, ill-mannered, unmannerly, indecorous, unseemly, ill-bred, boorish, uncouth, crude, rough; unsophisticated, unrefined, common.

– OPPOSITES tasteful, decorous.

**vulnerable adjective 1** *a vulnerable*

*city:* in danger, in peril, in jeopardy, at risk, endangered, unsafe, unprotected, unguarded; open to attack, assailable, exposed, wide open; undefended, unfortified, unarmed, defenceless, helpless, pregnable. **2** *he is vulnerable to criticism:* exposed to, open to, liable to, prone to, prey to, susceptible to, subject to, an easy target for; old use susceptible of.

– OPPOSITES resilient.



# Ww

**wacky** adjective (informal). See **ECCENTRIC** adjective.

**wad** noun **1** *a wad of cotton wool*: lump, clump, mass, plug, pad, hunk, wedge, ball, cake, nugget; bit, piece; Brit. informal wodge.

**2** *a wad of dollar bills*: bundle, roll, pile, stack, sheaf; N. Amer. bankroll. **3** *a wad of tobacco*: quid, twist, plug, chew.

• verb *the teddy bear was wadded with cotton*: stuff, pad, fill, pack; wrap, cover, cushion.

**wadding** noun stuffing, filling, filler, packing, padding, cushioning, quilting.

**waddle** verb toddle, dodder, totter, wobble, shuffle; duckwalk.

**wade** verb **1** *they waded in the icy water*:

paddle, wallow, dabble, squelch; informal

splosh. **2** *I had to wade through some hefty documents*: plough, plod, trawl, labour, toil; study, browse; informal slog.

**waffle** (Brit. informal) verb *they waffled on about the baby*: prattle, chatter, babble, ramble, jabber, gibber, gabble, prate, drivel; informal blather; Brit. informal rabbit, witter, natter.

• noun *my panic reduced the interview to waffle*: prattle, drivel, nonsense, twaddle, gibberish, mumbo-jumbo; informal hot air, poppycock, bunk, hogwash, gobbledegook.

**wag** verb **1** *smoke wafted through the air*:

drift, float, glide, whirl, travel. **2** *a breeze wafted the smell towards us*: convey, carry, transport, bear; blow, puff.

**wag**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *the dog's tail wagged frantically*: swing, swish, switch, sway, shake, quiver, twitch, whip; informal waggle. **2** *he wagged his stick at them*: shake, wave, wiggle, flourish, brandish.

• noun **1** *a feeble wag of her tail*: swing, shake, swish, switch, quiver, twitch, whip; informal waggle. **2** *a wag of the finger*: shake, flourish, wiggle, wobble, wave; informal waggle.

**wag**<sup>2</sup> noun (informal) *he's a bit of a wag*. See **JOKER**.

**W**

**wage** noun **1** *the farm workers' wages*: pay, payment, remuneration, salary, stipend, fee, honorarium; income, revenue; profit, gain, reward; earnings; formal emolument. **2** *the wages of sin is death*: reward, recompense, retribution; returns, deserts.

• verb *they waged war on the guerrillas*: engage in, carry on, conduct, execute, pursue, prosecute, proceed with.

**wager** noun *a wager of £100*: bet, gamble,

speculation; stake, pledge, ante; Brit. informal flutter.

• verb *I'll wager a pound on the home team*: bet, gamble, lay odds, put money on; stake, pledge, risk, venture, hazard, chance; informal punt.

**waggle** verb (informal). See **WAG**<sup>1</sup> verb senses 1, 2.

**waif** noun ragamuffin, urchin; foundling, orphan, stray; derogatory guttersnipe; dated gamin.

**wail** noun *a wail of anguish*: howl, bawl, yowl, cry, moan, groan; shriek, scream, yelp.

• verb *the children began to wail*: howl, weep, cry, sob, moan, groan, keen, lament, yowl, snivel, whimper, whine, bawl, shriek, scream, yelp, caterwaul; Scottish greet; informal blubber, blub.

**wait** verb **1** *we'll wait in the airport*: stay (put), remain, rest, stop, halt, pause; linger, loiter, dally; informal stick around; old use tarry.

**2** *she had to wait until her bags arrived*:

stand by, hold back, bide one's time, hang fire, mark time, kill time, waste time, kick one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs; informal hold on, hang around, sit tight, hold one's horses. **3** *they were waiting for the kettle to boil*: await; anticipate, expect, be ready.

**4** *that job will have to wait*: be postponed, be delayed, be put off, be deferred; informal be put on the back burner, be put on ice.

• noun *a long wait*: delay, hold-up, interval, interlude, intermission, pause, break, stay, cessation, suspension, stoppage, halt, interruption, lull, respite, recess, moratorium, hiatus, gap, rest.

■ **wait on someone** serve, attend to, cater for/to; minister to, take care of, look after, see to.

**waiter, waitress** noun server, stewardess, steward, attendant, garçon; hostess, host; butler, servant, page; N. Amer. waitperson.

**waive** verb **1** *he waived his right to a hearing*:

relinquish, renounce, give up, abandon, surrender, yield, reject, dispense with, abdicate, sacrifice, refuse, turn down, spurn.

**2** *the manager waived the rules*: disregard, ignore, overlook, set aside, forgo, drop.

**wake**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *at 4.30 am Mark woke up*:

awake, waken (up), awaken, rouse oneself, stir, come to, come round, bestir oneself.

**2** *she woke her husband*: rouse, waken; Brit. informal knock up. **3** *the shock woke him*

*up a bit*: **activate**, stimulate, galvanize, enliven, stir up, spur on, ginger up, buoy up, invigorate, perk up, revitalize; informal pep up. **4** *they woke up to what we were saying*: **realize**, become aware of, become conscious of, become mindful of. **5** *the name woke an old memory*: **evoke**, conjure up, rouse, stir, revive, awaken, rekindle, rejuvenate, stimulate.

– **OPPOSITES** sleep.

• **noun** a mourner at a wake: **vigil**, watch; funeral.

**wake**<sup>2</sup> **noun** the cruiser's wake: **backwash**, wash, slipstream, turbulence; trail, path.

■ **in the wake of** in the aftermath of, after, subsequent to, following, as a result of, as a consequence of, on account of, because of, owing to.

**wakeful** **adjective** **1** *he had been wakeful all night*: **awake**, restless, restive, tossing and turning; old use watchful. **2** *I was suddenly wakeful*: **alert**, watchful, vigilant, on the lookout, on one's guard, attentive, heedful, wary.

– **OPPOSITES** asleep, inattentive.

**waken** **verb**. See **WAKE**<sup>1</sup> verb senses 1, 2.

**Wales** **noun** *Cymru*; Brit. the Principality; informal the Land of Song.

#### WORD LINKS

*Cymric, Cambrian Welsh*

**walk** **verb** **1** *they walked along the road*: **stroll**, saunter, amble, trudge, plod, hike, tramp, trek, march, stride, troop, patrol, step out, wander, ramble, tread, prowl, footslog, promenade, roam, traipse; stretch one's legs; informal mosey, pootle, hoof it; Brit. informal yomp; formal perambulate. **2** *he walked her home*: **accompany**, escort, guide, show, see, usher, take, chaperone, steer, shepherd.

• **noun** **1** *country walks*: **stroll**, saunter, amble, promenade; ramble, hike, tramp, march; turn, airing; dated constitutional.

**2** *her elegant walk*: **gait**, step, stride, tread. **3** *the riverside walk*: **pathway**, path, footpath, track, walkway, promenade, footway, pavement, trail, towpath.

■ **walk all over someone** (informal) *be firm or they'll walk all over you*: take advantage of, impose on, exploit, use, abuse, misuse, manipulate, take liberties with; informal take for a ride, run rings around.

■ **walk of life** class, status, rank, caste, sphere, arena; profession, career, vocation, job, occupation, employment, business, trade, craft; province, field; dated station.

■ **walk out** **1** *he walked out in a temper*: leave, depart, get up and go, storm off/out, flounce out, absent oneself; informal take off.

**2** *teachers walked out in protest*: (go on) strike, stop work; protest, mutiny, revolt; Brit. informal down tools.

■ **walk out on someone** desert, abandon, leave, betray, throw over, jilt, run out on, rat on; informal chuck, dump, ditch.

**walker** **noun** *hiker*, Rambler, traveller, roamer, rover, stroller; pedestrian; literary wayfarer.

**walkout** **noun** strike, stoppage, industrial action; revolt, rebellion.

**walkover** **noun** *easy victory*, rout, landslide; informal piece of cake, doddle, pushover, cinch, breeze, picnic, whitewash; N. Amer. informal duck soup; dated snip.

**wall** **noun** **1** *brick walls*: **barrier**, partition, enclosure, screen, panel, separator. **2** *an ancient city wall*: **fortification**, rampart, barricade, bulwark, stockade. **3** *break down the walls that stop world trade*: **obstacle**, barrier, fence; impediment, hindrance, block, check.

• **verb** **1** *tenements walled in the courtyard*: **enclose**, bound, encircle, confine, hem, close in, shut in, fence in. **2** *the doorway had been walled up*: **block**, seal, close, brick up.

#### WORD LINKS

**buttress** a projecting support built against a wall

**cornice** a moulding round the wall of a room, just below the ceiling

**dado rail** a waist-high moulding round the wall of a room

**skirting** a wooden board running along the base of an interior wall

**wainscot**, **wainscoting** wooden panelling on the lower part of the walls of a room

**mural** a picture painted directly on a wall  
**fresco** a painting done on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling

**wallet** **noun** purse; N. Amer. billfold, pocket-book; Brit. dated notecase.

**wallop** **verb** (informal). See **THUMP** verb sense 1.

**wallow** **verb** **1** *buffalo wallowed in the lake*: **loll about/around**, lie about/around, splash about/around; slosh, wade, paddle; informal splosh. **2** *a ship wallowing in stormy seas*: **roll**, lurch, toss, plunge, reel, rock, flounder, keel, list; labour. **3** *she seems to wallow in self-pity*: **luxuriate**, bask, take pleasure, take satisfaction, indulge (oneself), delight, revel, glory; enjoy, like, love, relish, savour; informal get a kick out of.

**wan** **adjective** **1** *she looked so wan and frail*: **pale**, pallid, ashen, white, grey; anaemic, colourless, bloodless, waxen, chalky, pasty, peaky, sickly, washed out, drained, drawn, ghostly. **2** *the wan light of the moon*: **dim**, faint, weak, feeble, pale, watery.

– **OPPOSITES** flushed, bright.

**wand** **noun** *baton*, stick, staff, bar, dowel, rod; twig, cane, birch, switch; historical caduceus.

**wander** **verb** **1** *I wandered around the estate*: **stroll**, amble, saunter, walk, dawdle, potter, ramble, meander; roam, rove, range, drift, prowl; Scottish & Irish stravaig; informal traipse, mosey, tootle; Brit. informal mooch. **2** *we are wandering from the point*: **stray**, depart, diverge, veer, swerve, deviate, digress, drift, get sidetracked. **3** *the child wandered off*: **get lost**, lose one's way, go astray. **4** *the road wanders along the shore*: **meander**, wind, twist, curve, zigzag, bend, snake.

• **noun** *let's go for a wander*: **stroll**, amble, saunter, walk, potter, ramble, prowl, promenade; turn, breather, airing; informal

traipse, mosey, tootle; Brit. informal mooch; dated constitutional.

**wanderer** noun traveller, rambler, hiker, migrant, globetrotter, roamer, rover; itinerant, rolling stone, bird of passage, nomad; tramp, drifter, vagabond, vagrant; Brit. informal dosser; N. Amer. informal hobo, bum; literary wayfarer.

**wane** verb 1 *the moon is waning*: decrease, diminish, dwindle. 2 *their support was waning*: decline, diminish, decrease, dwindle, shrink, tail off, ebb, fade (away), lessen, peter out, fall off, recede, slump, flag, weaken, give way, wither, evaporate, die out; literary evanesce.

– OPPOSITES wax, grow.

■ **on the wane** declining, decreasing, diminishing, dwindling, shrinking, contracting, tapering off, subsiding, ebbing, fading away, dissolving, petering out, winding down, falling off, on the way out, receding, flagging, melting away, crumbling, withering, disintegrating, evaporating, dying out.

**wangle** verb (informal). See CONTRIVE.

**want** verb 1 *do you want more coffee?* desire, wish for, hope for, fancy, care for, like; long for, yearn for, crave, hanker after, hunger for, thirst for, cry out for, covet; need; informal have a yen for, be dying for. 2 (informal) *his toaster wants repairing*: need, require, demand, cry out for. 3 (informal) *you want to be more careful*: should, ought, need, must. 4 (old use) *his poem wants a name*: lack, be without, have need of, be devoid of, be bereft of.

● **noun** 1 *the want of vigilance*: lack, absence, non-existence, unavailability; dearth, deficiency, inadequacy, insufficiency, paucity, shortage, scarcity, deficit. 2 *a time of want*: need, neediness, austerity, privation, deprivation, poverty, impoverishment, penury, destitution; famine, drought. 3 *all her wants would be taken care of*: wish, desire, demand, longing, yearning, fancy, craving, hankering; need, requirement; informal yen.

**wanting** adjective 1 *the defences were found wanting*: deficient, inadequate, lacking, insufficient, imperfect, unacceptable, flawed, faulty, defective, unsound, substandard, inferior, second-rate, poor, shoddy; Brit. informal not much cop. 2 *the kneecap is wanting in amphibians*: absent, missing, lacking, non-existent. 3 *millions were left wanting for food*: without, lacking, deprived of, devoid of, bereft of, in need of; deficient in, short on; informal minus.

– OPPOSITES sufficient, present.

**wanton** adjective 1 *wanton destruction*: deliberate, wilful, malicious, spiteful, wicked, cruel; gratuitous, unprovoked, motiveless, arbitrary, groundless, unjustifiable, needless, unnecessary, uncalled for, senseless, pointless, purposeless, meaningless, empty. 2 *a wanton seductress*: promiscuous, immoral, immodest, indecent, shameless, unchaste,

fast, impure, abandoned, lustful, lecherous, lascivious, libidinous, licentious, dissolute, debauched, degenerate, corrupt, whorish, disreputable; dated loose.

– OPPOSITES justifiable, chaste.

**war** noun 1 *the Napoleonic wars*: conflict, warfare, combat, fighting, (military) action, bloodshed, struggle; battle, skirmish, fight, clash, engagement, encounter; offensive, attack, campaign; hostilities; jihad, crusade. 2 *the war against drugs*: campaign, crusade, battle, fight, struggle, movement, drive.

– OPPOSITES peace.

● **verb** rival Emperors warred against each other: fight, battle, combat, wage war, take up arms; feud, quarrel, struggle, contend, wrangle, cross swords; attack, engage, take on, skirmish with.

#### WORD LINKS

**martial** relating to war

**belligerent** engaged in a war

**combatant** a person or nation fighting during a war

**friendly fire** weapon fire from one's own side that kills or injures one's own forces

**collateral damage** unintentional casualties or destruction in civilian areas during a war

**armistice, ceasefire, truce** an agreement to stop fighting for a time

**reparations** compensation for war damage paid by a defeated state

**warble** verb larks warbled in the sky: trill, sing, chirp, chirrup, cheep, twitter, tweet, chatter, peep.

● **noun** a warble pierced the air: trill, song, chirp, chirrup, chirr, cheep, twitter, tweet, chatter, peep, call.

**ward** noun 1 *the surgical ward*: room, department, unit, area. 2 *the most marginal ward in Westminster*: district, constituency, division, quarter, zone, parish. 3 *the boy is my ward*: dependant, charge, protégé.

■ **ward someone off** fend off, repel, repulse, beat back, chase away; informal send packing.

■ **ward something off** 1 *she warded off the blow*: parry, avert, deflect, block; evade, avoid, dodge. 2 *garlic is worn to ward off evil spirits*: rebuff, avert, keep at bay, fend off, stave off, resist, prevent, obstruct, foil, frustrate, thwart, check, stop.

**warden** noun 1 *the flats have a resident warden*: superintendent, caretaker, janitor, porter, custodian, watchman, concierge, doorman. 2 *a game warden*: ranger, custodian, keeper, guardian, protector. 3 *he was handcuffed to a warden*: prison officer, guard, jailer, warder, wardress, keeper, sentry; informal screw. 4 (Brit.) *the college warden*: principal, head, governor, master, mistress, rector, provost, president, director, chancellor; N. Amer. informal prexy.

**warder, wardress** noun. See WARDEN sense 3.

**wardrobe** noun 1 *she opened the wardrobe*: cupboard, cabinet, locker; N. Amer. closet. 2 *her wardrobe has an outfit for every mood*:



**collection of clothes;** garments, attire, outfits; trousseau.

**warehouse** noun storeroom, storehouse, store, depot, depository, stockroom; magazine; granary; informal lock-up.

**wares** plural noun merchandise, goods, products, produce, stock, commodities; lines, range.

**warfare** noun fighting, war, combat, conflict, (military) action, hostilities; bloodshed, battles, skirmishes.

**warlike** adjective aggressive, belligerent, warring, bellicose, pugnacious, combative, bloodthirsty, jingoistic, sabre-rattling; hostile, threatening, quarrelsome; militaristic, militant; informal gung-ho.

**warlock** noun sorcerer, wizard, magus, (black) magician, enchanter; old use mage.

**warm** adjective **1** a warm kitchen: hot, cosy, snug; informal toasty. **2** a warm day in spring: balmy, summery, sultry, hot, mild, temperate; sunny, fine. **3** warm water: heated, tepid, lukewarm. **4** a warm sweater: thick, chunky, thermal, winter, woolly. **5** a warm welcome: friendly, cordial, amiable, genial, kind, pleasant, fond; welcoming, hospitable, benevolent, benign, charitable; sincere, genuine, wholehearted, heartfelt, enthusiastic, eager, hearty. **6** (informal) they haven't found it, but they're warm: close, near; informal hot.

– OPPOSITES cold, chilly, light, hostile.

• verb warm the soup in that pan: heat (up), reheat, cook; thaw (out), melt; N. Amer. warm over; informal zap; Brit. informal hot up.

– OPPOSITES chill.

■ warm to/towards everyone warmed to him: like, take to, get on (well) with; informal hit it off with.

■ warm up limber up, loosen up, stretch, work out, exercise; prepare, rehearse.

■ warm someone up the compère warmed up the crowd: enliven, liven, stimulate, animate, rouse, stir, excite; informal get going.

**warm-blooded** adjective **1** mammals are warm-blooded: Zoology homeothermic, homeothermal. **2** a warm-blooded woman: passionate, ardent, red-blooded, emotional, intense, impetuous, lively, spirited, fiery, tempestuous.

– OPPOSITES poikilothermic, reserved.

**warmed-up** adjective **1** a warmed-up pasty: reheated; N. Amer. warmed-over. **2** warmed-up ideas: unoriginal, derivative, imitative, uninspired; copied, plagiarized, rehearsed; hackneyed, stale, tired, banal; informal old hat.

– OPPOSITES original.

**warm-hearted** adjective kind, warm, big-hearted, tender-hearted, tender, loving, caring, feeling, unselfish, selfless, benevolent, humane, good-natured; friendly, sympathetic, understanding, compassionate, charitable, generous.

**warmonger** noun militarist, hawk, jingoist, sabre-rattler, aggressor, belligerent.

**warmth** noun **1** the warmth of the fire: heat, warmth, hotness; cosiness. **2** the warmth

of their welcome: friendliness, amiability, geniality, cordiality, kindness, tenderness, fondness; benevolence, charity; enthusiasm, eagerness, ardour, fervour, effusiveness.

**warn** verb **1** David warned her that it was too late: notify, alert, apprise, inform, tell, make someone aware, forewarn, remind; informal tip off, put wise. **2** police are warning galleries to be alert: advise, exhort, urge, counsel, caution.

**warning** noun **1** the earthquake came without warning: (advance) notice, forewarning, alert; hint, signal, sign, alarm bells; informal a tip-off. **2** a health warning: caution, notification, information; exhortation, injunction; advice. **3** a warning of things to come: omen, premonition, foreboding, prophecy, prediction, forecast, token, portent, signal, sign; literary foretold. **4** his sentence is a warning to other drunk drivers: example, deterrent, lesson, caution, exemplar, message, moral. **5** a written warning: admonition, caution, remonstrance, reprimand, censure; informal dressing-down, talking-to, telling-off.

**warp** verb **1** timber which is too dry will warp: buckle, twist, bend, distort, deform, misshape, malform, curve, bow, contort. **2** he warped the mind of her child: corrupt, twist, pervert, deprave.

– OPPOSITES straighten.

**warrant** noun **1** a warrant for his arrest: authorization, order, licence, permit, document; writ, summons, subpoena; mandate, decree, fiat, edict. **2** a travel warrant: voucher, chit, slip, ticket, coupon, pass. **3** there's no warrant for this assumption: justification, grounds, cause, rationale, basis, authority, licence, sanction, vindication.

• verb **1** the charges warranted a severe sentence: justify, vindicate, call for, sanction, validate; permit, authorize; deserve, excuse, account for, legitimize; support, license, approve of; merit, qualify for, rate, be worthy of, be deserving of. **2** we warrant that the texts do not infringe copyright: guarantee, affirm, swear, promise, vow, pledge, undertake, state, assert, declare, profess, attest; vouch, testify, bear witness; formal aver.

**warranty** noun guarantee, assurance, promise, commitment, undertaking, agreement.

**warring** adjective opposing, conflicting, at war, fighting, battling, quarrelling; competing, hostile, rival.

**warrior** noun fighter, soldier, serviceman, combatant.

**wary** adjective **1** he was trained to be wary: cautious, careful, circumspect, on one's guard, chary, alert, on the lookout, on one's toes, on the qui vive; attentive, heedful, watchful, vigilant, observant; informal wide awake. **2** we are wary of strangers: suspicious, chary, leery, careful, distrustful, mistrustful, sceptical, doubtful, dubious.

– OPPOSITES inattentive, trustful.

**wash** verb **1** *he washed in the bath*: clean oneself, have a wash; bathe, bath, shower, soak, freshen up; formal perform one's ablutions; dated make one's toilet. **2** *she washed her hands*: clean, cleanse, sponge, scrub, wipe, scour; shampoo, lather; sluice, swill, douse, swab, disinfect. **3** *she washed off the blood*: remove, expunge, eradicate; sponge off, scrub off, wipe off, rinse off. **4** *the women were washing clothes*: launder, clean, rinse; literary lave. **5** *waves washed against the hull*: splash, lap, splosh, dash, break, beat, surge, ripple, roll. **6** *the wreckage was washed up downriver*: sweep, carry, convey, transport; deposit. **7** *guilt washed over her*: affect, rush through, surge through, course through, flood over, flow over. **8** *the stonework was washed with pastel paint*: paint, colour, tint, shade, dye, stain; coat, cover. **9** (informal) *this story just won't wash*: be accepted, be acceptable, be plausible, be convincing, hold up, hold water, stand up, bear scrutiny.

– OPPOSITES dirty, soil.

• **noun** **1** *she needs a wash*: clean, shower, dip, bath, soak; formal ablutions. **2** *that shirt should go in the wash*: laundry, washing. **3** *antiseptic skin wash*: lotion, salve, preparation, rinse, liquid; liniment, embrocation. **4** *the wash of a motor boat*: backwash, wake, trail, path. **5** *the wash of the waves on the beach*: surge, flow, swell, sweep, rise and fall, roll, splash. **6** *water thinned out the crayon into a wash*: paint, stain, film.

■ **wash one's hands** of disown, renounce, reject, forswear, disavow, give up on, turn one's back on, cast aside, abandon; formal abjure.

**washed out** adjective **1** *a washed-out denim jacket*: faded, bleached, decolorized, stonewashed; pale, light, drab, muted. **2** *he looked washed out after his exams*: exhausted, tired, worn out, weary, fatigued, spent, drained, enervated, run down; informal all in, done in, dog-tired, bushed, beat, zonked; Brit. informal knackered; N. Amer. informal pooped, tucked out.

– OPPOSITES bold, energetic.

**washout** noun (informal). See **FAILURE** senses 2, 3.

**waspish** adjective irritable, touchy, testy, cross, snappish, cantankerous, splenetic, short-tempered, bad-tempered, moody, crotchety, crabby, ratty; informal grouchy.

**waste** verb **1** *he doesn't like to waste money*: squander, mispend, misuse, fritter away, throw away, lavish, dissipate, throw around; informal blow, splurge. **2** *kids are wasting away in the streets*: grow weak, grow thin, shrink, decline, wilt, fade, flag, deteriorate, degenerate, languish. **3** *the disease wasted his legs*: emaciate, atrophy, wither, debilitate, shrivel, shrink, weaken, enfeeble. **4** (literary) *our country was wasted by the enemy*. See **DEVASTATE** sense 1. **5** (N. Amer. informal) *I saw them waste the guy*. See **MURDER** verb sense 1.

– OPPOSITES conserve, thrive.

• **adjective** **1** *waste material*: unwanted, excess, superfluous, left over, scrap, useless, worthless; unusable, unprofitable. **2** *waste ground*: uncultivated, barren, desert, arid, bare; desolate, void, uninhabited, unpopulated; wild.

• **noun** **1** *a waste of money*: misuse, misapplication, misemployment, abuse; extravagance, wastefulness, lavishness.

**2** *household waste*: rubbish, refuse, litter, debris, dross, junk, detritus, scrap; dregs, scraps; sewage, effluent; N. Amer. garbage, trash. **3** *the frozen wastes of the South Pole*: desert, wasteland, wilderness, emptiness, wilds.

■ **lay waste**. See **LAY**¹.

**wasted** adjective **1** *a wasted effort*: squandered, misspent, misdirected, misused, dissipated; pointless, useless, needless, unnecessary. **2** *a wasted opportunity*: missed, lost, forfeited, neglected, squandered, bungled; informal down the drain. **3** *I'm wasted in this job*: underemployed, underused, too good for; neglected, forgotten, disregarded. **4** *his wasted legs*: emaciated, atrophied, withered, shrivelled, weak, frail, shrunken, skeletal, rickety, scrawny, wizened. **5** (informal) *everybody at the party was wasted*. See **DRUNK** adjective.

**wasteful** adjective prodigal, profligate, uneconomical, extravagant, lavish, excessive, imprudent, improvident; thriftless, spendthrift; needless, useless.

– OPPOSITES frugal.

**wasteland** noun wilderness, desert; wilds, wastes, badlands.

**waster** noun (informal) idler, loafer, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, slob, lounge, shirker, sluggard, laggard; informal loser, skiver, slacker, lazybones; N. Amer. informal bum; literary wastrel.

**wastrel** noun (literary). See **WASTER**.

**watch** verb **1** *she watched him as he spoke*: observe, view, look at, eye, gaze at, stare at, gape at, peer at; contemplate, survey, keep an eye on; inspect, scrutinize, scan, examine, study, ogle, regard, mark; informal check out, get a load of, recce; N. Amer. informal eyeball; literary behold. **2** *he was being watched by the police*: spy on, keep in sight, track, monitor, survey, follow, keep under surveillance; informal keep tabs on, stake out. **3** *will you watch the kids?* look after, mind, keep an eye on, take care of, supervise, tend, attend to; guard, safeguard, protect. **4** *we stayed to watch the boat*: guard, protect, shield, defend, safeguard; cover, patrol, police. **5** *watch what you say*: be careful, mind, be aware of, pay attention to, consider, pay heed to.

– OPPOSITES ignore, neglect.

• **noun** **1** *Bill looked at his watch*: timepiece, chronometer; wristwatch, pocket watch, stopwatch. **2** *we kept watch on the yacht*: guard, vigil, lookout, an eye; observation, surveillance, vigilance.

■ **watch out** be careful, be watchful, be on

your guard, beware, be wary, be cautious, mind out, look out, pay attention, take heed, take care, keep an eye open/out, keep one's eyes peeled, be vigilant.

**watchdog** noun **1** *they use watchdogs to ward off trespassers:* guard dog. **2** *a consumer watchdog:* ombudsman, monitor, scrutineer, inspector, supervisor; custodian, guardian, protector.

**watcher** noun onlooker, spectator, observer, viewer, fly on the wall; witness, bystander; spy; informal rubberneck; literary beholder.

**watchful** adjective observant, alert, vigilant, attentive, awake, aware, heedful, sharp-eyed, eagle-eyed; on the lookout, on the qui vive, wary, cautious, careful, chary.

**watchman** noun security guard, custodian, warden; sentry, guard, patrolman, lookout, sentinel, scout, watch.

**watchword** noun guiding principle, motto, slogan, maxim, mantra, catchword, catchphrase, byword; informal buzzword.

**water** noun **1** *a glass of water:* technical H<sub>2</sub>O; dated Adam's ale. **2** *a house down by the water:* sea, ocean; lake, river.

• **verb 1** *water the plants:* sprinkle, moisten, dampen, wet, spray, splash; soak, douse, souse, drench, saturate; hose (down). **2** *my mouth watered:* moisten, become wet, leak, salivate.

■ **hold water** be tenable, ring true, bear scrutiny, make sense, stand up, hold up, be convincing, be plausible, be sound.

■ **water something down 1** *staff had watered down the drinks:* dilute, water, thin (out), weaken; adulterate, doctor, mix; informal cut. **2** *the proposals were watered down:* moderate, temper, mitigate, tone down, soften, tame; understate, play down, soft-pedal.

#### WORD LINKS

**aquatic, aqueous** relating to water

**aqueduct** a structure for carrying water across a country

**reservoir** a large lake used as a water supply

**dowsing, dowsing** search for underground water with a divining rod

**irrigate** supply water to land or crops

**hydropathy, hydrotherapy** the treatment of illness through the use of water

**hydrophilic** tending to mix with or dissolve in water

**hydrophobic** tending to repel or fail to mix with water

**hydrophobia** extreme fear of water, as a symptom of rabies

**dehydration** the loss or removal of water

**waterfall** noun cascade, cataract, falls, rapids; N. English force.

**waterproof** adjective *a waterproof jacket:* watertight, water-repellent, water-resistant, damp-proof; impermeable, impervious; rubberized, waxed.

• **noun (Brit.)** *she put on a waterproof:* raincoat, anorak, oilskin, cagoule; Brit. mackintosh; Brit. informal mac.

**watertight** adjective **1** *a watertight plastic*

*container:* impermeable, impervious, (hermetically) sealed; waterproof, water-repellent, water-resistant, damp-proof. **2** *a watertight alibi:* indisputable, unquestionable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, unassailable, impregnable; foolproof, sound, flawless, airtight, conclusive.

– **OPPOSITES** leaky, flawed.

**watery** adjective **1** *a watery discharge:* liquid, fluid, aqueous; technical hydrous. **2** *a watery meadow:* wet, damp, moist, sodden, soggy, squelchy, soft; saturated, waterlogged; boggy, marshy, swampy, miry, muddy.

**3** *watery porridge:* thin, runny, weak, sloppy, dilute, diluted; tasteless, flavourless, insipid, bland. **4** *the light was watery and grey:* pale, wan, faint, weak, feeble; informal wishy-washy. **5** *watery eyes:* tearful, moist, rheumy; informal teary, weepy; formal lachrymose.

– **OPPOSITES** dry, thick, bright.

**wave** verb **1** *he waved his flag furiously:* move up and down, move to and fro, wag, shake, swish, sweep, swing, brandish, flourish, wield; flick, flutter; informal waggle. **2** *the grass waved in the breeze:* ripple, flutter, undulate, stir, flap, sway, shake, quiver, move. **3** *the waiter waved them closer:* gesture, gesticulate, signal, beckon, motion.

• **noun 1** *she gave him a friendly wave:* gesture, gesticulation; signal, sign, motion.

**2** *he surfs the big waves:* breaker, roller, comb, boomer, ripple, white horse; (waves) swell, surf, froth; Austral. bombora; old use billow. **3** *a wave of immigrants:*

flow, rush, surge, flood, stream, tide, deluge, spate. **4** *a wave of self-pity:* surge, rush, stab, dart, upsurge; thrill, frisson; feeling. **5** *his hair grew in thick waves:*

curl, kink, corkscrew, twist, ringlet, coil. **6** *electromagnetic waves:* vibration, oscillation, ripple.

■ **make waves** (informal) cause trouble, be disruptive, be troublesome; make an impression, get noticed.

■ **wave something aside** dismiss, reject, brush aside, shrug off, disregard, ignore, discount, play down; informal pooh-pooh.

■ **wave someone/something down** flag down, hail, stop, summon, call, accost.

**waver** verb **1** *the candlelight wavered in the draught:* flicker, quiver, twinkle, glimmer, wink, blink. **2** *his voice wavered:* falter, wobble, tremble, quaver. **3** *he wavered between the choices:* be undecided, be irresolute, hesitate, dither, equivocate, vacillate, fluctuate; think twice, change one's mind, blow hot and cold; Brit. haver, hum and haw; informal shilly-shally, sit on the fence.

**wavy** adjective curly, curvy, curved, undulating, squiggly, rippled, crinkly, kinked, zigzag.

**wax** verb **1** *the moon is waxing:* get bigger, increase, enlarge. **2** (literary) *price sensitivity is waxing:* increase, grow, develop, rise, expand, escalate, intensify, spread, mushroom, snowball.



– OPPOSITES wane.

■ **wax** *lyrical* be enthusiastic, enthuse, rave, gush, get carried away.

**waxen** *adjective* **pallid**, pale, pasty, wan, ashen, colourless, anaemic, bloodless, washed out, white, grey, whitish, waxy, drained, sickly.

– OPPOSITES ruddy.

**waxy** *adjective*. See **WAXEN**.

**way** *noun* **1** *a way of reducing the damage:* **method**, process, procedure, technique, system; plan, strategy, scheme; means, mechanism, approach. **2** *she kissed him in her brisk way:* **manner**, style, fashion, mode; *modus operandi*, MO. **3** *I've changed my ways:* **practice**, habit, custom, policy, procedure, convention, routine, *modus vivendi*; trait, attribute, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy; conduct, behaviour, manner, style, nature, personality, temperament, disposition, character; formal wont. **4** *which way leads home?* **route**, course, direction; road, street, track, path. **5** *I'll go out the back way:* **door**, gate, exit, entrance, entry; route. **6** *a short way downstream:* **distance**, length, stretch, journey; space, interval, span. **7** *April is a long way away:* **time**, stretch, term, span, duration. **8** *a car coming the other way:* **direction**, bearing, course, orientation, line, tack. **9** (informal) *what do they call it down your way?* **area**, region, district, neighbourhood, locality, locale; informal neck of the woods, parts; Brit. informal manor; N. Amer. informal hood, nabe. **10** *in some ways, he may be better off:* **respect**, regard, aspect, facet, sense; detail, point, particular. **11** *the country is in a bad way:* **state**, condition, situation, circumstances, position; predicament, plight; informal shape. ■ **by the way** incidentally, by the by, in passing, en passant.

■ **give way** **1** *the government gave way and passed the bill:* yield, back down, surrender, concede defeat, give in, submit, succumb; acquiesce, agree, assent; informal throw in the towel/sponge, cave in. **2** *the door gave way:* collapse, give, cave in, fall in, come apart, crumple. **3** *grief gave way to guilt:* be replaced by, be succeeded by, be followed by, be supplanted by.

■ **on the way** coming, imminent, forthcoming, approaching, impending, close, near, on us; proceeding, en route, in transit.

**wayfarer** *noun* (literary). See **WANDERER**.

**waylay** *verb* **1** *we were waylaid and robbed:* ambush, hold up, attack, assail, rob; informal mug, stick up. **2** *several people waylaid her to chat:* accost, detain, intercept, take aside, pounce on, importune; informal buttonhole.

**way-out** *adjective* (informal) **unconventional**, avant-garde, outlandish, eccentric, quirky, unusual, bizarre, strange, peculiar, odd, uncommon; informal far out, offbeat, oddball, off the wall; Brit. informal rum.

– OPPOSITES ordinary.

**wayward** *adjective* **wilful**, headstrong, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, perverse, contrary, disobedient, insubordinate,

undisciplined; rebellious, defiant, uncooperative, recalcitrant, unruly, wild, unmanageable, erratic; difficult, impossible; formal refractory.

– OPPOSITES docile.

**weak** *adjective* **1** *they are too weak to move:* **frail**, feeble, delicate, fragile; infirm, sick, sickly, debilitated, incapacitated, ailing, indisposed, decrepit; tired, fatigued, exhausted; informal weedy. **2** *bats have weak eyes:* **inadequate**, poor, feeble; defective, faulty, deficient, imperfect, substandard. **3** *a weak excuse:* **unconvincing**, untenable, tenuous, implausible, unsatisfactory, poor, inadequate, feeble, flimsy, lame, hollow; informal pathetic. **4** *I was too weak to be a rebel:* **spineless**, craven, cowardly, pusillanimous, timid; irresolute, indecisive, ineffectual, inept, effete, meek, tame, ineffective, impotent, soft, faint-hearted; informal yellow, weak-kneed, gutless, chicken. **5** *a weak light:* **dim**, pale, wan, faint, feeble, muted. **6** *a weak voice:* **indistinct**, muffled, muted, hushed, faint, low. **7** *weak coffee:* **watery**, diluted, dilute, watered down, thin, tasteless, flavourless, bland, insipid, wishy-washy. **8** *a weak smile:* **unenthusiastic**, feeble, half-hearted, lame.

– OPPOSITES strong, powerful, convincing, resolute, bright, loud.

**weaken** *verb* **1** *the virus weakened him terribly:* **enfeeble**, debilitate, incapacitate, sap, enervate, tire, exhaust, wear out; wither, cripple, disable. **2** *she tried to weaken the shock for him:* **reduce**, decrease, diminish, lessen, moderate, temper, dilute, blunt, mitigate, soften. **3** *our morale weakened:* **decrease**, dwindle, diminish, wane, ebb, subside, peter out, fizzle out, tail off, decline, falter. **4** *the move weakened her authority:* **impair**, undermine, compromise; invalidate, negate, discredit.

**weakling** *noun* **milksop**, namby-pamby, coward, pushover; informal wimp, weed, sissy, drip, softie, doormat, chicken, yellow-belly, scaredy-cat; N. Amer. informal wuss, pussy.

**weakness** *noun* **1** *with old age came weakness:* **frailty**, feebleness, enfeeblement, fragility, delicacy; infirmity, sickness, sickliness, debility, incapacity, indisposition, decrepitude; informal weediness. **2** *he has worked on his weaknesses:* **fault**, flaw, defect, deficiency, weak point, failing, shortcoming, imperfection, Achilles' heel. **3** *a weakness for champagne:* **fondness**, liking, partiality, preference, love, penchant, soft spot, predilection, inclination, taste, eye; enthusiasm, appetite. **4** *the President was accused of weakness:* **timidity**, cravenness, cowardliness, pusillanimity; indecision, irresolution, ineffectuality, ineptitude, meekness, powerlessness, ineffectiveness, impotence. **5** *the weakness of this argument:* **untenability**, implausibility, poverty, inadequacy, transparency; flimsiness, hollowness. **6** *the weakness of the sound:* **indistinctness**, mutedness, faintness, feebleness, lowness; dimness, paleness.

**weak-willed** *adjective* **spineless**, weak,

irresolute, indecisive; impressionable, persuadable, persuasible, submissive, unassertive, compliant, pusillanimous; informal wimpish, chicken.

**weal** noun *welt*, wound, lesion, swelling; scar, cicatrix, mark, blemish.

**wealth** noun **1** *a gentleman of wealth:*

affluence, prosperity, riches, means, substance, fortune; money, cash, lucre, capital, treasure, finance; assets, possessions, resources, funds; property, stock, reserves, securities, holdings; informal wherewithal, dough, bread. **2** *a wealth of information:* abundance, profusion, plethora, mine, store, treasury, bounty, cornucopia; informal lot, load, heap, mass, mountain, stack, ton; Brit. informal shedload; formal plenitude.

– OPPOSITES poverty, dearth.

#### WORD LINKS

**Mammon** wealth seen as an evil or corrupting influence

**El Dorado** a legendary place of great wealth  
**plutocrat** a person who is powerful because of their wealth

**parvenu** a person who has recently become wealthy.

See also **MONEY**.

**wealthy** adjective rich, affluent, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, prosperous, comfortable, propertied; of substance; informal well heeled, rolling in it, in the money, made of money, filthy rich, stinking rich, loaded, flush, quids in.

– OPPOSITES poor.

**wear** verb **1** *he wore a suit:* dress in, be clothed in, have on, sport; put on, don. **2** *Barbara wore a smile:* bear, have (on one's face), show, display, exhibit; give, put on, assume. **3** *the bricks have been worn down:* erode, abrade, rub away, grind away, wash away, crumble (away), wear down; corrode, eat away (at), dissolve. **4** *the tyres are wearing well:* last, endure, hold up, bear up, prove durable. **5** (Brit. informal) *I've asked him twice, but he won't wear it:* allow, permit, authorize, sanction, condone, indulge, agree to, approve of; put up with, take, stand, support; accept, stomach, swallow, tolerate, countenance; informal hack, abide; Brit. informal stick; formal brook; old use suffer.

• noun **1** *you won't get much wear out of that:* use, wearing, service, utility, value; informal mileage. **2** *evening wear:* clothes, clothing, garments, dress, attire, garb, wardrobe; informal get-up, gear, togs; Brit. informal kit, clobber; formal apparel; literary array. **3** *the varnish which will withstand wear:* damage, friction, erosion, attrition, abrasion.

■ **wear something down** *he wore down her resistance:* gradually overcome, slowly reduce, erode, wear away, exhaust, undermine.

■ **wear off** *the novelty soon wore off:* fade, diminish, lessen, dwindle, decrease, wane, ebb, peter out, fizzle out, pall, disappear, vanish, run out.

■ **wear on** *the afternoon wore on:* pass, elapse, proceed, advance, progress, go by,

roll by, march on, slip by/away, fly by/past.

■ **wear out** deteriorate, become worn, wear thin, fray, become threadbare, wear through.

■ **wear something out** use up, consume, go through.

■ **wear someone out** fatigue, tire out, weary, exhaust, drain, sap, overtax, enervate, debilitate, jade, prostrate; informal whack, poop, shatter, frazzle, do in; Brit. informal knacker.

**wearing** adjective tiring, exhausting, wearying, fatiguing, enervating, draining, sapping; demanding, exacting, taxing, arduous, gruelling, punishing, difficult, hard, tough, laborious, strenuous, rigorous.

**wearisome** adjective. See **WEARING**.

**weary** adjective **1** *he was weary after cycling:* tired, worn out, exhausted, fatigued, sapped, dog-tired, spent, drained, prostrate, enervated; informal all in, done in, dead beat, ready to drop, bushed, worn to a frazzle, shattered; Brit. informal knackered, whacked; N. Amer. informal pooped, tuckered out. **2** *she was weary of the arguments:* tired of, bored by, sick of; informal fed up with. **3** *a weary journey:* tiring, exhausting, wearying, fatiguing, enervating, draining, sapping, wearing, trying, demanding, taxing, arduous, gruelling, difficult, hard, tough.

– OPPOSITES fresh, keen, refreshing.

• verb **1** *she was wearied by her illness:* tire, fatigue, wear out, overtire, exhaust, drain, sap, enervate, debilitate, enfeeble, prostrate; informal whack, bush, shatter, frazzle, poop, do in; Brit. informal knacker. **2** *don't risk wearying the reader:* bore, tire; irk, irritate, exasperate. **3** *he wearied of the struggle:* tire of, become bored by, sicken of; have had enough of; informal become fed up with.

– OPPOSITES refresh, interest.

**wearying** adjective. See **WEARING**.

**weather** noun *what's the weather like?*

forecast, outlook; meteorological conditions, climate, atmospheric pressure, temperature; elements.

• verb *we weathered the recession:* survive, come through, ride out, pull through; withstand, endure, rise above, surmount, overcome, resist; informal stick out.

**weathered** adjective weather-beaten, worn; tanned, bronzed; lined, creased, wrinkled, gnarled.

**weave**<sup>1</sup> verb **1** *flowers were woven into their hair:* entwine, lace, twist, knit, intertwine, braid, plait. **2** *he weaves colourful plots:* invent, make up, fabricate, construct, create, contrive, spin; tell, recount, relate.

**weave**<sup>2</sup> verb *he had to weave his way through the crowds:* thread, wind, wend; dodge, zigzag.

**web** noun **1** *a spider's web:* mesh, net, lattice, latticework, lacework, webbing; gauze, gossamer. **2** *a web of friendships:* network, nexus, complex, set, chain.

**wed** verb **1** *they are old enough to wed:* marry, get married, become husband and wife; informal tie the knot, walk down the aisle, get spliced, get hitched. **2** *he will wed*

*his girlfriend: marry*, take as one's wife/ husband, lead to the altar; informal *make an honest woman of*; old use *espouse*. **3** *she wedded the two forms of spirituality: unite*, unify, join, combine, amalgamate, fuse, integrate, bond, merge.

– OPPOSITES divorce, separate.

**wedded** adjective **1** *wedded bliss: married*, matrimonial, marital, conjugal, nuptial; Law spousal; literary connubial. **2** *he is wedded to his work: dedicated to*, devoted to, attached to, fixated on, single-minded about.

**wedding** noun marriage (service/rites), nuptials, union; old use espousal.

#### WORD LINKS

nuptial relating to a wedding

**wedge** noun **1** *the door was secured by a wedge: tapered block*, chock, stop. **2** *a wedge of cheese: triangle*, segment, slice, section; chunk, lump, slab, hunk, block, piece.

• verb *she wedged her case between two bags: squeeze*, cram, jam, ram, force, push, shove; informal stuff, bung.

**wedlock** noun marriage, (holy) matrimony, married state, union.

**wee** adjective (Scottish) little, small, tiny, minute, miniature, mini, compact, undersized, diminutive, dwarf, midget, infinitesimal, microscopic, nanoscopic, minuscule; informal teeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy, half-pint, dinky; Brit. informal titchy, diddy; N. Amer. informal little-bitty.

– OPPOSITES big.

**weed** verb

■ *weed something/someone out* isolate, separate out, sort out, sift out, winnow out, filter out, set apart, segregate; eliminate, get rid of, remove; informal lose.

**weedy** adjective (informal) puny, feeble, weak, frail, undersized, slight, skinny; informal pint-sized.

**weekly** adjective *weekly instalments: once a week*; lasting a week; formal hebdomadal.

• adverb *the directors meet weekly: once a week*, every week, each week, on a weekly basis; by the week, per week, a week.

**weep** verb *even the toughest soldiers wept:*

cry, shed tears, sob, snivel, whimper, whine, wail, bawl, keen; Scottish greet; informal boohoo, blub, blubber; Brit. informal grizzle.

• noun *you sit and have a weep: cry*, sob, snivel, whimper, bawl; informal blub, blubber; Brit. informal grizzle.

**weepy** adjective (informal) tearful, close to tears, upset, distressed, sad, unhappy; in tears, crying, weeping, snivelling; informal teary; formal lachrymose.

**weigh** verb **1** *she weighs the vegetables: measure the weight of*, put on the scales. **2** *he weighed 118 kg: have a weight of*, tip the scales at. **3** *the situation weighed heavily on him*. See **WEIGH SOMEONE DOWN** sense 2. **4** *he has to weigh up the possibilities: consider*, contemplate, think about, mull over, chew over, reflect on, ruminate about, muse on; assess, appraise, analyse, investigate, inquire

into, look into, examine, review, explore, take stock of. **5** *they need to weigh benefit against risk: balance*, evaluate, compare, juxtapose, contrast.

■ **weigh someone down** **1** *my fishing gear weighed me down: burden*, saddle, overload, overburden, encumber, hamper, handicap.

**2** *the silence weighed me down: oppress*, depress, lie heavy on, burden, cast down, hang over, gnaw at, prey on (one's mind); trouble, worry, bother, disturb, upset, haunt, nag, torment, afflict, plague.

**weight** noun **1** *the weight of the book:*

heaviness, mass, load, burden, pressure,

force; poundage, tonnage. **2** *his*

*recommendation will carry great weight:*

influence, force, leverage, sway, pull, importance, significance, consequence, value, substance, power, authority; informal clout. **3** *a weight off her mind: burden*, load, millstone, albatross, encumbrance; trouble, worry, strain. **4** *the weight of the evidence is against him: preponderance*, majority, bulk, body, lion's share, predominance; most, almost all.

#### WORD LINKS

gravimetric relating to the measurement of weight

**weighty** adjective **1** *a weighty tome: heavy*, thick, bulky, hefty, cumbersome, ponderous.

**2** *a weighty subject: important*, significant, momentous, consequential, far-reaching, key, major, vital, critical, crucial; serious, grave, solemn. **3** *a weighty responsibility: burdensome*, onerous, heavy, oppressive, taxing, troublesome. **4** *weighty arguments: compelling*, cogent, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, effective, sound, valid, telling; impressive, persuasive, convincing, influential, authoritative.

– OPPOSITES light, trivial, weak.

**weird** adjective **1** *weird apparitions: uncanny*, eerie, unnatural, supernatural, unearthly, other-worldly, ghostly, mysterious, strange, abnormal, unusual; Scottish eldritch; informal creepy, spooky, freaky. **2** (informal) *a weird sense of humour: bizarre*, quirky, outlandish, eccentric, unconventional, unorthodox, idiosyncratic, surreal, crazy, peculiar, odd, strange, queer, freakish, zany, madcap, outré; informal wacky, freaky, way-out, offbeat, off the wall; Brit. informal rum; N. Amer. informal wacko.

– OPPOSITES normal, conventional.

**weirdo** noun (informal). See **ECCENTRIC** noun.

**welcome** noun *a welcome from the vicar: greeting*, salutation; reception, hospitality; the red carpet.

• verb **1** *welcome your guests in their own language: greet*, salute, receive, meet, usher in. **2** *we welcomed their decision: be pleased by*, be glad about, approve of, appreciate, embrace; informal give the thumbs up to.

• adjective *welcome news: pleasing*, agreeable, encouraging, gratifying, heartening, promising, favourable, pleasant; gladly received, wanted, appreciated, popular, desirable.



**weld** verb fuse, bond, stick, join, attach, seal, splice, melt, solder.

**welfare** noun 1 *the welfare of children:*

**well-being**, health, comfort, security, safety, protection, prosperity, success, fortune; interest, good. 2 *we cannot claim welfare:* social security, (state) benefit, public assistance; pension, credit, support; sick pay, unemployment benefit; Brit. informal the dole.

**well**<sup>1</sup> adverb 1 *please behave well:*

satisfactorily, nicely, correctly, properly, fittingly, suitably, appropriately. 2 *they get on well together:* harmoniously, agreeably, pleasantly, nicely, happily, amicably, amiably, peaceably; informal famously. 3 *he plays the piano well:* skilfully, ably, competently, proficiently, adeptly, deftly, expertly, admirably, excellently. 4 *treat your employees well:* decently, fairly, kindly, generously, honestly. 5 *mix the ingredients well:* thoroughly, completely; effectively, rigorously, carefully. 6 *I know her quite well:* intimately, thoroughly, deeply, profoundly, personally. 7 *they studied the car market well:* carefully, closely, attentively, rigorously, in depth, exhaustively, in detail, meticulously, scrupulously, conscientiously, methodically, completely, comprehensively, fully, extensively. 8 *they speak well of him:* admiringly, highly, approvingly, favourably, appreciatively, warmly, enthusiastically, glowingly. 9 *she makes enough money to live well:* comfortably, in (the lap of) luxury, prosperously. 10 *you may well be right:* quite possibly, conceivably, probably; undoubtedly, certainly, unquestionably. 11 *he is well over forty:* considerably, very much, a great deal, substantially, easily, comfortably, significantly. 12 *she could well afford it:* easily, comfortably, readily, effortlessly.

– OPPOSITES badly.

• adjective 1 *she was completely well again:* healthy, fine, fit, robust, strong, vigorous, blooming, thriving, hale and hearty, in good shape, in good condition, in good trim, in fine fettle; informal in the pink. 2 *all is not well:* satisfactory, all right, fine, in order, as it should be, acceptable; informal OK, hunky-dory; N. Amer. & Austral./NZ informal jake; Brit. informal, dated tickety-boo. 3 *it would be well to tell us in advance:* advisable, sensible, prudent, politic, commonsensical, wise, judicious, expedient, recommended, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, desirable; a good idea.

– OPPOSITES unwell, unsatisfactory, inadvisable.

■ as well too, also, in addition, additionally, into the bargain, besides, furthermore, moreover, to boot.

■ as well as together with, along with, besides, plus, and, with, on top of, not to mention, to say nothing of, let alone.

**well**<sup>2</sup> noun 1 *she drew water from the well:*

borehole, bore, spring, waterhole. 2 *he's a bottomless well of forgiveness:* source, supply, fount, reservoir, mine, fund, treasury.

• verb *tears welled from her eyes:* flow, spill, stream, run, rush, gush, roll, cascade, flood, spout; seep, trickle; burst, issue.

**well advised** adjective wise, prudent, sensible.

**well balanced** adjective. See **BALANCED** senses 1, 2, 3.

**well behaved** adjective orderly, obedient, disciplined, peaceable, docile, controlled, restrained, cooperative, compliant; mannerly, polite, civil, courteous, respectful, proper, decorous, refined, polished.

– OPPOSITES naughty.

**well-being** noun. See **WELFARE** sense 1.

**well bred** adjective well brought up, polite, civil, mannerly, courteous, respectful; ladylike, gentlemanly, genteel, cultivated, urbane, proper, refined, polished, well behaved.

**well built** adjective sturdy, strapping, brawny, burly, hefty, muscular, muscly, strong, rugged, lusty, Herculean; informal hunky, beefy, husky, hulking.

– OPPOSITES puny.

**well dressed** adjective smart, fashionable, stylish, chic, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper; N. Amer. trig; informal snazzy, natty, snappy, sharp; N. Amer. informal spiffy, fly.

– OPPOSITES scruffy.

**well founded** adjective justifiable, justified, warranted, legitimate, defensible, valid, admissible, allowable, understandable, excusable, acceptable, reasonable, sensible, sound.

– OPPOSITES groundless.

**well heeled** adjective (informal). See **WEALTHY**.

**well known** adjective 1 *well-known principles:* familiar, widely known, popular, common, everyday, established. 2 *a well-known family of architects:* famous, famed, prominent, notable, renowned, distinguished, eminent, illustrious, celebrated, acclaimed, important.

– OPPOSITES obscure.

**well mannered** adjective polite, courteous, civil, mannerly, genteel, decorous, respectful, refined, polished, civilized, urbane, well bred.

**well-nigh** adverb almost, nearly, just about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, nearing, approaching, nigh on; roughly, approximately; informal pretty much.

**well off** adjective 1 *her family's very well off.* See **WELL-TO-DO**. 2 *the prisoners were relatively well off:* fortunate, lucky, comfortable; informal sitting pretty. 3 *the island is not well off for harbours:* well supplied with, well stocked with, well furnished with, well equipped with.

**well read** adjective knowledgeable, well informed, well versed, erudite, scholarly, literate, educated, cultured, bookish, studious; dated lettered.

– OPPOSITES ignorant.

**well spoken** adjective articulate, nicely spoken; refined, polite; Brit. informal posh.

**well-to-do** adjective **wealthy**, rich, affluent, moneyed, well off, prosperous, comfortable, propertied; informal rolling in it, in the money, loaded, well heeled, flush, made of money, quids in, worth a packet, on easy street.

**welter** noun **confusion**, jumble, tangle, mess, hotchpotch, mishmash, mass.

**wend** verb **meander**, make one's way, wander, amble, stroll, saunter, drift, roam, swan, traipse, walk; journey, travel; informal mosey, tootle.

**west** adjective **western**, westerly, occidental.

**wet** adjective **1** *wet clothes*: **damp**, moist, soaked, drenched, saturated, sopping, dripping, soggy; waterlogged, squelchy. **2** *it was cold and wet*: **rainy**, raining, pouring, teeming, showery, drizzly, drizzling; damp. **3** *the paint is still wet*: **sticky**, tacky; fresh. **4** *a wet mortar mix*: **aqueous**, watery, sloppy. **5** (Brit. informal) *the cadets were a bit wet*: **feeble**, silly, weak, foolish, inept, ineffectual, effete, soft, namby-pamby, timid, spiritless, cowardly, spineless; informal sissy, pathetic, drippy, wimpish, weedy, chicken; Brit. informal soppy.

– **OPPOSITES** dry, fine, brave.

• verb *wet the clothes before ironing them*: **dampen**, damp, moisten; sprinkle, spray, splash; soak, saturate, flood, douse, souse, drench.

– **OPPOSITES** dry.

• noun **1** *the wet of his tears*: **wetness**, damp, moisture, moistness, soggy; wateriness. **2** *the race was held in the wet*: **rain**, drizzle, precipitation; spray, dew, damp. **3** (Brit. informal) *come on, don't be such a wet*: **namby-pamby**, weakling, milksop, Milquetoast, baby, coward; informal wimp, weed, drip, sissy, softie, chicken, scaredy-cat; Brit. informal big girl's blouse; N. Amer. informal pantywaist, pussy.

**whack** (informal) verb *she whacked him on the head*. See **STRIKE** verb sense 1.

• noun **1** *he got a whack with a stick*. See **BLOW** sense 1. **2** (Brit.) *everyone will get their whack*. See **SHARE** noun.

**wharf** noun **quay**, pier, dock, berth, landing, jetty; harbour, dockyard, marina.

**whoodle** verb **coax**, cajole, inveigle, induce, entice, charm, tempt, beguile, flatter, persuade, influence, win someone over, bring someone round, convince, prevail on, get round; informal sweet-talk, soft-soap.

**wheel** noun *a wagon wheel*: disc, hoop, ring, circle.

• verb **1** *she wheeled the trolley away*: **push**, trundle, roll. **2** *the flock of doves wheeled round*: **turn**, go round, circle, orbit.

W

**whoeeze** verb *the illness left her wheezing; breathe noisily*, gasp, whistle, hiss, rasp, croak, pant, cough.

• noun **1** *she still had a slight wheeze*: **rasp**, croak, whistle, hiss, pant, cough. **2** (Brit. informal) *I've thought of a brilliant wheeze*. See **RUSE**.

**whereabouts** noun **location**, position, site, place, situation, spot, point, vicinity; home,

address, locale, neighbourhood; bearings, orientation.

**wherewithal** noun **money**, cash, capital, finance(s), funds; resources, means, ability, capability; informal dough, bread, loot, the necessary, boodle, dibs, ducats; Brit. informal dosh, brass, lolly, readies; N. Amer. informal bucks; US informal greenbacks.

**whet** verb **1** *he whetted his knife on a stone*: **sharpen**, hone, strop, grind, file. **2** *something to whet your appetite*: **stimulate**, excite, arouse, rouse, kindle, trigger, spark, quicken, stir, inspire, animate, fuel, fire, activate, tempt, galvanize.

– **OPPOSITES** blunt.

**whiff** noun **1** *I caught a whiff of perfume*: **faint smell**, trace, sniff, scent, odour, aroma. **2** (Brit. informal) *there's a terrible whiff in here*: **stench**, stink, smell, reek; Brit. informal pong, niff, hum; Scottish informal guff; N. Amer. informal funk. **3** *the faintest whiff of irony*: **trace**, hint, suggestion, impression, suspicion, soupçon, nuance, intimation, tinge, vein, shred, whisper, air, element, overtone.

**4** *whiffs of smoke from the boiler*: **puff**, gust, flurry, breath, draught, waft.

**while** noun *we chatted for a while*: **time**, spell, stretch, stint, span, interval, period; duration, phase; Brit. informal patch.

• verb *tennis helped to while away the time*: **pass**, spend, occupy, use up, kill.

**whim** noun **1** *she bought it on a whim*: **impulse**, urge, notion, fancy, foible, caprice, conceit, vagary, crotchet, inclination.

**2** *human whim*: **capriciousness**, whimsy, caprice, volatality, fickleness, idiosyncrasy.

**whimper** verb *he was whimpering in pain*: **whine**, cry, sob, moan, snivel, wail, groan; Brit. informal grizzle.

• noun *she gave a whimper of protest*: **whine**, cry, sob, moan, bleat, wail, groan.

**whimsical** adjective **1** *a whimsical sense of humour*: **fanciful**, playful, mischievous, waggish, quaint, curious, droll; eccentric, quirky, idiosyncratic, unconventional, outlandish, queer; informal offbeat, freaky. **2** *the whimsical arbitrariness of autocracy*: **volatile**, capricious, fickle, changeable, unpredictable, variable, erratic, mercurial, mutable, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, protean.

**whine** noun **1** *the dog gave a whine*: **whimper**, cry, mewl, howl, yowl. **2** *the whine of the motor*: **hum**, drone. **3** *a whine about the quality of service*: **complaint**, grouse, grumble, murmur; informal gripe, moan, grouch, whinge, bellyache, beef.

• verb **1** *a child was whining*: **wail**, whimper, cry, mewl, moan, howl, yowl. **2** *the lift began to whine*: **hum**, drone. **3** *he's always whining about something*: **complain**, grouse, grouch, grumble, moan, carp, mutter, murmur; informal gripe, bellyache, whinge.

**whinge** (informal) verb *I whinged about the weather*. See **WHINE** verb sense 3.

• noun *his tale is one long whinge*. See **WHINE** noun sense 3.

**whip** noun *he would use a whip on his dogs*:

**lash**, scourge, strap, belt; historical cat-o'-nine-tails.

• **verb 1** *he whipped the boy*: **flog**, scourge, flagellate, lash, strap, belt, thrash, beat, tan someone's hide. **2** *whip the cream*: **whisk**, beat. **3** *he whipped his listeners into a frenzy*: **rouse**, stir up, excite, galvanize, electrify, stimulate, inspire, fire up, get someone going, inflame, agitate, goad, provoke. **4** (informal) *he whipped round the corner*. See **DASH** verb sense 1. **5** (informal) *then he whipped out a revolver*: **pull**, whisk, snatch, pluck, jerk; informal yank; Scottish informal wheech. **6** (Brit. informal) *he whipped the necklace*. See **STEAL** verb sense 1.

**whippersnapper** **noun** (informal) **upstart**, stripling; informal pipsqueak, squirt; Brit. informal squirt; N. Amer. informal snip.

**whirl** **verb 1** *leaves whirled in eddies of wind*: **rotate**, circle, wheel, turn, revolve, orbit, spin, twirl; Scottish birl. **2** *they whirled past*: **hurry**, race, dash, rush, run, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, scurry; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot; Brit. informal bomb; N. Amer. informal hightail it. **3** *his mind was whirling*: **spin**, reel, swim.

• **noun 1** *a whirl of dust*: **swirl**, flurry, eddy. **2** *the mad social whirl*: **hurly-burly**, activity, bustle, rush, flurry, fuss, turmoil, merry-go-round; informal to-do. **3** *Laura's mind was in a whirl*: **spin**, daze, stupor, muddle, jumble; confusion; informal dither. **4** (informal) *go on, give it a whirl*: **try**, test; informal go, shot, bash, stab.

**whirlpool** **noun 1** *a river full of whirlpools*: **eddy**, vortex, maelstrom; N. Amer. informal suckhole. **2** *the health club has a whirlpool*: spa bath, hot tub; trademark jacuzzi.

**whirlwind** **noun 1** *the building was hit by a whirlwind*: **tornado**, hurricane, typhoon, cyclone, vortex; Austral. willy-willy; N. Amer. informal twister. **2** *a whirlwind of activity*: **maelstrom**, welter, bedlam, mayhem, babel, swirl, tumult, hurly-burly, commotion, confusion; informal madhouse; N. Amer. three-ring circus.

• **adjective a whirlwind romance**: **rapid**, lightning, headlong, impulsive, breakneck, meteoric, sudden, swift, fast, quick, speedy; informal quickie.

**whisk** **verb 1** *the cable car will whisk you to the top*: **speed**, hurry, rush, sweep, hurtle, shoot; Scottish informal wheech. **2** *she whisked the cloth away*: **pull**, snatch, pluck, tug, jerk; informal whip, yank; Scottish informal wheech. **3** *he whisked out of sight*: **dash**, rush, race, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper; informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip. **4** *horses whisk their tails*: **flick**, twitch, wave. **5** *whisk the egg yolks*: **whip**, beat, mix.

• **noun 1** *the horse gave a whisk of its tail*: **flick**, twitch, wave, sweep. **2** *blend the eggs with a whisk*: **beater**, mixer, blender.

**whisky** **noun** the water of life; Irish & Scottish usquebaugh.

**whisper** **verb 1** *Alison whispered in his ear*: **murmur**, mutter, mumble, speak softly, breathe. **2** (literary) *the wind whispered in the grass*: **rustle**, murmur, sigh, moan, whoosh, whirr, swish, blow, breathe.

– **OPPOSITES** roar.

• **noun 1** *she spoke in a whisper*: **murmur**, mutter, mumble, low voice, undertone. **2** (literary) *the wind died to a whisper*: **rustle**, murmur, sigh, whoosh, swish. **3** *I heard a whisper that he's left town*: **rumour**, story, report, speculation, insinuation, suggestion, hint; informal buzz. **4** *not a whisper of interest*. See **WHIT**.

**whit** **noun** scrap, bit, speck, iota, jot, atom, crumb, shred, grain, mite, touch, trace, shadow, suggestion, whisper, suspicion, scintilla; informal smidgen, smidge.

**white** **adjective 1** *a clean white bandage*: **colourless**, unpigmented, bleached, natural; snowy, milky, chalky, ivory. **2** *her face was white with fear*: **pale**, pallid, wan, ashen, bloodless, waxen, chalky, pasty, peaky, washed out, drained, drawn, ghostly, deathly. **3** *white hair*: **snowy**, grey, silver, silvery, hoary, grizzled. **4** *a whiter than white government*: **virtuous**, moral, ethical, good, righteous, honourable, reputable, wholesome, honest, upright, upstanding, irreproachable; decent, worthy, noble; blameless, spotless, impeccable, unsullied, unblemished, uncorrupted, untainted; informal squeaky clean.

– **OPPOSITES** black, flushed, immoral.

**white-collar** **adjective** clerical, professional, executive, salaried, office.

**whiten** **verb** **make white**, make pale, bleach, blanch, lighten, fade; Brit. Military blanco; old use white.

**whitewash** **noun 1** *the report was a whitewash*: **cover-up**, camouflage, deception, facade, veneer, pretext. **2** *a four-match whitewash*: **walkover**, rout, landslide; informal pushover, cinch, breeze.

– **OPPOSITES** exposé.

• **verb** **don't whitewash what happened**:

**cover up**, sweep under the carpet, hush up, suppress, draw a veil over, conceal, veil, obscure, keep secret; gloss over, downplay, soft-pedal.

– **OPPOSITES** expose.

**whittle** **verb 1** *he sat whittling a piece of wood*: **pare**, shave, trim, carve, shape, model. **2** *his powers were whittled away*: **erode**, wear away, eat away, reduce, diminish, undermine, weaken, subvert, compromise, impair, impede, hinder, cripple, disable, enfeeble, sap. **3** *the ten teams have been whittled down to six*: **reduce**, cut down, cut back, prune, trim, slim down, pare down, shrink, decrease, diminish.

**whole** **adjective 1** *the whole report*: **entire**, complete, full, unabridged, uncut. **2** *a whole marble mantelpiece*: **intact**, in one piece, unbroken; undamaged, flawless, faultless, unmarked, perfect.

– **OPPOSITES** incomplete.

• **noun 1** *a single whole*: **entity**, unit, body,



discrete item, ensemble. **2** *the whole of the year*: all, every part, the lot, the sum (total).

■ **on the whole** overall, all in all, all things considered, for the most part, in the main, in general, generally (speaking), as a (general) rule, by and large; normally, usually, more often than not, almost always, most of the time, typically, ordinarily.

**wholehearted** adjective committed, positive, emphatic, devoted, dedicated, enthusiastic, unshakeable, unswerving; unqualified, unreserved, without reservations, unconditional, unequivocal, unmitigated; complete, full, total, absolute.  
– OPPOSITES half-hearted.

**wholesale** adverb *the images were removed wholesale*: extensively, on a large scale, comprehensively; indiscriminately, without exception.

– OPPOSITES selectively.

• adjective *wholesale destruction*: extensive, widespread, large-scale, wide-ranging, comprehensive, total, mass; indiscriminate.  
– OPPOSITES partial.

**wholesome** adjective **1** *wholesome food*: healthy, health-giving, healthful, good (for one), nutritious, nourishing; natural, uncontaminated, organic. **2** *wholesome fun*: moral, ethical, good, clean, virtuous, pure, innocent, chaste; uplifting, edifying, proper, correct, decent; informal squeaky clean.

**wholly** adverb **1** *the measures were wholly inadequate*: completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, fully, thoroughly, utterly, quite, perfectly, downright, in every respect, in all respects; informal one hundred per cent. **2** *they rely wholly on you*: exclusively, only, solely, purely, alone.

**whoop** noun *whoops of delight*: shout, cry, call, yell, roar, scream, shriek, screech, cheer; informal holler.

• verb *he whooped for joy*: shout, cry, call, yell, roar, scream, shriek, screech, cheer; informal holler.

**whopper** noun (informal) **1** *what a whopper!* monster, brute, giant, colossus, mammoth, monstrosity; informal jumbo. **2** *Joseph's story is a whopper*. See **LIE** noun.

**whopping** adjective (informal). See **HUGE**.

**whorehouse** noun. See **BROTHEL**.

**whorl** noun loop, coil, hoop, ring, curl, swirl, twist, spiral, helix.

**wicked** adjective **1** *wicked deeds*: evil, sinful, immoral, wrong, morally wrong, wrongful, bad, iniquitous, corrupt, black-hearted, base, mean, vile; villainous, nefarious, erring, foul, monstrous, shocking, outrageous, atrocious, abominable, reprehensible, hateful, detestable, despicable, odious, contemptible, horrible, heinous, egregious, execrable, fiendish, vicious, murderous, barbarous; criminal, illicit, unlawful, illegal, lawless, felonious, dishonest, unscrupulous; Law malfeasance; informal crooked; Brit. informal beastly; dated dastardly; rare peccable. **2** *the wind was wicked*: disagreeable, unpleasant, foul, bad, nasty, irksome, troublesome,

annoying, irritating, displeasing, hateful, detestable. **3** *a wicked sense of humour*: mischievous, playful, naughty, impish, roguish, arch, puckish, cheeky. **4** (informal) *she makes wicked cakes*. See **EXCELLENT**.

– OPPOSITES virtuous.

**wickedness** noun evildoing, evil, sin, sinfulness, iniquity, vileness, baseness, badness, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, roguery, villainy, viciousness, degeneracy, depravity, immorality, vice, corruption, corruptness, devilry, fiendishness; Law malfeasance; informal crookedness; formal turpitude.

**wide** adjective **1** *a wide river*: broad, extensive, spacious, vast, spread out. **2** *their mouths were wide with shock*: fully open, agape, wide open. **3** *a wide range of opinion*: comprehensive, ample, broad, extensive, large, large-scale, wide-ranging, exhaustive, general, all-inclusive. **4** *his shot was wide*: off target, off the mark, wide of the mark/target, inaccurate.

– OPPOSITES narrow.

• adverb **1** *he opened his eyes wide*: fully, to the fullest/furthest extent, as far/much as possible. **2** *he shot wide*: off target, wide of the mark/target, inaccurately.

**wide awake** adjective fully awake, conscious, sleepless, insomniac; old use watchful.

– OPPOSITES asleep.

**wide-eyed** adjective **1** *the whole class was wide-eyed*: staring in amazement, goggle-eyed, open-mouthed, dumbstruck, amazed, surprised, astonished, astounded, stunned, staggered; informal flabbergasted; Brit. informal gobsmacked. **2** *wide-eyed visitors*: innocent, naive, impressionable, ingenuous, childlike, unsophisticated, credulous, trusting, unquestioning, gullible.

**widen** verb **1** *a proposal to widen the motorway*: broaden, make/become wider, open up/out, expand, extend, enlarge. **2** *the Party must widen its support*: increase, augment, boost, swell, enlarge.

**wide open** adjective **1** *his eyes were wide open*: fully open, open wide, agape. **2** *the championship is wide open*: unpredictable, uncertain, unsure, in the balance, up in the air; informal anyone's guess. **3** *they were wide open to attacks*: vulnerable, exposed, unprotected, defenceless, undefended, at risk, in danger.

**widespread** adjective general, extensive, universal, common, global, worldwide, international, omnipresent, ubiquitous, across the board, predominant, prevalent, rife, broad, rampant, pervasive.

– OPPOSITES limited.

**width** noun **1** *the width of the river*: wideness, breadth, broadness, thickness, span, diameter, girth. **2** *the width of experience required*: range, breadth, compass, scope, span, scale, extent, extensiveness, comprehensiveness.

– OPPOSITES length, narrowness.

**wield** verb **1** *he was wielding a sword*:

**brandish**, flourish, wave, swing; use, employ, handle. **2** *he has wielded power since 1972: exercise, exert, hold, maintain, command, control.*

**wife** noun spouse, partner, mate, consort, woman, helpmate, helpmeet, bride; informal old lady, wifey, better half, missus; Brit. informal other half, her indoors, trouble and strife.

#### WORD LINKS

**uxorial** relating to a wife  
**uxorious** very fond of one's wife  
**uxoricide** the killing of one's wife

**wiggle** verb jiggle, wriggle, twitch, shimmy, joggle, wag, wobble, shake, twist, squirm, writhe; informal waggle.

**wild** adjective **1** *wild animals: untamed, undomesticated, feral; fierce, ferocious, savage.* **2** *wild flowers: uncultivated, native, indigenous.* **3** *wild tribes: primitive, uncivilized, uncultured; savage, barbarous, barbaric.* **4** *wild hill country: uninhabited, unpopulated, uncultivated; rugged, rough, inhospitable, desolate, barren.* **5** *a wild night: stormy, squally, tempestuous, turbulent, boisterous.* **6** *her wild black hair: dishevelled, tousled, tangled, windswept, untidy, unkempt; N. Amer. mussed up.* **7** *wild behaviour: uncontrolled, unrestrained, out of control, undisciplined, unruly, rowdy, disorderly, riotous.* **8** *wild with excitement: very excited, delirious, in a frenzy; tumultuous, passionate, vehement, unrestrained.* **9** (informal) *I was wild with jealousy: distraught, frantic, beside oneself, in a frenzy, hysterical, deranged, berserk; informal mad, crazy.* **10** (informal) *Hank went wild when he found out. See FURIOUS* sense 1. **11** (informal) *his family weren't wild about me: very keen, very enthusiastic, enamoured, infatuated, smitten; informal crazy, mad, nutty/nuts.* **12** *Bill's wild schemes: madcap, ridiculous, ludicrous, foolish, stupid, foolhardy, idiotic, absurd, silly, ill-considered, senseless, nonsensical; impractical, impracticable, unworkable; informal crazy, crackpot, cockeyed.* **13** *a wild guess: random, arbitrary, haphazard, uninformed.*

– OPPOSITES tame, cultivated, calm, disciplined.

**wilderness** noun **1** *the Siberian wilderness: wilds, wastes, inhospitable region; desert.* **2** *a litter-strewn wilderness: wasteland.*

**wildlife** noun (wild) animals, fauna.

**wilds** plural noun remote areas, wilderness; backwoods; N. Amer. backcountry, backland; Austral./NZ outback, bush, backblocks, booy; N. Amer. informal boondocks, tall timbers.

**wiles** plural noun tricks, ruses, ploys, schemes, dodges, manoeuvres, subterfuges, artifices; guile, artfulness, cunning, craftiness.

**wilful** adjective **1** *an act of wilful destruction: deliberate, intentional, done on purpose, premeditated, planned, conscious.* **2** *a wilful child: headstrong, strong-willed, obstinate, stubborn, pig-headed, recalcitrant,*

uncooperative, obstreperous, ungovernable, unmanageable; Brit. informal bloody-minded, bolshie; N. Amer. informal balky; formal refractory; old use froward, contumacious.

– OPPOSITES accidental, amenable.

**will**<sup>1</sup> verb *accidents will happen: have a tendency to, are bound to, do.*

**will**<sup>2</sup> noun **1** *the will to succeed: determination, will power, strength of character, resolution, resolve, resoluteness, single-mindedness, purposefulness, drive, commitment, dedication, doggedness, tenacity, tenaciousness, staying power.* **2** *they stayed against their will: desire, wish, preference, inclination, intention, intent.* **3** *God's will: wish, desire, decision, choice; decree, command.* **4** *his father's will: (last will and) testament.*

• verb **1** *do what you will: want, wish, please, see/think fit, think best, like, choose, prefer.* **2** *God willed it: decree, order, ordain, command.* **3** *she willed the money to her husband: bequeath, leave, hand down, pass on, settle on; Law devise.*

#### WORD LINKS

**intestate** not having made a will before dying  
**testator** a person who has made a will  
**executor** a person appointed to carry out the terms of a will  
**probate** the official process of proving that a will is valid  
**codicil** a supplement to a will  
**bequest, legacy** something left in a will

**willing** adjective **1** *I'm willing to give it a try: ready, prepared, game, disposed, inclined, of a mind, minded; happy, glad, pleased, agreeable, amenable.* **2** *willing help: readily given, willingly given, ungrudging.*

– OPPOSITES reluctant.

**willingly** adverb voluntarily, of one's own free will, of one's own accord; readily, without reluctance, ungrudgingly, cheerfully, happily, gladly, with pleasure.

**willingness** noun readiness, inclination, will, wish, desire.

**willowy** adjective tall, slim, slender, svelte, lissom, sylphlike, long-limbed, graceful, lithe; informal slinky.

**will power** noun. See **will**<sup>2</sup> noun sense 1.

**willy-nilly** adverb **1** *cars were parked willy-nilly: haphazardly, at random, randomly.*

**2** *we are, willy-nilly, in a new situation: whether one likes it or not, of necessity; informal like it or lump it; formal perforce, nolens volens.*

**wilt** verb **1** *the roses had begun to wilt: droop, sag, become limp, flop; wither, shrivel (up).*

**2** *wilting in the heat: languish, flag, droop, become listless.* **3** *Shelley's happy mood wilted: fade, ebb, wane, evaporate, melt away.*

– OPPOSITES flourish.

**wily** adjective shrewd, clever, sharp, sharp-witted, astute, canny, smart; crafty, cunning, artful, sly, scheming, calculating, devious;

informal tricky, foxy; old use subtle.

– OPPOSITES naïve.

**wimp** *noun* (informal) **coward**, namby-pamby, milksop, weakling; informal drip, sissy, weed, pansy, scaredy-cat, chicken; Brit. informal wet, mummy's boy, big girl's blouse; N. Amer. informal cupcake, pantywaist, wuss, pussy; Austral./NZ informal sook; old use poltroon.

**win** *verb* **1** *Steve won the race: be the victor in*, be the winner of, come first in, take first prize in, triumph in, be successful in. **2** *she was determined to win: come first*, be the winner, be victorious, carry/win the day, come out on top, succeed, triumph, prevail. **3** *he won a cash prize: secure*, gain, collect, pick up, walk away/off with, carry off; informal land, net, bag, scoop. **4** *Ilona won his heart: captivate*, steal.

– OPPOSITES lose.

• *noun* a 3–0 win: **victory**, triumph, conquest.

– OPPOSITES defeat.

■ **win someone round/over** persuade, talk round, convince, sway, prevail on.

**wince** *verb* *he winced at the pain: grimace*, pull a face, flinch, blench, start.

• *noun* a wince of pain: **grimace**, flinch, start.

**wind**<sup>1</sup> *noun* **1** *the trees were swaying in the wind: breeze*, current of air; gale, hurricane; informal blow; literary zephyr. **2** *Jez got his wind back: breath*; informal puff. **3** **flatulence**, gas; formal flatus.

■ **get wind of** (informal) hear about/of, learn of, find out about, be told about, be informed of; informal hear something on the grapevine.

■ **in the wind** on the way, coming, about to happen, in the offing, in the air, on the horizon, approaching, looming, brewing, afoot; informal on the cards.

#### WORD LINKS

**anemometer** an instrument for measuring wind speed

**Beaufort scale** a scale for wind speed

**wind**<sup>2</sup> *verb* **1** *the road winds up the mountain: twist (and turn)*, bend, curve, loop, zigzag, weave, snake. **2** *he wound a towel around his waist: wrap*, furl, entwine, lace. **3** *Anne wound the wool into a ball: coil*, roll, twist, twine.

■ **wind down** **1** (informal) *he needed to wind down: relax*, unwind, calm down, cool down/off, ease up/off, take it easy, rest, put one's feet up; informal chill (out), cool out; N. Amer. informal hang loose. **2** *the campaign was winding down: draw* to a close, come to an end, tail off, slack(en) off, slow down.

■ **wind something down** bring to a close/end, wind up, close down.

■ **wind up** (informal) end up, finish up, find oneself, land up; informal fetch up.

■ **wind someone up** **1** (Brit. informal) *Katie was just winding me up: tease*, make fun of, chaff; informal take the mickey out of, send up, rib, josh, kid, have on, pull someone's leg; N. Amer. informal pull someone's chain; Austral./NZ informal poke mullock at. **2** *David was winding him up on purpose: annoy*,

anger, irritate, exasperate, get on someone's nerves, provoke, goad; Brit. rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, rile, niggle, bug, put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, hack off; Brit. informal nark; N. Amer. informal ride.

■ **wind something up** **1** *Richard wound up the meeting: conclude*, bring to an end/close, end, terminate; informal wrap up. **2** *the company has been wound up: close* (down), dissolve, put into liquidation.

**winded** *adjective out of breath*, breathless, gasping for breath, panting, puffing, puffed out; informal out of puff.

**windfall** *noun bonanza*, jackpot, pennies from heaven.

**winding** *noun the windings of the stream: twist*, turn, turning, bend, loop, curve, zigzag, meander.

• *adjective the winding country roads: twisting and turning*, meandering, windy,

twisty, bending, curving, zigzag, zigzagging, serpentine, sinuous, snaking.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**windpipe** *noun trachea*, pharynx; throat.

**windswept** *adjective* **1** *the windswept moors: exposed*, bleak, bare, desolate. **2** *his windswept hair: dishevelled*, tousled, wind-blown, unkempt, untidy; N. Amer. mussed up.

**windy** *adjective* **1** *a windy day: breezy*, blowy, fresh, blustery, gusty; wild, stormy, squally, tempestuous, boisterous. **2** *a windy hillside: windswept*, exposed, open to the elements, bare, bleak. **3** (informal) *windy speeches*. See **LONG-WINDED**. **4** (Brit. informal) *she still felt a bit windy*. See **ANXIOUS** sense 1.

– OPPOSITES still, sheltered.

**wine** *noun* informal plonk, vino, the grape; literary vintage.

#### WORD LINKS

**vinous** relating to wine

**oenology** the study of wines

**oenophile** a connoisseur of wines

**viticulture** the cultivation of grape vines

**vintner** a wine merchant

**sommelier** a wine waiter

**wing** *noun* **1** *a bird's wings: literary pinion*. **2** *the east wing of the house: part*, section, side; annexe, extension; N. Amer. ell. **3** *the radical wing of the party: faction*, camp, caucus, arm, branch, group, section, set, coterie, cabal.

• *verb* **1** *a seagull winged its way over the sea: fly*, glide, soar. **2** *the bomb winged past: hurtle*, speed, shoot, whizz, zoom, streak, fly. **3** *she was shot at and winged: wound*, graze, hit.

■ **wing it** (informal) improvise, play it by ear, extemporize, ad lib; informal busk it.

**wink** *verb* **1** *he winked an eye at her: blink*, flutter, bat. **2** *the diamond winked in the moonlight: sparkle*, twinkle, flash, glitter, gleam, shine, scintillate.

• *noun* a wink of light: glimmer, gleam, glint, flash, flicker, twinkle, sparkle.

■ **wink at** turn a blind eye to, close one's eyes to, ignore, overlook, disregard; connive at, condone, tolerate.



**winkle** verb

■ **winkle something out** worm out, prise out, dig out, extract, draw out, obtain, get.

**winner** noun victor, champion, conqueror, vanquisher, hero; medallist; Brit. victor ludorum; informal champ, top dog.

– OPPOSITES loser.

**winning** adjective **1** *the winning team will receive £5,000*: victorious, successful, triumphant, vanquishing, conquering; first, top. **2** *a winning smile*: engaging, charming, appealing, endearing, sweet, cute, winsome, attractive, pretty, prepossessing, fetching, lovely, adorable, delightful, disarming, captivating; dated taking.

**winnings** plural noun prize money, gains, prize, booty, spoils; proceeds, profits, takings, purse.

**winnow** verb separate (out), divide, sort out, sift out, filter out; isolate, find, identify; remove, get rid of.

**winsome** adjective. See WINNING sense 2.

**wintry** adjective **1** *wintry weather*: bleak, cold, chilly, chill, frosty, freezing, icy, snowy, arctic, glacial, bitter, raw; informal nippy; Brit. informal parky. **2** *a wintry smile*: unfriendly, unwelcoming, cool, cold, frosty, frigid.

– OPPOSITES summery, warm.

**wipe** verb **1** *Beth wiped the table*: rub, mop, sponge, swab; clean, dry, polish. **2** *he wiped the marks off the window*: rub off, clean off, clear up, remove, get rid of, take off, erase, efface. **3** *she wiped the memory from her mind*: obliterate, expunge, erase, blot out, blank out.

● noun *he gave the table a wipe*: rub, mop, sponge, swab; clean, polish.

■ **wipe someone/something out** destroy, annihilate, eradicate, eliminate; slaughter, massacre, kill, exterminate; demolish, raze to the ground; informal take out, zap; N. Amer. informal waste; literary slay.

**wire** noun cable, lead, flex.

**wiry** adjective **1** *a wiry man*: sinewy, tough, athletic, strong; lean, spare, thin, stringy, skinny. **2** *wiry hair*: coarse, rough, strong; curly, wavy.

– OPPOSITES flabby, smooth.

**wisdom** noun **1** *we questioned the wisdom of the decision*: sagacity, intelligence, sense, common sense, shrewdness, astuteness, smartness, judiciousness, judgement, prudence, circumspection; logic, rationale, rationality, soundness, advisability. **2** *the wisdom of the East*: knowledge, learning, erudition, scholarship, philosophy; lore.

– OPPOSITES folly.

**wise** adjective *a wise old man*: sage, sagacious, intelligent, clever, learned, knowledgeable, enlightened; astute, smart, shrewd, sharp-witted, canny, knowing; sensible, prudent, discerning, judicious, perceptive, insightful, perspicacious; rational, logical, sound, sane; Brit. informal fly; formal sapient.

– OPPOSITES foolish.

■ **wise to** (informal) aware of, familiar with, acquainted with; formal cognizant of.

**wisecrack** noun (informal) joke, witticism, quip, jest, sally; pun, bon mot; informal crack, gag, funny, one-liner.

**wish** verb **1** *I wished for power*: desire, want, hope for, covet, dream of, long for, yearn for, crave, hunger for, lust after; aspire to, set one's heart on, seek, fancy, hanker after; informal have a yen for, itch for; old use be desirous of. **2** *they can do as they wish*: want, desire, feel inclined, feel like, care; choose, please, think fit. **3** *I wish you to send them a message*: want, desire, require. **4** *I wished him farewell*: bid.

● noun **1** *his wish to own a Mercedes*: desire, longing, yearning, inclination, urge, whim, craving, hunger; hope, aspiration, aim, ambition, dream; informal hankering, yen, itch. **2** *her parents' wishes*: request, requirement, bidding, instruction, direction, demand, order, command; want, desire; will; literary behest.

**wishy-washy** adjective **1** *he's so wishy-washy*: feeble, ineffectual, weak, rapid, effete, spineless, limp, namby-pamby, spiritless, indecisive; informal wet, pathetic. **2** *wishy-washy soup*: watery, weak, thin; tasteless, flavourless, insipid. **3** *a wishy-washy colour*: pale, insipid, pallid, muted.

– OPPOSITES strong, tasty, vibrant.

**wisp** noun strand, tendril, lock; scrap, shred, thread.

**wispy** adjective thin, fine, feathery, flyaway.

**wistful** adjective *a long, wistful sigh*: nostalgic, yearning, longing; plaintive, regretful, rueful, melancholy, mournful; pensive, reflective, contemplative.

**wit** noun **1** *he needed all his wits to escape*: intelligence, shrewdness, astuteness, cleverness, caniness, (common) sense, wisdom, sagacity, judgement, acumen, insight; brains, mind; informal nous, gumption, savvy, horse sense; Brit. informal common; N. Amer. informal smarts. **2** *my sparkling wit*: witiness, humour, funniness, drollery; repartee, badinage, banter, wordplay; jokes, witticisms, quips, puns. **3** *she's such a wit*: comedian, humorist, comic, joker, jokester; informal wag; informal, dated card, caution.

**witch** noun **1** *the witch cast a spell*: sorceress, enchantress, hex; Wiccan; old use pythoness. **2** (informal) *she's a right old witch*: hag, crone, harpy, harridan, she-devil; informal battleaxe.

**witchcraft** noun sorcery, (black) magic, witching, witchery, wizardry, thaumaturgy, spells, incantations; Wicca; Irish pishogue.

**witch doctor** noun medicine man, shaman, healer.

**with** preposition accompanied by, escorted by; alongside, in addition to, as well as.

**withdraw** verb **1** *she withdrew her hand from his*: remove, extract, pull out, take out; take back, take away. **2** *the ban on advertising was withdrawn*: abolish, cancel, lift, set aside, end, stop, remove, reverse, revoke, rescind, repeal, annul, void. **3** *she withdrew the allegation*: retract, take back, go back on, recant, disavow, disclaim,

repudiate, renounce; back down, climb down, backtrack, back-pedal, do a U-turn, eat one's words. **4** *the troops withdrew from the city*: leave, pull out of, evacuate, quit, retreat from. **5** *his partner withdrew from the project*: pull out of, back out of, bow out of; get cold feet. **6** *they withdrew to their rooms*: retire, retreat, adjourn, decamp; leave, depart, absent oneself; formal repair; dated remove; literary betake oneself.

– OPPOSITES insert, introduce, deposit, enter.

**withdrawal** noun **1** *the withdrawal of subsidies*: removal, abolition, cancellation, discontinuation, termination, elimination. **2** *the withdrawal of the troops*: departure, pull-out, exit, exodus, evacuation, retreat.

**withdrawn** adjective **introverted**, quiet, unsociable, inhibited, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, reticent, reserved, retiring, private, reclusive; shy, timid; aloof; informal stand-offish.

– OPPOSITES outgoing.

**wither** verb **1** *the flowers withered in the sun*: shrivel (up), dry up; wilt, droop, go limp, fade, perish. **2** *the muscles in his leg withered*: waste (away), shrivel (up), shrink, atrophy. **3** *her confidence withered*: diminish, dwindle, shrink, lessen, fade, ebb, wane; evaporate, disappear.

– OPPOSITES thrive, grow.

**withering** adjective **scornful**, contemptuous, scathing, stinging, devastating; humiliating, mortifying.

– OPPOSITES admiring.

**withhold** verb **1** *he withheld important information*: hold back, keep back, refuse to give; retain, hold on to; hide, conceal, keep secret; informal sit on. **2** *she could not withhold her tears*: suppress, repress, hold back, fight back, choke back, control, check, restrain, contain.

**within** preposition **1** *within the prison walls*: inside, in, enclosed by, surrounded by; within the bounds of, within the confines of. **2** *within a few hours*: in less than, in under, after only.

– OPPOSITES outside.

**without** preposition **1** *thousands were without food*: lacking, short of, deprived of, in need of, wanting, needing, requiring. **2** *I don't want to go without you*: unaccompanied by, unescorted by; in the absence of.

**withstand** verb resist, weather, survive, endure, cope with, stand, tolerate, bear, defy, brave, hold out against, bear up against; stand up to, face, confront.

**witless** adjective foolish, stupid, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, mindless; fatuous, inane, half-baked, empty-headed, slow-witted; informal thick, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, dippy, lamebrained, wooden-headed; Brit. informal daft; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit.

**witness** noun **1** *witnesses claimed that he started the fight*: observer, onlooker, eyewitness, spectator, viewer, watcher;

bystander, passer-by. **2** *a whisky bottle was the only witness of his mood*: evidence, indication, proof, testimony.

• verb **1** *who witnessed the incident?* see, observe, watch, view, notice, spot; be present at, attend; literary behold. **2** *the will is correctly witnessed*: countersign, sign, endorse, validate; N. Amer. notarize. **3** *his writings witness an inner toughness*: attest to, testify to, bear witness to, confirm, evidence, prove, verify, corroborate, substantiate; show, demonstrate, indicate, reveal, bespeak.

**witter** verb (Brit. informal). See GABBLE verb.

**witticism** noun joke, quip, jest, pun, play on words, bon mot; informal one-liner, gag, funny, crack, wisecrack.

**witty** adjective humorous, amusing, droll, funny, comic, comical, chucklesome; jocular, facetious, waggish; sparkling, scintillating, entertaining; clever, quick-witted.

**wizard** noun **1** *the wizard cast a spell over them*: sorcerer, warlock, magus, (black) magician, enchanter; old use mage. **2** *a financial wizard*: genius, expert, master, virtuoso, maestro, marvel, Wunderkind; informal hotshot, demon, whizz-kid, buff, pro, ace; Brit. informal dab hand; N. Amer. informal maven.

**wizardry** noun sorcery, witchcraft, witchery, witching, (black) magic, enchantment; spells, charms; Irish pishogue.

**wizened** adjective wrinkled, lined, creased, shrivelled (up), withered, weather-beaten, shrunken, gnarled.

**wobble** verb **1** *the table wobbled*: rock, teeter, jiggle, sway, see-saw, shake. **2** *he wobbled across to the door*: teeter, totter, stagger, lurch. **3** *her voice wobbled*: tremble, shake, quiver, quaver, waver. **4** *for a few days the minister wobbled*: hesitate, vacillate, waver, dither, shilly-shally, blow hot and cold; Scottish swither.

• noun **1** *she stood up with a wobble*: totter, teeter, sway. **2** *the operatic wobble in her voice*: tremor, quiver, quaver, trembling, vibrato.

**wobbly** adjective **1** *a wobbly table*: unsteady, unstable, shaky, rocky, rickety; unsafe, precarious; uneven, unbalanced; informal wonky. **2** *her legs were a bit wobbly*: shaky, quivery, weak, unsteady; informal trembly, like jelly. **3** *I feel so wobbly*: faint, dizzy, light-headed, giddy, weak (at the knees), groggy, muzzy; informal woozy.

– OPPOSITES stable.

**woe** noun **1** *a long tale of woe*: misery, sorrow, distress, wretchedness, sadness, unhappiness, heartache, heartbreak, despondency, despair, depression, gloom, melancholy; adversity, misfortune, disaster, suffering, hardship; literary dolour. **2** *financial woes*: trouble, difficulty, problem, trial, tribulation, misfortune, setback, reverse.

– OPPOSITES joy.

**woebegone** adjective sad, unhappy, miserable, dejected, disconsolate, forlorn, crestfallen, downcast, glum, gloomy, doleful,

downhearted, despondent, melancholy, sorrowful, mournful, woeful, depressed, wretched, desolate; informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, blue.

– OPPOSITES cheerful.

**woeful** adjective **1** *her face was woeful.*

See **WOEBEGONE**. **2** *a woeful tale:* tragic, sad, miserable, cheerless, gloomy, sorry, pitiful, pathetic, traumatic, depressing, heart-breaking, heart-rending, tear-jerking.

**3** *the team's woeful performance:* dreadful, awful, terrible, atrocious, appalling, abysmal, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, hopeless, lamentable; substandard, poor, inadequate, inferior, unsatisfactory; informal rotten, crummy, pathetic, pitiful, lousy, dire; Brit. informal duff, pathetic, rubbish.

– OPPOSITES cheerful, excellent.

**wolf** verb **devour**, gobble (up), guzzle, gulp down, bolt; informal put away, demolish, shovel down, scoop (down), get outside of, Hoover up, trough; Brit. informal gollop; N. Amer. informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).

#### WORD LINKS

**lupine** relating to wolves

**werewolf**, **lycanthrope** (in folklore) a person who periodically changes into a wolf

**wolfish** adjective (informal) **lascivious**, lecherous, lustful; predatory, rapacious.

**woman** noun **1** *a woman got out of the car:*

**lady**, girl, female; matron; Scottish & N. English lass, lassie; Irish colleen; informal chick, girlie, filly, biddy; Brit. informal bird; Scottish & N. English informal wife; N. Amer. informal sister, dame, broad, gal, jane; Austral./NZ informal sheila; literary maid, maiden, damsel; old use wench, gentlewoman. **2** *he found himself a new woman:* girlfriend, sweetheart, partner,

significant other, innamorata, lover, mistress; fiancée; wife, spouse; informal bird, fancy woman, missus, better half; Brit. informal other half, Dutch, trouble and strife; Irish informal mot; N. Amer. informal squeeze; dated lady friend, lady-love; old use leman.

#### WORD LINKS

**female**, **feminine** relating to women

**distaff side** the female side of a family

**gynaecology** the branch of medicine concerning women

**matriarchy** a society in which women hold the power

**matrilineal** based on relationship with the mother or female line of descent

**misogyny** hatred of women

**yin** (in Chinese philosophy) the passive

female principle of the universe

**womanhood** noun **1** *she was on the brink of womanhood:* adulthood, maturity; literary muliebriety. **2** *she's an ideal of womanhood:* womanliness, femininity. **3** *the stereotype of Soviet womanhood:* women, womenfolk; womankind, womenkind, woman; the female sex.

**womanish** adjective effeminate, girlish, girlie, unmanly, unmasculine.

– OPPOSITES manly.

**womanizer** noun **philanderer**, Casanova, Don Juan, Romeo, Lothario, ladies' man, playboy, seducer, rake, roué, libertine, lecher; informal skirt-chaser, ladykiller, lech.

**womankind** noun **women**, woman, the female sex, womenkind, womanhood, womenfolk.

**womanly** adjective **1** *womanly virtues:* feminine, female; old use feminal. **2** *her womanly figure:* voluptuous, curvaceous, shapely, ample, Junoesque, Rubenesque, buxom, full-figured; informal curvy, busty.

– OPPOSITES masculine, boyish.

**wonder** noun **1** *she was speechless with wonder:* awe, admiration, wonderment, fascination; surprise, astonishment, amazement. **2** *the wonders of nature:*

**marvel**, miracle, phenomenon, sensation, spectacle, beauty; curiosity.

• verb **1** *I wondered what was on her mind:*

**ponder**, think about, meditate on, reflect on, muse on, speculate about, conjecture; be curious about. **2** *people wondered at such bravery:* marvel, be amazed, be astonished, stand in awe, be dumbfounded, gape, goggle; informal be flabbergasted.

**wonderful** adjective **marvellous**, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful; informal super, great, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, sensational, incredible, fabulous, fab, awesome, magic, ace, wicked, far out; Brit. informal smashing, brilliant, brill; N. Amer. informal peachy, dandy, neat; Austral./NZ informal beaut, bonzer; Brit. informal, dated champion, wizard, spiffing, topping; N. Amer. informal, dated swell.

– OPPOSITES awful.

**wonky** adjective (Brit. informal) **1** *a wonky picture.* See **CROOKED** sense 3. **2** *wonky stools.* See **WOBBLY** sense 1.

**wont** adjective (literary) *he was wont to arise at 5.30:* accustomed, used, given, inclined.

• noun (formal) *Paul drove fast, as was his wont:* custom, habit, way, practice, convention, rule.

**wonted** adjective (literary) **customary**, habitual, usual, accustomed, familiar, normal, conventional, routine, common.

**woo** verb **1** *Richard wooed Joan:* pay court to, pursue, chase (after); dated court, romance, seek the hand of, set one's cap at, make love to. **2** *the party wooed voters with promises:* seek, pursue, curry favour with, try to win, try to attract, try to cultivate. **3** *an attempt to woo him out of retirement:* entice, tempt, coax, persuade, wheedle; informal sweet-talk.

**wood** noun **1** *polished wood:* timber, planks, planking; logs; N. Amer. lumber. **2** *a walk through the woods:* forest, woodland, trees; copse, coppice, grove; Brit. spinney; old use greenwood.

#### WORD LINKS

**ligneous** consisting of wood

**carpenter**, **joiner**, **cabinetmaker** a person

who makes wooden objects or structures

**lathe** a machine for shaping wood



**wooded** adjective forested, afforested, tree-covered, woody; literary sylvan, bosky.

**wooden** adjective **1** *a wooden door*: wood, timber, woody; ligneous. **2** *wooden acting*: stilted, stiff, unnatural, awkward, leaden; dry, flat, stodgy, lifeless, passionless, spiritless, soulless. **3** *her face was wooden*: expressionless, impassive, poker-faced, emotionless, blank, vacant, unresponsive.

**woodland** noun woods, wood, forest, trees; old use greenwood.

**woodwork** noun carpentry, joinery.

**wool** noun **1** *sheep's wool*: fleece, hair, coat; floccus. **2** *a sweater made of cream wool*: yarn.

■ *pull the wool over someone's eyes* (informal) deceive, fool, trick, hoodwink, dupe, delude; informal lead up the garden path, put one over on, bamboozle, con.

**wool-gathering** noun daydreaming, dreaming, reverie, musing, abstraction, preoccupation; absent-mindedness, forgetfulness.

**woolly** adjective **1** *a woolly hat*: woollen, wool, fleecy. **2** *a sheep's woolly coat*: fleecy, shaggy, hairy, fluffy, flocculent. **3** *woolly generalizations*: vague, ill-defined, hazy, unclear, fuzzy, blurry, foggy, nebulous, imprecise, inexact, indefinite; confused, muddled.

● noun (informal) *sweater, pullover, jersey, cardigan*; Brit. *jumper*; Brit. informal *cardy*.

**woozy** adjective (informal). See GROGgy.

**word** noun **1** *the Italian word for 'ham'*: term, name, expression, designation, locution, vocable; formal appellation. **2** *his words were meant kindly*: remark, comment, observation, statement, utterance, pronouncement. **3** *I've got three weeks to learn the words*: script, lyrics, libretto. **4** *I give you my word*: promise, word of honour, assurance, guarantee, undertaking; pledge, vow, oath, bond; formal troth. **5** *I want a word with you*: talk, conversation, chat, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, one-to-one; discussion, consultation; informal confab, powwow; formal confabulation. **6** *there's no word from the hospital*: news, information, communication, intelligence; message, report, communiqué, dispatch, bulletin; informal info, gen, dope; literary tidings. **7** *word has it he's turned over a new leaf*: rumour, hearsay, talk, gossip; informal the grapevine, the word on the street. **8** *I'm waiting for the word from HQ*: instruction, order, command; signal, prompt, cue, tip-off; informal go-ahead, thumbs up, green light. **9** *his word was law*: command, order, decree, edict; bidding, will. **10** *our word now must be success*: motto, watchword, slogan, catchword, buzz word.

● verb *the question was carefully worded*: phrase, express, put, couch, frame, formulate, style; say, utter.

■ *have words quarrel, argue, disagree, squabble, bicker, fight, wrangle, dispute, fall out, clash*; Brit. informal *row*.

■ *in a word* briefly, to be brief, in short, in a

nutshell, to come to the point, to cut a long story short, not to put too fine a point on it; to sum up, to summarize, in summary.

■ **word for word** **1** *they took down the speeches word for word*: verbatim, letter for letter, to the letter; exactly, faithfully. **2** *a word-for-word translation*: verbatim, literal, exact, direct, accurate, faithful; unadulterated, unabridged.

#### WORD LINKS

**verbal**, lexical relating to words

**semantic** relating to the meaning of words

**syntax** the arrangement of words to make a well-formed sentence

**etymology** an account of the origins of a word

**wording** noun phrasing, phraseology, words, language, expression, terminology.

**wordplay** noun punning, puns, play on words; wit, witticisms, repartee.

**wordy** adjective long-winded, verbose, prolix, lengthy, protracted, long-drawn-out, rambling, circumlocutory, periphrastic, pleonastic; loquacious, garrulous, voluble; informal windy; Brit. informal waffly.

– OPPOSITES succinct.

**work** noun **1** *a day's work in the fields*:

labour, toil, slog, drudgery, exertion, effort, industry, service; informal grind, sweat, elbow grease; Brit. informal graft, fag; Austral./NZ informal yakka; literary travail. **2** *I'm looking for work*:

employment, a job, a post, a position, a situation; occupation, profession, career, vocation, calling. **3** *haven't you got any work?*

tasks, jobs, duties, assignments, projects; chores. **4** *works of literature*: composition, piece, creation; opus, oeuvre. **5** *this is the work of a radical faction*: handiwork, doing, act, deed. **6** *a lifetime spent doing good works*:

deeds, acts, actions. **7** *the complete works of Shakespeare*: writings, oeuvre, canon, output. **8** *a car works*: factory, plant, mill, foundry, yard, workshop, shop. **9** *the works of a clock*: mechanism, machinery, workings, parts, movement, action; informal insides.

**10** (informal) *for only \$60 you can get the works*: everything, the full treatment; informal the lot, the whole shebang, the full nine yards; Brit. informal the full monty.

– OPPOSITES leisure.

● verb **1** *staff worked late into the night*: toil, labour, exert oneself, slave (away); keep at it, keep one's nose to the grindstone; informal slog (away), beaver away, plug away, put one's back into it, knock oneself out, sweat blood; Brit. informal graft, fag; literary travail. **2** *he worked in education for years*: be employed, have a job, earn one's living, do business. **3** *farmers worked the land*: cultivate, farm, till, plough. **4** *his car was working perfectly*: function, go, run, operate; informal behave. **5** *how do I work this machine?* operate, use, handle, control, manipulate, run. **6** *their play worked*: succeed, work out, turn out well, go as planned, get results, be effective; informal come off, pay off, do the trick. **7** *blusher can work miracles*: bring about, accomplish, achieve, produce,

perform, create, engender, contrive, effect.

**8** (informal) *the chairman was prepared to work it for Phil*: **arrange**, manipulate, contrive; pull strings; N. Amer. pull wires; informal fix, swing, wangle. **9** *he worked the crowd into a frenzy*: **stir (up)**, excite, drive, move, rouse, fire, galvanize; whip up, agitate. **10** *work the mixture into a paste*: **knead**, squeeze, form; mix, stir, blend. **11** *he worked the blade into the padlock*: **manoeuvre**, manipulate, guide, edge. **12** *her mouth worked furiously*: **twitch**, quiver, convulse. **13** *he worked his way through the crowd*: **manoeuvre**, make, thread, wind, weave, wend.

– OPPOSITES rest, fail.

■ **work on someone** persuade, manipulate, influence; coax, cajole, wheedle, soften up; informal twist someone's arm, lean on.

■ **work out 1** *the bill works out at £50*: amount to, add up to, come to, total; Brit. tot up to. **2** *my idea worked out*. See **WORK** verb sense 6. **3** *things didn't work out the way she planned*: end up, turn out, go, come out, develop; happen, occur; informal pan out. **4** *he works out at the local gym*: exercise, train.

■ **work something out 1** *work out what you can afford*: calculate, compute, reckon up, determine. **2** *I'm trying to work out what she meant*: understand, comprehend, puzzle out, sort out, make sense of, get to the bottom of, make head or tail of, unravel, decipher, decode; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss out. **3** *they worked out a plan*: devise, formulate, draw up, put together, develop, construct, arrange, organize, contrive, concoct; hammer out, negotiate.

■ **work something up** stimulate, rouse, raise, arouse, awaken, excite.

**workable** adjective practicable, feasible, viable, possible, achievable; realistic, reasonable, sensible, practical; informal doable.

– OPPOSITES impracticable.

**workaday** adjective ordinary, average, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, undistinguished, commonplace, mundane, humdrum, pedestrian; routine, everyday, day-to-day; N. Amer. garden-variety; informal bog-standard, nothing to write home about, ten a penny, a dime a dozen; Brit. informal common or garden.

– OPPOSITES exceptional.

**worker** noun **1** *a strike by 500 workers*: employee, member of staff; workman, labourer, hand, operative, operator; proletarian; artisan, craftsman, craftswoman; wage-earner, breadwinner. **2** (informal) *I got a reputation for being a worker*: **hard worker**, toiler, workhorse; informal busy bee, eager beaver, workaholic; N. Amer. informal wheel horse.

**workforce** noun employees, staff, workers, personnel, labour force, manpower; human resources; informal livelihood.

**working** adjective **1** *working mothers*: employed, in (gainful) employment, in work, waged. **2** *a working waterwheel*: functioning, operating, running, active,

operational, functional, serviceable; informal up and running. **3** *a working knowledge of contract law*: sufficient, adequate, viable; useful, effective.

– OPPOSITES unemployed, faulty.

• noun **1** *the working of a carburettor*: functioning, operation, running, action, performance. **2** *the workings of a watch*: mechanism, machinery, parts, movement, action, works; informal insides.

**workman** noun (manual) worker, labourer, hand, operative, operator; employee; journeyman, artisan.

**workmanlike** adjective *the team put up a solid, workmanlike performance*: efficient, competent, professional, proficient, skilful, adept, masterly.

**workmanship** noun craftsmanship, artistry, craft, art, artisanship, handiwork; skill, expertise, technique.

**workout** noun exercise session, keep-fit session, training session, drill; warm-up; exercises, aerobics; informal, dated daily dozen.

**workshop** noun **1** *a car repair workshop*: factory, works, plant; garage. **2** *the craftsmen had a chilly workshop*: workshop, studio, atelier. **3** *a workshop on combating stress*: study group, discussion group, seminar, class.

**world** noun **1** *he travelled the world*: earth, globe, planet. **2** *life on other worlds*: planet, satellite, moon, star, heavenly body, orb. **3** *the academic world*: sphere, society, circle, arena, milieu, province, domain, orbit, preserve, realm, field, discipline, area. **4** *she would show the world that she was strong*: everyone, everybody, people, mankind, humankind, humanity, the (general) public, the population, the populace, all and sundry, every mother's son, {every Tom, Dick, and Harry}, every man jack. **5** *a world of difference*: huge amount, good deal, great deal, abundance, wealth, profusion, mountain; plenty; informal heap, lot, load, ton, masses; Brit. informal shedload. **6** *she renounced the world*: society, secular interests, temporal concerns, earthly concerns.

#### WORD LINKS

global, mondial relating to the whole world

**worldly** adjective **1** *his youth was wasted on worldly pursuits*: earthly, terrestrial, temporal, mundane; mortal, human, material, materialistic, physical, carnal, fleshly, bodily, corporeal, sensual. **2** *a worldly man*: sophisticated, experienced, worldly-wise, knowledgeable, knowing, enlightened, shrewd, mature, seasoned, cosmopolitan, urbane, cultivated, cultured.

– OPPOSITES spiritual, naive.

**worldly-wise** adjective. See **WORLDLY** sense 2. **worldwide** adjective global, international, intercontinental, universal; ubiquitous, extensive, widespread, far-reaching, wide-ranging, all-embracing.

– OPPOSITES local.

**worm** noun**WORD LINKS**

vermiform resembling a worm

vermicide a substance used to kill worms

**worn** adjective **1** *his hat was worn: shabby, worn out, threadbare, tattered, in tatters, holey, falling to pieces, ragged, frayed, moth-eaten, scruffy, having seen better days; informal tatty, ratty, the worse for wear; N. Amer. informal raggedy.* **2** *her face looked worn.* See **WORN OUT** sense 2.

– **OPPOSITES** smart, fresh.

**worn out** adjective **1** *a worn-out shirt.* See **WORN** sense 1. **2** *by evening they looked worn out: exhausted, fatigued, tired (out), weary, drained, worn, drawn, wan, sapped, spent; careworn, haggard, hollow-eyed, pinched, pale, peaky; informal all in, done in, dog-tired, dead beat, fit to drop, shattered; Brit. informal knackered; N. Amer. informal pooped, tucked out.* **3** *worn-out ideas: obsolete, antiquated, old, stale, hackneyed, trite, overused, overworked, clichéd, unoriginal, commonplace, pedestrian, prosaic, stock, conventional; informal played out, old hat.*

– **OPPOSITES** smart, fresh.

**worried** adjective *anxious, perturbed, troubled, bothered, concerned, upset, distressed, distraught, disquieted, uneasy, fretful, agitated, nervous, edgy, on edge, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up, stressed; apprehensive, fearful, afraid, frightened, scared; informal uptight, a bundle of nerves, on tenterhooks, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a stew, all of a dither, in a flap, in a sweat, het up, rattled; Brit. informal windy, having kittens; N. Amer. informal antsy, squirrely.*

– **OPPOSITES** carefree.**worrisome** adjective. See **WORRYING**.

**worry** verb **1** *she worries about his health: fret, be concerned, be anxious, agonize, brood, panic, lose sleep, get worked up; informal get stressed, get in a flap, get in a state, stew, torment oneself.* **2** *is something worrying you? trouble, bother, make anxious, disturb, distress, upset, concern, disquiet, fret, agitate, unsettle, perturb, scare, fluster, stress, tax, torment, plague, bedevil; prey on one's mind, weigh down, gnaw at; informal rattle, bug, get to.* **3** *a dog worried his sheep: attack, savage, maul, mutilate, mangle, go for; molest, torment, persecute.*

• **noun** **1** *I'm beside myself with worry: anxiety, perturbation, distress, concern, uneasiness, unease, disquiet, fretfulness, restlessness, nervousness, nerves, agitation, edginess, tension, stress; apprehension, fear, dread, trepidation, misgiving, angst; informal butterflies (in the stomach), the willies, the heebie-jeebies.* **2** *the rats are a worry: problem, cause for concern; nuisance, pest, plague, trial, trouble, vexation, bane, bugbear; informal pain (in the neck), headache, hassle, stress.*

**worrying** adjective *alarming, worrisome,*

*daunting, perturbing, niggling, bothersome, troublesome, unsettling, nerve-racking; distressing, disquieting, upsetting, traumatic, problematic; informal scary, hairy.*

**worsen** verb **1** *insomnia can worsen a patient's distress: aggravate, exacerbate, compound, add to, intensify, increase, magnify, heighten, inflame, augment; informal add fuel to the fire.* **2** *the recession worsened: deteriorate, degenerate, decline, go downhill; informal go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, nosedive.*

– **OPPOSITES** improve.**worship** noun **1** *the worship of saints:*

*reverence, veneration, adoration, glorification, glory, exaltation; devotion, praise, thanksgiving, homage, honour; dulia, latria; formal laudation; old use magnification.* **2** *morning worship: service, religious rite, prayer, praise, devotion, religious observance; matins, vespers, evensong.* **3** *he contemplated her with worship: admiration, adulation, idolization, lionization, hero-worship.*

• **verb** *they worship pagan gods: revere, reverence, venerate, pay homage to, honour, adore, praise, pray to, glorify, exalt, extol; hold dear, cherish, treasure, esteem, adulate, idolize, deify, hero-worship, lionize; informal put on a pedestal; formal laud; old use magnify.*

**worst** verb *defeat, beat, prevail over, triumph over, trounce, rout, vanquish, conquer, master, overcome, overwhelm, overpower, crush; outdo, outclass, outstrip, surpass; informal thrash, lick, best, clobber, drub, slaughter, murder, wipe out, crucify, demolish, wipe the floor with, take to the cleaners, walk all over, make mincemeat of; Brit. informal stuff; N. Amer. informal shellac.*

**worth** noun **1** *evidence of the rug's worth: value, price, cost; valuation, quotation, estimate.* **2** *the intrinsic worth of education: benefit, advantage, use, value, virtue, utility, service, profit, help, aid; desirability, appeal; significance, sense; informal mileage, percentage; old use behoof.* **3** *a sense of personal worth: worthiness, merit, value, excellence, calibre, quality, stature, eminence, consequence, importance, significance, distinction.*

**worthless** adjective **1** *the item was worthless: valueless; poor quality, inferior, second-rate, low-grade, cheap, shoddy, tawdry; informal crummy, rubbishy, ten a penny; Brit. informal twopenny-halfpenny; N. Amer. informal nickel-and-dime.* **2** *your conclusions are worthless: useless, no use, ineffective, ineffectual, fruitless, unproductive, unavailing, pointless, nugatory, valueless, inadequate, deficient, meaningless, senseless, insubstantial, empty, hollow, trifling, petty, inconsequential, lame, paltry, pathetic; informal a dead loss.* **3** *his worthless son: good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, useless, despicable, contemptible, low, ignominious, corrupt, villainous, degenerate, shiftless, feckless; informal no-good, lousy.*

– **OPPOSITES** valuable, useful.**worthwhile** adjective *valuable, useful,*



of use, of service, beneficial, rewarding, advantageous, positive, helpful, profitable, gainful, fruitful, productive, constructive, effective, effectual, meaningful, worthy.

**worthy** adjective *a worthy citizen*: virtuous, righteous, good, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary; law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honest, honourable, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, meritorious, admirable; pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic; informal squeaky clean.

– OPPOSITES disreputable.

• **noun** *local worthies*: dignitary, personage, grandee, VIP, notable, notability, pillar of society, luminary, leading light, big name; informal heavyweight, bigwig, top dog, big shot, big cheese; N. Amer. informal big wheel, big kahuna.

– OPPOSITES nobody.

■ **be worthy of** deserve, merit, warrant, rate, justify, earn, be entitled to, qualify for.

**would-be** adjective aspiring, budding, promising, prospective, potential, hopeful, keen, eager, ambitious; informal wannabe.

**wound** noun **1** *a chest wound*: injury, lesion, cut, gash, laceration, tear, slash; graze, scratch, abrasion; bruise, contusion; Medicine trauma. **2** *the wounds inflicted by the media*: insult, blow, slight, offence, affront; hurt, damage, injury, pain, distress, grief, anguish, torment.

• **verb 1** *he was critically wounded*: injure, hurt, harm; maim, mutilate, disable, incapacitate, cripple; lacerate, cut, graze, gash, stab, slash. **2** *her words had wounded him*: hurt, scar, damage, injure; insult, slight, offend, affront, distress, disturb, upset, trouble; grieve, sadden, pain, sting, shock, traumatize, torment.

**wraith** noun ghost, spectre, spirit, phantom, apparition, manifestation; informal spook; literary shade, phantasm.

**wrangle** noun *a wrangle over money*: argument, dispute, disagreement, quarrel, falling-out, fight, squabble, altercation, war of words, shouting match, tiff; informal set-to, run-in, slanging match; Brit. informal barney, row, bust-up.

• **verb** *we wrangled over the details*: argue, quarrel, bicker, squabble, fall out, have words, disagree, be at odds, fight, battle, feud, clash; informal scrap; Brit. informal row.

**wrap** verb **1** *she wrapped herself in a towel*: swathe, bundle, swaddle, muffle, cloak, envelop, encase, cover, fold, wind. **2** *I wrapped the vase carefully*: parcel (up), package, pack (up), bundle (up); gift-wrap. • **noun** *he put a wrap round her*: shawl, stole, cloak, cape, mantle, scarf, pashmina, poncho, serape; historical pelisse.

■ **wrap something up** (informal) conclude, finish, end, wind up, round off, terminate, stop, cease, finalize, complete, tie up; informal sew up.

**wrapper** noun **1** *a sweet wrapper*: wrapping, packaging, paper, cover, covering; jacket,

sheath. **2** (N. Amer.) *she wore a cotton wrapper*: housecoat, bathrobe, dressing gown, robe, kimono, peignoir.

**wrath** noun anger, rage, fury, outrage, spleen, vexation, (high) dudgeon, crossness, displeasure, annoyance, irritation; literary ire, choler.

– OPPOSITES happiness.

**wreak** verb inflict, bestow, mete out, administer, deliver, impose, exact, create, cause, result in, effect, engender, bring about, perpetrate, unleash, vent; formal effectuate.

**wreath** noun garland, circlet, chaplet, crown, festoon, lei; ring, loop, circle.

**wreath** verb **1** *a pulpit wreathed in holly*: festoon, garland, drape, cover, bedeck, deck, decorate, ornament, adorn. **2** *blue smoke wreathed upwards*: spiral, coil, loop, wind, curl, twist, snake, curve.

**wreck** noun **1** *salvage teams landed on the wreck*: shipwreck, sunken ship, derelict; shell, hull. **2** *the wreck of a stolen car*: wreckage, debris, remainder, ruins, remains. • **verb 1** *he had wrecked her car*: demolish, crash, smash up, damage, destroy; vandalize, deface, desecrate, write off; N. Amer. informal trash, total. **2** *his ship was wrecked*: shipwreck, sink, capsiz, run aground. **3** *the crisis wrecked his plans*: ruin, spoil, disrupt, undo, put a stop to, frustrate, blight, crush, quash, dash, destroy, scotch, shatter, devastate, sabotage; informal mess up, screw up, foul up, put paid to, stymie, put the kibosh on, nix; Brit. informal scupper, dish.

**wreckage** noun. See **WRECK** noun senses 1, 2.

**wrench** noun **1** *she felt a wrench on her shoulders*: tug, pull, jerk, jolt, heave; informal yank. **2** *hold the piston with a wrench*: spanner, monkey wrench. **3** *a wrench in his arm*: sprain, twist, strain, rick, crick. **4** *leaving was an immense wrench*: painful parting, traumatic event; pang, trauma. • **verb 1** *he wrenched the gun from her hand*: tug, pull, jerk, wrest, heave, twist, pluck, grab, seize, snatch, force, prise; N. Amer. pry; informal yank. **2** *she wrenched her ankle*: sprain, twist, turn, strain, rick, crick, pull; injure, hurt.

**wrest** verb wrench, snatch, seize, grab, prise, pluck, tug, pull, jerk, dislodge; N. Amer. pry; informal yank.

**wrestle** verb grapple, fight, struggle, contend, vie, battle, wrangle; scuffle, tussle, brawl; informal scrap.

**wretched** noun **1** *the wretches killed themselves*: poor creature, poor soul, poor thing, poor unfortunate; informal poor devil, poor beggar. **2** *I wouldn't trust the old wretch*: scoundrel, villain, ruffian, rogue, rascal, reprobate, criminal, miscreant, good-for-nothing; informal heel, creep, louse, rat, swine, dog, lowlife, scumbag; informal, dated rotter, bounder, blighter; old use blackguard.

**wretched** adjective **1** *I felt so wretched without you*: miserable, unhappy, sad, heartbroken, grief-stricken, sorrowful,

distressed, desolate, devastated, despairing, disconsolate, downcast, dejected, crestfallen, cheerless, depressed, melancholy, morose, gloomy, mournful, doleful, dismal, forlorn, woebegone; informal blue; literary dolorous. **2** *I feel wretched*: ill, unwell, poorly, sick, below par; Brit. off colour; informal under the weather, out of sorts. **3** *their living conditions are wretched*: harsh, hard, grim, stark, difficult; poor, impoverished; pitiful, pathetic, miserable, cheerless, sordid, shabby, seedy, dilapidated; informal scummy; Brit. informal grotty. **4** *the wretched dweller in the shanty town*: unfortunate, unlucky, luckless, ill-starred, blighted, hapless, poor, pitiable, downtrodden, oppressed; literary star-crossed. **5** *he's a wretched coward*: despicable, contemptible, reprehensible, base, vile, loathsome, hateful, detestable, odious, ignoble, shameful, shabby, worthless; informal dirty, rotten, low-down, lousy. **6** *wretched weather*: terrible, awful, dire, atrocious, dreadful, bad, poor, lamentable, deplorable; informal God-awful; Brit. informal beastly. **7** *I don't want the wretched money*: informal damn, damned, blasted, blessed, flaming, confounded, rotten; Brit. informal flipping, blinking, blooming, bloody.

– OPPOSITES cheerful, well, comfortable, fortunate, excellent.

**wriggle** verb **1** *she tried to hug him but he wriggled*: squirm, writhe, wiggle, jiggle, jerk, thresh, flounder, flail, twitch, twist and turn; snake, worm, slither. **2** *he wriggled out of his responsibilities*: avoid, shirk, dodge, evade, elude, sidestep; escape from; informal duck. • noun *the baby gave a wriggle*: squirm, jiggle, wiggle, twitch, twist.

**wring** verb **1** *wring out the clothes*: twist, squeeze, screw, scrunch, knead, press, mangle. **2** *concessions were wrung from the government*: extract, elicit, force, exact, wrest, wrench, squeeze, milk; informal bleed. **3** *his expression wrung her heart*: rend, tear at, harrow, pierce, stab, wound, rack; distress, pain, hurt.

**wrinkle** noun **1** *fine wrinkles around her mouth*: crease, fold, pucker, line, crinkle, furrow, ridge, groove; informal crow's feet. **2** (informal) *learn the wrinkles from someone more experienced*: guideline, hint, tip, pointer, clue, suggestion; (wrinkles) advice, guidance. • verb *his coat tails wrinkled up*: crease, pucker, gather, line, crinkle, crimp, crumple, rumple, ruck up, scrunch up.

**writ** noun summons, subpoena, warrant, arraignment, indictment, citation, court order.

**W** **write** verb **1** *he wrote her name in the book*: put in writing, write down, put down, jot down, note (down), take down, record, register, log, list; inscribe, sign, scribble, scrawl, pencil. **2** *I wrote a poem*: compose, draft, think up, formulate, compile, pen, dash off, produce. **3** *he had her address and promised to write*: correspond, write a letter, communicate, get in touch, keep in contact; informal drop someone a line.

■ **write someone/something off** **1** *they have had to write off loans*: forget about, disregard, give up on, cancel, annul, wipe out. **2** *he wrote off his new car*: wreck, smash up, crash, destroy, demolish, ruin; N. Amer. informal total. **3** *who would write off a player of his stature?* disregard, dismiss, ignore.

**writer** noun author, wordsmith, man/woman of letters, penman; novelist, essayist, biographer; journalist, columnist, correspondent; scriptwriter, playwright, dramatist, dramaturge, tragedian; poet; informal scribbler, scribe, pen-pusher, hack.

**writhe** verb squirm, wriggle, thrash, flail, toss, toss and turn, twist, twist and turn, struggle.

**writing** noun **1** *I can't read his writing*: handwriting, hand, script, print; penmanship, calligraphy, chirography; informal scribble, scrawl. **2** *the writings of Gertrude Stein*: works, compositions, books, publications, oeuvre; papers, articles, essays.

**WORD LINKS**

**graphology** the study of handwriting  
**palaepigraphy** the study of ancient writing systems  
**holograph**, **autograph** a manuscript in an author's own handwriting  
**transcribe** put something into written form

**wrong** adjective **1** *the wrong answer*: incorrect, mistaken, in error, erroneous, inaccurate, inexact, imprecise, fallacious, wide of the mark, off target, unsound, faulty; informal off beam, out. **2** *he knew he had said the wrong thing*: inappropriate, unsuitable, inapt, inapposite, undesirable; ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, impolitic, injudicious, infelicitous, unfitting, out of keeping, improper; informal out of order. **3** *I've done nothing wrong*: illegal, unlawful, illicit, criminal, dishonest, dishonourable, corrupt; unethical, immoral, bad, wicked, sinful, iniquitous, nefarious, blameworthy, reprehensible; informal crooked. **4** *there's something wrong with the engine*: amiss, awry, out of order, not right, faulty, defective.

– OPPOSITES right, correct, appropriate, legal.

• **adverb** *she guessed wrong*: incorrectly, wrongly, inaccurately, erroneously, mistakenly.

• **noun** **1** *the difference between right and wrong*: immorality, sin, sinfulness, wickedness, evil; unlawfulness, crime, corruption, villainy, dishonesty, injustice, wrongdoing, misconduct, transgression.

**2** *an attempt to compensate for past wrongs*: misdeed, offence, injury, crime, transgression, peccadillo, sin; injustice, outrage, atrocity; Law tort; old use trespass.

– OPPOSITES right.

• **verb** **1** *she was determined to forget the man who had wronged her*: ill-use, mistreat, do an injustice to, do wrong to, ill-treat, abuse, harm, hurt, injure; informal do the dirty on. **2** *perhaps I am wronging him*: malign, misrepresent, do a disservice to, impugn, defame, slander, libel.

■ **get someone/something wrong**

misunderstand, misinterpret, misconstrue, mistake, misread, take amiss; get the wrong idea/impression; informal get the wrong end of the stick, be barking up the wrong tree.

■ **go wrong** **1** *I've gone wrong somewhere:* make a mistake, make an error, miscalculate; informal slip up, screw up, make a boo-boo; Brit. informal boob. **2** *their plans went wrong:* go awry, go amiss, fail, be unsuccessful, fall through, come to nothing; backfire, misfire, rebound; informal come to grief, come a cropper, go up in smoke; Brit. informal go adrift. **3** *the radio's gone wrong:* break down, malfunction, fail, stop working, crash, give out; informal be on the blink, conk out, go kaput; Brit. informal play up, pack up.

■ **in the wrong** to blame, blameworthy, at fault, reprehensible, responsible, culpable, answerable, guilty; old use peccant.

**wrongdoer** noun offender, lawbreaker, criminal, felon, delinquent, villain, culprit, evildoer, sinner, transgressor, malefactor, miscreant, rogue, scoundrel; informal crook, wrong 'un; Law malfeasant; old use trespasser.

**wrongdoing** noun crime, lawbreaking, lawlessness, criminality, misconduct, misbehaviour, malpractice, corruption,

immorality, sin, sinfulness, wickedness, evil, vice, iniquity, villainy; offence, felony, wrong, misdeed, misdemeanour, fault, peccadillo, transgression; Law malfeasance, tort; formal malversation; old use trespass.

**wrongful** adjective unjustified, unjust, unwarranted, unfair, undue, undeserved, unreasonable, groundless, indefensible, inappropriate, improper, unlawful, illegal, illegitimate.

– OPPOSITES rightful.

**wrought up** adjective agitated, tense, stressed, overwrought, nervous, on edge, edgy, keyed up, worked up, anxious, nervy, flustered, fretful, upset; informal in a state, in a stew, het up, wound up, uptight, jumpy, in a tizz/tizzy; Brit. informal strung up; N. Amer. informal spooky, squirrelly.

– OPPOSITES calm.

**wry** adjective **1** *his wry humour:* ironic, sardonic, satirical, mocking, sarcastic; dry, droll, witty, humorous. **2** *a wry expression:* unimpressed, displeased, annoyed, irritated, irked, vexed, piqued, disgruntled, dissatisfied; informal peeved. **3** *a wry neck:* twisted, crooked, contorted, distorted, deformed, misshapen; Scottish thrawn.



# Xx

**xenophobic** adjective jingoistic, chauvinistic, flag-waving, excessively nationalistic, isolationist; prejudiced, bigoted, intolerant.

**Xerox** noun (trademark) **photocopy**, copy, duplicate, reproduction; trademark photostat.

**Xmas** noun (informal). See **CHRISTMAS**.

**X-ray** noun **radiograph**, roentgenogram, radiogram.

## WORD LINKS

**radiography** the making of images using X-rays

**radiology** the science dealing with X-rays

**radiotherapy** the treatment of disease using X-rays

**tomography** displaying a cross section through the body using X-rays

**barium meal** substance swallowed so that the digestive system can be X-rayed

# Yy

**yahoo** noun (informal) **boor**, lout, oaf, thug, barbarian, Neanderthal, brute, bully boy; informal clod, roughneck, bruiser; Brit. informal yobbo, yob, oik.

**yank** verb (informal) **jerk**, pull, tug, wrench; snatch, seize.

**yap** verb **1** *the dogs yapped about his heels:* bark, woof, yelp. **2** (informal) *what are they yapping on about?* See **BABBLE** verb sense 1.

**yardstick** noun **standard**, measure, gauge, scale, guide, guideline, indicator, test, touchstone, barometer, criterion, benchmark, point of reference, model, pattern.

**yarn** noun **1** *you need to use a fine yarn:* thread, cotton, wool, fibre, filament; ply. **2** (informal) *a far-fetched yarn:* story, tale, anecdote, saga, narrative; informal tall tale/story, cock and bull story, shaggy-dog story, spiel.

**yawning** adjective gaping, wide open, wide, cavernous, deep; huge, great, big.

**year** noun **twelve-month period**, calendar year; literary sun, summer, winter; old use twelvemonth.

## WORD LINKS

**annual** happening once a year or lasting a year

**biannual** happening twice a year

**biennial** taking place every other year

**annuity** a fixed sum of money paid each year

**decade** a period of ten years

**century** a period of a hundred years

**millennium** a period of a thousand years

**yearly** adjective *a yearly payment:* annual, once a year, every year, each year.

• **adverb** *the guide is published yearly:*

**annually**, once a year, per annum, every year, each year.

**yearn** verb long, pine, crave, desire, want, wish, hanker, covet, lust, pant, hunger, thirst, ache, eat one's heart out, have one's heart set on; informal have a yen, itch.

**yearning** noun longing, craving, desire, want, wish, hankering, urge, hunger, thirst, appetite, lust, ache; informal yen, itch.

**yell** verb *he yelled in agony:* cry out, call out, call at the top of one's voice, shout, howl, yowl, wail, scream, shriek, screech, yelp,

squeal; roar, bawl; informal holler.

• **noun** *a yell of rage:* cry, shout, howl, yowl, scream, shriek, screech, yelp, squeal; roar; informal holler.

**yellow** adjective **1** *yellow hair | a yellow shirt:* flaxen, golden, gold, blonde, fair; lemon, daffodil-yellow, mustard. **2** (informal) *he'll have to prove he's not yellow.* See **COWARDLY**.

**yelp** noun & verb squeal, shriek, howl, yowl, yell, cry, shout, yawp; informal holler.

**yen** noun (informal) **hankering**, yearning, longing, craving, urge, desire, want, wish, hunger, thirst, lust, appetite, ache; fancy, inclination; informal itch.

**yea** adverb **all right**, very well, of course, by all means, sure, certainly, absolutely, indeed, affirmative, in the affirmative, agreed, roger; Scottish, N. English, & old use aye; Nautical aye aye; informal yeah, yep, yup, uh-huh, okay, OK, okey-dokey, okey-doke; Brit. informal righto, righty-ho; N. Amer. informal surely; old use or formal yea.

– **OPPOSITES** no.

**yes-man** noun (informal) **sycophant**, toady, creep, fawner, flatterer, lickspittle, doormat; informal bootlicker; Brit. informal poodle; N. Amer. informal suck-up.

**yet** adverb **1** *he hasn't made up his mind yet:* so far, thus far, as yet, up till/to now, until now. **2** *don't celebrate just yet:* now, right now, at this time; already, so soon. **3** *he was doing nothing, yet he appeared purposeful:* nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, but, however, still, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, all the same, just the same, at the same time, be that as it may; old use nathless. **4** *he supplied yet more unsolicited advice:* even, still, further, in addition, additionally, besides, into the bargain, to boot.

**yield** verb **1** *too many projects yield poor returns:* produce, bear, give, supply, provide, afford, return, bring in, earn, realize, generate, deliver, pay out. **2** *the nobility had yielded power to the new capitalist class:* relinquish, surrender, cede, remit, part with, hand over; make over, bequeath, leave. **3** *the Duke was forced to yield:* surrender, capitulate, submit, relent, admit defeat, back down, climb down, give in, give up the struggle, lay down one's arms, raise/show the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge.

**4** *he yielded to her demands: give in to*, give way to, submit to, bow down to, comply with, agree to, consent to, go along with; grant, permit, allow; informal *cave in to*; formal *accede to*. **5** *the floorboards yielded underfoot: bend*, give, give way.  
 – OPPOSITES withhold, resist, defy.  
 • **noun** *risky investments usually have higher yields: profit*, gain, return, dividend, earnings.

**job, jobbo** **noun** (Brit. informal). See **HOOLIGAN**.

**yoke** **noun** **1** *the horses were loosened from the yoke: harness*, collar, coupling. **2** *countries struggling under the yoke of imperialism: tyranny*, oppression, domination, hegemony, enslavement, servitude, subjugation, subjection, bondage, thrall; bonds, chains, fetters, shackles. **3** *the yoke of marriage: bond*, tie, connection, link.  
 • **verb** **1** *a pair of oxen were yoked together: harness*, hitch, couple, tether, fasten, attach, join. **2** *their aim of yoking biology and mechanics: unite*, join, link, connect; tie, bind, bond.

**yokel** **noun** *bumpkin*, peasant, provincial, rustic, country cousin, countryman/woman; Irish informal *culchie*; N. Amer. informal *hayseed*, *hillbilly*, *hick*; Austral. informal *bushy*.

**young** **adjective** **1** *young people: youthful*, juvenile; junior, adolescent, teenage; in the springtime of life, in one's salad days.  
**2** *she's very young for her age: immature*,

*childish*, inexperienced, unsophisticated, naive, unworldly; informal *wet behind the ears*. **3** *the young microbrewery industry: fledgling*, developing, budding, in its infancy, emerging.

– OPPOSITES old, elderly, mature.

• **noun** **1** *a robin feeding its young: offspring*, progeny, family, babies. **2** *the young don't care nowadays: young people*, children, youngsters, youth, the younger generation, juveniles, minors; informal *kids*, young 'uns.

**youngster** **noun** *child*, teenager, adolescent, youth, juvenile, minor, junior; boy, girl; Scottish & N. English *lass*, *lassie*; informal *lad*, *kid*, *whippersnapper*, young 'un, teen.

**youth** **noun** **1** *he had been a keen sportsman in his youth: early years*, young days, teens, teenage years, adolescence, boyhood, girlhood, childhood; minority; formal *juvenescence*. **2** *she had kept her youth and beauty: youthfulness*, freshness, bloom, vigour, energy. **3** *local youths: young man*, boy, juvenile, teenager, adolescent, junior, minor; informal *lad*, *kid*. **4** *the youth of the nation: young people*, young, younger generation, next generation; informal *kids*.

– OPPOSITES adulthood, old age.

**youthful** **adjective** *young-looking*, spry, sprightly, vigorous, active; young, boyish, girlish; fresh-faced, in the springtime of life, in one's salad days.

– OPPOSITES old, elderly.



# Zz

**zany** adjective eccentric, peculiar, odd, unconventional, strange, bizarre, weird; mad, crazy, comic, madcap, funny, quirky, idiosyncratic; informal wacky, screwy, nutty, oddball, off the wall; Brit. informal daft; N. Amer. informal kooky, wacko.

– OPPOSITES conventional, sensible.

**zap** verb (informal) **1** *they were zapped by anti-radar missiles.* See **DESTROY** sense 5. **2** *racing cars zapped past.* See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

**zeal** noun passion, ardour, love, fervour, fire, avidity, devotion, enthusiasm, eagerness, keenness, appetite, relish, gusto, vigour, energy, intensity; fanaticism.

– OPPOSITES apathy.

**zealot** noun fanatic, enthusiast, extremist, radical, Young Turk, diehard, activist, militant; bigot, dogmatist, sectarian, partisan; informal fiend, maniac, ultra, nut.

**zealous** adjective fervent, ardent, fervid, fanatical, passionate, impassioned, devout, devoted, committed, dedicated, enthusiastic, eager, keen, avid, vigorous, energetic, intense, fierce; literary perfervid.

– OPPOSITES apathetic.

**zenith** noun highest point, high point, crowning point, height, top, acme, peak, pinnacle, apex, apogee, crown, crest, summit, climax, culmination, prime, meridian.

– OPPOSITES nadir.

**zero** noun **1** *the sum's wrong—you've left off a zero: nought, nothing, nil, o;* Computing null character; dated cipher; old use naught. **2** *I rated my chances as zero: nothing (at all), nil, none;* N. English nowt; informal zilch, nix, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, not a dicky

bird; Brit. informal damn all, not a sausage; N. Amer. informal zip, nada, diddly-squat; old use naught, nought.

■ **zero in on** focus on, focus attention on, centre on, concentrate on, home in on, fix on, pinpoint, highlight, spotlight; informal zoom in on.

**zero hour** noun the appointed time, the critical moment, the moment of truth, the point/moment of decision, the Rubicon, the crux; informal the crunch.

**zest** noun **1** *she had a great zest for life:*

enthusiasm, gusto, relish, appetite, eagerness, keenness, avidity, zeal, fervour, ardour, passion; verve, vigour, liveliness, sparkle, fire, animation, vitality, dynamism, energy, brio, pep, spirit, exuberance, high spirits; informal zing, zip, oomph, vim, pizzazz, get-up-and-go. **2** *he wanted to add some zest to his life:* piquancy, tang, flavour, savour, taste, spice, spiciness, relish, bite; excitement, interest, an edge; informal kick, punch, zing, oomph. **3** *the zest of an orange:* rind, peel, skin.

– OPPOSITES apathy, indifference, blandness.

**zigzag** adjective twisting, twisty, full of twists and turns, serpentine, meandering, snaking, snaky, winding, crooked.

– OPPOSITES straight.

**zing** noun (informal). See **ZEST** sense 1.

**zip** (informal) noun *he's full of zip.* See **ENERGY**.

• verb *I zipped back along the M20.* See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

**zone** noun area, sector, section, belt, stretch, region, territory, district, quarter, precinct, locality, neighbourhood, province.

**zoom** verb (informal). See **SPEED** verb sense 1.

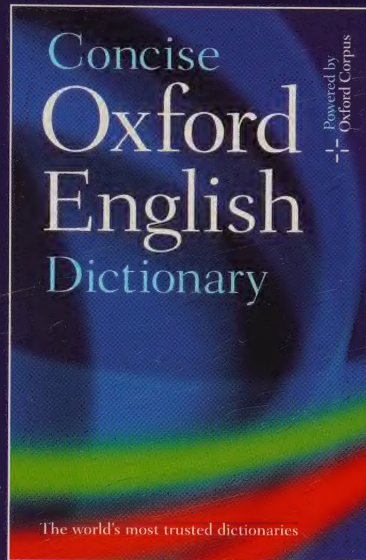








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